

VICTORIAN RACE WALKING CLUB



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

VRWC COMMITTEE FOR 2021/2022

OFFICERS

President	Stuart Cooper
Senior Vice President	Mark Donahoo
Treasurer	Karyn O'Neill
Secretary	Terry Swan

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Club Captain - Women	Heather Carr
Club Captain – Men	Terry O'Neill
Club Captain – Junior Women	Madeleine Feain
Club Captain – Junior Men	
Publicity Officer	Stuart Cooper
Entry Portal/Timing	Ralph Bennett
Handicapper	Mark Donahoo
Delegate to Athletics Victoria	
Judging Coordinator	Peter Vysma/Stu Cooper
Club Coach	Mark Donahoo
RWA Liason Officer	Mark Donahoo
Club Records Officer	Tim Erickson
First Aid Officer/COVID	Shane Dickson
Non Executive Members	Michael Bodey, Harry Summers
	Bob Gardiner, Donna Elms, Madeleine Feain,
	Pramesh Prasad, Heather Carr, Terry O'Neill
Auditor	Simon Evans

LIFE MEMBERS	PRESIDENTS
1928 Frank O'Rourke *	1923-1925 Robert Croll *
1933 Alfred Robinson *	1925-1928 William Dickenson *
1933 Frank Byrne *	1928-1929 REXX Merrick / Frank Byrne *
1933 William Billsborrow *	1929-1931 Frank Byrne *
1936 James McDonald *	1931-1937 Edward Drayton *
1938 Rupert Blackley *	1937-1941 Alfred Robinson *
1946 Edward Drayton *	1946-1976 Alfred Robinson *
1948 Herbert Gardiner *	1976-1983 Raymond Smith *
1948 Jack Larkin *	1983-2013 Harold Summers
1955 James Gaylor *	2013-2014 Bob Gardiner
1955 Norman Goble *	2014- Stuart Cooper
1955 Fred O'Grady *	
1956 Frank McGuire *	
1959 Charles Jacobson *	
1960 Jack Cummins *	
1961 Augustus Theobald *	
1964 Ralph Field *	
1964 George Knott *	
1971 Radcliffe Grace *	
1975 Elsie Jacobson *	
1978 Mabel Robinson *	
1983 Ray Smith *	
1987 Robert Gardiner	
1987 Ronald Miller	
1990 Thomas Daintry *	
1990 Harold Summers	
1998 Alan Johnson	
2001 Mark Donahoo	
2005 Tim Erickson	
2007 Peter Vysma	
2008 Marlaine Stanway	
2008 Barbara Gardiner **	
2008 Joyce Summers **	
2009 Lloyd Nichols	
2010 Kate Suich **	
2012 Stuart Cooper	
2014 Michael Bodey	
2014 Judy Mason **	
2014 Gordon Loughnan **	
2015 Di Lowden **	
2017 Heather Carr	
2018 Alan Minter	
2019 David Cash	
2019 Ian Laurie**	
* deceased	
** honorary life members	

SECRETARIES		TREASURERS	
1923-1924	Victor Dowling	1923-1926	Rex Merrick
1924-1925	Rex Merrick	1926-1928	Ern Fitzgerald
1925-1926	Frank O'Rourke	1928-1931	Jack Coffey
1926-1927	Rex Merrick / Fred O'Grady	1931-1936	Rupert Blackley
1927-1931	Alf Robinson	1936-1937	Rupert Blackley / Ian McDougall
1931-1932	Alf Robinson / Rupert Blackley	1937-1939	Ian McDougall
1932-1936	Rupert Blackley	1939-1940	Ben Blakey
1936-1937	Rupert Blackley / Ian McDougall	1940-1941	Clem Marshall / Rupert Blackley
1937-1940	Ian McDougall	1941	Douglas Murrell
1940-1941	Clem Marshall / Rupert Blackley		
1941	Douglas Murrell	1946-1947	Ben Blakey
		1947-1949	Alex Philpotts
1946-1947	Ben Blakey	1949-1950	Noel Bomford
1947-1949	Alex Philpotts	1950-1952	Vic Sharp
1949-1950	Noel Bomford	1952-1973	Norm Goble
1950-1952	Vic Sharp	1973-1982	Charles Jacobson
1952-1971	Norm Goble	1982-1983	Elsie Jacobson
1971-1974	Alan Lucas	1983-1990	Ray Smith
1974-1975	Bruce Thorne / Greg Ellis	1990-1994	Bob Gardiner
1975-1976	Greg Ellis	1994-1998	Tony Barrett
1976-1984	Alan Minter	1998-1999	Brian Glover
1984-1988	Doris Waters	1999-2007	Michael Bodey
1988-2000	Ron Miller	2008-2016	Ralph Bennett
2000-2015	Tim Erickson	2017-	Karyn O'Neill
2015-	Terry Swan		

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The VRWC's first full year of competition since 2019 contained much to celebrate, as well as much to ponder with regard to the future. We need to reflect on how best to attract and retain members at a time of considerable societal change. This need saw us reach out to the membership via an online survey in December. The survey attracted 40 responses. These have yet to be fully analysed (owing to a technical hitch which, hopefully, will be resolved soon), but from those we have seen they will assist us in bringing about necessary change whilst keeping hold of what is valued.

The chief concern at present is rebuilding our membership. Although we saw a small number of new walkers join at the start of the Winter season, this was offset by the departure or reduced activity of some of our older members.

One cause of this seems to be lack of knowledge of the sport itself, and of the VRWC in particular. This is compounded by the negativity expressed by elements in the media and even within the wider world of athletics. We continue with our efforts to publicise and promote the Club and the sport, with contacts being sought among the Little Athletics centres in particular. A Google communication group has been set up for this purpose and has already attracted interest from a number of centres including country groups.

Efforts to attract interest amongst the wider public continue, through leafleting, community noticeboards etc. Several of our parents undertook leafleting at AVSL and at other meetings on the Club's behalf. The committee remains open to constructive ideas from all quarters as to how best to inform the public in the benefits of race walking and promote the VRWC as the prime platform for their enjoyment of it and as a means of aiming for the top. For this to happen, every member and follower of race walking needs to become an advocate of the sport and of the club, promoting the benefits of both as widely as possible.

Four of our younger members – Will Thompson, Alanna Peart, Marcus Wakim and Fraser Saunder – wore green and gold for the first time overseas, and we congratulate them on their achievement. In all, nine VRWC members represented Australia in 2022 – an outcome that must be unique among small clubs anywhere. Jemima Montag's 4th in Oregon and successful Commonwealth title defence were the best results. Nearly all of these walkers came up through Little Athletics and VRWC racing programs, which is something both to celebrate and to build upon.

WA World Team Walking Championship – Muscat (OMA)

WU20 10km	Alanna Peart	13 th	50:47
MU20 10km	Fraser Saunder	15 th	47:38
	Marcus Wakim	21 st	49:21
Men 20km	Rhydian Cowley	11 th	1:26:09
	Will Thompson	26 th	1:28:20
	Kyle Swan	34 th	1:30:33

Commonwealth Games – Birmingham (GBR)

Women's 10000m	Jemima Montag	1 st	42:34.30
	Bec Henderson	4 th	44:44.58
Men's 10000m	Kyle Swan	6 th	40:49.79
	Rhydian Cowley	8 th	41:28.05

WA World U20 T&F Championships – Cali (COL)

Women's 10000m	Alanna Peart	7 th	47:37.85
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WA Open T&F Championships – Eugene, OR (USA)

Women's 20km	Jemima Montag	4 th	1:28:17.0
	Bec Henderson	20 th	1:34:38.0
Men's 20km	Rhydian Cowley	19 th	1:23:37.0
	Kyle Swan	33 rd	1:28:33.0
Women's 35km	Kelly Ruddick	34 th	3:11:55.0
Men's 35km	Rhydian Cowley	18 th	2:30:34.0 NR

The Winter races attracted an average of 30 entrants per week. The most popular race distances across all ages were between 3kms and 8kms. Races of 10km and further attracted fewer entries. Worryingly, the AV 20km and 30km championships had no entrants (although our elite walkers' overseas commitments partly accounted for this), and the Ray Smith Trophy went unclaimed. Do we have any longer members who want to race over 30km? Can the club expect officials and judges to attend for an event that attracts no member interest? A decision needs to be made as to whether to continue with the 30km, upgrade it to 35km (perhaps promoting it as a WA qualifier?) or dispense with races within that range altogether.

One of the aims of the online survey was to determine whether or not our racing programs still meet the needs of current and prospective members. While responses so far indicate majority support for maintaining the current arrangements, some desire for change is also evident. Suggestions have included different venues and racing times, perhaps with an injection of novelty (such as non-standard distances, a second relay or intervals day etc), as well as a winter Club track championship.

Summer weeknight racing was poorly supported this season. A review is underway to ascertain the reasons for this and the feasibility of continuing with it.

In March, the organisers of 'Run The Tan 2022' approached us regarding a new 'Elite Walkers' component, with the first three males and females to receive a share of the prize money on offer. The opportunity to showcase the country's best walkers to a live and televised audience was too alluring to pass up. Unfortunately, doubts regarding whether fairness of technique could be ensured on the 3.8km Tan loop were confirmed – the four judges in attendance were insufficient to oversee proper adherence to the walking rules in a situation where competition for cash worked against it. It was decided, therefore, to decline an invitation to the 2023 edition (although VRWC members are still free to participate as general members of the public.)

Sunday 11 September saw the Club celebrate its centenary – after a 12-month delay – in conjunction with the Australian road walking championships. As many 'old timers' and past members as possible were contacted (former Olympians received special invitations) and help was sought amongst the membership in reaching out. While advanced age, poor health and prior commitments accounted for a number of absences, 156 did attend to share lunch and reminiscences, as well as to peruse the wealth of Club memorabilia on display. Many thanks to the Centenary sub-committee (Karyn O'Neill, Heather Carr, Michael Bodey, Donna-Lee Elms, Tim Erickson), also to Wendy Cooper and Tony Doran for their help on the day. Our thanks also to Margaret Hay (what a

cake!), Lachlan McDonald (MinuteMan Press) for the mug and flask printing, and Francesca Fitzgerald and her staff at *Muse-Events Catering*.

Finally, my thanks as always to those whose efforts kept the Club's activities going –

- Terry Swan (secretary, race photography), Karyn O'Neill (treasurer), Mark Donahoo (race organization, fixture planning, handicapping), Donna-Lee Elms (canteen), Ralph Bennett (race entry portal) and all our Committee members;
- Race judges Gordon Loughnan, Di Lowden, Brenda Felton, Kathleen Marsh, David Cash, Michael Bodey, Shane Dickson, Terry O'Neill, Peter Price, Tony Doran, Scott Nelson and Ezo Ali and Eda Girgin;
- Regular officials & helpers – Tim Erickson, Ian Laurie, Donna Dickson (also uniform ordering), Darlene Swan, Bill Carr, Madeleine Feain & partner, Gerard Feain, Therese Smith (photography) – and many others who stepped up when we were short-handed and lent their valuable assistance.
- The management staff at Middle Park Bowling Club for their ongoing assistance.

Stu Cooper

President

president@vrwc.org.au

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Our first full year out of covid. Membership is still down on pre covid times, but we are working to recruit for new members, we are make small inroads, and we will continue to sprook for new members.

Our season opener was in Ballarat, our thanks goes out to BRWC for their support and tireless efforts to get it going. The course was well received by all and BRWC made us all feel welcome. Special thanks to Wayne and Kerry Peart and the team at BRWC, a great day out and we want to bring VRWC to the country again. The 2023 Winter program, certainly has it down in the middle of the season.

VRWC hosted the 2nd Federation event for Race Walking Australia and incorporated the Athletics Australia Winter Nationals, numbers were down, with just over 100 entrants from the other states. The Club chose to run the 100 Centenary Celebrations on the same day, and a good few stayed for the festivities. Well done and thanks to all those that helped in some way on the 2nd Federation event and the Centenary Event.

LBG, or the Stromlo festival of race walking will again be run in 2023, we are hoping for a big Victorian team.

“Run the Tan” was an initiative we tried, it didn't quite work for a number of reasons, gravel track, hilly, only 1 lap and judging difficulties. We have decided not to compete in 2023, politely declining the invitation.

In 2023, we are going to have some more coaching clinics, pitched and all age groups and abilities, hopefully we can get a good coaching group together and hoping it will be well received by the membership

As Stuart mentioned, the survey results have given us some insight, and we will endeavour to meet everyone's needs over the next year, we are working to providing a better club, we need feedback and I encourage anyone to join the committee and have a go, we are a fairly friendly lot. 😊

As always we are very thankful to MPBC, without the support we get, we wouldn't have the clubrooms, we are the only club in Australia to have the luxury....

Thankyou...

Club Sponsor Neil Ryan – Runners World –Neil will continue his generous support to the club

Lochie McDonald from MinuteMan Press- Seaford - who prints our Winter and Summer Fixtures

Tim Erickson and Stu Cooper for Web master and the weekly Heel & Toe Newsletter

Ralph Bennett for the entry portal and work that goes with that, also the LBG entry portal

Thankyou to everyone who helps in some way, from packing up, setting up, sweeping, judging, taking photos, video...your contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

Thanks to the regular helpers, and committee members

Terry Swan
Secretary VRWC

TREASURERS REPORT
FINANCIAL YEAR - 1 October 2021 - 30 September 2022

The period of October 2021 to September 2022 was again a better year than the last, for the Club as well as everyone in our community. This year we have been able to achieve a full racing season, but reduced numbers racing perhaps due to COVID-19 concerns.

The club has also been able to celebrate its Centenary belatedly, deferred due to COVID.

The external event, (both for income and expense) was Lake Burley Griffin Carnival.

The donations as listed are from members and past members, on the occasion of VRWC's Centenary, including the Carr Family, Ross Haywood, Bruce Conboy, Varrel Newmark and P Black. New uniforms were purchased by the club last year, and has been very ably maintained and distributed by Donna Dickson.

The Miscellaneous income was for raffles organised by Donna Elms, as well as closure of Race Walking Victoria.

The Centenary celebration lunch went well, with past Olympians, past members and current members all mingling, enjoying the lunch and speeches. The Club subsidised the celebration lunch, which shows in the expenses.

There are a few items in the Miscellaneous Expenses, flowers for deceased members, A-Frames and Brooms for the course.

The Club this year has made a profit of \$2,087.93 so that the Club has a sound financial base with which to move forward into the next year, to continue to provide members with the benefits of experience and camaraderie in a sport we all love.

I would like to thank all the committee members for their support. I would also like to thank Mark Donahoo, Heather and Bill Carr, Michael Bodey and the many others who have helped with taking the race entries and fees when able, also Terry and Stuart for helping me through the processes of the official side of the committee.

Please feel free to approach me, if you would like any clarification of any aspect of the club's accounts, and I will do my best to accommodate. The full accounts are available for perusal at any mutually arranged time.

The Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss report for the Financial Year 2021-2022 are included in the following pages.

Karyn O'Neill

VRWC Honorary Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT
BALANCE SHEET PREVIOUS YEAR COMPARISON
As at 30 September 2022

VICTORIAN RACE WALKING CLUB			
BALANCE SHEET		30/09/2022	30/09/2021
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
BANK ACCOUNTS			
VRWC - General Account		\$ 4,277.28	\$ 6,748.63
VRWC - Canteen Account		\$ 2,604.24	\$ 2,494.24
Merrifield Account		\$ 18,181.70	\$ 18,181.70
Travel Fund		\$ 48,581.53	\$ 48,581.53
Term Deposit		\$ 71,089.36	\$ 71,089.36
		\$ 144,734.11	\$ 147,095.46
Canteen Cash Drawer		\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00
Petty Cash		\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
		\$ 144,813.11	\$ 147,174.46
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>			
Race Timing System		\$ 2.90	\$ 2.90
<u>OTHER ASSETS</u>			
Parks Vic Bond		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Pre-Payments		\$ 4,449.28	
TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 150,265.29	\$ 148,177.36
<u>LIABILITIES</u>			
Liabilities			
Depreciation on Race Timing System			
		\$ 150,265.29	\$ 148,177.36
<u>EQUITY</u>			
Opening Balance - Equity		\$ 148,177.36	\$ 147,949.01
Retained Earnings		\$ 2,087.93	\$ 228.35
		\$ 150,265.29	\$ 148,177.36

PROFIT & LOSS PREVIOUS YEAR COMPARISON October 2021 thru September 2022

VICTORIAN RACE WALKING CLUB				
PROFIT & LOSS REPORT				
SEPTEMBER YTD		2022		2021
COMPARATIVE				
INCOME				
Apparel		\$ 2,534.00		\$ 1,808.00
Canteen		\$ 110.00		
Event Services		\$ 1,300.00		\$ 500.00
External Event		\$ 7,260.00		\$ 6,304.00
Gifts & Donations Income		\$ 450.00		\$ 105.00
Grants		\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00
Membership Dues		\$ 1,061.00		\$ 1,701.00
Miscellaneous Income		\$ 546.20		\$ 657.00
Publications		\$ 20.00		
Race Chips		\$ 2.00		\$ -
Race Fees - VRWC		\$ 7,105.00		\$ 8,291.00
Race Fees - VMA		\$ 180.00		\$ 150.00
Sundry Receipts		\$ -		\$ -
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 22,068.20		\$ 21,016.00
EXPENSES				
Canteen Expenses		\$ 161.54		\$ 39.00
Centenary Celebration		\$ 2,450.89		
Depreciation Expenses				\$ 500.00
Equipment		\$ 500.00		\$ 109.00
External Event Fees		\$ 7,260.00		\$ 6,209.00
Gifts & Donations				
Governance		\$ 60.10		\$ 59.20
Honoraria		\$ 1,750.00		
Licenses & Permits		\$ 489.28		
Memberships Affiliations		\$ 520.00		\$ 60.00
Miscellaneous		\$ 626.49		\$ 3,748.04
Office Supplies				\$ 644.48
Paypal Charges		\$ 307.45		\$ 534.97
Printing & Reproduction				\$ 126.21
Rent		\$ 3,840.00		
Repairs		\$ 55.00		\$ 292.28
Square Reader Charges		\$ 18.49		\$ 4.38
Track Hire		\$ 250.00		\$ 400.00
Trophies & Prizes VRWC		\$ 1,305.13		\$ 2,274.54
Trophies & Prizes		\$ 15.00		
Uniform				\$ 5,675.00
Utilities		\$ 641.35		\$ 306.74
Web Presence				\$ 253.50
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 20,250.72		\$ 21,236.34
NETT ORDINARY INCOME		\$ 1,817.48		-\$ 220.34
Other Income				
Interest Income		\$ 270.45		\$ 448.69
TOTAL OTHER INCOME		\$ 270.45		\$ 448.69
NETT INCOME/LOSS		\$ 2,087.93		\$ 228.35
BALANCE @ 30/09/22				