

JOE MULCAHY – 1932 AUSTRALASIAN 3 MILE WALK CHAMPION

The Malvern Harriers Athletic, established in 1892, is one of Victoria's oldest athletics clubs. Over its long and proud history, it has had many good racewalkers, including the likes of Gordon Stanley, Jim McConchie, Ron Flint, John Salter and Frank Woods but one name stands out.

Malvern Harriers with long memories will remember a framed photograph in the club rooms at the rear of the Malvern Town Hall of a fiercely determined athlete powering along in a walking race. That picture typifies the style, courage and determination of **Joe Mulcahy**, Malvern's greatest-ever walker.¹



Mulcahy was one of the dominant Victorians in the late 1920's and early 1930's, and represented his State in many of the Australasian Championships of that era. He won 4 medals in the Australasian T&F Championships, culminating in gold in the 1932 Australasian 3 Miles Track Walk, and represented 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.



*The Victorian team at the 1929 Australasian 7 Mile Championships in Adelaide
Back: Jack Coffey, Jim Gaylor, Frank Scully, Ron Hester
Middle: Alan Hart, Mr Byrnes (judge), Joe Mulcahy, Alf Robinson (Manager), Aub Eve
Front: Jack Pretty, Bert Gardiner*

¹ *Running Into History, the history of Malvern Harriers*, by Trevor Robbins, p123

The record books show that Mulcahy took the Victorian 10 Miles titles in 1931 and 1932 and the Victorian 3 Miles Track title on four occasions – 1928, 1929, 1932 and 1933. He also won the Victorian 5 Miles Championships from 1929 to 1932, making 10 Victorian gold medals in all.

He also won titles and handicaps with the Victorian Amateur Walkers' Club (VAWC) over a long period.

He was a prolific record breaker. In one 1929 VAWC 7 Miles event, he smashed the Victorian 4, 5, 6 and 7 Miles records. He also set Victorian records during a number of his Victorian 5 and 10 Miles championship wins.

Mulcahy joined Malvern Harriers in the early 1920s and continued to compete at a high level until the mid 1930s. Annual reports during those years highlight his brilliance and consistency and note his 'fine showing' as a member of many Victorian teams.

Gone but not forgotten!

Tim Erickson
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With special acknowledgement to Trevor Robbins' fine history of Malvern Harriers, *Running Into History*.