

VICTORIAN MARATHON CLUB.

23rd. ANNUAL REPORT

SEASON 1968/69

As in previous years we can report further increases in participation and higher quality of performances, which could prompt us to sit back with a smug, self-satisfied look on our faces. However, there is little room for complacency if we are to maintain touch with developments all over the world. Matter of fact, to some extent we are in danger of slipping behind at home!

Australian names were very thinly spread in 1968 world ranking lists, no medals were brought home by our distance men, sub- 4 minute miles are not to be found in Australian ranking lists, 14½ minute 5,000 and 30 minute 10,000m are few and far between.

In the Marathons, there were only very isolated instances of newcomers to the sub 2:30 bracket. Sure, there was some influx of new blood, some improvement among our regulars, but by and large the picture appeared static.

I seriously suggest to you all that we do some very solid re-thinking in athletics in the way of additional and more varied competition, in the standards that we are aiming at, in the way we actually conduct and present our events, etc. Only when we see achievement in athletics as a combined effort by many individuals to bring out top performances, when we realise that we contribute whether we are running, scoring, taking times or any of the hundreds of little, insignificant but necessary jobs which keep the way clear for top performances, then do we consciously begin to push forward in a big way.

Far more can be done through your own, first claim clubs, in arranging for additional competition throughout the summer months. There is nothing in any athletic rules to stop any club from challenging teams from one or more other clubs to a match during mid-week twilight hours, or invite runners for a social run and conduct the competition with members out of their own ranks officiating. It may not satisfy high record requirements, but it is the competition that counts. It is particularly the distance runners who are most affected by this lack of competition, so we think, but I think the same applies to most other events, therefore extra competition as suggested need not cater just for the one or other section of athletes.

A strong pointer towards the needs outlined above was provided by an attendance of 595 runners in our 12 scheduled events, an average of nearly 50 per race. In addition we had 13 veterans line up for a special 1 Mile event held in conjunction with the 10,000m Emil Zatopek Trophy.

Our membership stood at 146 Seniors and 23 Juniors, almost double the figure of three years ago. This has increased the work load on your honorary officials and it is obvious that unless the general membership sees it as a point of honour to share in the many tasks needed to keep our club functioning smoothly, instead of enjoying the sport, some of us will come to regard it as an irksome burden. So, next time you have a bruised heel or want to miss an actual race, be along and score some times or police some corner or crossing, someone has been doing it for you all along!!

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BARRY SAWYER became Club Champion by virtue of his VMC Marathon win, to which he added the other two major Victorian Marathons, the State and the Country titles.

IAN WHEELER was our most consistent placegetter in the winter with three firsts and three seconds out of six starts.

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NEIL RYAN was no less consistent in the summer with two firsts and two thirds out of 4 starts.

IAN LEEDER placed in the first 6 on six occasions, while the fast improving TERRY PHELAN made the top 6 five times.

RON CLARKE took the Emil Zatopek Trophy in great style, after missing the race since winning it on the first three occasions. It brought back memories of his first great world record run.

THANKS GO TO:

MENTONE AAC, the Vic WALKERS, the SHIRE OF HASTINGS, Bro. CAREY at Point Leo and others who helped us with halls, tracks and venues.

LEE MORRISON and MABEL ROBINSON for the office services of the VAAA. The CCOC, RECORDS and other sub-committees and officials of the VAAA for their assistance and co-operation.

Members of the Press, Radio and T.V. who gave publicity to our events and published results.

FRANK McCAFFREY'S AUSTRALIAN HARRIER for his first class coverage of matters interesting to distance athletes and the doings of the VMC.

DR. BILL WARR and his sports medicine colleagues. Bill is one person to take up the question of the antiquated rule regarding Medical Certificates for Marathon competitors and pointing out its futility to the powers that be. If it were only for a report from a Psychiatrist we could have afforded to ignore it!!

The COMMITTEE of our own club who attended regularly to routine and extraordinary matters which arise throughout the year and must be given this thorough attention if our members are to gain full benefit from belonging to our club. They are men who have other responsibilities outside the club in addition to the time and effort spent on our behalf.

The number of members of no special designation, who have stepped forward on numerous occasions to help with the chores on race day, to help get out notices, offer criticisms and suggestions to improve our club.

The VMC has built a strong tradition of self-help and co-operation and is a respected organisation in Australian Athletics, only constant striving will keep it that way.

FRED LESTER,
Secretary.

VICTORIAN MARATHON CLUB EVENTS SEASON 1968/69

	<u>HANDICAP</u>	<u>FASTEST TIMES</u>
<u>April 6th.</u> 10 Miles 78 Starters	1. Kon BUTKO (15.00) 61.36 2. Ivan DAVIDSON 3. Darrell PAPROTH	Ian WHEELER 52.20 Rob WARD 53.32 Ian MINTER 53.28
<u>April 13th.</u> 15 km 60 Starters	1. Mick SKINNER (11.30) 52.56 2. Sam HILDITCH (15.00) 56.39 3. Harry HALDANE(12.30) 54.14	Ray SOLOMON 46.11 Ian WHEELER 46.12 Ian LEEDER 48.14
<u>April 25th.</u> 7 1/2 M COMRADES 61 Starters	1. Jim CRAWFORD (6.30) 40.22 2. Fred HOWE (5.00) 39.20 3. Wal SHEPPARD (8.30) 43.07	Ian WHEELER 38.05 David B. JONES 38.57 Barry SAWYER 39.04
<u>May 4th.</u> 25 km 61 Starters	1. Ian WHEELER (4.00) 79.39 2. Alf O'CONNOR (20.00) 96.37 3. Rob WARD (6.00) 83.01	Tony COOK 79.34 Ian WHEELER 79.39 Tim WALSH 82.21
<u>June 10th.</u> 20 km. 69 Starters	1. Norn McLEISH (21.00) 77.09 2. Ray BOXER (25.00) 81.18 3. Mal KIRKWOOD (16.00) 72.57	Ian WHEELER 63.24 George CLAXTON 63.44 Ray SOLOMON 64.33
<u>June 29th</u> 20 Miles 33 Starters	1. Terry HARRISON (13.00) 1.55.02 2. Doug OLIVER (26.00) 2.11.00 4. Noel DUNSTAN (22.00) 2.08.29	Ray WHITE (3rd.H) 1.48.59 George Claxton 1.49.22 Barry SAWYER 1.49.45
<u>July 27th.</u> MARATHON 38 Starters	1. Keith ROUTLEY(47.00) 2.52.22 2. Terry PHELAN (14.00) 2.24.39 3. Peter BRUCE (14.00) 2.28.13	Barry SAWYER 2.22.56 Ian WHEELER 2.24.00 Terry PHELAN 2.24.39
<u>Oct. 13th.</u> 2 Hour run 9 Starters	1. Jim CRAWFORD 20 M 1178 y 2. Ivan DAVIDSON 18 M 1690 y 3. Mike BROWN 16 M 1565 y	- 33 km 167 m - 30 km 516 m - 27 km 183 m
<u>Nov. 4th</u> 8km 43 Starters	1. Dennis WATTIE(7.00) 29.11 2. Don WOOD (6.00) 28.27 3. Col CRAWFORD (10.00) 32.37	Peter BRUCE 24.34 Neil RYAN 24.38 Barry TREGENZA 24.41
<u>Nov. 18th.</u> 12km 38 Starters	1. Rod GRIEVE (10.00) 44.47 2. Geoff GREEN (3.30) 38.34 4. Rich JEFFERY (6.30) 42.12	Neil RYAN (2nd.H) 37.20 Barry SAWYER 38.04 Terry PHELAN 38.27
<u>Dec. 2nd.</u> 16km 31 Starters	1. Jim CRAWFORD (7.00) 53.47 2. Kevin CUMMINS(14.30) 61.18 4. Max HOLMES (10.30) 57.46	Neil RYAN (3rd.H) 48.57 Terry PHELAN 52.11 Don WILLIAMS 52.35
<u>Dec. 18th.</u> 10,000m EMIL ZATOPEK 42 Starters	1. Barry LINO (10.30) 38.17 e2. Mike HUBBARD (5.30) 33.40 e2. Graham ANDERSON (10.30) 38.40	Ron CLARKE 29.25.6 Neil RYAN 30.42 Peter GALLAGHER 30.53
<u>VETERANS' MILE:</u>	1. Wally SHEPPARD 4.47. 3. Jack DIBBS 4.57.	2. Lindsay HOOPER 4.48.6 4. Keith ROUTLEY 5.00

OTHER OUTSTANDING RESULTS

VAAA MARATHON

1. Barry SAWYER	2.24.16
2. Henk V. WIJNG	2.28.28
3. Peter BRUCE	2.32.50
4. Jim CRAWFORD	2.34.09

VIC. COUNTRY MARATHON

1. Barry SAWYER	2.26.53.6
2. Colin EATON	2.37.35.65
3. Jim CRAWFORD	2.40.09.2
4. Daryl BLEWETT	2.47.30.2
5. Les LINSSELL (Tas)	2.48.09