

FROM THE ARCHIVES – THE GLOVER SHIELD COMPETITION, SUNDAY 14 MAY 1972

Thanks to Alan Lucas for the fantastic newspaper cutting below, from the Brisbane morning newspaper of Monday 15th May 1972. Alan explains the photo as follows:

Have just read today's H&T and thought that you would like a copy of the attached photo if you don't have one already. The 1972 Federation events were held in Brisbane in May that year and the weather turned out to be fairly cool, quite wet and windy. The course was difficult with a noticeable rise and fall and a rough surface.

You will need to get some help identifying all of the competitors but I can help. The only Victorians to make the trip for the senior event were Robin Wood, Varel Newmark and myself. We were not considered much of a chance to win the teams event but Arthur Jones of NSW did not go and with the weather conditions we all "fired" to pull off an unexpected victory. With some good walking and poor selections in the NSW team we also managed to win the Robinson Shield as well. Steven Bradbury would say "If you are on your feet at the finish you've always got a chance".

This photo may be one of the few (perhaps only) copies in existence. **Amongst the competitors are (from right to left) John (?) Andrews ACT, me, Varel, Peter Waddell, Robin, Mike Barfoot, Eddie Dawkins, Keith Henness, Frank Overton, Frank Clark, Sid Bray, Robin Whyte, Reg Tarte and Logan Irwin.** The caption says 42 starters but I can only count 27 and I think the other 15 were in the junior race.

Regards .. Alan

A WET SATURDAY AFTERNOON, AND A 10,000-METRES WALK



QLD. HAS 19 IN GAMES CONTINGENT

A FIELD of 42 walkers take off at the start of the men's open 10,000-metres event for the Glover Shield at the Federation of Australian Walking Clubs championships at Redcliffe yesterday. Eventual winner Olympian Frank Clark (arrowed) is in the centre of the field. Victoria won the Shield.

Walk to Olympian

Australian Olympic walker Frank Clark won the 10,000-metres open title at the Australian Federation of Walking Clubs' championships at Redcliffe yesterday.

Clark headed a field of 42 with Canberra representative Robin Whyte coming in 38 sec. behind him.

Robin Wood of Victoria finished third and led the Victorian team who retained the Glover Shield, symbol of Australian walking supremacy.

Clark's winning time of 47 min. 38 sec. recorded in the cold and blustery conditions was a reasonable effort for the day.

In the junior event over the same course, there was an exciting finish in which Queenslanders Stephen Barralet was narrowly beaten by Victorian Bill Cullen.

PROVED TOO STRONG

Barralet, with only 100 yards to travel ap...



This sent me rummaging through our extensive archives and here I reproduce the report from the VAWC Heel & Toe May 1972 edition.

VICTORIA RETAINS GLOVER AND ROBINSON SHIELDS IN BRISBANE

With a great display of team walking, Victoria won the Glover Shield and Robinson Shield competitions held at Redcliffe, Qld, last weekend. After racing for five weeks with temperatures in the 70's and 80's in Melbourne, the Vics thought they were well prepared for Brisbane weather but race day dawned with a bleak sky, a strong wind and the threat of rain which soon eventuated and kept the temperature just on 60°.

The first race of the day was the 3000m Claude Knight Memorial Trophy for U14 girls. Jane Davies 16:42 (2nd),

Jenny Hurwood 16:57 (4th), Margaret McDonald 19:49 (11th) and Jacqui Greig 19:55 (12th) all walked excellent races but found the N.S.W. Girls too strong in numbers and finished 2nd, six points behind the winners.

The next race was the 5000m Lorna Carrington Cup which saw another interesting battle between National Champion Dianne Behen and Alison Nicholls. However, the N.S.W. Girl again proved too strong at the finish to win by 9 secs in 25:55 to Alison's 26:04. The other Vic girls, Robyne Knape 30:12 (11th), Debbie Hughes 30:50 (18th) and Verona Chadwick 31:31 (21st) found the pace a bit too fast. N.S.W. were easy team winners.

This was followed by the 10000m Robinson Shield for Juniors U19 and Victoria's chances appeared only slight as six of the State's top juniors did not make the trip and those that did were only young and had very little interstate competition behind them. However, with some good walking and a bit of luck, they came home winners by 3 points. Bill Cullen walked a well judged race to win with 51:46 closed followed by Steve Barralet of Qld who clocked 51:57. Ron Pilcher 53:42 and John Cullen 55:00 did a great job for their age to finish 6th and 7th while Dave Gaff 58:35, Glenn Knape 64:28 and Michael Fielding 65:57 battled it out to the finish. Colin Campbell of N.S.W. who crossed the line in 4th place was disqualified and two boys from their No. 2 team finished 5th and 8th ahead of the 3rd boy in their No. 1 team, ruining their team chances.

The main event of the day, the 10000 Glover Shield, saw a small but very determined Vic team line up against 3 teams from N.S.W., 1 from the A.C.T. and 2 from Qld. Olympian Frank Clark cleared out after 1000m to win with 47:38 from Robin Whyte who had a lonely race and was 2nd in 48:36. A little further back the pressure was really on as Robin Wood, Varel Newmark and Alan Lucas were having a battle royale with Eddie Dawkins (N.S.W.) with Logan Irwin, Frank Overton (both N.S.W.) and Mike Barwood, Peter Waddell and Terry Jones (all A.C.T.) breathing down their necks. At the finish Robin Wood 49:48 held a slight lead over Varel 49:53 who walked a real captain's race, just beating Eddie Dawkins 49:55. Alan hung on desperately for 6th in 50:12 with Logan Irwin putting in a powerful finish for 50:26. Mike Barfoot 50:50, Peter Waddell 51:04, Terry Jones 51:16 and Frank Overton 51:33 found the pace too much over the last 1500m and fell back a bit.

The pressure of the race can be seen by the times clocked by the leaders over the final 1500m: Clark 7:09, Whyte 7:08, Wood 7:17, Newmark 7:09, Dawkins 7:15, Lucas 7:15 and Irwin 7:18. When the results were worked out it was found that Victoria and N.S.W. both had 13 points but Vic won on a countback because our team was the first to finish 3 competitors. Rick Hutton 58:09 and Ralph Field walked to make up the numbers for Vic and had an interesting battle with Sid Bray 58:24.

After the Glover Shield, it was confirmed that we had also won the Robinson Shield and there was much jubilation in the Victorian camp.

And no interstate trip is without its scandal. Thank goodness we are a bit more sedate these days! This was also published in the May 1972 edition of Heel & Toe.

THE BRISBANE TRIP – THE TRUTH!

As seen through the eyes of the special “fly on the wall” who for his own safety prefers to remain anonymous.

To the waves and cheers of friends and families, 12 members of the V.A.W.C. left Spencer St Station on Wednesday 10th May boundy for sunny (???) Brisbane. A quiet night was spent playing cards before retiring to bed about 11pm. The next day was spent touring Sydney, some visited the zoo (and were let out again!) whilst others braved the height of the Australia Square building (48 storeys), some say it is 49 but that is another story! A couple of the girls learnt that it is not very nice to be standing behind a boy fishing when his fish falls off the line and back into the water. Ron Pilcher and his coach Ian Colston joined the party in Sydney and at 6.30pm all boarded “The Rattler” for Brisbane. Either this train has square wheels or runs on the sleepers instead of the rails, we couldn't decide which.

A real “rocking” night was spent before everyone went to sleep (??) to rest up for the races. We arrived in Brisbane at midday and went around to the Cobb & Co. terminal to meet the N.S.W. bus which was to transport us to Redcliffe. Unfortunately the bus was a couple of hours late which meant that those on the bus had to share it with our team plus about 15 others from N.S.W. who had gone by a scheduled bus, a tight squeeze to say the least. After getting lost about 10 times on the way to Redcliffe, the bus was stopped and Ian Colston asked a local council worker to show us the way, but he couldn't spare the time to help us as he was too busy watching another bloke working on top of a telegraph pole!

Poor Ralph Field found that you can get lost just as easily in Brisbane as in Canberra but still operated a good ferry service between the guest house and the Showgrounds. After the races, we adjourned to the Showgrounds for an excellent barbecue tea put on by the Q.A.W.C. which was unfortunately hampered by the rain and cool wind.

After the presentation of trophies, we returned to the guest House and spent the time playing pool and table tennis. Ron Pilcher and Glenn Knape spent a lot of time at the N.S.W. camp, wonder why?? When bedtime eventually arrived, it was found that almost every bed had been short-sheeted. Who would do a thing like that?

While Mike Fielding found that he had suddenly gone gray, talcum powder on the pillow maybe? Whoever “fixed” Alan Johnson's bed can count on at least one report this week. Somebody pinched Alan Lucas' pyjamas but we can't say where he found them.

The return trip from Brisbane was another “swinging” time with “Lurch” driving the train. The day in Sydney was spent by walking over the Harbour Bridge, playing tenpin bowls and trying to find a double decker bus to ride on. The trip from Sydney was very quiet and it was a tired but happy crew that greeted Spencer St Station on Tuesday morning.

Special thanks must go to Q.A.W.C. and the Q.A.A.A. for the way in which they organised the events and for their wonderful hospitality and the excellent trophies they provided. Also thanks go to our manager Ralph Field for the time and effort he put into organising the trip which was enjoyed by all.

These trips are always very enjoyable and provide an excellent opportunity to gain new friends in other States, get valuable interstate competition and see the rest of Australia. All those who went to Brisbane will tell you how much they enjoyed it so don't miss out on the other interstate trips this year to Canberra on 10, 11 & 12 June and Perth Sept 9th.

Well, it was certainly a great trip down memory lane. And what of the many names mentioned above? As of when I wrote this in November 2009, Robin Whyte was still the main organiser of the Canberra Carnival these days and still walked the 20 mile event each year. Robin Wood, Alan Lucas and Alison Nicholls (now Thompson) were all still competing for VRWC at Albert Park. Alan Johnson (a VRWC life member) was still judging and coaching in suburban Melbourne. Varel Newmark was still going strong in Hobart and was the subject of an article in Heel and Toe only a few weeks previously. Terry Jones was living in WA and was one of the mainstays of WARWC. Sid Bray still lived in Brisbane, Frank Overton was still heavily involved in walking in NSW and was normally one of the main officials at the Canberra carnival each year, Ralph Field (also a VRWC life member) had died only a couple of years previously and Peter Waddell had died in 2002 after serving 30 years as RWA president.