



HEEL AND TOE ONLINE

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VRWC NOW BACK IN LOCKDOWN

A week can make a lot of difference, and this week was one of those weeks. After starting our VRWC Winter RoadWalk Season last Saturday, the number of COVID-19 cases in the Melbourne metropolitan area started to surge, forcing the Victorian Government to reimpose Stage 3 restrictions. The new Stay at Home Directions for metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire will be in effect from 11:59pm on Wednesday 8th July until 11.59pm on Wednesday 19th August.

It was a short season indeed! Luckily, the other Australian States continue to have low COVID-19 case numbers, so competitions continue elsewhere in Australia.

To all my fellow Melbournians, keep the head down, keep the face mask on in public places and stay safe!

PAUL F DEMEESTER TALKS MATTERS IAAF

Thanks to US Attorney at Law Paul F. DeMeester for another thought provoking article. That is the 15th in a row and is brilliantly argued. You can see links to all Paul's articles at the bottom of webpage <http://www.vrwc.org.au/save-the-50km.shtml>.

THE COE PHILOSOPHY: HAS IT RUN ITS COURSE?

By Paul F. DeMeester

Son of his Father

Sebastian Coe, now the World Athletics President, credits his coach for having made him a successful runner with two Olympic golds and plenty of world records. Who was his coach? Seb's dad. The thread running through Seb Coe's autobiography, *Seb Coe - Running My Life* (Hodder & Stoughton 2012), is the enormous contribution Peter Coe made to his son's career. Seb recounts the nature walks dad would lead on Sundays. Dad would drive the family into the countryside. Often, five-bar gates would have to be negotiated; always with young Seb doing the opening and the closing, after which he would set off running to the next gate, declining his dad's offer to hop in the family car. When Seb as a young lad would start running cross-country, Peter Coe was not just any other parent present on course to cheer on his kid. Ever the engineer with stopwatch in hand, Peter Coe noticed the talent, dedication and love of running displayed by his young son. Never having been involved with athletics before, he became Seb's coach, setting Olympic selection for 1980 as the goal. He applied his engineering skills to the task at hand. The results speak for themselves. Seb's well-written autobiography is a great read and I highly recommend it.

Peter Coe never quit his day job to coach his son. He worked as a production manager who would be tasked with turning around faltering businesses, whether it was manufacturing fishing tackle or cutlery. Said Seb in his book: "*He would go in, shake things up, keep what worked and re-think the rest. That was what he did, and he was good at it.*" Seb was particularly proud of how his dad had rescued a failing cutlery manufacturer and turned its product into a brand leader. Not that Seb's running enterprise needed any turnaround. Peter saw Seb's potential. During three summers in Seb's teenage years, Seb worked at the cutlery plant. There, he "*learnt about the importance of people management, budget control, planning and looking ahead.*" The apple does not fall far from the tree. So father, so son; both product managers. Go in, make cuts, turn profits. For Peter Coe, the products were fishing tackle or kitchen knives. But what about his son? What's his product? We'll let the son speak for himself.

It's All About the Brand

When Seb Coe ran for IAAF President in 2015, he published his election manifesto. (See http://www.vrwc.org.au/documents/Seb-Coe_2015_Manifesto_EN_vFINAL_141202.pdf.) The pamphlet was entitled, *Growing Athletics in a New Age*. Coe wrote that "*it is essential we take a long hard look at the 'product' of Athletics....*" Coe promised that, if elected, he would "*instigate a full and intensive review of the Athletics 'product'.*" The aim of Coe's product management: "*increased income and revenues.*" Sorry, race

walkers, but what are your gate receipts at top international meets? “None,” you say. You mean the public is able to watch your Olympics or Worlds for free? Wow. Competition Director, could you please come over here, and bring me the cutting knife while you’re at it, would you? Or better yet, bring me the ax, I’ve got this pesky non-revenue producing 50K in my way.

In a disingenuous way, Coe foretold what he would do to race walking: “*keep what works*” and “*embrace change*.” Why disingenuous? Because had he really said what he had in mind, he might have lost votes to Sergey Bubka, his election opponent. In a section of his manifesto called “*Maximising commercial growth*,” Coe wrote that “*our commercial potential in all global markets is tremendous*.”

Once elected, Coe has lived up to those campaign promises. In a May 2018 interview with the British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, Coe admitted that sport has become very commercialized. (See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yY3Is9XYV-4>.) When asked what challenges athletes and companies face in their partnerships (Coe prefers that term over sponsorships), Coe’s one and a half-minute answer features the terms “brand” nine times and “partnership” seven times. Vintage Coe. But if athletics were just for those who could make it like Coe has, or Usain Bolt has, the sport would not have many adherents. What does Coe think of all those thousands, perhaps millions, of others? In his autobiography, he told us: “*who but an idiot would dedicate years of hard grind with no possibility of a place on the [Olympic] rostrum*.” Implicit in this smug arrogance lies the Coe policy: If you can’t monetize your athletics events, I will cut them. You don’t have to believe me on this. Just ask our Olympic 50K race walkers or the Diamond League 200 metre sprinters, steeple chasers, discus throwers or triple jumpers.

Coe’s Diamond League restructuring shows his deception. In his 2015 election pamphlet, he wrote that athletics must “*as a sport, remain absolutely independent in shaping our future in the best interests of our sport. After all, our commercial and broadcast partners want to see this happen*.” Sounds great, right? Let’s compare that to the November 2019 World Athletics press release announcing that the four Diamond League events were only cut to make sure that the broadcasting of the Diamond League is within 90 minutes. (See <https://www.worldathletics.org/news/press-release/diamond-league-disciplines-2020>.) This will sound familiar to the 50K race walkers, whose major offense is in not fitting neatly in broadcast schedules. So much for remaining absolutely independent. What matters to Coe and Cie. are the broadcast rights and revenue.

“Brand” is not the only “B” word in Coe’s money-centered lexicon. The other one is “Brave.” Right, the same word he used in addressing the Race Walk Committee in early 2019 to urge them to recommend getting rid of the 50K: “Be brave.” He used the same term in his 2015 election pamphlet: “*By being innovative and brave where we need to be...*” Once in office, Coe called on the IAAF Special Congress to pass his constitutional reform proposals: “*But this is not the time to be complacent. It is a time to be visionary, to be brave and decisive*.” (See <http://www.vrwc.org.au/documents/Time%20For%20Change.pdf>) Who knew being brave meant losing a bunch of events? Maybe I’ll market some bumper stickers that say, “*Don’t blame my member federation; we voted for Bubka*.”

Coe was less secretive about what he intended to do with the World Race Walking Team Championships. The recently announced World Athletics Strategic Plan proposes to end those Championships as a stand-alone event and will put them together with the World Half Marathon Championships and possibly other events, including one involving mass participation, to form one big World Athletics World Road Championships. (See <http://www.vrwc.org.au/documents/Strategy%20For%20Growth.pdf>). Coe promised as much back in 2015, calling it a “*Running and Walking Festival*.” How long will it be before Coe starts murmuring that the race walkers are in the way, not numerous enough, their races take too long, or it is just too costly to have them there?

One Coe campaign plank was simply not true: “*I believe that we need to give both current and retired athletes a much greater say and influence within our sport*.” That was a repeat of something similar he had put in his autobiography a couple of years earlier: “*The only people I never wanted to be accused of neglecting were the athletes*.” The stealth 50K disappearance act Coe delivered up and his Diamond League cuts demonstrate that he does not care about athletes. All Coe cares about is money, just as he indicated in his election manifesto (grow the finances; drive increased income and revenues).

Coe’s own career is proof that his monetary policy is unrealistic. Coe ran few races, in line with his coach/dad’s philosophy to stress quality over quantity. In 1980, the year of his first Olympic gold, Coe ran 20 times, six of which were the races he ran in Moscow at the Games in the 800m and 1500m. Four years later, he ran but 15 times, seven of which were the heats, semis and finals in his two Olympic events. Fair to say that the races leading up to the Olympics were in preparation for the Olympics, so they may not have been top rate races to watch. Compare that to soccer, where nearly not a week goes by without there being some league match, cup match or international tournament match that features local or world famous players. Or baseball U.S. style, where teams are in action 162 times during a season, not counting the playoffs; about half of that for the NBA basketball action, again not counting playoffs. Golf, tennis, cycling, you name it, there’s plenty of action all year around at top level. Track and field is punctuated by top championships for which athletes prepare months, if not years. U.S. marathon runner Bill Rodgers is a prime example of trying to compete too often. When it mattered, Rodgers was not at the front. Unlike Karel Lismont, who chose wisely and sparingly, but collected medals at the Euros and the Olympics. In other words, a sport that lends itself to athletes managing maybe one or two top performances per year, is not a sport that lends itself to make the kind of money that FIFA, the Premier League or the NBA make. The same holds true for the track & field athletes themselves. If one or two top meets per year are where they want to show their peak performance, then it is doubtful many people or broadcasters want to show what are essentially warm-up races during the rest of the season.

Coe’s IOC Syndrome

In previous columns, I have explained how Coe has presided over a shrinking athletics footprint at the Olympics. (See *Under My Thumb*, Heel and Toe Online 2019/2020 No. 31, 27 April 2020, at pp. 1-4.) Instead of standing up for athletics at the IOC, Coe has done the IOC’s bidding within the athletics world. Again, so much for the athletes. In other words, in 2015 the member federations of

World Athletics (then still the IAAF) voted for a President who was about to shrink the sport. Maybe the 2015 electorate should have read Seb's autobiography. His fascination for all things IOC and his disloyalty to athletics are there for all to see, in his own words to boot. Coe did not start out as such. In an interview with the New York Times in 1979, Coe had this to say about the Olympics: "*I'm committed to going to the Olympics. But I'm not looking forward to it. It's not a natural situation, not what athletics is all about. This is why I consider world records more satisfying than medals. It's nice for me to feel I've run faster than anyone.*" (See New York Times, *Seb Coe on Coe: 'Thin but Fun'*, by Neil Amdur, October 1, 1979, Section C, p. 9; available at <https://www.nytimes.com/1979/10/01/archives/seb-coe-on-coe-thin-but-fun.html>.)

Nothing like winning Olympic gold to change one's tune, of course. But something more important took place the year after. Then IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch invited Coe as one of only 38 athletes to attend the IOC Congress held in September of 1981 in Baden-Baden, Germany. Coe ended up addressing the delegates in his famous tough-on-drugs speech in which he called for lifetime bans for drug cheats. Another invited athlete was named Thomas Bach. Yes, that Thomas Bach. Good friends since, they refer to each other as "Professor" and "Shakespeare." You'll have to read the book to figure out who is called what. Samaranch then appointed Coe as one of the founding members of the IOC Athletes Commission. A few months later, Coe was present at an informal meeting called by Samaranch at a London hotel where an agreement was worked out that permitted, transitionally at first, the professionalization of athletics without offending Olympic officials. Coe was on the cutting edge of this development, actively helped it along and showed the world how to make money as an athlete. Later in the decade, Coe became a member of the IOC Medical Commission, on the strength of his anti-doping efforts. In 1996, when a conflict of interest between Coe's parliamentary and governmental duties in the House of Commons prevented Coe from being paid as a commentator during the 1996 Olympics, Samaranch paid for Coe's ticket to be his guest in Atlanta. A year later, Coe was appointed to the Sport for All Commission of the IOC.

It was not until after all this IOC business had been transacted that Coe took up a role in athletics, first as President of his nation's Amateur Athletics Association (1998), and much later, the IAAF Council (first appointed in 2003), in the same year he became vice-chair of the 2012 London Olympic bid committee. Even though Coe is now the President of World Athletics, he has never been secret about wanting to be a member of the IOC. As things stand, he may get his wish very soon, as he has been nominated for membership. Can Coe serve two masters, the IOC and World Athletics? Let history be our guide. In 1986, Coe chaired the Sport Council Review on Olympic Funding in his native land. The British Government had made £ 5 million available. Coe led the review in concluding that track and field did not need any extra funds. Instead, other sports got the financial nod. In his autobiography, Coe admits that his "*chairmanship was sufficient to engender resentment and accusations of implicit disloyalty to my sport.*" His critics may have been right all along in light of the conflicts I have described in recent columns. (See *The Inherent Nature of the IOC CoeNFLICT*, Heel and Toe Online 2019/2020 No. 34, 18 May 2020, at pp. 1-3; *The Coe Money Conflict and How it Affects Athletics*, Heel and Toe Online 2019/2020 No. 35, 25 May 2020, at pp. 1-4; and, *If the Shoe Fits*, Heel and Toe Online 2019/2020 No. 36, 1 June 2020, at pp. 1-4.) Maybe Coe confirmed all of these suspicions when he wrote the following line in his autobiography about the best sprinter ever: "*Usain Bolt is a superb ambassador for his sport.*" His sport? Coe sounds like an outsider describing a sport he is not part of. A Freudian slip, perhaps.

It's Not Too Late

Divided loyalties. Disloyalty. Conflicts of Interest. These things can be debated at the kitchen table or in the pub *ad nauseam*. But not these facts: Coe got rid of the 50K Race Walk (starting with the Eugene Worlds); Coe got rid of four Diamond League events; Coe has presided over a reduction in the number of athletics participants at the Olympics; and World Athletics is a long ways away from open meetings and financial accountability and transparency. If that's not enough for impeachment, then what is? Don't get your hopes up, Coe is still there and is about to add an IOC membership to his portfolio. No doubt he wants to become the successor to Thomas Bach once Bach term limits out from the IOC presidency. What should Coe do for athletics from this point forward? Simple, Coe should re-read his own book, page 324, line 7 of the 2013 paperback version to be precise, where Coe wrote: "*Sport ... thrives not on profit but on passion.*" It's time for Coe to practice what he preached there. He should stick up for all of the events within the athletics family, whether it is the hammer or discus throw, the 200 metres, the race walks, the steeple chase etc. He should organize World Athletics events at which the media are invited to present what we have to offer, not the other way around, where the media tell us what events to conduct to boost their ratings. He should tell the IOC to take a flying leap if we don't get our usual number of athletes admitted without IOC meddling. Coe has a perfectly valid excuse to explain his about face without losing face: COVID-19. The world has changed. World Athletics can go back to basics. We are not just about an expensive event once every four years for the few. No. Athletics is about all those volunteers, officials, runners, walkers, throwers, jumpers, who show up at club practice or school training facilities or simply in the park, to train and compete on weeknights and weekends. Every year we pay a small fee to the federation and we pay small fees to partake in events. Most of our events are attended by loved ones or classmates only. Broadcast rights are the furthest thing from the minds of 99.99% of our athletes.

When Coe became a life peer and member of the British House of Lords in 2000, he was asked to pick a geographical title. He chose to be Baron Coe of Ranmore, after the name of the farm where he was living back then. Unless Coe changes course away from his commercialization and monetizing policies, he might as well be known as Baron Coe of Brandmore.

SARWC ROADWALKS, ADELAIDE PARKLANDS, ADELAIDE, SATURDAY 11 JULY

Thanks to Kim Mottrom for this week's results from Adelaide. He reports:

We're 5 weeks in now and definitely used to the new 'normal.' We always have hand sanitiser out so please feel free to use it, and keep social distancing at the front of your mind- we want to make sure we can keep racing as long as possible. Week 5 shout outs:

- **Jake Vidler** doesn't come out as often as he used to, but the 3km he did yesterday was his fastest 3km since 2016 so great to see him getting back into it!
- **Sebastian Richards** is continuing a very strong winter season with a 44 second PB over 4km
- **Zayden Kamish** took nearly 2 minutes off his 4km PB, also continuing a great season where he's stepping up to the longer distances
- **Nellie Langford** did her first 4km, but based on that pace would have smashed her 5km PB. Showing great improvement this season, which looks like it will continue!
- **Zahra Kamish, Tarique Kamish** and **Orlando Grantham** each beat their 1500m PB's, all 3 have consistently improved this season
- **Cooper Rech** did his longest ever race, getting through 4km. It's fantastic to see younger athletes like Cooper challenging themselves this year!
- Thank you to Tamara and Mike, who along with Lauren have continued to help out with lap scoring and starting the races.

Results and entry link at – <http://www.racewalking.com.au/>. Next week is Program 10 - 2km and 5km at 1:00pm and 10km at (or as close to) 1:30pm.

8km Walk

1.	Kim Mottrom	36:08
2.	Olivia Sandery	40:19
3.	Mathew Bruniges	43:05
4.	Peter Crump	47:55
5.	James Hoare	DNF (6km 50:16)

4km Walk

1.	Sebastian Richards	21:07
2.	Tristan Camilleri	21:57
3.	Zayden Kamish	22:19
4.	Nellie Langford	22:38
5.	Anthony Tana	24:54
6.	Cooper Rech	27:49
7.	Liz Downs	29:45
8.	Joanna Saltis	35:17
9.	Jake Vidler	DNF (3km 16:34)

1.5km Walk

1.	Danielle Walsh	8:12
2.	Orlando Grantham	8:58
3.	Tarique Kamish	9:21
4.	Zahra Kamish	9:56
5.	Elizabeth Rieger	10:55
6.	Matilda Rech	11:05
7.	Alexander Richards	12:08
8.	Maliha Kamish	15:16

TRWC ROADWALKS, MONTROSE BAY, HOBART, SATURDAY 11 JULY

Thanks to Dave Moore for this week's results from Tasmania. He reports:

Some good performances today despite freezing temperatures made worse by a strong chill wind. Undeterred by the conditions, **Will Bottle** put in the best performance of the day with a solid effort over 3k. In the same event, youngster Sam Lindsay and Masters walker **Eugene Gerlach**, had an intriguing battle for well over 2km, with the experienced Eugene winning out in the end. **Gabby Hay** also impressed with her excellent race walking technique.

And a special shoutout to **Wayne Fletcher** who did the 4km Cross Country in the morning and then fronted for the 2km Walk in the afternoon. Good work Wayne!

3km Walk

1.	Will Bottle	14.07 PB
2.	Eugene Gerlach	21.31
3.	Sam Lindsay	22.02

1km Walk

1.	Gabby Hay	6.20 PB
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5km Walk

1.	Ron Foster	38.49
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2km Walk

1.	Wayne Fletcher	16.59
2.	Dave Moore	21.19

SAMA ROADWALKS, WEST BEACH, ADELAIDE, SATURDAY 11 JULY

Thanks to Colin Hainsworth for the latest results from the South Australian Masters in Adelaide. He commented: Cold day. It certainly was! Great walk by M75 **George White** in the 10km – 1:01:30.

10km Walk

1.	GEORGE WHITE	1:01:30	M75	89.47%
2.	MARIE MAXTED	1:08:10	W60	75.97%

10km Club Walk

1.	KEVIN FINN	1:10:45	M68	73.16%
2.	BRIAN WITTY	1:14:07	M69	68.58%

3.	GRAHAM HARRISON	1:18:40	M76	70.95%
4.	DAVID ROBERTSON	1:28:52	M86	74.29%

5km Walk

1.	TREVOR BROWN	0:36:42	M71	69.10%
2.	HELEN SURIDGE	0:39:02	W69	71.13%
3.	VALMAI PADGET	0:39:43	W76	78.20%

5km Club Walk

1.	DAVE FALLON	0:39:03	M67	61.89%
2.	RODGER BARBER	0:40:19	M82	73.67%
3.	ROGER LOWE	0:40:48	M77	67.40%
4.	MIKE VOWLES	0:41:07	M76	65.93%
5.	GILLIAN WHITE	0:41:41	W71	68.63%
6.	CATHIE HORE	0:44:24	W69	62.54%
7.	HELEN BOWEN	0:44:48	W68	61.10%
8.	EDNA BATES	0:44:55	W67	60.10%
9.	JEFFREY KENNETT	0:48:31	M70	51.63%

ACTRWC WEEKLY WALKS CANCELLED

The ACTRWC walks were cancelled last Saturday due to the atrocious weather conditions lashing the east coast of Australia. If it's not one thing, it's something else!

WARWC AND WAMA ROADWALKS, WILSON, PERTH, SUNDAY 12 JULY

Thanks to Terry Jones for this week's results from Western Australia. Well done to **Andrew Duncan** who celebrated his move into the M55 age group with a new WA Masters M55 10km record of 51:34.

10km Handicap

1.	Andrew Duncan	51.34
2.	Karyn Tolardo	1:04.15
3.	Ben Reid	54.57
4.	Wendy Farrow	1:09.04
5.	Steve Travell	1:29.37
6.	Glenys Duncan	1:35.22

6km Handicap

1.	Sylvia Byers	58.21
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2km Handicap

1.	Luke Lawrence	12.25
2.	Kaycee Ibbotson	12.54
3.	Lataya Lawrence	10.37
4.	Emily Bogaers	16.14
5.	Xavier Bernard	10.48
6.	Annabelle Van Sprengel	12.29
7.	Ashlyn Spence	10.55
8.	Casey Mortimore	12.18
9.	John Ronan	9.37
10.	Linkin Lawrence	16.13
11.	Brooke Mortimore	12.00

10km Masters State Championships

W80	1.	Glenys Duncan	1:35.22
W55	2.	Marcela Ruiz	1:22.11
W50	1.	Karyn Tolardo	1:04.15
	2.	Wendy Farrow	1:09.04
M70	1.	John McDonagh	1:12.03
M65	1.	Victor Munoz	1:05.59
M60	1.	Christian D'Argent	1:23.09
	2.	Steve Travell	1:29.37
M55	1.	Andrew Duncan	51.34 WAMA Rec
M45	1.	Wayne Byram	1:17.20
M30	1.	Oliver Berry	1:29.18

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE OTHER STATES?

NSWRWC starts its winter season next Saturday 18th July and I believe that Queensland racewalking kicks back into action on Sunday 26th July.

ENGLISH VIRTUAL RACEWALKING LEAGUE, ROUND 14, ACROSS THE WORLD

John Constandinour reports from England: This League is still going strong after 14 weeks. Real athletics is now back on the track with test events this week in the UK, and the first low key racewalk took place. The league will still continue, so please keep on racing. Well done again everyone, and thank you for your patience! Results at <http://racewalkingassociation.com/EventDetails.asp?id=6145>.

A small group of Australians submitted times:

2km Age Graded Virtual Race Women

10.	Heather Carr	W70	12:01
33.	Elizabeth Hancock Michau	W65	17:57

2km Age Graded Virtual Race Men

7.	Kodi Clarkson	U13M	09:41
15.	Owen Toyne	U15M	10:37
34.	Haydn Gawne	M70	14:05

MEETING DE THAON, THAON, FRANCE, SUNDAY 12 JULY

Last Sunday saw Emmanuel Tardi judging in Thaon, 400km east of Paris, at the first French post-quarantine race walking event. **David Kuster** was the standout walker with a PB 19:32.11 for the 5000m track walk. Next week, he will race over 10km in Montreux, Switzerland, so another good time looks likely. See more at <https://www.sportclub-reims.fr/2020/07/david-kuster-reprend-avec-un-record-personnel-sur-5000m-marche/>.

3000m Walk Women, 11:30AM

1.	THIEBAUT Laure	ESF/98	Es Thaon	15:53.05
2.	BOBAN Valerie	F50F/68	Athle Vosges Ec	16:03.82
3.	CHRETIEN Nathalie	F50F/66	Es Thaon	16:43.12
4.	FLORENTIN Catherine	F50F/67	Athle Vosges Ec	16:57.38
5.	KLIPFEL Emma	JUF/01	St Max Essey Club At	17:42.35
6.	BROCHOT Edith	F65F/52	Tarbes Pyrenees Athletisme	18:40.98
7.	SIEGENFUHR Yvette	F65F/54	Es Thaon	20:06.15

5000m Walk Men, 12PM

1.	KUSTER David	ESM/99	Efs Reims	19:32.11
2.	BIBET Philippe	M50M/67	Us Toul Athletisme	23:39.80
3.	DURAND-PICHARD David	M45M/72	Athletisme Metz Metropole	24:58.81
4.	BONNOMET Arthur	JUM/00	Co Champagne Aa	26:42.14
5.	FLORENTIN Thierry	M55M/65	Athle Vosges Ec	28:30.12
6.	GROS Gildas	M50M/67	Cis Anould	29:11.58
7.	SIEGENFUHR Daniel	M70M/50	Es Thaon	29:11.66
8.	TOMASELLI Francis	M60M/59	As Saint Remy Vittel	31:04.79
	WEILER Philippe	M50M/68	Athletisme Metz Metropole	DNF

Judges : Emmanuel TARDI , Richard WEBER , Patrice BROCHOT , Jean-Nicolas JOFFROY



MARCIADALMONDO AND OMARCHADOR ROUNDUP

It is good to see racewalking meets slowly returning. Apart from Emmanuel's report from France (see above), there are results below from further races in the Slovak Republic, Portugal, South Korea, Poland and Belarus.

Marciadalmondo has 4 press releases for us this week

- Sun 12 Jul - Dubnice nad Váhom (SVK): Matej Toth 5000m walk (19:54.58) and Maria Czakova 3000m walk (13:20.60) http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3812
- Sat 11 Jul - A Marcha é Para Todos (POR): Lousada, Leiria and Faro http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3811
- Fri 10 Jul- Incheon (KOR): Kim Hyunsub and Kim Minji win th 49th South Korean Championships http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3810
- Wed 8 Jul - Czestochowa (POL): Dawid Tomala win the LAZLA Athletics Meeting http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3809

while Omarchador has its usual great of selection of articles

- Sun 12 Jul - João Vieira and Ana Cabecinha win walks in the Portuguese FPA Summer Challenges <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/07/joao-vieira-e-ana-cabecinha-vencem.html>
- Fri 10 Jul - Hyunsub Kim and Min-Jit Kim win South Korea 20km titles <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/07/hyunsub-kim-e-min-jit-kim-vencem-nos-20.html>
- Fri 10 Jul - Results of Belarus U-20 Championships in Brest <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/07/campeonatos-sub-20-da-bielorrussia-em.html>
- Thu 9 Jul - Results of Meeting de Czestochowa, Poland <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/07/meeting-de-czestochowa-polonia.html>
- Wed 8 Jul - A get well to former Portuguese 50km champion and international walker Pedro Martins <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/07/pedro-martins-foi-ontem-operado.html>
- Tue 7 Jul - VRWC returns to competition in Melbourne <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/07/o-regresso-competicao-em-victoria.html>
- Mon 6 Jul - Happy birthday to Jozef Pribilinec <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/07/jozef-pribilinec-no-dia-do-seu.html>

OUT AND ABOUT

- Staring down a looming budget deficit exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Stanford University announced on Wednesday it will axe 11 of its 36 sports programs after the 2020-2021 academic year. Shuttering the programs will affect 240 student-athletes and 22 coaches. I'm sure other universities and colleges will be similarly effected. See <https://www.sfgate.com/collegesports/article/Facing-25-million-deficit-Stanford-cuts-11-15394522.php>.
- This huge investigative piece is just starting to hit the presses in England. British Olympians were used as guinea pigs to test an experimental substance in a secret UK Sport project costing hundreds of thousands of pounds of public money in a bid to enhance their performance at London 2012. The so-called 'novel nutritional intervention' was fed to medal hopefuls during competition despite only being available for use in 'research', and there being no guarantees it wouldn't breach anti-doping rules or that it was free of side-effects. Further, UK Sport prepared waivers freeing themselves of any blame if anything went wrong and non-disclosure agreements banning athletes from talking about it. See more at <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/sportsnews/article-8513525/British-2012-Olympians-guinea-pigs-Special-Forces-wonder-drug.html>.
- More health officials in Japan have expressed concerns that the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games could pose a greater health risk to the public. A total of 21,129 coronavirus cases have been reported in Japan since the outbreak began, with 982 deaths recorded in the country. While the number of cases in Tokyo has largely remained low, the capital city has seen a spike in the past week. Tokyo has reported 206 new coronavirus cases today. see <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1096231/tokyo-2020-health-officials-concerns>.
- Now this is an awesome feat. Extreme cyclist Ralph Disencourt has set a new 24-hour cycling world record. During this time, the 44-year-old covered 915.39 km on a 4.4km course around the Viandener Niklosberg in Germany. That's one way

to beat the coronavirus blues! See <https://www.wort.lu/de/sport/extremradsportler-diseviscourt-knackt-den-weltrekord-5f0afc84da2cc1784e361654>.

AUSTRALIAN RACEWALKING CHAMPIONSHPS MEN: 1967 - 1970

This follows on from my previous articles which detail the early Australasian and Australian Racewalking Championships (along with other particularly significant races), up to and including 1966.

- [Australasian Championships Men 1892-1920.pdf](#)
- [Australasian Championships Men 1921-1939.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1946-1956.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1957-1960.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1961-1966.pdf](#)

Our story continues from 1967. I started racewalking in late 1966, joining Ivanhoe Harriers and the VAWC in quick succession, so I was witness to many of the wonderful performances that occurred in the 4 year period from 1967 to 1970. It was one of the most exciting times in our Australian racewalking history and saw four of our all time greats – Noel Freeman, Bob Gardiner, Frank Clark and Ted Allsopp – at the top of their game.

Australian Track & Field Championships - 1966-67 Olympic Sports Field, Adelaide, South Australia, 25-26 February 1967

With the 1966 Commonwealth Games behind them and with another year before the 1968 Olympic Games trials, the 1967 racing year loomed as an unknown factor. Most of the big guns were racing – Bob Gardiner, Ted Allsopp and Frank Clark – but Noel Freeman was still on his extended break. And there were always new walkers coming up through the ranks.

One of these was 18 year old **Graeme Nicholls**, from Ballarat in country Victoria. At this stage, he was blitzing his way through the junior ranks, setting records (Australian, Victorian and Victorian Country) and amassing medals at an amazing rate. His Australian Junior 5000m track Walk Record of 22:40.4 was particularly impressive.

Graeme's first big medal in the Open ranks came in the 1967 Australian T&F Championships 3000m walk in Adelaide, with silver behing **Bob Gardiner**. He had actually been third to cross the finish line but, with the last disqualification of **Frank Clark**, was moved up from third to second.

3,000m Track Walk - Men - Sunday 26 February 1967			
1	Bob Gardiner	VIC	12.57.6
2	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	13.47.6
3	Frank Leonard	SA	13.50.8
4	Robin Wood	VIC	14.19.0
5	Harry Summers	VIC	14.20.0
6	Peter Whitham	SA	14.25.0
-	Frank Clark	NSW	DQ (13:14.0)
-	Varel Newmark	VIC	DQ (13:50.6)

There was general consternation within the walks community at this time, with regard to a move to delete the 3000m track walk from the National T&F titles, and replace it with a 20km roadwalk. The thought of training for and racing in a 20km national championship in the heat of summer was not well received. Luckily, the idea did not proceed.

Glover Shield 10km Roadwalk Brisbane, Saturday 16th May 1967

The biennial Glover Shield meet had by now grown into a major carnival, with Open and U20 Men 10km, Open Women 2 Miles and U17 Men 2 Miles events contested. The 1967 edition was staged in Brisbane, with the Heel & Toe commenting

Times throughout the day were slow, caused by the hot humid conditions. The track was perfect, a good surfaced road following the river along its tree lined route. The "highest" point was adjacent to a sewer outlet which most competitors were noticed to sprint past.

The Glover Shield (Open Men 10km) and the Robinson Shield (U20Men 10km) were contested together as the final event, with a large field of 42 walkers in evidence. None of the big guns were racing, so interest was centred around the newly created ACT team who were having their first start in the race and looked the team to beat. **Peter McCullagh**, who had returned from 2 years studying at Cambridge in England, took control from the start and was never caught. An improved **Robin Whyte** went with Peter for a good part of the distance, dropping back to third briefly but finishing strongly to take second. Victorian junior **Robin Wood** walked well to

take an easy win in the Robinson Shield, one minute clear of second placegetter **Graeme Nicholls**, who was unable to recreate his outstanding walk in the T&F Championships 3 months earlier. Victoria was successful in winning both shields.

Glover and Robinson Shield 10km Men, Brisbane, 16 May 1967			
1.	Peter McCullagh	ACT	49:00
2.	Robin Whyte	ACT	49:52
3.	Harry Summers	VIC	50:12
4.	Eddie Dawkins	NSW	51:07
5.	Robin Wood	VIC	51:23
6.	Varel Newmark	VIC	51:33
7.	K.Green	ACT	51:36
8.	Peter Waddell	NSW	52:10
9.	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	52:59
10.	Noel Norris	QLD	53:14
11.	A. Crombie	NSW	53:36
12.	Alan Lucas	VIC	54:27
13.	Frank Overton	NSW	54:27
14.	Justin Coxhead	VIC	54:51
15.	R. Williams	VIC	55:03
16.	M. Smith	NSW	55:25
17.	Bruce Conboy	VIC	55:43
18.	T. Jones	NSW	57:04
19.	J. Connelly	NSW	57:14
20.	J. Roberts	QLD	57:25
21.	L. Smith	QLD	57:29
22.	P. Pashen	QLD	57:45
23.	S. Housefield	NSW	58:06
24.	J. Tormey	ACT	58:14
25.	J. Forrest	QLD	58:17
26.	H. Kirkham	QLD	59:06
27.	Sid Bray	QLD	59:42
28.	D. Callaghan	NSW	59:56
29.	L. Landow	NSW	61:38
30.	G. Francis	ACT	62:38
31.	V. Orloff	QLD	62:28
32.	D. Cossart	VIC	62:38
33.	Greg Carter	VIC	64:10
34.	Dave Grenfell	VIC	64:15
35.	L. McPherson	QLD	66:15
36.	D. Thorpe	VIC	66:40
37.	R. Cheetham	NSW	68:01
38.	T. Maldane	NSW	68:01
39.	K.Daintry	QLD	74:28
Teams – Glover Shield			
1.	VIC	23	H. Summers, R Wood, V Newmark, G Nicholls
2.	ACT	26	P McCullagh, R Whyte, K Green, J Tormey
3.	NSW	35	E Dawkins, P Waddell, A Crombie, F Overton
4.	QLD	52	
Teams – Robinson Shield			
1.	VIC	8	
2.	NSW	13	
3.	QLD	24	

1st Lake Burley Griffin Carnival

Lake, Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 11th June 1967

1967 saw a new national event, held in Canberra in early June, featuring a 20 Miles walk around Lake Burley Griffin. The carnival also included two additional walks: 7 Miles for Men and 2 Miles for women. Invitations were issued to all the Federation clubs, with walkers from NSW, Victoria, Queensland and ACT attending.

Walkers from all 4 States contested the inaugural 20 Miler, which began in heavy rain and had to negotiate a dug up road and a section of wet tar in the first three miles. Walkers covered the remaining distance with a liberal coating of tar on their legs and with black shoes. **Frank Clark** and **Peter McCullagh** began fast and opened up a break over **Bob Gardiner**, **Robin Whyte** and **Harry Summers**. At the half way mark, McCullagh gained an advantage over Clark but incurred the displeasure of the judges, leaving Frank about six minutes in front of Robin who was walking strongly, with a further 2 minute break on Bob and Harry. Over the last 3

miles, Bob and Harry make up a lot of ground to pass Robin and get closer to Frank, but he had plenty in hand and went on to a good win.

LBG Carnival 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 11 June 1967			
1.	Frank Clark	NSW	2:54:57
2.	Harry Summers	VIC	2:57:11
3.	Bob Gardiner	VIC	2:57:12
4.	Robin Whyte	NSW	2:59:03
5.	Bob Steadman	VIC	3:07:59
6.	Murray Brown	VIC	3:10:36
7.	Les Wade	NSW	3:11:19
8.	Vic Townsend	NSW	3:12:12
9.	Geoff Laycock	VIC	3:14:10
10.	John Busst	VIC	3:34:13
11.	Gus Theobald	VIC	3:34:23
12.	J Connelly	NSW	3:35:03
13.	J Roberts	QLD	3:36:39
14.	Nigel Crew	ACT	3:50:25
-	Peter McCullagh	ACT	DQ

Little did anyone guess that this race would grow to become the biggest walking carnival on the Australian calendar.

U.S.A. vs British Commonwealth T&F Meet Coliseum, Los Angeles, 8-9 July 1967

Bob Gardiner was selected to represent the British Commonwealth in a U.S.A. vs British Commonwealth T&F Meet, held in the Coliseum in Los Angeles on 8-9 July 1967. A 20km walk was on offer, with a small and select field of 3 USA walkers and 3 Commonwealth walkers.

The day of the walking race was very hot (mid summer in California), with the course starting and finishing on the track, along with road laps of slightly less than 2 miles. Ron Laird led from the start and was a comfortable winner with 1:36:29, seemingly the only walker unaffected by the conditions. Bob finished in 4th place, with 1:46:04.0

U.S.A. vs British Commonwealth 20km Walk, USA, 8-9 July			
1.	Ron Laird	USA	1:36:29.2
2.	Larry Young	USA	1:40:47.0
3.	Ron Wallwork	ENG	1:44:46.8
4.	Bob Gardiner	AUS	1:46:04.0
5.	Trevor Mayhew	NZL	1:53:38.0
-	Tom Dooley	USA	DNF

Australian 20km Roadwalk Championship Albert Park, Melbourne, Saturday 15th July 1967

Frank Clark went into the 1967 Australian 20km Championship at Albert Park as a clear favourite, on the strength of his time of 1:32:59, done 2 weeks before. **Ted Allsopp**, **Ross Hayward** and **Peter McCullagh** were expected to provide stiff competition, along with **Bob Gardiner**, depending on how he was feeling after his race in America the week before.

Conditions were tough, with a strong and cold wind blowing across the lake, but it did not worry Frank Clark, who strode to the front and led throughout the race. Peter McCullagh was walking strongly in second place soon after the halfway mark and looked to to have a good chance of catching Frank, when he was disqualified. Bob Gardiner and Ted Allsopp made up ground in the final stages of the race, but no one was going to catch Frank who went on to win with 1:35:13, 12 secs clear of Bob, with Ted a further 9 secs in arrears.

Australian 20km Championship, Melbourne, Sat 15 July 1967			
1.	Frank Clark	NSW	1:35:13.6
2.	Bob Gardiner	VIC	1:35:25
3.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	1:35:34
4.	Ross Hayward	VIC	1:37:50
5.	Harry Summers	VIC	1:40:37
6.	Robin Whyte	NSW	1:40:39
7.	Robin Wood	VIC	1:42:50
8.	Noel Norris	QLD	1:43:43
9.	Logan Irwin	NSW	1:44:01
10.	Lloyd Davies	WA	1:44:27

11.	Bob Steadman	VIC	1:44:52
12.	Rod Bambury	VIC	1:45:23
13.	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	1:46:09
14.	Brian Carmen	SA	1:46:42
15.	Frank Leonard	SA	1:46:42
16.	Eddie Folland	SA	1:47:25
17.	Don Keane	WA	1:49:44
18.	Leslie Wade	NSW	1:50:21
19.	John Sheard	VIC	1:51:43
20.	Andrew Crombie	NSW	1:53:50
21.	Sidney Bray	QLD	1:53:51
22.	Varel Newmark	VIC	1:55:04
23.	Frank Overton	NSW	1:55:26
24.	Peter Whitham	SA	1:55:51
25.	John Smyth	SA	1:58:47
26.	Lyle Smith	QLD	1:59:48
27.	M Wall	SA	2:00:12
28.	Donald Bennett	QLD	2:07:14
-	Peter McCullagh	NSW	DQ
-	Eddie Dawkins	NSW	DQ
-	Dennis Mee	SA	DQ
-	A. Palmer	WA	DNF
-	Geoff Laycock	VIC	DNF
Teams: 1. VIC 14 2. NSW 28 3. SA 42 4. QLD 52			

This completed the major races for 1967. Frank Clark had dominated on the NSW front, winning the 1967 NSW 50km in a State record of 4:22:50 and the 1967 NSW 20km in 1:32:59. Add in Bob Gardiner and Ted Allsopp who were equally dominant on the Victorian front, and you had a top three Australians who were world class walkers. Add in Ross Hayward and Harry Summers who were not far behind, Peter McCullagh who was walking well in the ACT and Noel Freeman who was starting to train once again after his long break. 1968 looked like a vibrant Olympic year.

Australian Track & Field Championships 1967-68 E.S. Marks Field, Sydney, NSW, 23-26 March 1968

The 1968 Australian T&F Championships 3000m Walk was an exciting race, with **Noel Freeman** and **Frank Clark** expected to fight it out on front. Freeman had whipped himself into racing shape quickly and had bettered Don Keane's Australian 2 Mile Track Walk record with a time of 13:24.4 in Melbourne interclub competition in January. He had been even faster on the road at Albert Park in February, recording 13:17. Clark had set a NSW record of 44:37.6 in winning the NSW 10,000m Track Walk Championship in February and was also recording very fast times over the shorter distances.

The 3000m walk championship lived up to expectations, quickly developing into the expected 2 man dual. **Ross Hayward** was with Noel and Frank for 3 laps before being disqualified. Noel eventually won out with a new NSW record of 12:39.6, 2 seconds clear of Frank.

3,000m Track Walk Men - Sunday 24 March 1968			
1	Noel Freeman	VIC	12.39.6
2	Frank Clark	NSW	12.41.6
3	Peter McCullagh	NSW	13.31.4
4	Robin Whyte	NSW	13.41.0
5	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	14.00.2
6	John Croft	NSW	14.01.0
7	W. Melville	VIC	14.02.0
8	Peter Waddell	NSW	14.05.0
9	Ron Crawford	NSW	14.08.0
10	Robert Steadman	VIC	14.19.0
11	Logan Irwin	QLD	14.52.0
	Varel Newmark	VIC	DQ (14.50.0)
	Brian Carman	QLD	DQ (15.10.0)
	Ross Hayward	VIC	DQ

Four days later (28 March 1968), Noel Freeman and Ross Hayward staged an interesting battle in fighting out an Australia vs New Zealand meet 3000m walk. Noel took the honours with 12:37 to Ross's 12:39, with Bob Gardiner next to finish with 12:41.

The intensity continued to ramp up as the walkers approached the Olympic trials. Firstly Bob Gardiner stormed through a VAWC 20 Miles walk around Albert Park Lake on 31st March, setting a new Australian best time with 2:33:18. Then a week later, Noel Freeman

became the first Australian walker to beat the 90 minute mark, winning a VRWC 20km walk at Albert Park with a superb 1:29:12, some 6 minutes ahead of Bob in second place. Noel had walked with blistered heels from the 2 mile mark and was under 7 minute mile pace for the first 6 miles before slowing. It was the fastest 20km time in the world for 1967-1968 and was superior to the winning times in both the 1960 and 1964 Olympics.

But the win came at a cost – his blistered feet were slow to recover and it was only four weeks until the Olympic trial on May 4th at Centennial Park in Sydney. He could not race at all until April 29 when he got through a painful 5 mile VAWC club championship, winning with 35:05.

1968 Australian 20km Roadwalk Trial Centennial Park, Sydney, Saturday 4th May 1968

The unthinkable happened in the Olympic 20km trial a week later – **Noel Freeman** was disqualified after only 3 laps by the all NSW panel of judges – he had received reports for loss of contact from 5 of the 8 judges. He refused to leave the track and finished about 1 minute ahead of **Frank Clark** whose winning time was a course record 1:31:44. With second placed **Peter McCullagh** some 5 minutes behind and with third placed Harry Summers a further 3 minutes back, the only realistic Olympic selections could be Clark and Freeman.

1968 Australian 20km Trial, Sydney, Saturday 4 May			
1.	Frank Clark	NSW	1:31:44
2.	Peter McCullagh	VIC	1:36:59
3.	Harry Summers	VIC	1:40:10
4.	Ross Hayward	VIC	1:42:18
5.	Robin Whyte	NSW	1:43:30
6.	Bob Steadman	VIC	1:43:40
7.	Ron Crawford	NSW	1:46:18
8.	Logan Irwin	NSW	1:46:24
9.	Peter Waddell	NSW	1:47:29
10.	Ray Smith	VIC	1:49:22
11.	Leslie Wade	NSW	1:50:59
12.	Frak Overton	NSW	1:52:19
13.	Victor Townsend	NSW	1:55:42
14.	John Tormey	NSW	1:57:43
15.	Geoff Francis	ACT	2:11:26
-	Noel Freeman	VIC	DQ
-	Andrew Layland	ACT	DQ
-	Dudley Crews	ACT	DNF
-	Terence Lansdowne	ACT	DNF

Noel's finish was a token on his part but one which came to nothing. Olympic selection was awarded to Frank Clark only. There ensued one of the ugliest media frenzies ever seen in Australia. Noel was adamant he had been 'robbed' and highly placed people like Herb Elliot backed him. Even the A.A.U. of Australia backed him, appealing his exclusion from the team.

He had one last chance for selection – a verbal assurance that if he won the Victorian Title at Albert Park on Saturday 30th June, wasn't disqualified for 'lifting' and recorded a world class time, he would be considered for inclusion in the team.

Four weeks later he was ready for his 20km 'trial'. He led the field from the start and, in icy winds and bitter conditions, recorded a world class time of 1:31:34, 5 seconds faster than Frank Clark had recorded in his Sydney trial win. He received only one caution and chief judge Jack Larkin confirmed that his style was up to international standard and would not cause disqualification at international contests. The race was watched by a surprise spectator, the secretary of the Australian Olympic Federation, Sir Edgar Tanner. One of the first to congratulate Noel after the race, Sir Edgar pointed to the 1964 Tokyo Olympic tracksuit he was holding and said: "*It looks as though you'll be getting another one of those.*"

Yet amazingly, at a closed AOF meeting later in July, Noel's case was dismissed. He was left at home while the great Golubnichy won the Olympic 20km gold – we can never know if Noel would have finally won his 'Gold' but a review of his form indicates he would have been in there with a good show.

It must be said at this stage that Frank Clark was a worthy Australian representative and it is unfortunate that his justifiable selection was perhaps undervalued a little in the aftermath of this unfortunate affair.

**Australian 50km Championship, Alexander Cup and Olympic Trial
Toowoomba, Queensland, Saturday 25th May 1968**

Attention now turned to the 50km trial, to be held in Toowoomba, Queensland, 3 weeks later. Ted Allsopp and Bob Gardiner had made their intentions clear in a 40km trial race, held at Albert Park on Saturday 11th May. Ted had stormed home in what was probably his greatest ever walk, finishing first with 3:19:50, 6 minutes ahead of Bob whose time was 3:25:43.

The 50km trial was held in conjunction with the Australian Championship and was the first such held outside of a capital city. Unfortunately, the event was contested in bleak challenging conditions, with a blustery westerly wind, and on a tough undulating course. **Bob Gardiner** and **Ted Allsopp** took the lead as expected, with the only real challenge coming from **Peter McCullagh** who was eventually disqualified while attempting to catch the leaders mid race. Bob broke clear at the 30km mark, going on to win by 5 minutes with 4:22:23.6. Ted held on well for second, while **Frank Clark** took third. The top three 50kmwalkers had taken the top three places.

Australian 50km Championship, Toowoomba, Sat 25 May			
1.	Bob Gardiner	VIC	4:22:23.6
2.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	4:27:40.4
3.	Frank Clark	NSW	4:30:34
4.	Harry Summers	VIC	4:43:43
5.	Jim Gleeson	VIC	4:50:04
6.	Robert Steadman	VIC	4:54:09
7.	Peter Waddell	NSW	4:57:12
8.	Ron Crawford	NSW	5:07:53
9.	Robin Whyte	NSW	5:08:04
10.	Sidney Bray	QLD	5:12:51
11.	Lyle Smith	QLD	5:25:34
12.	Peter Whitham	SA	5:32:14
13.	Leonard Hart	SA	5:34:33
14.	Noel Barron	QLD	5:38:33
15.	Brian Horton	SA	5:47:50
	Leslie Wade	NSW	DNF
	Noel Norris	QLD	DNF
	John Corrie	SA	DNF
	Peter McCullagh	NSW	DQ
	Gavan Breen	VIC	DQ
	Andrew Layland	NSW	DQ
Teams Results			
1.	VIC	7 Pts	(1,2,4)
2.	NSW	14 Pts	(3,5,6)
3.	QLD	26 Pts	(7,8,11)
4.	SA	31 Pts	(9,10,12)

In yet another controversial selection decision, Bob Gardiner and Frank Clark were selected for the Mexico Olympic but Ted Allsopp was overlooked once again. Ted had made 2 Olympic teams but it could just as easily been 5 teams. In 1952, 1960 and 1968, he went into the trials as one of the firm favourites but on each occasion he was the unlucky one who missed out even though his performances always seemed sufficient for selection

**Lake Burley Griffin Carnival
Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 19th June 1968**

The second staging, the LBG Carnival was extended to include a number of subsidiary events, including Sub Junior & Senior Men 6 Miles, Sub Junior, Junior and Senior Women 2 Miles and an Under 14 ¾ Mile.

Unfortunately, the Olympic 20km Trail in early May and the Australian 50km Championship only a fortnight beforehand meant that the 20 Mile field was reduced in both quality and quantity. **Jim Gleeson** of Victoria scored a convincing win, ahead of fellow Victorian **Bob Steadman**, with **Peter Waddell** of Sydney taking out the third placing.

LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 19 June 1968			
1.	Jim Gleeson	VIC	3:01:22
2.	Bob Steadman	VIC	3:03:39
3.	Peter Waddell	NSW	3:03:52
4.	Robin Whyte	ACT	3:06:46
5.	Les Wade	NSW	3:10:07
6.	Vic Townsend	NSW	3:11:38

7.	Murray Brown	VIC	3:17:55
8.	Justin Coxhead	VIC	3:20:40
9.	Dave Du Bondi	VIC	3:31:45
10.	Gus Theobald	VIC	3:39:23
11.	? Parsons	VIC	3:46:05
-	John Tormey	ACT	DNF
-	Ray Smith	VIC	DNF
-	Alan Lucas	VIC	DNF
-	Geoff Francis	ACT	DNF

As the Olympics drew near, Bob Gardiner intensified his training and racing and his final hitouts were impressive. In particular, on August 24th in a VAWC Track 50km event at Melbourne University, Bob won in 4:14:17, setting new Commonwealth, Australian and Victorian records and showing that he was a dangerous dark horse for the upcoming Olympic 50km event. I was fortunate enough to witness that walk and I still remember the constant pace with which he ate up the 125 laps.

Bob and Frank Clark left for Mexico with high expectations but, like most of us, they had little idea of the toll that the high altitude and heat would exact from their bodies. In the Olympic 50km, after a good start, Bob gradually lost ground and faded back through the field. His last 10km was walked in the semi darkness with people wandering across the course. His 19th place in 4:52:29 was a disappointment but still a gutsy effort. Frank held together a little better, finishing 12th with 4:40:14.

Both walkers had been selected for the 20km / 50km double. Bob chose not to start in the 20km, deciding to put all his efforts into the 50km. Frank did the double, coming 16th in the 20km with 1:40:06.

Frank Clark	20 km Walk	16 th	1:40:06
	50 km Walk	12 th	4:40:14
Bob Gardiner	20km Walk	DNF	
	50km Walk	19 th	4:52:59



Bob Gardiner and Frank Clark training in the Olympic Village in Mexico City

Australian Track & Field Championships - 1968-69 Olympic Park, Melbourne, Victoria, 28-30 March 1969

Frank Clark had won the NSW T&F Championships 3000m in a very fast 12:53.8 and looked the in-form walker coming into the 1969 National T&F Championships. Noel Freeman had disappeared from the racing scene after missing out on the 1968 Olympics, and Bob Gardiner and Ted Allsopp seemed unlikely to match Frank's speed.

It had been a wet weekend in Melbourne and, after raining almost all of the Saturday night, the Olympic Park track was almost completely underwater for the Men's Open 3000m walk. A large field of 21 splashed and slid around the 7½ laps. **Frank Clark** survived an early challenge from **Graeme Nicholls**, winning his first Australian track title in fine form, with 12:54.4. Possibly

the biggest surprise was the form of **Noel Freeman** who crossed the line 10m behind Frank, only to be disqualified. Third placed Graeme Nicholls was also disqualified, meaning that the silver ended up with **Bob Gardiner**.

A new name appeared in the lists, with 16 year old NSW prodigy **Steven Hausfeld** taking 6th place with 13:58.0. Steve would feature in the medals in future years and would go on to represent Australia in the 1987 IAAF Race Walking World Cup.

3,000m Track Walk - Men - Sunday 30 March 1969				
1	Frank Clark	NSW	12:54.4	
2	Bob Gardiner	VIC	13:24.6	
3	Wayne Melville	TAS	13:37.6	
4	Ted Allsopp	VIC	13:40.4	
5	Varel Newmark	VIC	13:57.0	
6	Steve Hausfeld	NSW	13:58.0	
7	David Black	VIC	14:04.0	
8	John Sheard	VIC	14:09.0	
9	Robin Wood	VIC	14:14.0	
10	Bill Kirby	NSW	14:19.0	
11	Robert Seargeant	TAS	14:21.0	
12	Peter Waddell	NSW	14:23.0	
13	Logan Irwin	NSW	14:32.0	
14	Peter Witham	SA	14:38.0	
15	Justin Coxhead	VIC	15:12.0	
16	Sidney Bray	QLD	15:22.0	
17	L. McPherson	QLD	15:25.0	
-	Noel Freeman	VIC	DQ	(12.57.0)
-	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	DQ	(13.03.0)
-	Aubrey Strydom	SA	DQ	
-	Graham Evans	SA	DQ	



Frank Clark splashes his way to victory in the 1969 Australian T&F Championships 3000m walk in Melbourne

Australian 20km Championship and Alexander Cup 20km Centennial Park Sydney, Saturday 17 May 1969

The 1969 Australian 20km Championship, which was run in conjunction with the Alexander Cup in Centennial Park, Sydney, saw Mexico Olympian **Frank Clark** successfully defend his road title in cool windy conditions. His time of 1:31:56 was amongst his best efforts over the distance. **Noel Freeman** overcame a leg injury to finish about 150m behind Frank with 1:32:57, taking the silver medal. **Bob Gardiner** moved into third place when **Graeme Nicholls** was disqualified, taking the bronze with 1:38:07. NSW junior **Stephen Hausfeld**, now just turned 17, showed superb potential with his time of 1:39:37. Overall, NSW won the teams event on a countback from the favoured Victorians.

Australian 20km Championship, Sydney, Sat 17 May 1969			
1.	Frank Clark	NSW	1:31:56
2.	Noel Freeman	VIC	1:32:57
3.	Bob Gardiner	VIC	1:38:07
4.	Stephen Hausfeld	NSW	1:39:37
5.	Robin Wood	VIC	1:44:30
6.	Ray Smith	VIC	1:47:12
7.	Bill Kirby	VIC	1:47:48
8.	Geoff Laycock	VIC	1:49:12
9.	Len Hart	SA	1:49:22
10.	Jim Henderson	VIC	1:49:45
11.	Gavan Balharry	SA	1:50:31
12.	Peter Whitham	SA	1:51:12
13.	Vic Townsend	NSW	1:51:26
14.	Martin Davey	WA	1:54:47
15.	Syd Bray	QLD	1:57:37
16.	John Carric	SA	2:00:10
Teams	1. NSW 18	2. VIC 18	3. SA 42

Lake Burley Griffin Carnival

Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 15th June 1969

The third edition of the LBG 20 Mile walk was easily won by **Frank Clark** in a course record time of 2:41:23. **Graeme Nicholls** looked set for second place until he took off on a cross country trip, well off course. That left **Geoff Laycock** and Peter **Waddell** to take the minor medals, a long long way further back. A special mention for 1956 Olympian **Ray Smith** who finished 6th in 3:10:08. Ray's big moment was when he roared past Robin Wood over the final 3 miles. At the finish, Ray was heard to remark to Laycock and Coxhead "You young blokes might be able to walk faster than me but you can't walk any b... harder".

LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 15 June 1969			
1.	Frank Clark	NSW	2:41:03
2.	Geoff Laycock	VIC	2:57:28
3.	Peter Waddell	NSW	2:57:42
4.	Justin Coxhead	VIC	3:02:08
5.	Ian Henderson	VIC	3:05:48
6.	Ray Smith	VIC	3:10:08
7.	Robin Wood	VIC	3:12:03
8.	Clarrie Jack	VIC	3:13:51
9.	Gus Theobold	VIC	3:39:45

1970 Commonwealth Games 20 Miles Walk Trial

Albert Park, Melbourne, Saturday 30th August 1969

The Australian Commonwealth Games 20 mile trial was held at Albert Park on Sunday 30th August 1969, nearly a year in advance of the 1970 Commonwealth Games. A large field of 33 starters faced the gun but all eyes were focused on **Noel Freeman**, **Frank Clark** and **Bob Gardiner**, Noel being expected to fight out the honours with Frank.

Noel, with a recent 2:33:54, started a slight favourite from Frank who had a 2:36 on the board. Bob had the fastest time in the field with 2:33:18, done in 1968, but he was under-rated for this trial. The field was given an international flavour with the inclusion of **Arthur Jones** who had competed for England in the Mexican Olympics 20km and who was now living in Sydney. In all, there were 6 Olympic athletes in the field. The course was over a 2 mile lap which meant 30 sharp "U" turns had to be negotiated during the race.

In what was later described as one of the greatest races ever held in Australia (outside the 1956 Olympics), Bob, Noel and Frank powered through the first 10 miles locked together in 1:16:43 with **Graeme Nicholls** a further 1 minute back in fourth place. At the 12 mile mark, the group started to crack, with first Frank and then Noel dropping off, as Bob put the hammer down and increased his tempo. From there, Bob stormed home with a second 10 mile split of 1:14:53. His final time of 2:31:36.6 was only 3.6 seconds outside the World Track Record held by Russian walker Vedjakov. Noel took second in 2:34:17, just outside his own Empire Track Record while Frank was third in a distant 2:39:24.

1970 Commonwealth Games 20 Miles Walk Trial, 30 Aug 1969			
1.	Bob Gardiner	VIC	2:31:36.6
2.	Noel Freeman	VIC	2:34:19
3.	Frank Clarke	NSW	2:39:24
4.	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	2:45:18

5.	Justin Coxhead	VIC	2:47:35
6.	Robin Whyte	NSW	2:49:46
7.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	2:52:01
8.	Peter Waddell	NSW	2:57:09
9.	Norm Marr	VIC	2:57:52
10.	Peter Whitham	SA	2:59:52
11.	Eddie Dawkins	NSW	3:19:02
-	Robin Wood	VIC	DNF
-	Keith Heness	NSW	DNF
-	Frank Overton	NSW	DNF
-	Les Wade	NSW	DNF

Bob and Noel were subsequently selected in the Australian Commonwealth Games team but Frank missed out. He was in the best form of his life – in 1969 he had won 4 NSW walk titles and 2 Australian walk titles, as well as the NSW Marathon Title (2:30:02). He subsequently moved to England and lived in Ilford for 6 months, sharing house with Roger Mills. He contested the British 20 Mile walk trial in an attempt to sway the selectors' decision, but he finished only 8th. His last opportunity had passed.

The battles between Bob Gardiner and Noel Freeman during 1969 and 1970 are the stuff of legend. Racing week by week on the Victorian front, they pushed each other to PB after PB. To gain a feel for what was going on, check out <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wv-bob-gardiner.pdf>.

Australian Track & Field Championships - 1969-70 Olympic Sports Field, Adelaide, South Australia, 20-23 March 1970

With Frank Clark training in England and with Bob Gardiner a notable absentee, it was left to **Noel Freeman** to fight out the Australian T&F Championship 3000m with young Victorian speedster **Graeme Nicholls**. On this occasion, it was Graeme to win out by just over 1 second, 12:56.6 to 12:57.8. SA's **Frank Leonard** took bronze with 13:10.6 while 17 year old **Steve Hausfeld** improved to 4th place with 13:35.0.

3,000m Track Walk - Men - Sunday 22 March 1970			
1	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	12:56.6
2	Noel Freeman	VIC	12:57.8
3	Frank Leonard	SA	13:10.6
4	Steve Hausfeld	NSW	13:35.2
5	Bob Foster	TAS	13:39.3
6	B. Whittaker	SA	13:47.0
7	Robin Whyte	NSW	13:50.0
8	Peter Waddell	NSW	13:52.0
9	Robin Wood	VIC	14:04.0
10	Varel Newmark	VIC	14:45.0
-	David Black	VIC	DQ
-	G. Evans	SA	DQ

Lake Burley Griffin Carnival Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 14th June 1970

The 4th edition of the LBG carnival included, for the first time, a teams race for competitors in the 20 Miles walk. The teams race was badged as the H. C. Campbell Shield, in honour of Harry Campbell of NSW who had served the sport of racewalking both as a competitor and later as an administrator from 1924 till his death in December 1963.

Young Victorian walker **Graeme Nicholls** continued his wonderful year, following on from his victory in the T&F 3000m track walk in March. With this win in the much longer 20 Miles distance, he showed that he was going to be a very versatile walker. The inaugural H. C. Campbell Shield Teams Event was won by Victoria with its team of Graeme Nicholls, Justin Coxhead and Geoff Laycock. This was never in doubt, with Victoria taking 6 of the first 7 places.

LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 14 June 1970			
1.	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	2:46:40
2.	Justin Coxhead	VIC	2:51:36
3.	Arthur Jones	NSW	2:57:29
4.	Geoff Laycock	VIC	3:00:22
5.	Dave Black	VIC	3:02:11
6.	Gavan Breen	VIC	3:06:21
7.	Clarrie Jack	VIC	3:08:45
8.	Robin Whyte	ACT	3:09:08
9.	Alistair Johnson	NSW	3:10:31

10.	Jim Henderson	VIC	3:10:35
11.	John Tormey	ACT	3:11:15
12.	Keith Heness	NSW	3:12:36
13.	Vic Townsend	NSW	3:12:57
14.	Stuart Cooper	VIC	3:13:13
15.	Brendan Hyde	NSW	3:22:07
16.	Terry Jones	ACT	3:25:34
17.	Jack Webber	SA	3:27:17
18.	Chris Moynham	NSW	3:35:32
19.	Ted Edwards	NSW	3:39:55
20.	Graham Anderson	VIC	3:44:29
	Robin Wood	VIC	DNF
	Frank Overton	NSW	DNF
	Ray Smith	VIC	DNF
	Alan Lucas	VIC	DNF
	Murray Brown	VIC	DNF
	Nigel Crew	ACT	DNF
	Paul Dorsett		DNF

While national attention might have been focused on Canberra in June, Victorian eyes were glued locally, watching the unfolding of a superb season on the local front. Perhaps the best result of the lot was recorded on 20th June when, in a 20 mile trial race at Albert Park, Noel Freeman, with 5 mile splits of 37:04, 36:28, 36:28 and 38:02, clocked 2:28:02, a time more than 3 minutes under the existing track world record and beating Bob Gardiner's 1969 world best time of 2:31:36. Bob was blown away and finished a long way back in 2:38:23

These times were so far ahead of the rest of the Commonwealth walkers that Noel and Bob were unbackable favourites for the 1970 Commonwealth Games the following month.

1970 Commonwealth Games 20 Miles Walk Edinburgh, Scotland, Saturday 18th July 1970

As expected, the two Victorians were in a class of their own in the cool conditions of Ediburgh, easily outwalking the opposition. **Noel Freeman** won in 2:33:33 and **Bob Gardiner** was second in 2:35:55. Local Scottish walker **Bill Sutherland** was a surprise third in 2:37:24, walking the race of his life.

There was one little mystery. Somewhere on the outward journey, a "competitor" was seen bowling along wearing No. 100. There was no official competitor wearing that particular number in the field. But he was not there for long; after a mile or two, he disappeared just as quietly and mysteriously as he had appeared.

1970 Commonwealth Games 20 Miles Walk, Scotland, 18 July			
1.	Noel Freeman	Australia	2:33:33
2.	Robert Gardiner	Australia	2:35:55
3.	Bill Sutherland	Scotland	2:37:24



Noel Freeman and Bob Gardiner in action in the 1970 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh

Australian 20km Championship
Adelaide, Saturday 29th August 1970

Noel Freeman was on a high after his Commonwealth Games win, comfortably winning the 1970 Australian 20km Championship in Adelaide 6 weeks later. **Graeme Nicholls** continued his wonderful form, taking second place with 1:35:20, ahead of former British Olympian **Arthur Jones**, now competing for NSW, who took third with 1:35:50. 18 year old **Steven Hausfeld** continued his rise up the rankings, taking fourth place with 1:37:42.

Australian 20km Championship, Adelaide, 29 August 1970			
1.	Noel Freeman	VIC	1:30:57
2.	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	1:35:20
3.	Arthur Jones	NSW	1:35:50
4.	Steven Hausfeld	NSW	1:37:42
5.	Varel Newmark	VIC	1:38:50
6.	Robin Wood	VIC	1:38:54
7.	Justin Coxhead	VIC	1:39:23
8.	Frank Leonard	SA	1:40:19
9.	Alistaire Johnstone	NSW	1:43:03
10.	Barry Whittaker	SA	1:43:55
11.	Robin Whyte	NSW	1:44:04
12.	Martin Davey	WA	1:45:05
13.	Rod Bambery	VIC	1:45:59
14.	Clarrie Jack	VIC	1:47:20
15.	Don Keane	WA	1:49:21
16.	Graham Evans	SA	1:50:43
17.	Keith Heness	NSW	1:51:25
18.	Lloyd Davies	WA	1:51:59
19.	Peter Whitham	SA	1:53:17
20.	Len Hart	SA	1:53:21
21.	Vincent Sutherland	WA	1:54:32
22.	Jack Webber	SA	1:55:03
23.	Sidney Bray	QLD	1:57:58
24.	Phil Hollis	SA	1:58:43
25.	Jeff Kennett	SA	1:59:28
26.	Kevin Finn	SA	2:00:35
27.	David Tapp	SA	2:03:57
28.	Bill Starr	SA	2:04:44
Teams: 1. VIC 14 2. NSW 25 3. SA 44 4. WA 53			

Australian 50km Championship
Albert Park, Melbourne, Saturday 26th September 1970

The 1970 Australian 50km Championship was held on 26th September in Melbourne, with Bob Gardiner and Ted Allsopp in attendance but with Noel Freeman and Frank Clark notable absentees. A full field of 24 walkers started in conditions which were described as “fine, sunny, cool and calm early, with a slight breeze during the second half”. The course was a 5km lap on the bitumen roads surrounding Albert Park Lake.

Ted Allsopp won by over 8 minutes, and may well have won anyway, even if Freeman and Clark had been in attendance. His time of 4:21:05 only 1 minute outside his PB. He was aged 44 but, on his day, he was still unbeatable. Second place went to former British international **Peter Fullager** who had arrived in Australia only a month previously. Peter came with great credentials, having raced with distinction in England and Europe, with a string of victories and top performances. Third place went to the irrepressible **Bob Gardiner**, a slow 4:36:53 but a team performance by the ultimate team man.

Allsopp, Gardiner and Steve Hausfeld had led through 20km with 1:44:58, 7 seconds in front of Fullager. Fullager had caught the group by the halfway mark and was the only one to go with Allsopp as he applied the pace in the second half. Even so, he dropped off at the 35km mark, leaving Allsopp to power home on his own.

1970 Australian 50km Championship, Melbourne, Sat 26 Sept			
1.	Ted Allsopp	VIC	4:21:05
2.	Peter Fullager	SA	4:29:15
3.	Bob Gardiner	VIC	4:36:53
4.	Steven Hausfeld	NSW	4:41:05
5.	Robin Whyte	NSW	4:41:55
6.	Graeme Nicholls	VIC	4:55:55
7.	Robin Wood	VIC IND	5:04:58

8.	Victor Townsend	NSW	5:08:36
9.	Andrew Jamieson	VIC	5:15:10
10.	Brendan Hyde	NSW	5:24:46
11.	Peter Whitham	SA	5:27:25
12.	John Webber	SA	5:32:25
13.	Graeme Anderson	VIC IND	5:21:53
-	Sydney Bray	QLD	DNF
-	Brian Carman	NSW IND	DNF
-	David Black	VIC IND	DNF
-	Paul Cronin	VIC IND	DNF
-	Geoff Laycock	VIC IND	DNF
-	Claude Martin	VIC IND	DNF
-	Gordon Mills	VIC IND	DNF
-	Varel Newmark	VIC IND	DNF
-	Norm Marr	VIC	DNF
-	Justin Coxhead	VIC	DNF
-	Clarrie Jack	VIC IND	DQ
Teams			
1.	VIC	10 Pts	(1,3,6 – Allsopp, Gardiner, Nicholls)
2.	NSW	16 Pts	(4,5,7 – Hausfeld, Whyte, Townsend)
3.	SA	19 Pts	(2,8,9 – Fullager, Whitham, Webber)

DATES...DATES...DATES

As usual, I finish with a list of upcoming events on the local, national and international fronts. Let me know of any errors/omissions. It continues to change quickly as a result of COVID-19 issues.

Australian/Victorian Key Dates – 2020

Aug 30 (Sun), 2020 Australian Masters 20km Championships, Adelaide (TBA)
 Aug 30 (Sun), 2020 Australian Roadwalk Championships (and RWA Carnival), Melbourne (TBA)

International Dates

July 17-20, 2020 **18th World Athletics U20 T&F Championships**, Nairobi, Kenya (POSTPONED – TBA)
 Sep 18 (Fri), 2020 46th International RW Festival, Alytus, Lithuania (see <http://www.alytusfestival.lt/>)
 Sep 26 (Sat), 2020 International Race Walk Meeting, Zaniemysl, Poland (Includes Polish 20km Champs)
 Oct 10 (Sat), 2020 Podebrady Walks Meet, Podebrady, Czech Republic (see <https://www.podebrady-walking.cz/en/>)
 Oct 20-22, 2020 Lake Taihu Tour, Suzhou, China
 Nov 7 (Sat), 2020 NZ Road Walk Championships, Bruce Pulman Park, Auckland, New Zealand

Jan 17-23, 2021 **Oceania Masters Championships**, Norfolk Island (POSTPONED UNTIL JANUARY 2022)
 July 23 – Aug 8, 2021 **32nd Olympic Games, Tokyo and Sapporo**
 July, 2021 **23rd World Masters T&F Championships**, Tampere, Finland
 Aug 8-19, 2021 **World University Summer Games**, Chengdu, China

TBA, 2022 **9th World Masters Indoor T&F Championships**, Edmonton, Canada
 July 15-24, 2022 **18th World Athletics Championships**, Eugene, USA
 July 27 - Aug 7, 2022 **XXII Commonwealth Games**, Birmingham, GBR
 Aug 11-21, 2022 **European Athletics Championships**, Munich, GER

TBA, 2023 **24th World Masters T&F Championships**, Gothenburg Sweden
 Aug 2023 (TBC) **19th World Athletics Championships**, Budapest, Hungary

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