

VICTORIAN RACEWALKING CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1921-1930

With the First World War behind it, the Victorian Amateur Athletics Association had started its rebuild in 1920. The next 20 years would see a period of post war euphoria, followed by the Great Depression, then another period of rebuilding, only to be interrupted by another World War.

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1921

The 1921 Victorian Championships, held at the Amateur Sports Ground, saw the usual 1 Mile and 3 Miles walks replaced by a 2 Mile Walk. This was not to last, the following year seeing a return to the 1 Mile and 3 Miles walks. While the race win went to NSW walker **Bert Kitchen**, the Victorian Title went to **Fred Willson**, the two finishing in a near dead heat.

Once again, no roadwalk championships were scheduled.

2 MILES WALK, Saturday 26 February 1921

1.	Albert 'Bert' Kitchen	NSW	15.29.6
2.	Fred Willson	YMCA	15.29.7e
3.	Leslie Mudge	Melbourne	
4.	Francis Lewis	Melbourne	
5.	Stan Porter	Footscray	
6.	Joseph Mackay	Hawthorn	
7.	Sydney Clarke	SSH	
8.	Arthur Flint	Moreland	

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1922

The 1922 Victorian Championships was held at the Amateur Sports Ground in December 1921, with **Tom Radich** (third in the 1920 1 Mile walk) breaking through for dual wins.

3 MILES WALK, Saturday, 17 December 1921

1.	Tom Radich	Carlton	23.24.0
2.	Francis Stuart	Carlton	24.09.0
3.	Leslie Mudge	Melbourne	24.27.0
4.	Leslie Robinson	Carlton	25.20.0
5.	Francis Lewis	Melbourne	25.56.0
6.	Fred O'Grady	Coburg	26.06.0

1 MILE WALK, Wednesday 21 December 1921

1.	Tom Radich	Carlton	6.55.0
2.	Harry Dennis	Melbourne	
3.	Norman Asker	YMCA	
4.	Les Mudge	Melbourne	
5.	Fred Willson	YMCA	
6.	? Stewart	Carlton	

While 1912 Olympian Bill Murray, now 40 years of age, did not contest the shorter track walks, he did return for the two road walks, finishing as the first Victorian in the 10 Miles walk and taking second place in the 25 Miles walk. A new name appeared on the winner's list, with **Jack Lewis** taking gold in the 25 Miles Walk.

Lewis was a Warburton based forest ranger and a former Victorian marathon champion. He was known as 'the Grecian marathon runner' and, in fact, showed Greece as this country of representation in his various races. A newspaper of the time described him as follows

"He is a fine type of athlete, bronzed like a statue. He lives a healthy life in the Warburton district where he is one of the local rangers. Walking to him is a pleasure and 50 miles in the mountains is regarded as nothing more than part of his daily exercise. In the pre-war days, as a mere lad, he made a name for himself as a Marathon runner. Since then he has developed into an endurance athlete."

10 MILES WALK, Scotch College, Saturday 1 July 1922

1.	W Pitt	NSW	1:27.35
2.	William Murray	Melbourne	1:28.04
3.	Rex Merrick	Hawthorn	1:29.38

25 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 23 September

1.	Jack Lewis	EMH	4:12.19
2.	William Murray	Melbourne	4:21.50
3.	Ted Drayton	Footscray	4:23.10
4.	Ernest Harrison	England	4:19.29 (1 lap or 880 yds short)
5.	Jack Horan	North Melbourne	4:28.31
6.	Thomas Byrne	Queensland	4:47.00
	Francis Stuart	Carlton	DNF
	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
	Les Robinson	Carlton	DNF
	Les Mudge	Melbourne	DNF
	Francis O'Rourke	Hawthorn	DNF
	Albert Heywood	Carlton	DNF
	Clive Ashdown	Coburg	DNF

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1923

The Amateur Sports Ground alongside the Yarra River was now the venue for all Victorian Athletics Track Championships and, once again in 1923, it was put to good use.

Tom Radich, who had won dual golds in 1921, won both walks again, in almost identical times! For the first time, **Bert Gardiner**'s name appeared in the results, with 8th in the 3 Miles Walk and 7th in the 1 Mile Walk. Note that the 3 Miles Walk was always contested as the first of the two walks, with the 1 Mile Walk normally a week later.

3 MILES WALK, Saturday 10 February

1.	Tom Radich	Carlton	23.24.0
2.	Norman Asker	Metropolitan	
3.	Victor Dowling	SSH	
4.	E Strain	Essendon	
5.	Francis Stuart	Carlton	
6.	Les Robinson	Carlton	
7.	Les Mudge	Melbourne	
8.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	
9.	G Hester	Footscray	
10.	Sydney Clarke	SSH	
11.	Fred Willson	Metropolitan	
12.	Ted Sunderland	Melbourne	
13.	T Langtry	EMH	

1 MILE WALK, Saturday 17 February

1.	Tom Radich	Carlton	6.54.4
2.	Norman Asker	Metropolitan	7.05.0
3.	Les Mudge	Melbourne	7.28.0
4.	E Strain	Essendon	
5.	William Croke	North Melb.	
6.	Francis Stuart	Carlton	
7.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	
8.	Sydney Clarke	SSH	
9.	Victor Dowling	SSH	
10.	A Weir	MUAC	
11.	Fred Willson	Metropolitan	
12.	Ted Sunderland	Melbourne	

July 1923 saw the first Australasian 7 Miles Walk Championship, held at the Malvern Cricket Ground in Melbourne.

Norman Asker, who was second in both track walks, went one better in the 10 Miles Walk, taking gold in the 10 Miles walk. Asker was easy to spot in the field, being 6 ft 6 inches in height, and towering over everyone else. While SA champion H.G. **(Geo) Wilson** won the 25 Miles Walk, the Victorian gold went to **Edward Winstanley**. Winstanley also took silver in the 10 Miles walk. It was a bad double for Bill Murray, disqualified in the 10 Miles and DNF in the 25 Miles. Bert Gardiner improved to 4th and 5th.

10 MILES WALK, Aspendale Racecourse, Saturday 11 August

1.	Norman Asker	SSH	1:28.30
2.	Edward Winstanley	SSH	1:30.30
3.	Ted Drayton	Footscray	1:31.12
4.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	1:31.25
5.	Joseph Mackay	Hawthorn	1:34.10
	William Murray	Melbourne	DQ
	Les Mudge	Melbourne	DNF
	Ernest Fitzgerald	Hawthorn	DNF
	Frank O'Rourke	CYMS	DNF
	Jack Merrifield	Glenhuntly	DNF

25 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 13 October

1.	Harold George Wilson	South Australia	4:02.59
2.	Edward Winstanley	SSH	4:25.27
3.	Frank O'Rourke	CYMS	4:28.29
4.	Harry Cavill	SSH	4:33.08
5.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	
6.	Richard Winstanley	NSW	
	William Murray	Melbourne	DNF
	William Deuchar	SSH	DNF
	Ernest Fitzgerald	Hawthorn	DNF
	Victor Dowling	SSH	DNF

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1924

Norman Asker finally broke through for wins in the 3 Miles Walk and the 1 Mile Walk at the 1924 Victorian Championships, held as usual at the Amateur Sports Ground. With defending champion **Tom Radich** disqualified in the 3 Miles Walk and then finishing second in the 1 Mile Walk, it was seen by some as a changing of the guard. Bert Gardiner continued his rise, with third place in both events. Alas, full field placings are not known.

3 MILES WALK, Saturday 19 January

1.	Norman Asker	SSH	23.36.6
2.	Victor Dowling	SSH	100 yards
3.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	150 yards
4.	Tom Radich	Carlton	DQ

1 MILE WALK, Saturday 26 January

1.	Norman Asker	SSH	7.12.5
2.	Tom Radich	Carlton	15 yds
3.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	40 yds

The two roadwalks were held later in the year and saw wins to **Victor Dowling** and SA champion **Geo Wilson**, now living in Victoria and competing for Geelong Guild. Dowling was aged only 20 years and won the 10 Miles Walk convincingly, after his second place in the 3 Miles Walk earlier in the year. He would go on to win the Under 21 7 Miles Walk at the Australasian 7 Miles Walk Championship in Sydney in December of that year. The Victorian title in the 25 Miles Walk went to **Edward Winstanley**, with the positions the same as in 1923 (Wilson first and Winstanley second). There were indeed plenty of good walkers coming on, and the future looked promising for Australian walking.

10 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 23 August

1.	Victor Dowling	SSH	1:25.09
2.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	1:26.32
3.	William Murray	Melbourne	1:26.57
4.	Harold George Wilson	Geelong G	1:28.45

5.	Harry Pritchard	EMH	1:29.19
6.	Edward Winstanley	SSH	1:29.35
7.	Jack Horan	North Melbourne	1:35.29
8.	Harry Cavill	SSH	1:37.35
9.	Harry Wright	SSH	1:37.47
10.	Hugh Collins	SSH	1:39.19
11.	Ernest Fitzgerald	Hawthorn	1:41.00
	Jack Lewis	EMH	DQ
	James Croker	Moreland	DQ
	Ted Drayton	Footscray	DNF
	Jack Merrifield	Glenhuntly	DNF
	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	DNF

25 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 27 September

1.	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Gld	4:05.04
2.	Edward Winstanley	SSH	4:19.43
3.	Ernest Harrison	England (VAWC)	4:23.25
4.	Robert Osborne	SSH	4:25:07
5.	Harry Cavill	SSH	
6.	Alf Robinson	Metropolitan	
	William Morse	EMH	DNF
	Clifford Pritchard	EMH	DNF
	Victor Dowling	SSH	DNF
	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
	Joseph Mulcahy	Malvern	DNF
	Leslie Moroney	Hawthorn	DNF
	William Deucher	SSH	DNF
	Lionel McMillan	Moreland	DNF
	Norman Batten	Melbourne	DNF
	Rex Merrick	Hawthorn	DNF
	Hugh Collins	SSH	DNF
	Jack Horan	North Melbourne	DQ

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1925

The 1925 Victorian Athletics Championships, held as usual at the Amateur Sports Ground, saw a new champion take centre stage. [Eric Sunderland](#) was a name which would become the stuff of legend over the next few years. In fact, his brilliance marked him as one of our greatest walkers ever. He could have done anything!

Sunderland, who had won the Under 21 7 Miles Walk at the 1923 Australasian 7 Mile Championship, was by 1925 a regular competitor in the 'A' Grade mile and was the only walker capable of matching **Norman Asker**, the current Victorian champion. It must have looked incongruous to see the 5'3" Sunderland going stride for stride with the 6'6" Asker. The honours were evenly split over the summer, with the same pattern continuing at the Victorian Track and Field Championships. Sunderland won the Three Miles Championship after shadowing Asker for most of the race and applying continuous pressure until Asker finally cracked and was disqualified. Tumultuous applause greeted his first Open Championship win. Asker, a St. Stephens walker, bounced back to win the One Mile Walk championship with Sunderland taking second.

3 MILES WALK, Saturday 28 February

1.	Eric Sunderland	Melbourne	22.49.0
2.	William Morse	EMH	23.07.6
3.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	
4.	Norman Asker	SSH	DQ

1 MILE WALK, Saturday 7 March

1.	Norman Asker	SSH	6.58.5
2.	Eric Sunderland	Melbourne	15 yards
3.	William Morse	EMH	
4.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	
5.	Jack Merrifield	Glenhuntly	

6.	J Ring	SSH
7.	Edward Winstanley	SSH
8.	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Guild
9.	A Weir	MUAC

The 10 Miles Walk saw a breakthrough win for **Bert Gardiner**, ahead of **Geo Wilson**. Gardiner also won the 1925 Australasian 7 Miles Championship in Adelaide in August of that year, cementing 1925 as his breakthrough year.

Edward Winstanley won the Victorian 25 Miles Walk title for the third year in a row, ahead of English walker **Ralph Wallwork**.

10 MILES WALK, Ballarat, Saturday 8 August

1.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	1:25.09
2.	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Guild	1:25.58
3.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	1:29.39
4.	Ernest Fitzgerald	Hawthorn	

25 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 26 September

1.	Edward Winstanley	SSH	4:13.45
2.	Ralph Wallwork	England (VAWC)	4:29.50
3.	Leslie Rowney	Melbourne	4:34.38
4.	Harry Cavill	SSH	
5.	Thomas Byrne	Queensland	
6.	Bernard Maher	Carlton	
	Ernest Harrison	England (VAWC)	DNF
	Albert Heywood	Tasmania	DNF
	William Deuchar	SSH	DNF
	Ernest Fitzgerald	Hawthorn	DNF
	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Guild	DNF

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1926

The 1926 Victorian Championships, held at the Amateur Sports Ground, saw Eric Sunderland missing. He had dominated the last 12 months in Victoria, unassailable over all distances. His absence was probably tied to the fact that around this time he relocated to Mildura and joined Mildura Harriers, where his former coach Les Mudge was secretary. **Norman Asker** made the most of his absence, winning both track walks to take his Victorian Gold count to 6.

3 MILES WALK, Saturday 20 February

1.	Norman Asker	SSH	24.06.0
2.	William Morse	EMH	100 yards
3.	George Isbester	Footscray	20 yards
4.	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Guild	
5.	Alan Davies	Geelong Guild	
6.	Joseph Mackay	Hawthorn	
7.	Leslie Moroney	Hawthorn	
8.	William Croke	North Melbourne	
9.	Lloyd Cox	Malvern	
10.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	
11.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	
12.	Robert Osborne	SSH	
13.	E Barrett	SSH	
14.	Les Mudge	Melbourne	
15.	E Merrifield	Glenhuntly	

1 MILE WALK, Saturday 27 February

1.	Norman Asker	SSH	6.56.3
2.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	12 yds
3.	William Morse	EMH	
4.	George Isbester	Footscray	

5.	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Guild
6.	Alan Davies	Geelong Guild
7.	Joseph Mackay	Hawthorn
8.	Leslie Moroney	Hawthorn
9.	William Croke	North Melbourne
10.	Lloyd Cox	Malvern
11.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern
12.	E Barrett	SSH
13.	Robert Osborne	SSH
14.	Les Mudge	Melbourne

Sunderland returned for the winter and there was soon no doubt about who was Australia's best walker. He foreshadowed his intentions with a 6 mile walk at the Mildura Recreation Reserve. His time of 43:42.4 was well under the current Australasian record but was not ratified by VAAA due to the nature of the meet.

Then in August, he produced one of the greatest walks ever seen in Australia when he won the Victorian 10 Mile Walk Title in the new World Best time of 1:14:39.6. He was some 6 minutes ahead of second place getter Bert Gardiner and well below the current world best of 1:15:57.4, set by George Larnier in London in 1908. In fact, his walk smashed all Victorian and Australasian records for 5 Miles onwards. This winning time would not be beaten on the local front until 1952 when Ted Allsopp won the title with 1.14:37 - it took 26 years for a Victorian walker to match his time.

He also travelled to NSW to contest the NSW 7 Mile Walking Championship at the Sydney Showgrounds. 1920 Olympic silver medallist George Parker had been expected to win but Sunderland beat him on his own home turf with a time of 55:45.2. He finished off his season with a win in the annual Australasian Walking Clubs' 7 Mile Championship.

Edward Winstanley was making the 25 Miles Walk his own, winning for the fourth time in a row.

10 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 7 August

1.	Eric Sunderland	Melbourne	1:14.37
2.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	1:20.26
3.	Robert Osborne	SSH	1:21.16
4.	Edward Drayton	Footscray	1:26:26
5.	Frank O'Rourke	Hawthorn	1:26:56
6.	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Gld	1:30:11
	Jack Merrifield	Glenhuntly	DNF

25 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 25 September

1.	Edward Winstanley	SSH	4:25.17
2.	Leslie Rowney	Melbourne	4:28.49
3.	Harry Cavill	SSH	4:39.14
4.	Alan Davies	Geelong Gld	DNF
5.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
6.	Alf Robinson	Carlton	DNF
7.	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Gld	DNF
8.	E. Kelleher	Metropolitan	DNF

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1927

The 1927 Victorian Championships, held at the Amateur Sports Ground, saw two new walks champions. **Robert Osborne** broke through for a win in the 3 Miles Walk, while **William Morse**, after 2 silvers in the 3 Miles Walk and 2 bronzes in the 1 Mile Walk, finally broke through for a win in the 1 Mile Walk. Osborne had been gradually improving over the past couple of years, highlighted by a silver medal (behind Eric Sunderland) in the 1926 Australasian 7 Miles Championship in Adelaide.

3 MILES WALK, Saturday 19 February

1.	Robert Osborne	SSH	23.10.4
2.	George Isbister	Footscray	8 yds
3.	Leslie Moroney	Hawthorn	100 yds
4.	Jack Merrifield	Glenhuntly	
5.	William Morse	EMH	

6.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	
7.	Edward Winstanley	Metropolitan	
8.	Clifford Forte	Geelong Guild	
9.	E Merrifield	Glenhuntly	
	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DQ
	Norman Asker	SSH	DQ

1 MILE WALK, Saturday 26 February

1.	William Morse	EMH	6.59.8
2.	Norman Asker	SSH	15 yds
3.	George Isbister	Footscray	10 yds
4.	Jack Merrifield	Glenhuntly	
5.	Jim Gaylor	Collingwood	
6.	Leslie Moroney	Hawthorn	
7.	E Merrifield	Glenhuntly	
8.	Robert Osborne	SSH	
9.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	
10.	James Croker	Moreland	
11.	Clifford Forte	Geelong Guild	
12.	Alan Davies	Geelong Guild	
13.	Vernon Jones	Coburg	

Osborne then won a second gold, with a good walk in the 10 Miles Championship, while **Eric Sunderland** dominated the 25 Miles Walk with an Australasian best time of 3:53:16.4, beating Bill Murray's record by 5 minutes. Considering the appalling weather conditions on the day, this was a remarkable feat, yet it was accomplished by training for three nights a week for three weeks. He then followed this up with a win in the VAWC 20 Mile Championship, becoming the first Australian walker to break 3 hours. His time of 2:57:06 was well ahead of Murray's best time of 3:06:36.

Yet, he chose not to defend his Australasian 7 Mile Walk title. Such was his seeming ambivalence towards walking. With his discipline excluded from the 1928 Olympics, what was left for a man of his ability to pursue.

10 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 27 August

1.	Robert Osborne	SSH	1:22.48
2.	George Isbister	Footscray	1:23.15
3.	Harry Vine	Glenhuntly	1:23.35
4.	Frank O'Rourke	Hawthorn	1:27.55
5.	Jack Larkin	Metropolitan	1:30:16
	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
	Aubrey Eve	Glenhuntly	DNF

25 MILES ROAD WALK, Frankston to St. Kilda, Saturday 18 June

1.	Eric Sunderland	Melbourne	3:53.16
2.	Fred Willson	Metropolitan	4:07.13
3.	Jack Coffey	EMH	4:12.08
4.	William Morse	EMH	4:13:38
5.	Alan Davies	Geelong Gld	4:17:51
6.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	4:18:41
7.	Edward Winstanley	Metropolitan	4:21:05
8.	Ernest Harrison	Glenhuntly	4:24:24
9.	Jack Oberon	Chelsea	4:31:06
10.	Harry Cavell	SSH	4:38:03
11.	Alf Robinson	Metropolitan	4:43:38
12.	William Firth	Footscray	4:43:54
13.	Leslie Rowney	Melbourne	4:49:18
	Clifford Forte	Geelong Gld	DNF
	Francis O'Rourke	Hawthorn	DNF
	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Gld	DNF
	William Murray	Melbourne	DNF

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1928

The 1928 Victorian Championships, held at the Amateur Sports Ground, saw Malvern walker [Joe Mulcahy](#) finally break through for a win, relegating defending champion Robert Osborne to third place. Mulcahy would go on to win 4 medals in the Australasian T&F Championships, culminating in gold in the 1932 Australasian 3 Miles Track Walk, and would represent Victoria in the Australasian 7 Miles Championships on 5 occasions, finishing sixth in 1924, second in 1925, fourth in 1927, third in 1929 and second again in 1931.

17 year old [Jim Gaylor](#) finished back in 9th position, his first appearance at this level, but not his last! **Norman Asker** won his seventh Victorian Championship, ahead of Mulcahy, in the 1 Mile Walk.

3 MILES WALK (25 Feb)

1.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	23.41.8
2.	George Isbister	Footscray	25 yds
3.	Robert Osborne	SSH	40 yds
4.	Norman Asker	SSH	
5.	L Barrett	SSH	
6.	William Croke	North Melbourne	
7.	Vernon Jones	Coburg	
8.	Aubrey Eve	Glenhuntly	
9.	Jim Gaylor	Collingwood	
10.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	
11.	B Barty	Williamstown	
12.	Jack Pretty	Malvern	
13.	Francis Scully	St.Joseph	
14.	Harry Vine	Glenhuntly	
15.	Edward Winstanley	Metropolitan	
16.	A Broad	EMH	

1 MILE WALK (3 Mar)

1.	Norman Asker	SSH	7.02.2
2.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	12 yds
3.	George Isbister	Footscray	
4.	Robert Osborne	SSH	
5.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	
6.	L Barrett	SSH	
7.	F Hart	Moreland	
8.	Edward Winstanley	Metropolitan	
9.	James Croker	Moreland	
10.	William Croke	North Melbourne	
11.	Jack Pretty	Malvern	
12.	Francis Scully	St.Joseph	
13.	Vernon Jones	Coburg	
14.	Jim Gaylor	Collingwood	
15.	Harry Vine	Glenhuntly	
16.	D Warner	Geelong Guild	

Robert Osborne defended his 10 Miles championship while Bert Gardiner took gold in the 25 Miles Walk.

10 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 1 September

1.	Robert Osborne	SSH	1:22.20
2.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	1:24.58
3.	Jim Gaylor	Collingwood	1:28.41
4.	Frank Scully	St Joseph's	1:29:54
5.	Jack Pretty	Footscray	1:38:22
	Herbert Tanner	SSH	DNF
	Aubrey Eve	Moreland	DNF

25 MILES WALK, Frankston to St Kilda, Saturday 11 August

1.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	4:19.44
2.	Aubrey Eve	Glenhuntly	4:24.30

3.	Harry Tanner	SSH	4:40.56
4.	Norman Francisco	Collingwood	4:40:57
5.	Herbert Cavell	SSH	4:45:29
6.	Harry Fletcher	YMCA	4:52:14
7.	Donald Walker	Footscray	5:21:20
8.	E. Kerrigan	Geelong Gld	5:23:55
9.	A. Burman	YMCA	5:32:35 *
	E. Delzeppo	YMCA	DNF *
	Thomas Wyatt	SA	DNF
	Ernest Harrison	VAWC	DNF
	Thomas Reay	Malvern	DNF
	Edward Winstanley	Kew	DNF
	Robert Osborne	SSH	DNF
	William Murray	Melbourne	DNF
	Jack Oberon	Chelsea	DNF
	David O'Keefe	Geelong Gld	DNF
	Alf Robinson	Metropolitan	DNF
	Ralph Wallwork	VAWC	DNF

* Unofficial as Under 21

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1929

The 1929 Victorian Championships, held at the Amateur Sports Ground, saw wins to former champions **Joe Mulcahy** and **Bert Gardiner**.

3 MILES WALK (16 Feb)

1.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	23.19.6
2.	George Isbister	Footscray	10 yards
3.	Ron McDonald	Melbourne	
4.	Alan Poynter	Eastern Suburbs	
5.	William Croke	North Melbourne	
6.	Aubrey Eve	Glenhuntly	
7.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	
8.	William Morse	EMH	
	Jack Coffey	EMH	DQ
	Norman Asker	SSH	DQ
	Alan Hart	Moreland	DNF
	Francis Scully	St.Joseph	DNF

1 MILE WALK (23 Feb)

1.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	6.56.0
2.	Norman Asker	SSH	
3.	George Isbister	Footscray	
4.	Jack Pretty	Malvern	
5.	D Warner	Geelong Guid	
6.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	
7.	E Adams	Glenhuntly	
8.	Francis Scully	St.Joseph	
9.	William Croke	North Melbourne	
10.	F Lescum	Moreland	
	Jack Coffey	EMH	DQ
	William Morse	EMH	DQ

A new championship was added, namely the 5 Miles Walk, with the inaugural title going to **Joe Mulcahy**, who was quickly racking up a stack of gold medals. The 5 Miles included both Open and Junior categories, with the Junior race being won by **James Gaylor**.

The 10 Miles Walk saw a first time winner in **Jack Coffey**. He had been disqualified in both the 1 Mile and the 3 Miles Walks but bounced back well to take gold in this event.

The 25 Miles Walk had now been replaced by a 50km Walk Championship, reflecting the fact that the 50km walk had been added into the 1932 Olympics. After third places in the 5 Miles and 10 Miles walk, **Jack Cummins** broke through in the 50km for his first Victorian gold.

5 MILES WALK OPEN AND JUNIOR, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 10 August

1.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	38.32.4
2.	Robert Osborne	SSH	39.26.5
3.	Jack Cummins	Moreland	40.15.5
4.	Jack Coffey	EMS	40:40
5.	Thomas Reay	Malvern	40:53
6.	Jack Pretty	Footscray	42:00
7.	James Gaylor (Junior)	Collingwood	44:14
8.	Ronald Hester (Junior)	Footscray	44:14
	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
	Leslie Stanton	SSH	DNF
	Aubrey Eve	Moreland	DNF

10 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 8 June

1.	Jack Coffey	EMH	1:24.56
2.	Aubrey Eve	Moreland	1:25.08
3.	Jack Cummins	Moreland	1:25.20
4.	Robert Osborne	SSH	1:29:17
5.	James Gaylor	Collingwood	1:32:00
6.	Frank Scully	St Joseph's	1:33:22
7.	Austin Gore	Kew	1:38:39
	Roland Hester	Footscray	DNF
	William Firth	Footscray	DNF
	Harry Tanner	SSH	DNF
	Tom Wyatt	Collingwood	DNF
	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DQ
	Harry Roche	SSH	DQ

50KM WALK, Showgrounds, Kensington, Saturday 26 September

1.	Jack Cummins	Moreland	5:30.00
2.	Harry Tanner	SSH	5:45.55
3.	William Firth	Footscray	5:47.00
4.	Francis Scully	St Joseph's	5:55:37
5.	Vernon Jones	Coburg	5:59:05
6.	Joseph O'Farrell	St Joseph's	6:01:39
7.	Charles Watson	EMH	6:10:50
8.	A. Burman	YMCA	6:13:58
9.	J. Titley	Footscray	6:16:25
	Donald Walker	Footscray	DNF
	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
	Edward Winstanley	SSH	DNF
	Harry Roche	St Joseph's	DNF

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1930

The 1929 Victorian Championships, held at the Amateur Sports Ground, saw the old guard leading the way, with the walk golds going to **Robert Osborne** and **Bert Gardiner**, and the minor medals spread between Gardiner, Osborne, **Joe Mulcahy** and **George Isbister**.

1912 Olympian **Bill Murray**, now 47 years of age, made his final appearance at Victorian Championship level, finishing 14th in the 3 Miles walk, 11th in the 1 Miles Walk and 11th in the 10 Miles Walk.

3 MILES WALK, Saturday 15 February

1.	Robert Osborne	SSH	22.37.5
2.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	22.40.0
3.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	22.55.0

4.	J Arnott	YMCA
5.	Jack Cummins	Moreland
6.	Aubrey Eve	Moreland
7.	Jack Coffey	EMH
8.	Alan Hart	Moreland
9.	Ronald Hester	Footscray
10.	George Isbister	Footscray
11.	Ron McDonald	Melbourne
12.	A Mispel	Melbourne
13.	Leslie Moroney	Hawthorn
14.	William Murray	Melbourne
15.	James Ralston	YMCA
16.	Francis Scully	St. Joseph's
17.	Harry Vine	SSH

1 MILE WALK, Saturday 22 February

1.	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	6.58.5
2.	Robert Osborne	SSH	20 yds
3.	George Isbister	Footscray	
4.	J Arnott	YMCA	
5.	Jack Cummins	Moreland	
6.	Aubrey Eve	Moreland	
7.	Alan Hart	Moreland	
8.	Jack Coffey	EMH	
9.	Ronald Hester	Footscray	
10.	Ron McDonald	Melbourne	
11.	William Murray	Melbourne	
12.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	
13.	Harry Vine	SSH	
14.	James Ralston	YMCA	
15.	Francis Scully	St. Joseph's	

The longer walks also saw wins to the big guns, with **Joe Mulcahy**, **Jack Coffey** and **Edward Winstanley** taking line honours. For Winstanley, who had won the 25 Miles Walk title on 4 occasions, his 50km win would have been very satisfying. The 50km saw 17 starters, a wonderful show of depth.

5 MILES WALK OPEN AND JUNIOR, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 5 July

1.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	39.30.2
2.	Alan Hart (Junior)	Moreland	40.04
3.	Jack Coffey	EMH	40.28
4.	Francis Scully (Junior)	St. Joseph's	40.35
5.	Jack Pretty	Footscray	41.35
6.	Douglas Arnott	YMCA	42.15
7.	James Ralston	YMCA	42:40
8.	Con Shanahan (Junior)	Carlton	44:56
9.	Rupert Blackley	VAWC	45:05
	Aubrey Eve	Moreland	DNF
	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
	Leslie Braund	Williamstown	DNF

10 MILES WALK, Richmond Racecourse, Saturday 2 August

1.	Jack Coffey	EMH	1:20.10
2.	Francis Scully	St. Joseph's	1:20.50
3.	Joe Mulcahy	Malvern	1:22.53
4.	George Isbister	Footscray	1:25.56
5.	Jack Cummins	Moreland	1:26.33
6.	James Ralston	YMCA	1:28.38
7.	Leslie Wright	SSH	1:29:12
8.	Edward Winstanley	Metropolitan	1:29:50
9.	Rupert Blackley	Carlton	1:29:53
10.	Jack Pretty	Footscray	1:30:02
11.	William Murray	Melbourne	1:31:10

12.	Joseph O'Farrell	St.Joseph's	1:32:03
13.	William Croke	North Melbourne	1:33:00
14.	George Swallowell	Footscray	1:34:40
15.	A Thompson	VAWC	1:45:00
	Richard Cecil	EMH	DQ
	Aubrey Eve	Moreland	DNF
	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
	Robert Osborne	SSH	DNF

50KM WALK, Showgrounds, Kensington, Saturday 26 September

1.	Edward Winstanley	Metropolitan	5:17.10
2.	Joseph O'Farrell	St.Joseph's	5:18.21
3.	Alf Robinson	Metropolitan	5:23.03
4.	Jack Cummins	Moreland	5:25.59
5.	Jack Pretty	Footscray	5:32.05
6.	Francis Scully	St.Joseph's	5:38.05
7.	Francis Kilby		5:44:44
8.	Francis Lewis	Melbourne	5:44:44
9.	Rupert Blackley	Carlton	5:58:15
	Harold George Wilson	Geelong Guild	DNF
	Bert Gardiner	Moreland	DNF
	R Smith		DNF
	Jack Oberon	Chelsea	DNF
	Vernon Jones	Coburg	DNF
	Harry Roche	SSH	DNF
	Herbert Cavell	SSH	DNF
	Arch King	Footscray	DNF

There is an addendum to the 1930 Victorian 50km Championship and it came only 1 month later.

The inaugural Alexander Cup was held in conjunction with the 1930 NSW 50km Championship in Bankstown, western Sydney, on 6th September 1930. This championship was well supported, with 9 Victorians and 10 NSW walkers attending. 1929 Victorian 50km champion **Jack Cummins** was soundly beaten by his team mate **Jack Coffey**, with Coffey's time of 4:59:40 marking him as the first Australian to better 5 hours. This was officially recognised as an Australian Record and Coffey was awarded the T. H. Terrill Cup by way of recognition.

Alf Robinson and **Rupert Blackley** were two names to feature in these 1930 championships. They finished 3rd and 9th in the Victorian 50km, then travelled to Sydney for the inaugural Alexander Cup 50km, finishing 8th and 9th. They would return to Sydney for the 1931 NSW 50km Championship, which was a prelude to their historic walk from Sydney to Melbourne. This is a wonderful story (<http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wv-alf-robinson-sydmelb-31.pdf>).