

GORDON LOUGHNAN – RACE WALK JUDGE

Gordon Loughnan is a familiar figure at VRWC races, being one of our most regular judges. So I thought it timely to zoom in on Gordon and let readers know a little more about him.



Gordon (right) judging at Middle Park

Like many of our officials and judges, Gordon became involved in Little Athletics (in 1983) when his son Damien was in the Under 8 age group. He quickly threw himself into the fray, completing his Preliminary Coaching Certificate with the AT&FCA in 1984 and his Grade 1 Coaching Certificate with the AT&FCA in 1985.

The head coach at Westernport Little Athletics, Terry Eberius, got him involved in Race Walking and introduced him to race walk judging which he is still doing today. Terry also got him involved in the Penport Race Walking club which also included the children of Heather Carr. The race walking club eventually folded but his interest in racewalking has continued.

When Terry eventually left Westernport, Gordon took over as Centre coach. Race walking was just one of the events that he had to coach and he managed to get various kids up to State Level including his daughter Andria who won a bronze medal in the Under 9 age group.

Gordon also managed the Westernport Little Athletics Website for many years and I know it used to have a very comprehensive racewalk results section. It was only recently that he stepped down from this role to allow for a new website organised for the club by LAVic.

For many years, he was a member of the Peninsula Road Runners and before that he was a member of the VMC where he ran and officiated for many years. Once his son Damien graduated from Little Aths, he competed with him at Athletic Victoria events and started acting as an AV official. When his daughter Andria finished Little Athletics his judging involvement grew at senior level and Diane Lowden helped him qualify as an AV walk judge.

He moved up the rank, gaining his Little Athletics A Grade Judging certification in 2002 and his Athletics Australia A Grade Judging certification in 2004. He has judged at various Australian Road Championships and most 50km road championships since 2001. He has also judged at most Canberra race walking carnivals since 2001. He still judges at Region and State Championships for LAVic and has done so for many years now.

In 1993 he received a Distinguished Service Award from Victorian Little Athletics and in 2011 he received a 25 year

service award from Athletics Victoria.

He is currently the Race Walking representative on the LAVic Education Committee and is also on the LAVic Race Walking Committee and is the Race Walking Co-ordinator for the SMR region. He also served on the Throws Standards Panel for LAVic for a number of years and completed a strength and conditioning certificate as several of the athletes he was coaching were throwers, including his daughter who also excelled with the Javelin.

He has coached at several SMR coaching camps and one EMR camp and has been a camp parent at several LAVic State Coaching camps at Queens College (and he seems to have survived the experience!)

He has been a regular judge at VRWC since 2001 and is indeed one of our stalwarts. He tells me that he does remember coming to one VRWC meeting in the Penport Walkers Club days in the old club rooms at the top end of the lake. He also attended a Canberra Carnival during that time and, being a slow runner, let the field have a 20 minute head start. The only person he could not catch was Kerry Junna-Saxby!

He actually racewalked with the Veterans at Frankston from 1996 to 2009 but was not particularly fast (3km PB 21:31 5km PB 37:49). But he did enjoy trying to keep fit!



Gordon discusses the finer points of judging with Judy Mason

Gordon is indeed one of our most valued officials at Middle Park. We thank him for his ongoing contribution to the club and hope that he will continue to share his expertise and friendship with us for many years to come.

Tim Erickson
Secretary, Victorian Race Walking Club
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