



HEEL AND TOE ONLINE

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TRAINING AWAY THE LBG BLUES

Last weekend would normally have been us all in Canberra for the annual Lake Burley Griffin Racewalking Carnival and it would have been a cold old weekend with -5C on Saturday morning, -3C on Sunday morning and -4C this morning. Alas, we all had to fend for ourselves with our own local training in our home States. Thanks to coach Frances Attard for this great photo of her young walkers on Sunday morning, after their 10km walk session. Great work everyone!



Daniel Pashutin, Ariana Pashutina, Charlotte Hay, Maddison Nash, Liam Hutchins, Emily Smith, Grace Louey and Kathleen O'Mahony with coach Frances Attard in Melbourne on Sunday morning

PAUL F DEMEESTER TALKS MATTERS IAAF

Thanks to US Attorney at Law Paul F. DeMeester for another thought provoking article. That is the 12th in a row and is as cutting and insightful as ever. You can see links to all Paul's articles at the bottom of webpage <http://www.vrwc.org.au/save-the-50km.shtml>.

THREE TIMES IS NOT THE CHARM WHEN HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

By Paul F. DeMeester

In April of 2017, the IAAF Council turned down a proposal to delete the Men's 50K from the 2020 Tokyo Olympic programme. The proposal was inspired by pressure from the International Olympic Committee, which has been on a tear to reduce the athletics component at the Olympic Games. Two years later, the Council was asked again to delete the 50K. The Council kept two distances on the international competition programme, albeit with the 50K apparently replaced by a 35K for the Eugene World Championships, now to be held in 2022.

The 2017 proposal was not the first time a race walking event has been on the Olympic chopping block. Race walking made its Olympic debut at the 1908 London Olympics with two events, 3500 meters and 10 miles, both won by George Larnar on

home territory. The Olympic program changed to a single event at the 1912 Olympics, the 10,000 metres, marking the first time that the number of race walking events were cut in half. Instability in the race walking program continued post World War I. At the 1920 Antwerp Olympics, the 3,000 metres and 10,000 metres were contested, providing an opportunity for the discipline's second gold doubler, Ugo Frigerio of Italy. Four years on, at the 1924 Paris Olympics, the number of events was cut in half again, limiting Frigerio to a single gold medal in the 10,000 metres.

Race walking at the early Olympic Games was subject to lots of controversy about judging. A century later, nothing seems to have changed. Of course, race walkers "running" and controversial judging calls may have more to do with the brevity of race walk distances being contested. Our events are much more "grounded" when longer distances are involved, such as the 50K. But judging was not the only pressure threatening the existence of Olympic race walking.

The *Minutes of the Seventh Congress* of the IAAF held in Paris in July of 1924 contain a section entitled the "Reduction in the Olympic Programme:"

The President informed the Congress that the Council had been called together by the International Olympic Committee to study a reduction in the Olympic Athletic Programme, which reduction was necessitated by the enormous expenses which the representation of the nations at the Olympic Games involves.

Consequently, the Council proposed to eliminate from the Olympic Programme the following events:

*10,000 meters walk,
The hop, step and jump,
3,000 metres in teams,
Steeple chase,
Decathlon,
Cross-country.*

After a long debate ... the Congress decided to omit:

*the walk, by 14 votes to 4,
the cross-country by 16 votes to 2.
the 3,000 metres in teams by 15 votes to 3,*

and to keep on the Olympic Programme:

*the 3,000 metres steeple by 12 votes to 6,
the hop, step and jump by 10 votes to 8,
the decathlon by 12 votes to 6.*

At the proposal of Mr. Parkinson (Australia), the President put to the vote the omission of the Pentathlon and this omission was decided by 11 votes to 7.

(Handbook of the International Amateur Athletic Federation 1924-1926, pp. 42-43; excerpts of which are linked here: <http://www.vrwc.org.au/documents/Excerpts%20from%201924-1926%20IAAF%20Handbook.pdf>.)

Despite the deletion of race walking from the next Olympics that were scheduled for 1928 in Amsterdam, IAAF President Johannes Sigfrid Edström still managed to put in a plug for race walking at the Eighth IAAF Congress held in The Hague in August of 1926:

Of the different branches of sport the Field and Track events of Athletics may be considered as the most simple ones. The Walking, the Running, the Jumping and the Throwing are all necessary expressions of living life. Let us therefore hope that our beautiful athletic sport will find many active friends, not only in this country but all over the world, and not only amongst the youth but also amongst the men and women of mature age.

(IAAF Handbook 1924-1926, p. 52; see excerpts.)

The same 1926 IAAF Congress witnessed an attempt to bring back Olympic race walking. The *Minutes of the Eighth Congress* recounted the effort:

Walking Race on the Olympic Programme.

It had been proposed by the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States that a 5,000 metre walk be added to the Olympic Programme, the walk to be conducted at one race, without heats.

A similar proposal had been made by the Amateur Athletic Union of Australia and New Zealand.

The Rules and Records Committee had decided to submit the question to the Congress. At the Congress in Paris it had been decided by 14 votes to 4 that the walk should be omitted from the programme.

Mr. Hulbert (U.S.A.) recommended the motion, saying that America was very much in favour of the re-introduction of the walk into the Olympic Programme and moved that the American proposition should be adopted.

Mr. Méricamp (France) expressed the hope, in view of the difficulty experienced by judges at former Games, that the event would be omitted for ever from the programme of the Olympiad.

Mr. Barclay (Great Britain) stated that his country would prefer the inclusion of a 10,000 metre event, but if this were not admitted, then it would be satisfied with the 5,000 meter walk.

Dr. Gino Colussi (Italy) having strongly recommended the proposition and Messrs. Falchenberg (Norway), Ekelund (Sweden), Romanesco (Roumania) and Capt. Pihkala (Finland) having declared that they were against it, the President put Mr. Hulbert's motion to the vote.

It was rejected by 9 votes (Austria, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Norway, Roumania, Sweden, Switzerland) to 8 (Australasia, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Ireland, Italy, South Africa, U.S.A.). Belgium and Poland abstained from voting.

The Olympic Programme therefore remains as decided at the Congress in Paris in 1924.
(1924-1926 IAAF Handbook, pp. 87-88; see excerpts.)

The 1928 Amsterdam Olympics did not have any race walking events. Yet, two days after the Dutch city had drawn the curtain on its Olympic athletics events, but five days before the Olympics would come to a close, the IAAF Congress was busy reinstating race walking to Olympic status for the future, as shown by the *Minutes of the Ninth Congress of the International Amateur Athletic Federation* held in Amsterdam on 27 July and 6-7 August 1928 in conjunction with the staging of the Olympic Games:

It had been proposed by various countries that Walking should be reinstated in the programme of the Olympic Games. The Federazione Italiana degli Sports Atletici proposed a Walking Race of 40,000 m. by teams of 4, the Fédération Française d'Athlétisme a Walking Race of 30,000 m. by road, and the Amateur Athletic Union of the U.S. the restoration of a shorter walking race to be held within the Stadium.

The Council and The Rules and Records Committee with all votes against one (Mr. Hulbert — U.S.A.) recommended that a walking race of 25,000 m. on roads should be placed on the programme of the next Olympiad.

Mr. Kirby (U.S.A.) moved that the Walking Race 3,000 m. which had been omitted from the Olympic programme at a previous Congress, be reinstated. Mr. Hulbert (U.S.A.) said that he regretted that he did not agree with his comrades in the Council. As walking on track was a very popular sport in America, he could not but recommend the motion of Mr. Kirby and hoped that the Congress would accept a Walking Race of 5,000 m., at least at the next Olympic Games of Los Angeles. Other speakers spoke strongly in favour of a longer road race.

The discussion having come to an end, the President put the question to vote.

By 12 votes (Australasia, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Holland, Italy, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland) to 6 (Austria, Canada, Finland, Hungary, Japan, Norway) it was first decided that one walking race should be put on the programme of the Olympic Games. The U.S.A. abstained from voting as the proposition order did not allow them to express their opinion on the question.

The President then asked the Congress to take a vote between the two alternatives: Walking race of at least 30,000 m. on roads with start and finish within the Stadium, or a shorter Walking race to be held entirely on the track of the Stadium.

The first alternative was accepted by 16 votes (Australasia, Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland) to 3 (Holland, Japan, U.S.A.).

The distance was finally fixed to 50,000 m. by 14 votes (Australasia, Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Holland, Italy, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland) to 4 (Canada, Denmark, Hungary, Japan, which countries voted for 30,000 m.). The U.S.A. abstained from voting.

(Handbook of the International Amateur Athletic Federation 1927-1928, pp. 22, 56-57; excerpts of which are linked here: <http://www.vrwc.org.au/documents/Excerpts%20from%201927-1928%20IAAF%20Handbook.pdf>.)

The 50K Race Walk Event made its debut at the 1932 Olympics. Italian great Ugo Frigerio, who had won the last three Olympic walks over much shorter distances, distinguished himself further by winning bronze, gracing the podium with gold medalist Tommy Green (Britain) and silver medalist Jānis Daliņš (Latvia). The 50K was a mainstay until another round of IOC pressure deleted it from the 1976 Montreal Olympics. In *Heel and Toe Online* 2017/2018 No. 47 (21 August 2018), pp. 3-6, I described the efforts of the Race Walking Committee to support the 50K, an effort that helped lead the IAAF to conduct its first ever independent World Championships, just for the 50K Race Walk, in 1976 [your editor Tim Erickson represented Australia at that race held in Malmö, Sweden]. Before that, the Olympic Games served as the IAAF World Championships. By the time the 1980 Moscow Olympics rolled around, the 50K was back.

Looking at the previous halving of the number of Olympic race walking events in 1912, 1924 and 1976, and the deletion of race walking altogether in 1928, what has been happening since 2016 has a certain sense of “déjà vu all over again,” to use the words attributed to Yogi Berra. One aspect stands out, though, when comparing what happened in 1924 with our situation today. The IAAF Congress in 1924 deleted two individual athletics events from the Olympics: cross-country and race walking. Our current athletics President, Seb Coe, has expressed his support for a return of cross-country to the Olympic Games, maybe even at the Winter Olympics as opposed to the Summer Games. Coe has my full support on that issue. What is disappointing is that Coe has led the effort, behind closed doors, for getting rid of the 50K and halving the race walk event programme at major championships, including the Olympics. Athletics deserves a president who stands up for the entire family of events and who leads against any IOC encroachment of our programme. Cross-country runners are distance runners who still have plenty of Olympic events in which to participate: 1,500 metres, 3,000 metres steeple, 5,000 metres, 10,000 metres or the marathon. But long-distance walkers do not have alternate events aside from the 50K. Coe has been cowed into submission by the IOC. World Athletics deserves better at the top.

WARWC ROADWALKS, WILSON, PERTH, SUNDAY 7 JUNE

Thanks to Terry Jones for this week's results from Western Australia. I believe that SARWC gets underway next weekend, so our local results will gradually reappear as States reduce restrictions.

10km Walk

1.	Andrew Duncan	52.44
2.	Karyn Tolardo	66.55

1.5km Walk

1.	Ashlyn Spence	7.48
2.	Riley Wood	7.58

3.	Wendy Farrow	71.25	3.	Xavier Bernard	8.06
4.	Steve Travell	92.42	4.	Kaytee Bogaers	8.41
6km Walk					
1.	Ben Reid	33.13	5.	Annabelle Van Sprengel	9.38
2.	Brad Mann	33.49	6.	Kaycee Ibbotson	9.49
3km Walk					
1.	Alexandra Griffin	15.30	7.	Ella-Jayde Coleman	11.43
2.	Glenys Duncan	26.57	8.	Coral McCooey	13.39

SAMA VIRTUAL WALKS AROUND ADELAIDE - ROUND 10

The South Australian Masters Virtual Competition continued this week. Walk results are shown below. Well done everyone! See the full results set at <https://samastersathletics.org.au/results/Results%2007-06-2020.txt>.

2km Walk				
MARK WORTHING	0:11:22	M57	71.49%	
MARIE MAXTED	0:13:08	W60	69.10%	
TREVOR BROWN	0:13:56	M71	67.82%	
ROGER LOWE	0:15:06	M77	67.76%	
MIKE VOWLES	0:15:15	M76	66.16%	
GRAHAM HARRISON	0:15:18	M76	65.94%	
JAN LAYNG	0:15:50	W71	65.51%	
JILL ROGERS	0:18:32	W75	59.37%	
VIDDY JERMACANS	0:21:45	M71	43.44%	

4km Walk				
GEORGE WHITE	0:24:29	M74	85.51%	
TREVOR BROWN	0:28:46	M71	70.01%	
GILLIAN WHITE	0:33:03	W71	68.12%	

5km Walk				
MARIE MAXTED	0:33:41	W60	73.37%	
TREVOR BROWN	0:36:16	M71	69.93%	
ROGER LOWE	0:38:40	M77	71.12%	
GRAHAM HARRISON	0:39:08	M76	69.27%	
EDNA BATES	0:44:42	W67	60.39%	

8km Walk				
GEORGE WHITE	0:50:02	M74	86.06%	
RODGER BARBER	1:05:49	M82	73.88%	
DAVID ROBERTSON	1:11:20	M86	73.21%	

ENGLISH VIRTUAL RACEWALKING LEAGUE, ROUND 9, ACROSS THE WORLD

The Virtual League Racing Series continued this week with a Virtual 2km Walk. John Constandinou reported: This week is the first race without the National Race Walking Center League included. Despite the reduction in numbers taking part, we still welcomed new athletes joining us, and eight countries still participating. We've had Olympic athletes, record breakers, and even judges taking part. Thank you for your patience, and well done everyone!

2km Age Graded Virtual Race: <http://racewalkingassociation.com/EventDetails.asp?ag=y&id=6138>

Only a small number of Australians submitted performances for consideration:

2km Walk Men				
5.	Owen Toyne	U15M	09:46	
12.	Kodi Clarkson	U13M	10:06	
39.	Haydn Gawne	M70	14:09	
2km Walk Women				
3.	Lyla Williams	U13W	09:58	
8.	Gabriella Hill	U17W	10:50	

OUT AND ABOUT

- Swedish racewalker **Perseus Karlstrom** is attacking the Swedish 15,000m track walk record in a special time trial next Sunday 14th June in his hometown of Eskilstuna. The race starts at 9AM local time (GMT +2 which equates to 5PM Sunday Melbourne time) and it's going to be live streamed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRaU4Km1CvY>. Great work to set this all up Persy and good luck! I'll be watching.
- Not surprisingly, the 2020 Alice Springs Masters Games has been cancelled. It had been scheduled for 10-17 October. See the announcement at <https://www.alicespringsmastersgames.com.au/>.
- The Pan Pacific Masters Games, scheduled for 6-15 November 2020 on the Gold Coast in Queensland, have also been cancelled. See the announcement at <https://mastersgames.com.au/ppmg/>.
- The latest edition (Number 896 - May 2020) of the British Race Walking Record is now available at <http://racewalkingassociation.com/Newsletters/RWR896.pdf>.
- The IAAF continues to be in the press limelight for all the wrong reasons:
 - The case against former IAAF President Lamine Diack (along with other defendants) will be delayed, with lawyers unable to travel to Paris due to Covid restrictions. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1095037/diack-requests-trial-postponement>.
 - The IAAF has finally and begrudgingly published its accounts for past years and they show huge deficits in 2017 and 2018 – see <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1095032/accounts-show-world-athletics-deficit> .
 - The women's 400 metres world champion, Bahrain's Salwa Eid Naser, has been provisionally suspended by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) for whereabouts failures. Naser, who was born in Nigeria but represents Bahrain, broke the Asian record on her way to gold in Doha at the World Athletics Championships in October with a time of 48.14 seconds, the third-fastest in the event's history. She is not the first imported Bahrain athlete to be charged with an anti-doping violation after Rio 2016 steeplechase champion Ruth Jebet, formerly on Kenya, was handed a four-year ban by the AIU in March. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1094999/salwa-eid-naser-athletics-400m>.

MARCIADALMONDO AND OMARCHADOR ROUNDUP

Marciadalmondo has a couple of press releases this week

- Sat 6 Jun - 5 years since Liu Hong's 20km walk world record http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3798
- Wed 3 June - Liu Hong the most consistent female athlete of the last 20 years, Ana Cabecinha the most consistent http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3797

while Omarchador has its usual great of selection of articles, including on on Australia's Kerry Saxby

- Tue 2 Jun- Focus on Kerry Saxby-Junna on her birthday
- <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/06/evocando-kerry-saxby-junna-no-dia-do.html>

TIME TO PUT THE THINKING CAP ON

Firstly, an amendment to the answer to question 37:

37. **You would have read above that 1908 Olympic walk champion George Larner has a bus named in his honour. Do any walkers had streets or walkways named in their honour?**

We had streets or laneways documented for Paul Nihill, Kerry Saxby-Junna and Roger Marceau (see <http://www.vrwc.org.au/RW-Questions-Answers.shtml#Q37>). Emmanuel Tardi has found two additional ones

French walker **Florimond Cornet** (100km track in 9:41:39.8 on June 10th 1939) has a street named in his honour in the city of Desvres, in the north of France - *Square Florimond Cornet*. Check it out at <https://tinyurl.com/yd7h8oqy>.

French walker **Ernest Romens** (the winner of the Paris-Strasbourg classic in 1933, 1935 and 1937) has a path named in his honour in Strasbourg - it's called *Chemin Ernest Romens* and runs off the Route des Romains. See it referenced in <https://www.annuaire-mairie.fr/rue-strasbourg.html>.

Now to the answers to last week's questions. Thanks to all those who put together pieces of the jigsaw. Good efforts from Paul DeMeester, Rob Elliot, Emmanuel Tardi and Stuart Cooper.

- 46. What Victorian walker is remembered for his uncanny ability to raise money? He was without a doubt the best grass roots fund raiser Australian athletics has ever seen.**

Some people suggested VRWC life member **Alan Minter** – now that was an excellent answer as Alan was a huge fund raiser for the club, coordinating the mini-Tatts tickets and the annual phone book deliveries in the 1960s and 1970s (see more at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wv-allan-minter.pdf>) - but the person I was after was **Varel Newmark** (see <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wv-varel-newmark.pdf>).

Varel was without a doubt the best grass roots fund raiser Australia has ever seen. When the Australian Olympic Federation decided to sell Olympic bibs to raise money to send the team to the 1976 Olympics, Varel put up his hand and started his campaign – the result an astonishing 10,500 bibs sold by him alone. He roamed the city, stopping passers by along the way and it took a strong person indeed to resist his sales pitch and 'in your face' approach. He was present at every athletics meeting working the stands, always to good effect. So impressed was the AOF that after the Olympics he was awarded a special gold medal to recognise his fund raising prowess. He continued on working to raise money for the Australian Olympic team, selling a further 36,600 bibs in 1980 and an additional 15,000 bibs in 1984 – for a grand total of 62,100. His equal is not likely to be seen again.

The generous gift of his time and effort was not restricted to the AOF. He was also awarded a cup for outstanding service to Athletics by the Victorian Amateur Athletics Association (VAAA) and was also recognised by both Preston Athletics Club and the VAWC for his fundraising efforts for those clubs.

- 47. What Victorian walker started as a sprinter, progressed to distance running, where he was a Victorian Country marathon champion, and finally turned his attention to walking in his mid thirties, rewriting the Australian racewalking record books and going on to have a fine international racewalking career?**

Quite a few guessed correctly that I was referring to **Willi Sawall** (see <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wv-willi-sawall.pdf>). He started racewalking in his hometown base of Ballarat at the age of 32 and joined VAWC the following year, aged 33. Within a couple of years, he was Australia's top walker, winning titles and breaking records all over the place. Between 1976 and 1987, he represented Australia internationally (he was aged 45 in his final World Championship appearance in 1987). Overall, he won 37 Victorian titles and broke Australian records on 42 occasions. Even now, he still holds the Victorian 2 hour track record of 27.123 km, set at the Box Hill track on May 24 1980.

- 48. Who was the Victorian walker whose active career in the racewalking world extended over an amazing 76 years and whose accolades included international judge, coach and author and even included a ban for breaking the rules governing amateur sport?**

A couple of people suggested **Gus Theobald** (see <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wv-gus-theobald.pdf>). Although Gus lived to 93 years of age, his walking career only spanned 59 years as he was a late starter to our sport. The correct answer was **Frank McGuire** who started racewalking in 1931 and retired from coaching in 2007. Not a bad effort! Read all about Frank at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wv-frank-mcguire.pdf>. He is one of our legends!

- 49. Which Olympic champion racewalker was once chased by sword wielding samurai - and did he walk or run to get away from them?**

Some people have good memories and remember youtube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zP7umBNRxnw>, in which a Japanese TV show sets up Olympic champion **Jefferson Perez** to be attacked by samurai while training on a track in Japan. It's a very poor quality video but still a great laugh. Find out for yourself if he ran or walked away.

- 50. What racewalker was caught up in the infamous drama when Palestinian terrorists broke into the 1972 Olympic Village with the intention of taking the entire Israeli delegation hostage?**

Yes, quite a few knew it was Israeli racewalker **Shaul Ladany** who was in the Israeli 1972 Olympic team as a 50km walker and who was lucky to escape from the Israeli team rooms when terrorists stormed the facility to take hostages. Read the full story at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Munich_massacre. He jumped from the second-story balcony of his room and fled to the American dormitory, awakening U.S. track coach Bill Bowerman and informing him of the attack. He was in fact first person to spread the alert.

Shaul raced in Melbourne in 2005, the first time I had seen him since competing against him in the 1976 IAAF 50km in Malmo, Sweden. See my profile of Shaul at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wo-shaul-ladany.pdf>.

Now to this week's questions – they are not getting any easier! Some details needed, not just a name. Back up your claim!

- 51. Which Victorian walker boasts the longest and most prolific national career (in terms of winning Australian and State Championships medals) of any Australian.**

52. Which Australian international walker eventually decided to put his work career ahead of his athletic career, going on to earn a PhD and now working as a scientist for a major company in Switzerland?
53. Who is the Australian walker who won two World championship golds, earned a bronze in the IAAF World Cup and set over 30 World records or World best times.
54. What Victorian walker was so fast that he lined up against a field of runners in a 60 metre dash in an AV Special Meet at Olympic Park in Melbourne, walking a time of 9.9 secs.
55. Who was this famous English walker? He was suspended by the Amateur Athletic Union (AAA) for breaching the laws of amateurism because of his musical stage show in which, dressed in singlet and shorts, he would burst through a large screen depicting the finish line of the London to Brighton walk and then proceed to showcase his violin repertoire.

Forward your answers to me at terick@melbpc.org.au. I will give the answers next week and pose 5 further questions. Remember you can check out past questions and answers at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/RW-Questions.shtml>.

AUSTRALASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS MEN : 1921 - 1939

I continue my researches into past results from the Australian and Victorian racewalking championships. If our lockdown lasts long enough, I will complete the task.

Australasian Championships 1921-22 Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, 31 December 1921 & 2 January 1922

The 10th Australasian Championships were held in Adelaide at the end of 1921. Since his return to Australia after the 1920 Olympics, **George Parker** had seldom competed. One of his rare appearances was at the 1921-22 Australasian championships where he retained his 3 mile walk title in dashing form. He was also expected to easily win the 1 mile event but the newspapers of the time reported that he was outraced by **Tom Radich** of Victoria who, although winning the race, was disqualified by Mr Richard Coombes. Thus Parker also retained his 1 mile title but in perhaps slightly hollow circumstances.

3 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 31 December 1921			
1	George Parker	NSW	23:04.4
2	Tom Radich	VIC	25 yards
3	Thomas Terrell	SA	100 yards
	Phil McCavanagh	SA	
	Horace George Wilson	SA	
	Norman Asker	VIC	
	Fred Willson	VIC	DQ
1 MILE WALK - Men - Monday 2 January 1922			
1	George Parker	NSW	6:52.4
2	Thomas Terrell	SA	
3	Horace George Wilson	SA	
	Phil McCavanagh	SA	
	Norman Asker	VIC	
	William Murray	VIC	
	Tom Radich	VIC	DQ
	Fred Willson	VIC	DQ

Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship Malvern Cricket Ground, Melbourne, 14th July 1923

With interest in walking becoming stronger, the Victorian and New South Wales walking clubs decided that an interstate road race should be held. After 2 years of discussions, the date and distance and status were finally decided and, in July 1923, the first Australasian 7 Mile Championship was held in Melbourne (this event would then become a bi-annual Championship with teams competing for the Glover Shield). **Ernie Austen**, second in the 1920 Australasian Championships 1 Mile Walk, led from the gun and won easily in the fine time of 55:44.4 over what was described as a heavy wet track. 1912 Olympian **Bill Murray** showed his experience, moving up through the field to pass all the chasers except for **Vic Dowling** who finished 2 seconds ahead of him in second place with Murray taking third. Victoria won both the Open Teams event and the Junior Teams event.

Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship, 14 July 1923			
1.	Ernie Austen	NSW	55:44.2
2.	Vic Dowling	VIC	57:25
3.	Bill Murray	VIC	57:27
4.	Bert Kitchen	NSW	58:25
5.	Norm Asker	VIC	58:47

6.	Eric Sunderland	VIC	58:55
7.	George Wilson	SA	59:10
8.	Ernie Smith	NSW	59:20
9.	Ted Drayton	VIC	59:52
10.	Rex Merrick	VIC	60:10
11.	Mick ("Joe") McNamara	NSW	60:58
12.	Bert Gardiner	VIC	61:03
13.	Frank O'Rourke	VIC	61:10
14.	Lyle Brown	NSW	63:07
15.	Bob Osborne	VIC	63:14
16.	Jack Merrifield	VIC	63:17
17.	Ted Winstanley	VIC	63:52
18.	Jack Parker	NSW	63:59
19.	Reg Foster	NSW	64:10
20.	Lionel McMillen	VIC	65:24
21.	Harry Campbell	NSW	67:23
22.	F. Johnson	NSW	DNF
23.	M. Watson	SA	DNF
Australasian Junior (U21) 7 Mile Walk Championship			
1.	Vic Dowling	VIC	57:25
2.	Eric Sunderland	VIC	58:55
3.	Lyle Brown	NSW	63:07
4.	Bob Osborne	VIC	63:14
5.	Ted Winstanley	VIC	63:52
6.	Jack Parker	NSW	63:59
7.	Reg Foster	NSW	64:10
8.	Lionel McMillen	VIC	65:24
Senior Teams	Victoria 33	NSW 52	
Junior Teams	Victoria 10	NSW DNQ	

Australasian Championships 1923-24

North Hobart Oval, Hobart, 6-9 February 1924

The Australasian Championships of 1924 were held in Hobart, with NSW walker **Ernie Austen** winning both walks comfortably to confirm his selection for the Paris Olympics. It was still a combined Australasian Championships but it would not be long before Australia and New Zealand parted ways, as they had already done for the Olympics.

3 MILES WALK - Men - Friday 8 February 1924			
1	Ernest Austen	NSW	22:13.0
2	Norman Asker	VIC	23:42.0
3	J. McKenzie	NZL	24:59.0
4	Joseph Mackay	VIC	
1 MILE WALK - Men - Saturday 9 February 1924			
1	Ernest Austen	NSW	6:45.0
2	Norman Asker	VIC	7:08.0
3	Joseph Mackay	VIC	7:59.0
	J. McKenzie	NZL	DNS

A correspondent commented that "*Austen's wins reminded one of W. Murray in his prime*". In March, he won the NSW track walks in similar style. He was now the unchallenged champion on both road and track.

The Olympics did not go well for Austen. Controversially, he was warned in the first lap by the French judge who thought his gait doubtful. In the second lap the American judge ordered him off when he was lying third and was doing well. In later years, he commented

"I was in third place, just behind the leaders and going along very easily. I thought I had a good chance but then an American judge came up and told me I was disqualified. I asked him why but he said he didn't know. You usually get two cautions before being disqualified but I wasn't aware of them. Nobody ever did tell me why I was outed."

He broke down and went to the dressing rooms. It was his first disqualification in some 15 years of competitive walking. The pace at the time of his disqualification was very slow – equal to about 7:30 for the mile. In fact, of the 13 starters, only 6 finished in what was a farcical event. Australian officials were adamant that his style was satisfactory and the whole event deteriorated into an ugly affair. (Walking was consequently dropped from the 1928 Olympics and did not re-appear in the Olympics until 1932, when a 50 km roadwalk was introduced.)

Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship
Sydney Sports Ground, Sydney, 8 November 1924

Disillusioned, Austen returned to Australia and retired from racewalking. This sad fact coincided with the return to competition of the 1920 Olympic silver medallist **George Parker** who set to work with a will, got his weight back to normal and, in quick succession, turned in a series of very high quality performances that rewrote the record books.

First in early November 1924 he won the NSW 7 Mile championship in pouring rain. On that occasion he broke the Australasian records for 4 miles (29:58), 5 miles (37:40), 6 miles (45:19.5) and 7 miles (53:02.2). A week later, he fronted for the second Australasian 7 Mile Walk Championship which was held at the Sydney Sports Ground on 8th November 1924.

Unchallenged, he won the the championship by over 2 minutes, creating new State records for all distances from 2 to 7 miles and setting new Australasian records for 4 miles (29:42), 5 miles (37:28), 6 miles (45:17) and 7 miles (53:07). A strong field of 25 walkers contested the race, with NSW taking the first 3 places.

Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship			
1.	George Parker	NSW	53:07
2.	Albert Kitchen	NSW	55:17
3.	Ernest Smith	NSW	57:30
4.	Victor Dowling	VIC	57:52
5.	William Morse	VIC	57:23
6.	Joseph Mulcahy	VIC	58:41
7.	Jack Parker	NSW	59:04
8.	Herbert (Bert) Gardiner	VIC	59:20
9.	Robert Heathwood	NSW	59:23
10.	Lyle Brown	NSW	59:34
11.	Reginald Foster	NSW	59:44
12.	Jack Batger	NSW	59:54
13.	Robert Osborne	VIC	60:20
14.	Ernest Pritchard	VIC	60:20
15.	George Wilson	VIC	60:52
16.	Edward Drayton	VIC	61:00
17.	Edward Winstanley	VIC	61:10
18.	Raymond Latham	NSW	61:31
19.	Leslie Moroney	VIC	61:34
20.	Jack Larkin	NSW	61:44
21.	James Cole	SA	62:50
22.	Hugh Collins	VIC	64:07
23.	Frederick Chapman	NSW	DNF
24.	William Pitt	NSW	DNF
25.	William Hayward	NSW	DNF
Australasian Junior 7 Mile Walk Championship			
1.	Victor Dowling	VIC	57:52
2.	William Morse	VIC	57:23
3.	Jack Parker	NSW	59:04
4.	Robert Heathwood	NSW	59:23
5.	Reginald Foster	NSW	59:44
6.	Robert Osborne	VIC	60:20
7.	Ernest Pritchard	VIC	60:20
8.	Edward Winstanley	VIC	61:10
9.	Raymond Latham	NSW	61:31
10.	Jack Larkin	NSW	61:44
11.	Hugh Collins	VIC	64:07
Senior Teams	NSW 32	VIC 50	
Junior Teams	VIC 16	NSW 21	

Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship
Adelaide Cricket Ground, Adelaide, 15 August 1925

1925 saw George Parker expand his repertoire in winning the NSW 20 Mile walk title, one of a series of good walks in what was a strong winter. Yet, he chose to bypass the third Australasian 7 Mile Championship which to be held at the Adelaide Cricket Ground as a curtain raiser to the Australian Rules football final on Saturday 15th August 1925.

His absence, along with the retirement of Ernie Austen, opened the door up for a new champion, and it was young Victorian **Herbert ("Bert") Gardiner** who took up the challenge. Walking in front of a crowd of 60,000 spectators, the largest crowd to watch an

Australian athletic championship, Bert scored a 6 second victory over fellow Victorian **Joe Mulcahy**, with **William Pitt** of NSW in third place. Overall, Victoria dominated, winning both the Senior and Junior Shields. Once again, the championship saw walkers from Victoria, NSW and SA only.

Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship, 15 August 1925				
1.	Herbert ("Bert") Gardiner	VIC	57:03	
2.	Joseph Mulcahy	VIC	57:09	
3.	William Pitt	NSW	58:11	
4.	Robert Osborne	VIC	59:15	
5.	Raymond Latham	NSW	59:51	
6.	George Isbister	VIC	59:55	
7.	George Wilson	VIC	60:00	
8.	Jack Harris	NSW	60:24	
9.	William Hayward	NSW	60:29	
10.	Frederick Chapman	NSW	61:05	
11.	Victor Dowling	VIC	61:07	
12.	Leslie Moroney	VIC	61:10	
13.	Patrick McNamara	SA	61:16	
14.	Jack Larkin	NSW	62:25	
15.	Edward Drayton	VIC	63:05	
16.	Edward Winstanley	VIC	63:09	
17.	Thomas Grandison	VIC	63:14	
18.	Pryce Parham	SA	63:25	
19.	Jack Batger	NSW	64:16	
20.	John McCormack	SA	64:23	
21.	Philip McCavanagh	SA	64:49	
22.	Francis Penny	SA	64:59	
23.	Thomas Wyatt	SA	65:05	
24.	Philip Campbell	SA	65:16	
25.	Roy Campbell	SA	65:20	
26.	P. Bald	SA	65:51	
27.	Richard Winstanley	NSW	68:32	
Australasian Junior 7 Mile Walk Championship				
1.	Robert Osborne	VIC	59:15	
2.	Raymond Latham	NSW	59:51	
3.	George Isbister	VIC	59:55	
4.	William Hayward	NSW	60:29	
5.	Frederick Chapman	NSW	61:05	
6.	Victor Dowling	VIC	61:07	
7.	Leslie Moroney	VIC	61:10	
8.	Jack Larkin	NSW	62:25	
9.	Thomas Grandison	VIC	63:14	
10.	Pryce Parham	SA	63:25	
11.	John McCormack	SA	64:23	
12.	Philip Campbell	SA	65:16	
13.	Roy Campbell	SA	65:20	
Senior Teams	VIC	31	NSW 48	SA 92
Junior Teams	VIC	17	NSW 19	SA 42

As a matter of record, on 21st November 1925, George Parker went on another record breaking spree in winning the NSW 7 Mile championship, continuing on for the full hour on a specially prepared track (5 laps to the mile). In winning, he broke six NSW and Australasian records. These included 4 miles (29:31.8), 5 miles (37:09.8), 6 miles (44:50.4), 10000m (46:32), 7 miles (52:45.2) and 1 hour (7 miles 1649 yards 1 foot 9 inches). His 10,000m time was over a minute faster than the winning time of Ugo Frigerio in the 1924 Olympics and does really raise the question – could anyone have beaten Parker if he had chosen to train for a second Olympics?

Australasian Championships 1925-26 Bowen Park, Brisbane, 14-21 August 1926

The 12th Australasian T&F Championships were conducted in Brisbane in August 1926. 1920 Olympic silver medallist **George Parker** made a powerful statement, easily winning both walks. Fields were small, with few walkers willing to make the long train trip to Queensland. In particular, no Victorians participated in the walks.

3 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 14 August 1926			
1	George Parker	NSW	22:21.0
2	Ron McMurdo	QLD	24:55.8

3	William Axelsen	QLD		
	Garnet Cabot	NZL	DQ	23:47.8
	Philip McCavanagh	SA	DQ	
	H. Walling	QLD	DNF	
1 MILE WALK - Men - Saturday 21 August 1926				
1	George Parker	NSW		6:43.6
2	Garbet Cabot	NZL		7:14.4
3	Philip McCavanagh	SA		
4	Ron McMurdo	QLD		
5	A. Innes	QLD		

Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship Amateur Sports Ground, Melbourne, 28 August 1926

Short at 5' 3" in height and slimly built, **Eric (Mo) Sunderland** had burst onto the local Victorian walking scene in 1923. In his first season, he had made the Victorian team which contested the inaugural 1923 Australasian 7 Mile Championship, coming a gallant sixth in 58:55, only 90 seconds behind NSW winner Ernie Austen. But he did not build on this solid start, preferring instead to mix it with the runners.

It was not until 1925 that he returned to walking, quickly proving himself unassailable on the Victorian front. Surprisingly, he opted to bypass the trial walk set by the Victorian selectors and was controversially left out of the Victorian team for the 1925 Australasian 7 Mile Championship in Adelaide. But this proved to be but a blip on the horizon and 1926 saw him in record breaking mode.

He foreshadowed his intentions with a 6 mile walk at the Mildura Recreation Reserve (he lived in Mildura). 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 March, he produced one of the greatest walks seen in Australia when he won the Victorian 10 Mile Track Walking 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 Larner 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 showed in August 1926 that this walk was no fluke when he travelled to NSW to contest the NSW 7 Mile Walking Championship at the Sydney Showgrounds. 1920 Olympic silver medallist George Parker was expected to win but Sunderland beat him on his own home ground with a time of 55:45.2.

It was only a couple of weeks before he was back in action, this time in the 4th annual Australasian 7 Mile Walk Championship in Melbourne. Interestingly, while large numbers of Victorians and SA walkers competed, NSW was conspicuous by its absence.

This proved an easy win for Sunderland, his time of 55:16.6 seeing him finish some 42 seconds ahead of fellow Victorian **Bob Osborne**. Without the usual strong NSW team against which to compete, Victoria easily won both the Senior and Junior Teams competitions.

Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship, 28 August 1926				
1.	Eric Sunderland	VIC		55:16.6
2.	Robert Osborne	VIC		55:58
3.	Thomas Wyatt	SA		56:05
4.	Joseph Mulcahy	VIC		56:27
5.	Bert Gardiner	VIC		56:30
6.	James Allen	VIC		56:50
7.	Jack Merrifield	VIC		
8.	Thomas Terrill	SA		57:20
9.	Walter Mansfield	SA		
10.	Philip Campbell	SA		
11.	Edward Winstanley	VIC		
12.	Ronald McDonald	VIC		
13.	James Cole	SA		
14.	Roy Campbell	SA		
-	William Morse	VIC	DQ	
Australasian Junior 7 Mile Walk Championship				
1.	Robert Osborne	VIC		55:58
2.	Thomas Wyatt	SA		56:05
3.	James Allen	VIC		56:50
4.	Walter Mansfield	SA		
5.	Ronald McDonald	VIC		
6.	Roy Campbell	SA		

7.	Leslie Moroney		VIC	
8.	Pryce Parham		SA	
Senior Teams		VIC 25	SA	57
Junior Teams		VIC 16	SA	20

Others to race included SA walkers Philip McCavanagh, Alan Miller (Junior), Pat McNamara, A Treeaven and John Larnar, Victorians A Davies, Cliff Fort, Aub Eve and Harry Vine and two NSW walkers. Alas, the results are incomplete.

The first and only Australasian Marathon Championship was held in August 1927 in Sydney.

Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship Manly Oval, Sydney, 24 September 1927

1927 saw 1926 Australasian 7 Mile Walk winner Eric Sunderland testing himself over the longer distances. First he won the annual Frankston to St. Kilda 25 mile classic in an Australasian best time of 3:53:16.4, beating Bill Murray's record by 5 minutes. Considering the appalling weather conditions, 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 the discipline excluded from the 1928 Olympics, what was left for a man of his ability to pursue. It is not surprising that he looked for other ways to make the papers. Amongst the most astounding was his dance of 50 Miles from Geelong to Melbourne in 1928.

Sunderland was a pork butcher at a time when people worked hard and leisure time was non-existent. His job meant early hours and long days and, from our modern perspective, his training was intermittent and minimal. He flitted into and out of the sport and never really put more than 6 months of training together at any one time. Yet his performances stand out in their brilliance. He was indeed one of our greatest walkers and we can only wonder what he could have done if he had experienced the opportunities that are on offer in the modern era.

If Sunderland had opted to contest the 1927 championship, there was no certainty he would have retained his title, as 1924 winner and Australian 7 Mile record holder **George Parker** had returned for yet another tilt at the title. And he did this in fine style on the Manly Oval in Sydney, with a dominant performance, his winning time of 53:53.4 well ahead of his rivals. He led his NSW team mates to significant team victories in both the Senior and Junior races.

Bert Gardiner improved from 5th in 1926 to third this time around, with a much faster time of 54:45 (especially compared with his 1925 winning time of 57:03). The meet is also significant for introducing 16 year old **Tom Daintry** (NSW) and 17 year old **Jim Gaylor** (VIC). They would go on to become legends of our sport in later years.

Australasian Open 7 Mile Walk Championship, 24 Sept 1927			
1.	George Parker	NSW	53:53.6
2.	Raymond Latham	NSW	54:32
3.	Bert Gardiner	VIC	54:45.4
4.	Frederick Chapman	NSW	55:56
5.	Robert Osborne	VIC	56:27
6.	Reginald Foster	NSW	56:54
7.	Thomas Wyatt	SA	57:17
8.	Philip Campbell	SA	57:20
9.	Ernie Austin	NSW	57:30
10.	Thomas Daintry	NSW	57:31
11.	Alan Hart	VIC	57:41
12.	Clifford Fort	VIC	57:55
13.	James Gaylor	VIC	58:00
14.	Harry Vine	VIC	58:23
15.	Alan Miller	SA	59:03
16.	Francis O'Rourke	VIC	59:04
17.	Aubrey Eve	VIC	59:12
18.	Thomas Terrell	SA	59:19
19.	Roy Campbell	SA	59:43
20.	John Larnar	SA	59:56
21.	Philip McCavanagh	SA	59:58
22.	Allan Davies	VIC	60:13
23.	John Richmond	NSW	62:12
24.	Edward Hingston	NSW	65:30
Australasian Junior 7 Mile Walk Championship			
1.	Raymond Latham	NSW	54:32

2.	Frederick Chapman	NSW	55:56
3.	Thomas Daintry	NSW	57:31
4.	Alan Hart	VIC	57:41
5.	Clifford Fort	VIC	57:55
6.	James Gaylor	VIC	58:00
7.	Harry Vine	VIC	58:23
8.	Alan Miller	SA	59:03
9.	Aubrey Eve	VIC	59:12
10.	Roy Campbell	SA	59:43
11.	John Richmond	NSW	62:12
Senior Teams		NSW 32	VIC 58 SA 81
Junior Teams		NSW 14	VIC 22

Australasian Championships 1927-28

Basin Reserve, Wellington, New Zealand, 26-29 December 1927

The 1927 Australasian Championships, held in Wellington, were the last to be held jointly with New Zealand. The 13th biennial conference saw the passing of a motion that women's events be held for the first time at the next national championships. Another motion of lasting importance saw New Zealand withdrawing from the union to go its own way. There was no opposition by any of the Australian states and it was done amicably. 1924 Olympic walker **Ernie Austen** won the 1 Mile walk while New Zealander **Bill Langley** won the 3 Miles walk.

1 MILE WALK - Men - Monday 26 December 1927			
1	Ernest Austen	NSW	6:52.0
2	Walter "Bill" Lankey	NZL	20 yards
3	Garnet "Reg" Cabot	NZL	
	Don Pederson	NZL	DQ
3 MILES WALK - Men - Tuesday 27 December 1927			
1	Walter "Bill" Lankey	NZL	22:10.2
2	Ernest Austen	NSW	
3	Garnet "Reg" Cabot	NZL	
	Don Pederson	NZL	DQ

Open 7 Mile Teams Premiership of the Walking Clubs of Australia

Adelaide, 21 September 1929

After five Australasian 7 Mile Championships in 5 years (1923-1927), the Australian Walking Clubs decided to make it a biennial affair, with the carnival to be held in odd years, starting with 1929. It was also renamed as *The 7 Miles Team Premiership of the Walking Clubs of Australia*. The concept of an Australasian Championship had now been dropped. No New Zealand walkers had ever attended and the push was now to grow the event as a national one.

That meant walkers had to wait 2 years before the next Australian 7 Mile Walk Championship was scheduled. Like the five before it, this one featured walkers from Victoria, NSW and SA but none from further afield.

It is significant for a number of reasons. For starters, it was the first time that a South Australian had won the championship, with junior walker **Horace Wilson**'s time of 53:17 an impressive debut. Secondly, the race saw junior walkers filling three of the first four places, with NSW walkers **Tom Daintry** second with 53:26 and **Jack Campbell** fourth with 54:54. Finally, it saw SA win both the Senior and Junior teams events. The State had come of age with regard to racewalking.

Open 7 Mile Teams Premiership, 21 Sept 1929			
1.	Horace (Horrie) Wilson	SA	53:17
2.	Thomas Daintry	NSW	53:26
3.	Joseph Mulcahy	VIC	54:43
4.	Jack Campbell	NSW	54:54
5.	Roy Campbell	SA	54:59
6.	Jack Coffey	VIC	55:19
7.	John Larner	SA	55:58
8.	Bert Gardiner	VIC	56:03
9.	Philip McCavanagh	SA	56:29
10.	Alan Hart	VIC	56:50
11.	Jack Pretty	VIC	57:21
12.	Philip Campbell	SA	57:33
13.	John Richmond	NSW	57:35
14.	Alan Miller	SA	57:54
15.	Francis Collins	NSW	58:33

16.	John McCormack	SA	58:34
17.	Victor Cocks	SA	58:36
18.	Frank Scully	VIC	58:37
19.	William Jennings	SA	58:44
20.	Leonard Brady	SA	58:56
21.	George Northcote	SA	59:07
22.	Aubrey Eve	VIC	59:51
23.	James Gaylor	VIC	60:13
24.	Jack Leydstrom	NSW	61:05
25.	R. Obern	SA	61:44
26.	Ronald Hester	VIC	63:00
27.	E.Cumins	NSW	63:29
-	Frederick Chapman	NSW	DQ
-	K. Godfrey	SA	DQ
-	William Clark	NSW	DQ
Junior 7 Mile Teams Premiership			
1.	Horace (Horrie) Wilson	SA	53:17
2.	Thomas Daintry	NSW	53:26
3.	Jack Campbell	NSW	54:54
4.	Alan Hart	VIC	56:50
5.	Alan Miller	SA	57:54
6.	Frank Scully	VIC	58:37
7.	George Northcote	SA	59:07
8.	James Gaylor	VIC	60:13
Senior Teams	SA 48	VIC 54	NSW 69
Junior Teams	SA 21	NSW 27	VIC 30

Australian Championships 1929-30

Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne, 25 & 27 January 1930

The 1930 National Championships were the first without New Zealand and also included 3 women's events. Young NSW walker **Tom Daintry** won the 1 Mile walk while **Horace Wilson** of SA won the 3 Miles walk.

3 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 25 January 1930			
1	Horace George Wilson	SA	21:45.2
2	Tom Daintry	NSW	21:53.0
3	Joseph Mulcahy	VIC	22:23.0
	Bert Gardiner	VIC	
	George Parker	NSW	
	Robert Osborne	VIC	
1 MILE WALK - Men - Monday 27 January 1930			
1	Tom Daintry	NSW	6:48.6
2	Joseph Mulcahy	VIC	6:59.0
3	Robert Osborne	VIC	7:08.0
-	Harold George Wilson	SA	DQ
-	Bert Gardiner	VIC	DQ

The removal of racewalking from the 1928 Olympics proved a once off situation. Fortunately, there followed a change in international walking fashion, with road walking overtaking track walking in popularity. British officials worked together and bid for a long distance road event to be introduced into the Olympics. It was accepted and the first Olympic road walk, over 50 kilometres, was announced for the Los Angeles Games in 1932.

The first NSW 50km Championship had been contested in 1926, with Victoria following suite in 1929, hosting its own inaugural 50km championship in that year.

In 1930, the NSW and Victorian racewalking clubs decided to institute a biennial *50km Championship of the Race Walking Clubs of Australia*, to be held in conjunction with one or other of the State championships in even years. This championship was named *The W. B. Alexander Cup*.

1930 Alexander Cup 50km

Bankstown, Sydney, 6th September 1930

The inaugural Alexander Cup was held in conjunction with the 1930 NSW 50km Championship, contested in Bankstown, western Sydney, on 6th September 1930. The inaugural 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.

Little separated the first two NSW walkers, with **William Clark** bettering the great **Gordon Smith** by just under 4 minutes. Sadly, after a stellar career throughout the 1930s, Smith would die as a Japanese prisoner of war in 1945.

1930 Alexander Cup 50km, Bankstown, Sydney			
1.	Jack Coffey	VIC	4:59:40 AUS REC
2.	Jack Cummins	VIC	5:11:05
3.	William Clark	NSW	5:14:03
4.	Gordon Smith	NSW	5:17:50
5.	Raymond Latham	NSW	5:35:56
6.	Frank Scully	VIC	5:36:25
7.	W. White	NSW	5:38:41
8.	Alfred Robinson	VIC	5:40:16
9.	Rupert Blackley	VIC	5:44:40
10.	Thomas Nelan	NSW	5:48:05
11.	H. Hampson	NSW	5:53:30
12.	Joe O'Farrell	VIC	6:00:29
13.	Harry Barrett	NSW	6:06:37
14.	W. Groves	NSW	6:14:15
15.	Thomas Byrne	QLD	6:22:21
-	John Richmond	NSW	DNF
-	Donald Walker	VIC	DNF
-	George Isbister	VIC	DNF
-	Leslie Wright	VIC	DNF
Teams			
1.	VIC	9 pts	(1,2,6)
2.	NSW	12 pts	(3,4,5)

Open 7 Mile Teams Premiership of the Walking Clubs of Australia Royal Showgrounds, Melb, 29 August 1931

The 1931 Australasian 7 Mile Championship had been allocated to Victoria but by now the Great Depression had bitten deeply into Australian society, with unemployment rising towards 30% and with poverty and unrest widespread.

A decision was made to continue with the meet, choosing a shell grit track at the Royal Showgrounds in Melbourne in preference to the usual grass surface. Victorians would certainly be in attendance but what of the interstaters? As it turned out, SA send a good contingent of walkers, but NSW was sadly but understandably missing.

The 7 Mile race was again won by a Junior, namely **Glen Houghton** of SA, in a good 54:16, ahead of Victorians **Joe Mulcahy**, **Jack Cummins** and **Jack Pretty**. Victoria won the Senior Teams competition while SA won the Junior teams competition, helped considerably by Houghton's winning performance. The meet also saw the first appearance of 20 year old Victorian **Frank McGuire**, then in his first year of racewalking. Frank would go on to have a wonderful career as a coach and as an international judge.

Victorian **Jim Gaylor**, way down in 19th place, would find his true calling some 6 weeks later in the VRWC 50 mile championship at the Showgrounds in October 1931. The event had been put on the track to allow Jack Lewis to attack his various State records and Jim had been talked into participating simply to help Jack. But it was Jim who won the event and set new Victorian records for all distances from 15 miles to 50 miles. His 50 mile time of 8:49:33 beat the Lewis's State record by a massive 32 minutes.

Open 7 Mile Teams Premiership, 29 August 1931			
1.	Glen Houghton	SA	54:16
2.	Joseph Mulcahy	VIC	54:18
3.	Jack Cummins	VIC	54:28
4.	Jack Pretty	VIC	55:30
5.	Jack Deere	SA	55:39
6.	George Isbister	VIC	55:40
7.	Philip Campbell	SA	55:47
8.	Francis Scully	VIC	56:03
9.	Ralph Reynolds	SA	56:15
10.	John Larner	SA	56:28
11.	Jack Coffey	VIC	56:40
12.	Milo Bottroff	SA	57:26
13.	Joseph Farrelly	SA	57:28

14.	Roy Campbell	SA	57:31
15.	Leslie Stanton	VIC	57:44
16.	Francis McGuire	VIC	57:50
17.	Ronald McDonald	VIC	58:10
18.	Robert Osborne	VIC	59:30
19.	Jim Gaylor	VIC	59:57
20.	William Marston	VIC	60:05
21.	Brian Oke	VIC	60:40
22.	Con Shanahan	VIC	61:01
23.	Harry Roche	VIC	62:13
Junior 7 Mile Teams Premiership			
1.	Glen Houghton	SA	54:16
2.	Jack Deere	SA	55:39
3.	Ralph Reynolds	SA	56:15
4.	Milo Bottroff	SA	57:26
5.	Joseph Farrelly	SA	57:28
6.	Francis McGuire	VIC	57:50
7.	Jim Gaylor	VIC	59:57
8.	William Marston	VIC	60:05
9.	Brian Oke	VIC	60:40
10.	Con Shanahan	VIC	61:01
11.	Harry Roche	VIC	62:13
Senior Teams	VIC 34	SA	44
Junior Teams	SA 10	VIC	26

Australian Championships 1931-32 Sydney Cricket Ground, Sydney, 16 & 18 January 1932

After competing nationally since 1924 without much success, NSW walker **Fred Chapman** finally broke through for a win in the 1931-32 Australian Championship 1 Mile Walk, while Victorian **Joe Mulcahy**, a perennial medallist, also broke through for his first Australian Championship win, taking the 3 Mile title.

3 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 16 January 1932			
1	Joseph Mulcahy	VIC	22:30.6
2	Glen Houghton	SA	
3	Tom Daintry	NSW	
4	Fred Chapman	NSW	
	George Isbister	VIC	
	Jack Deere	SA	DQ
	R.Latham	NSW	DQ
	J. Campbell	NSW	DNS
1 MILE WALK - Men - Monday 18 January 1932			
1	Fred Chapman	NSW	6:40.6
2	Jack Deere	SA	
3	Joseph Mulcahy	VIC	
	Tom Daintry	NSW	
	George Isbister	VIC	
	R.Latham	NSW	
	Glen Houghton	SA	DQ (2nd)
	J. Campbell	NSW	DNS

1933 Open 7 Mile Teams Premiership of the Walking Clubs of Australia Weigall Oval, Sydney, 9 September 1933

The 1933 Australasian 7 Mile Championship had been allocated to NSW, with the Great Depression still biting into the Australian economy and stressing Australian families.

On this occasion, Victoria was able to send a team but SA opted out. Hence the meet became a two way contest between Victoria and NSW. The venue was Weigall Oval in Rushcutters Bay, Sydney.

NSW walker **William Clark** had been disqualified in his only Australian 7 Mile Championship previous appearance in 1929 but went into the 1933 7 Mile Championship as a clear favourite. He had dominated the NSW scene, winning the 1 Mile, 3 Mile and 7 Mile walk titles and setting a State record of 13:55.6 for the 2 Miles, easily breaking the previous record of 14:03.2, held by 1920

Olympic silver medallist George Parker. He made no mistakes on his home turf, winning with 54:45.2, ahead of a duo of Victorians in **Joe O'Farrell** and **Jack Cummins**.

The walker way down in 10th place, **Athol Stubbs** of NSW, would go on to become the dominant Australian walker of the late 1930s and 1940s. This was his first interstate appearance and it gave little inkling of what was to come.

Open 7 Mile Teams Premiership, 9 September 1933			
1.	William Clark	NSW	54:45.2
2.	Joe O'Farrell	VIC	54:50
3.	Jack Cummins	VIC	54:54
4.	Tom Daintry	NSW	55:35
5.	William Marston	VIC	56:59
6.	Jim Gaylor	VIC	57:56
7.	Lindsay Guy	VIC	58:43
8.	Brian Oke	VIC	59:10
9.	Keith McCluskey	VIC	59:43
10.	Athol Stubbs	NSW	60:22
11.	Francis Collins	NSW	60:34
12.	Lloyd Bransgrove	VIC	60:35
13.	George Gosling	NSW	61:08
14.	Albert Stafford	VIC	61:10
15.	Norman Anstee	VIC	61:16
16.	Leo Patterson	VIC	61:22
17.	Jack Nixon	NSW	62:11
18.	Alex Philpotts	VIC	62:11
19.	William London	NSW	62:56
20.	Sydney Sheedy	NSW	63:32
21.	J. Donaldson	NSW	68:04
22.	Arthur Scanlon	NSW	68:06
-	Frederick Chapman	NSW	DNF
-	Laurence Mink	NSW	DNF
-	O. Manning	NSW	DNF
Junior 7 Mile Teams Premiership			
1.	William Marston	VIC	56:59
2.	Keith McCluskey	VIC	59:43
3.	Lloyd Bransgrove	VIC	60:35
4.	Albert Stafford	VIC	61:10
5.	Norman Anstee	VIC	61:16
6.	Jack Nixon	NSW	62:11
7.	Alex Philpotts	VIC	62:11
Senior Teams	VIC 31	NSW 47	
Junior Teams	VIC 10	NSW 26	

Australian Track & Field Championships 1933-34

Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, South Australia, 27, 29 January 1934

Victorian **Bill Marston**, who had won the Junior 7 Miles Walk in Sydney in September 1933, showed how much he had improved in a few short months, winning both the 1 Mile and 3 Miles Walks at the 1933-34 Australian T&F Championships in Adelaide. **Athol Stubbs** showed a further indication of his potential with silver in the 3 Miles walk.

3 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 27 January 1934			
1	William Marston	VIC	22:24.2
2	Athol Stubbs	NSW	130 yards
3	Ralph Reynolds	SA	45 yards
	Jack Deere	SA	
	Vic Cocks	SA	
	G.Northcott	VIC	
	Joseph O'Farrell	VIC	
1 MILE WALK - Men - Monday 29 January 1934			
1	William Marston	VIC	6:57.0
2	Joseph O'Farrell	VIC	15 yards
3	Ralph Reynolds	SA	1 yard
	Vic Cocks	SA	
	Jack Deere	SA	

G.Northcott	VIC	
Athol Stubbs	NSW	DQ

1934 Alexander Cup 50km

Royal Showgrounds, Melbourne, Saturday 27th October 1934

The Alexander Cup had been cancelled in 1932. With the Great Depression in full swing, there was little likelihood that an interstate walking carnival would attract a field of walkers. Consequently, the second Alexander Cup 50km was not scheduled until 1934 and was allocated to Victoria, to be held in conjunction with the Victorian 50km Championship at the Royal Showgrounds in Ascot Vale.

The Showgrounds would be used by VAWC for most of their 50km championships for many years to come. The race would start on the dirt track, do a lap or two and then head off out the main gate towards Ballarat Road. Walkers would then progress to Rockbank for the half way point turn. There would be a refreshment table at that point. Then they would walk back from Rockbank to Melbourne, finishing once again on the Showgrounds track.

The 1934 Alexander Cup championship attracted a good field of walkers, with 14 Victorians and 5 NSW walkers in attendance. Victorian **Jack Cummins** went one better than in 1930, winning in an Australian best time of 4:55:36. NSW filled the next two positions with **Sydney Sheedy** second and **Gordon Smith** improving from fourth to third. Victorian **Jack Lewis**, the first of the really world class Australian long distance walkers, then in the twilight of his career, finished 8th.

1934 Alexander Cup 50km, Royal Showgrounds, Melbourne			
1.	Jack Cummins	VIC	4:55:36 AUS REC
2.	Sydney Sheedy	NSW	5:01:00
3.	Gordon Smith	NSW	5:01:32
4.	Joseph O'Farrell	VIC	5:04:35
5.	Francis Scully	VIC	5:08:59
6.	Roy Grierson	VIC	5:16:46
7.	Harry Roche	VIC	5:24:30
8.	Jack Lewis	VIC	5:26:23
9.	Stanley Leeson	VIC	5:27:36
10.	William Tunaley	VIC	5:29:02
11.	Lindsay Guy	VIC	5:29:16
12.	Frederick Gore	VIC	5:38:24
13.	Austin Gore	VIC	5:44:44
14.	Albert O'Farrell	VIC	6:04:24
15.	Sydney Rudman	NSW	6:12:52
-	James Gaylor	VIC	DNF
-	Leslie Wright	VIC	DNF
-	Colin Blumson	NSW	DNF
-	William Clark	NSW	DNF
Teams			
1.	VIC	10 pts	(1,4,5)
2.	NSW	20 pts	(2,3,15)

Australian Track & Field Championships 1935-36

North Hobart Oval, Hobart, 15 & 18 January 1936

Victorian **Bill Marston**, the defending champion, was untroubled to win the double once again, his 1 Mile and 3 Miles times considerably faster than in 1934. His task was made easier with the absence of Athol Stubbs.

1 MILE WALK - Men - Wednesday 15 January 1936			
1	William Marston	VIC	6:45.6
2	Keith McCluskey	VIC	100 yards
3	Brian Oke	VIC	3 yards
4	Tom Daintry	NSW	8 yards
5	W.McCallum	TAS	
6	R.Latham	QLD	
3 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 18 January 1936			
1	William Marston	VIC	21:58.2
2	Brian Oke	VIC	150 yards
3	Keith McCluskey	VIC	
4	W.McCallum	TAS	
5	Tom Daintry	NSW	
	R.Latham	QLD	DNF

1936 Alexander Cup 50km
Sydney, Saturday 5th September 1936

The third Alexander Cup was allocated to NSW and scheduled in Sydney on 5th September 1936, with a large Victorian team making the interstate trip and competing.

12th in 1930 and 4th in 1934, Victorian **Joe O'Farrell** finally won the Alexander Cup on his third attempt with a time of 5:07:34. NSW filled the next two positions with 32 year old **Gordon Smith** (4th in 1930 and 3rd in 1934) taking second place and **Mervyn Ray** third. 1934 winner **Jack Cummins** was relegated to fourth place. This was perhaps a surprise as Cummins had won the 1936 Victorian 50km championship with a fast 4:57:34, ahead of O'Farrell who was second with 4:58:19.

1936 Alexander Cup 50km, Sydney, 5th September 1936			
1.	Joe O'Farrell	VIC	5:07:34
2.	Gordon Smith	NSW	5:11:52
3.	Mervyn Ray	NSW	5:18:04
4.	Jack Cummins	VIC	5:19:07
5.	Gus Theobald	VIC	5:27:14
6.	William Tunaley	VIC	5:31:04
7.	Harry Roche	VIC	5:31:43
8.	Clifford Smith	NSW	5:33:57
9.	Albert Stafford	VIC	5:35:42
10.	James Purtell	VIC	5:39:06
11.	Alex Philpotts	VIC	5:40:39
12.	Ian McDougall	VIC	5:47:30
13.	George Knott	VIC	6:08:09
-	Norm Goble	VIC INV	DNF
-	W. White	NSW	DNF
-	Athol Scanlon	NSW	DNF
-	Sydney Rudman	NSW	DNF
Teams			
1.	VIC	10 pts	(1,4,5)
2.	NSW	13 pts	(2,3,8)

Australian Track & Field Championships 1937-38
Bowen Park, Brisbane, Queensland 4, 11 December 1937

The 1937-38 Australian T&F Championships proved a breakthrough for NSW walker **Athol Stubbs**, with very fast winning times of 6:36.2 and 21:43.0 in the 1 Mile and 3 Miles walks.

3 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 4 December 1937			
1	Athol Stubbs	NSW	21:43.0
2	Keith McClusky	VIC	400 yards
3	Hugh Munro	VIC	
4	William Downey	QLD	
	Tom Daintry	QLD	
	Sid Sheedy	NSW	
	W Hayward	NSW	
1 MILE WALK - Men - Saturday 11 December 1937			
1	Athol Stubbs	NSW	6:36.2
2	Tom Daintry	QLD	60 yards
3	Keith McClusky	VIC	10 yards
4	William Downey	QLD	
5	W Hayward	NSW	
	Hugh Munro	VIC	DNF

Open 7 Mile Teams Premiership of the Walking Clubs of Australia
Royal Show Grounds, Melbourne, Saturday 11 September 1937

No 7 Mile Teams Championship had been contested in 1935, so it was 4 years before the next Australasian 7 Mile Championship was held at the Royal Showgrounds in Melbourne, and it produced a new champion in the person of Victorian **Alan Reid**. His time of 55:17 was considered to be excellent, "considering that the track was not in the best condition". Alan Reid had burst onto the Victorian scene that year, winning a number of State titles. The Australian 7 Mile Championship win was definitely a further rung up the ladder in terms of his standing and, over the next 4 years, he would win a whole swag of State titles, up till when the club was disbanded in 1942, a casualty of WWII.

The field was the smallest ever (only 17 walkers), with only Victorian and NSW walkers participating. In fact, it was only after some weeks of uncertainty that the small NSW team eventually arrived. Their team was undermanned, with the withdrawal of captain and manager William Hayward and with the unavailability of Athol Stubbs.

The Junior race proved rather a fiasco, as only one of the Victorian Juniors, Laurence Grinter, completed the course, while NSW filled the first 3 places but did not field a fourth competitor to complete a team.

Open 7 Mile Teams Premiership, 11 September 1937			
1.	Alan Reid	VIC	55:17
2.	Keith McCluskey	VIC	56:12
3.	Sydney Sheedy	NSW	56:22
4.	Jack Cummins	VIC	56:25
5.	Raymond Rogers	VIC	57:50
6.	Athol Scanlon	NSW	59:15
7.	R. Williamson	NSW	59:59
8.	Jim Gaylor	VIC	60:10
9.	Lloyd Bransgrove	VIC	60:21
10.	Richard Holmes	NSW	60:40
11.	E. Harvey	NSW	62:49
12.	Laurence Grinter	VIC	65:07
-	Jack Carland	VIC	DNF
-	Colin Munro	VIC	DNF
-	William Silversides	NSW	DQ
-	Douglas Atherton	VIC	DQ
-	James Palmer	VIC	DQ
Junior 7 Mile Teams Premiership, 11 September 1937			
1.	R. Williamson	NSW	59:59
2.	Richard Holmes	NSW	60:40
3.	E. Harvey	NSW	62:49
4.	Laurence Grinter	VIC	65:07
Senior Teams	VIC 12	NSW	24
Junior Teams	No teams finished		

1938 Alexander Cup 50km

Royal Showgrounds, Melbourne, Saturday 1st October 1938

The 1938 Alexander Cup 50km was held on the Royal Showgrounds course in Ascot Vale, Melbourne, on 1st October of that year, as part of the Royal Melbourne Agricultural Show.

Only 3 NSW walkers made the trip down, namely **Gordon Smith** (Captain), **Sydney Sheedy** and **Mervyn Ray**. Unfortunately an exceptionally hot day for the time of year made conditions unpleasant and caused Ray's withdrawal after covering 26 miles, this depriving NSW of a finish in the Teams Event.

Jim Gaylor had won the 1937 Victorian 50km championship with an excellent time of 4:57:32. Now a year later he retained his title with an even faster 4:56:38. This win was generally regarded as one of the best performances of Jim's career, not only as his time of 4:56:38 was exceptionally good considering the conditions, but because at one time he appeared to have lost the race to Sheedy of NSW.

1938 Alexander Cup 50km, Saturday 1st October 1938			
1.	Jim Gaylor	VIC	4:56:38
2.	Sydney Sheedy	NSW	4:59:24
3.	Keith McCluskey	VIC	5:14:24
4.	Gus Theobald	VIC	5:15:18
5.	Jack Cummins	VIC	5:22:25
6.	Alex Philpotts	VIC	5:24:12
7.	Gordon Smith	NSW	5:30:08
8.	Clem Marshall	VIC	5:30:41
9.	Arch Skewes	VIC	5:32:15
10.	James Purcell	VIC	5:35:29
11.	James Palmer	VIC	5:42:35
12.	Benjamin Blakey	VIC	5:56:41
-	Mervyn Ray	NSW	DNF
-	Leslie Woods	VIC	DNF
-	William Tunelay	VIC	DNF
-	Norm Goble	VIC	DNF

-	Roy Grierson	VIC	DNF
-	Ian McDougall	VIC	DNF
Teams	VIC 10	NSW	DNF

1939 Glover Shield 10,000m Walk and Olympic Trial Petersham Oval, Sydney, Saturday 19th August 1939

1937 saw the final *7 Miles Teams Premiership of the Race Walking Clubs of Australia*. It had been announced by the International Olympic Committee in May 1938 that the 1940 Olympic Games would have two racewalks, the current 50km roadwalk and a new 10,000m track walk. It was duly decided by the Australian Race Walking Clubs that the *Glover Shield* competition distance should be altered from 7 Miles to 10,000m.

The new distance was still refused Australian Championship status and its inaugural scheduling in August 1939 had the status of *Glover Shield Interstate Carnival*, promoted by the NSW, Victorian and SA walking clubs.

The 1940 Olympics had been awarded to Tokyo but, when Japan and China went to war in 1938, the city withdrew as host. Then began an incredible period in which the IOC became the ostrich of the sports world and refused to believe what it was seeing. Feeling it should stay out of world politics, it moved the Games to Helsinki, Finland. Even when the Russians invaded Finland, the IOC still continued with their planning. It was not until the Finnish Olympic Committee formally withdrew as host in April 1940 that the IOC finally shelved plans for any Games that year. In the midst of this shuffling, the IOC awarded the 1944 Games to London. With World War Two still raging, these Games were also eventually called off.

It was during this period of uncertainty that Australian walkers challenged for selection in the 1940 Olympic walks, with official trials to be held over 10,000m track and 50km road. The 10,000m walk Olympic trial was held in conjunction with the Glover Shield which was to be held on the Petersham Oval in Sydney on Saturday 19th August 1939.

The Victorians were led by **George Knott** and **Alan Reid**, who was the defending champion, having won the last Glover Shield 7 Mile Championship in Melbourne in 1937. They had fought out the various Victorian titles for the past couple of years with Knott faster over the shorter distances and Reid stronger over the longer distances. The final Victorian championship before the trial was the Victorian 5 Mile walk championship at the Royal Melbourne Showground track. There Knott and Reid walked side by side throughout the event with the win going to Knott whose time of 37:15.0 saw him 0.4 secs ahead of Reid. Victorian hopes were high for their two star walkers.

The main NSW hope was **Athol Stubbs**, holder of the world 1 mile walk record (6:18.2), and the holder of all NSW State titles from 1 Mile to 10 Miles.

And what a race it turned out to be, with Stubbs and Knott both breaking the Australian 10,000m record. The newspapers of the time recorded the race as follows:

Stubbs moved off in front of the Victorians Knott and Reid, followed by Stephenson and Gosling. At the end of the first mile, Stubbs' time was 7 minutes and he had already overlapped some of the other competitors. By 3 miles, covered in 21m 45s, he had increased the margin to over a minute, with Knott and Reid together at 22m 54s. Knott then moved away from Reid and by the 4 mile mark, had reduced the lead to 35 secs with Reid 11 secs further back. Knott was closing the gap between Stubbs and, at 5 miles, had reduced the margin to 12 secs. Stubbs' time was 37m 6s. Reid in third place was 38 secs behind Knott. To 6 miles, Stubbs led in 44m 34s and Knott was then 3 secs behind and 1m 10s in advance of Reid. Stubbs finished 5 secs ahead of Knott and Reid was 26 secs behind in third place. Stubbs' final time of 46m 1s broke George Parker's Australian record of 46m 32s. Knott also broke the record.

It is fair to say that both walkers would have been selected in the Australian team if the 1940 Olympics had gone ahead.

George Knott had age on his side and was able to make the Australian team for the 1948 Olympics, contesting the 10,000m walk in London. Athol Stubbs was not so lucky – this was his one big chance and the Second World War had put paid to it.

This event confirmed Stubbs was the dominant Australian track walker in the late 1930s. He twice created World Best Track performances for 1 mile (6:18.2 in Sydney on 25 February 1939 and 6:15.4 in Sydney on 17 February 1940) and was the reigning Australian 1 mile track, 3 mile track and 10,000m road champion at the outbreak of war. When championships were finally restarted in 1947, he resumed his walking career but, although he remained competitive on the national arena until the early 1950s, he never fully regained his pre-war form.

Interestingly, Victoria and NSW were the only two States which produced contenders. There were no entries from SA or QLD. For the record, the results were

1939 Glover Shield 10,000m Walk, Saturday 19 th August			
1.	Athol Stubbs	NSW	46:01
2.	George Knott	VIC	46:06
3.	Alan Reid	VIC	47:22
4.	Keith McClusky	VIC	49:22

5.	Arthur Stephenson	NSW	50:00
6.	Alex Philpotts	VIC	50:09
7.	George Gosling	NSW	50:31
8.	Sydney Sheedy	NSW	50:39
9.	Jack Cummings	VIC	50:47
10.	Ian McDougall	VIC	51:03
11.	Mervyn Ray	NSW	51:21
12.	Sydney Rudman	NSW	52:09
13.	Laurence Mack *	VIC	53:15
14.	Eric Wilson *	NSW	53:56
15.	William Hall	NSW	54:07
16.	E. Harvey	NSW	55:00
17.	Claude Lowe	VIC	55:50
18.	Harry Sweet *	NSW	55:57
19.	Alick Priest *	VIC	56:09
20.	Gordon Stanley *	VIC	56:19
21.	Benjamin Blakey	VIC	56:23
22.	Kevin Mead *	VIC	56:24
23.	Michael Stannett	NSW	58:04
24.	J. Nolan	NSW	58:52
* Junior			
Senior Teams	VIC	34	NSW 44
Junior Teams	VIC	16	NSW 20

The official Australian 50km Olympic trial would have been scheduled in early 1940, but it never eventuated. With the 1940 Olympics finally cancelled and with Australia entering the Second World War, all such activities were put on the back burner. It would be 1946 before Australia made the first tentative steps back into competition.

DATES...DATES...DATES

As usual, I finish with a list of upcoming events on the local, national and international fronts. Let me know of any errors/omissions. It continues to change quickly as a result of COVID-19 issues.

Australian/Victorian Key Dates – 2020

Aug 30 (Sun), 2020 Australian Masters 20km Championships, Adelaide (TBA)
 Aug 30 (Sun), 2020 Australian Roadwalk Championships (and RWA Carnival), Melbourne (TBA)

International Dates

Jun 14 (Sun), 2020 Polish National Championships, Mielec, Poland (20km) (CANCELLED)
 Jun 28 (Sun), 2020 Canadian Olympic T&F Trials, Montreal, Canada (20km) (POSTPONED)
 July 17-20, 2020 **18th World Athletics U20 T&F Championships**, Nairobi, Kenya (POSTPONED - TBA)
 Sep 26-28, 2020 Lake Taihu Tour, Suzhou, China
 Sep 26 (Sat), 2020 International Race Walk Meeting, Zaniemysl, Poland (Includes Polish 20km Champs)

Jan 17-23, 2021 **Oceania Masters Championships**, Norfolk Island
 July 23 – Aug 8, 2021 **32nd Olympic Games, Tokyo and Sapporo**
 July, 2021 **23rd World Masters T&F Championships**, Tampere, Finland
 Aug 8-19, 2021 **World University Summer Games**, Chengdu, China

TBA, 2022 **9th World Masters Indoor T&F Championships**, Edmonton, Canada
 July 15-24, 2022 **18th World Athletics Championships**, Eugene, USA
 July 27 - Aug 7, 2022 **XXII Commonwealth Games**, Birmingham, GBR
 Aug 11-21, 2022 **European Athletics Championships**, Munich, GER

TBA, 2023 **24th World Masters T&F Championships**, Gothenburg Sweden
 Aug 2023 (TBC) **19th World Athletics Championships**, Budapest, Hungary

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