

VALE JOHN MORRISON: 27/10/1939 - 17/03/2020

I am saddened to report the death last week of long term VRWC member John Morrison, aged 80. John joined our club in the early 1950s (I have a note of him finishing second in the VAWC Junior Style Award in 1954) and competed for many years with us and with Sandringham Athletics Club, where he was a life member.



John competing at Middle Park in June 2015

John was one of life's true gentlemen and walked regularly in the VAWC club colours until he retired in the 1970s.

He returned to club competition with us in the 2002 winter season, relishing once again the comradie and the fitness aspects of the sport after his long break. He won many age group medals and trophies in Masters competitions and with the VRWC and holds several Mentone venue records with the Mentone Masters.

John was a great contributor to the various clubs with which he was involved. He was a regular helper at our VRWC events, often sweeping the track before races and helping with event setup and pulldown. He also represented the Mentone Masters on the Mentone Track and Field Centre Committee for a number of years.

He suffered a major setback some 10 years ago when he was diagnosed with a brain tumour. A major operation followed, from which he amazingly recovered, returning to the Middle Park roads and competing with renewed enthusiasm. In fact, he won the M60+ division of the Merrifield trophy on two occasions, in 2013 and 2015.

He continued racing until June 2017 when the cancer returned and he was forced to put his walking shoes aside for the final time.

John will be sadly missed by his athletics training partners Dave Cash, Gwen Steed, Glennis McPherson and Geoff Barrow, as well as all his friends at the Mentone Masters and the VRWC.

We send our condolences to his wife Dawn and family.

Tim Erickson
Tuesday 24 March 2020