

THE GLOVER SHIELD - AUSTRALIAN WALKING'S OLDEST SHIELD

There had been a number of specialist racewalking clubs in existence for some time in the early 1900's and Australia's first Olympic walker Bill Murray (1912) had been a member of the Victorian Walkers and Field Games Club, formed in 1911. The Sydney Amateur Walkers Club had also been formed in 1911 and racewalking was also strong in South Australia and Queensland.

The First World War put everything on the backburners with the Melbourne based walking club actually ceasing activities in 1915 as all of its Executive had enlisted. It was not until 1921 that the Victorians reformed, now calling themselves the Victorian Amateur Walkers' Club (VAWC).

Late in 1921, officials from the NSW and Victorian walking clubs met with a view to instigating an interstate walking race. There had been 1 Mile and 3 Miles track races which were held annually as part of the Australian Track and Field Championships, but no longer walks were officially sanctioned.

An offer was made by Footscray jewellers *Mr T. Glover and Son* (the son was a sprinter with the Footscray Harriers) to donate a Shield to be known as the *Glover Shield*. The proposed championship date was October 1922 and N.S.W. requested A.A.U. to hold a postal vote amongst member States to validate the championship.

Whilst the majority of States voted in favour of the concept, a number of V.A.A.A. officers were opposed to the event and voted against the motion. Thus it did not win the day. With the A.A.U. refusing to sanction the event, the walking clubs continued with their own planning, targeting a date of 14th July 1923 and billing the event as the *Australasian 7 Mile Walk Championship*.

That first Australasian 7 Mile Walk Championship is discussed in <http://www.vrwc.org.au/documents/1923%20Australasian%207%20Mile%20Championship.pdf>.

Nine 'Australian 7 Mile Championships' were held between the years of 1923 and 1937.

1923	VAWC	E. Drayton (Capt), V. Dowling, N. Asker, E. Sunderland, H. Gardiner, W. Murray, R. Merrick, F. O'Rourke, E. Winstanley
1924	NSW	A. Kitchen (Capt) , G. Parker, E. Smith, J. Parker, W. Pitt, J. Heathwood, L. Brown, R. Fostger, J. Batger
1925	VAWC	E. Drayton (Capt), H. Gardiner, J. Mulcahy, R. Osborne, G. Isbister, H. Wilson, V. Dowling, L. Moroney, E. Winstanley
1926	VAWC	H. Gardiner (Capt), E. Sunderland, W. Morse, R. Osborne, J. Mulcahy, J. Merrifield, J. Allen, E. Winstanley, A. Davies
1927	NSW	E. Austin (Capt), G. Parker, H. Latham, R. Foster, E. Chapman, T. Daintry, J. Richmond, C. Laughton, J. Stancell
1929	SA	P. McCavanagh (Capt), H. Wilson, R., Campbell, A. Miller, J. Larner, P. Campbell, V. Cocks, W. Jennings, J. McCormack
1931	VAWC	J. Cummins (Capt), J. Cummins, G. Isbister, J. Coffey, B. Oke, J. Pretty, F. Scully, F. McGuire, W. Marston
1933	VAWC	J. Cummins (Capt), J. O'Farrell, W. Marston, J. Gaylor, B. Oke, L. Guy, K. McCluskey, L. Bransglove, A. Stafford
1937	VAWC	J. Cummins (Capt), A. Reid, R. Rogers, J. McCluskey, J. Gaylor, L. Bransgrove

The following photo was taken at the presentations for the 1926 Australian 7 Mile Championship which was held in Melbourne.



From left to right are Ted Drayton (Vic), Snowy McCavanagh (SA), unknown, Bill Dickinson (Sec. VAAA), Rex Merrick (Vic Judge), Bill Billsborrow (VAAA Official), Jim Cole (SA), Frank O'Rourke (Judge), Bert Gardiner (Vic Capt), Harry Fitzgerald (SA Judge), Bob Osborne (Vic).

In 1939, the distance was changed from 7 miles to 10,000m, but the Second World War intervened after only one further championship and the race was not held again until 1946.

1939 VAWC J. Cummins (Capt), G Knott, J. McCluskey, I. McDougall,
B. Blakey, A. Reid, A. Philpotts, C. Lowe, G. Stanley

In 1946, the race was resurrected but in a new format with Senior and Junior sections being contested

1946 VAWC Senior: A. Reid, A. Philpotts, E. Allsopp, H. Munro,
VAWC Junior: E. Allsopp, W. Medcalf, S. Wisby

1947 NSW Senior: S. Sheedy, R. Tarte, G. McCabe, G. Kenyon
VAWC Junior: E. Allsop, R. Smith, J. Pettigrove

1949 NSW Senior: A. Stubbs, G. Kenyon, B. Brew, R. Tarte
VAWC Junior: R. Southee, J. Freeman, G. Williams

1951 VAWC Senior: E. Allsopp, H. Malpass, R. Smith, G. Williams
VAWC Junior: R. Gratton, G. Doak, G. Hall

1954 VAWC Senior: G. Nevitt, K. Guyot, R. Field, P. Alsop
NSW Junior: L. Irwin, K. Keogh, W. McAllister

1956 NSW Senior: K. Keogh, C. Walker, E. Edwards, W. Kirby
VAWC Junior: H. Summers, R. Gardiner, N. Freeman

1958 NSW Senior: K. Keogh, W. Kirby, T. Cichanowski, E. Edwards
NSW Junior: E. Cichanowski, R. Nixon, J. Rileigh

After 1958, major changes were made by the newly formed Australian Federation of Amateur Walking Clubs. The Glover Shield became once again a senior event under the auspices of AFAWC and a separate Federation shield (the

Robinson Shield) was contested for juniors, also over 10 km. The Glover Shield was now alternated bi-annually with the Alexander Cup which was contested over a 50 km distance.

1960	VAWC	N. Freeman, E. Allsopp, G. Breen, J. Henderson
1962	NSW	F. Clark, C. Kirby, L. Irwin, L. Waddell
1965	NSW	F. Clark, P. Waddell, J. Croft, L. Irwin
1966	NSW	K. Keogh, C. Walker, E. Edwards, W. Kirby
1967	VAWC	H. Summers, R. Wood, V. Newmark, G. Nicholls
1968	VAWC	H. Summers, R. Haywood, R. Steadman
1972	VAWC	R. Wood, V. Newmark, A. Lucas
1974	SA	P. Fullager, D. Faux, D. Bryson
1976	QLD	B. Cook, C. Kirby, J. Tormey, J. Harris
1978	VAWC	W. Sawall, D. Smith, T. Erickson
1980	VAWC	D. Smith, J. Sheard, B. Cook
1982	NSW	M. Woods, K. Knox, R. Huxley
1984	VRWC	D. Knox, D. Cash, S. Richardson, H. Summers
1986	NSW	C. Barnett, J. Smith, B. Cullen
1988	VRWC	A. Jachno, P. Copeland, M. Harvey
1990	VRWC	A. Jachno, S. Baker, M. Harvey
1991	VRWC	A. Jachno, M. Donahoo, W. Sawall

Over time, the Shield outgrew its design and a second tier was added in the background, to enable further results to be added.



After 1991, the Alexander Cup (now held over 20 km) was retired and the Glover Shield was changed to the 20 km distance. Since then, the event has been contested annually over the distance of 20 km.

1992	VRWC	C. Jeffrey, M. Donahoo, D. McGrath
1993	Provincial	F. Bertei, M. Harvey, P. Copeland, J. Jardine, M. Kuppler
1994	QLD	D. Smith, S. Pearson, I. Jiminez, A. Ludwig, P. Bennett
1995	VRWC	D. Cousins, D. McGrath, M. Thomas, D. Knox
1997	VRWC	N. Deakes, D. Cousins, D. McGrath
1998	VRWC	B. Malcolm, M. Dwyer, T. Hawkins
2000	Regal	L. Adams, C. Bone, T. Sundstrom
2001	WARWC	S. Holloway, J. Mison, J. Back
2002	VRWC	F. Bertei, C. Erickson, M. Donahoo
2003	VRWC	F. Bertei, C. Erickson, T. Erickson
2004	QRWC	S. Pearson, K. Rose, A. Ludwig
2005	REGAL	T. Sundstrom, M. Smith, T. Elms

2006	VRWC	T. Erickson, T. Barnes, A. Jamieson
2007	SAAWC	D. Bown, J. Hoare, B. Starr
2008	VRWC	T. Barnes, S. Kollmorgen, A. Jamieson
2008	SARWC	P. Crump, K.Mottrom, D. Bown
2010	VRWC	C. Erickson, R. Cowley, D. Payne
2011	VRWC	C. Erickson, R.Cowley, A. Jamieson
2012	QRWC	D. Bird-Smith, B. Dewar, N. Dewar
2013	QRWC	D. Bird-Smith, B. Dewar, N. Dewar
2014	Not awarded	
2015	RWV	R. Cowley, N. Brill, J. Kozica
2016	Not awarded	
2017	Not awarded	

The original shield was eventually filled again, and was officially replaced with a new more modern and simpler design. The original shield is held by the Victorian Race Walking Club and is proudly displayed in its clubrooms at Middle Park.

This Shield remains the oldest and historically most valuable item of walking history in Australia. We are so lucky that former walking officials had the foresight to institute it and keep it going.

During the last 85 years, it has undergone many changes but still remains a relevant and highly coveted teams race.

Tim Erickson
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