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THE VICTORIAN MARATHON CLUB NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED FOR THE INFORMATION OF MEMBERS OF THE V.M.C. AND OTHER PEOPLE INTERESTED IN DISTANCE RUNNING AND ATHLETICS IN AUSTRALIA.

The V.M.C. NEWSLETTER is the editorial responsibility of the Secretary on behalf of the Committee of the V.M.C.

It is issued four times a year, corresponding to the Seasons of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

All keen athletic people are invited to contribute letters, results, comments, etc., which they feel are of interest to the sport and which would serve to provide information and a better understanding of athletics and the world of sport.

Intending contributors of articles are asked to note that material for publication must be submitted on single spaced TYPED foolscap, irrespective of length, but is suggested that articles SHOULD NOT EXCEED one and a half pages of foolscap.

Articles for publication MUST be accompanied by the name and address of the contributor, together with his signature. The writer of the article shall retain full responsibility for the contents of the article.

It is important that the foregoing paragraphs be followed in every detail as it will be impossible to devote the extra time in addition to the editorial chores of editing, re-writing, check-back and proof reading.

The V.M.C. NEWSLETTER will only be able to give the wider coverage to its readers if material submitted can go straight to printing as soon as it comes to hand.

	The VICTORIAN MARATHON CLUB is
<u>OPEN TO MEMBERSHIP</u>	for any registered amateur athlete.
<u>COSTS</u>	\$1.00 per annum for Seniors. \$0.50 per annum for Juniors (Under 19)
<u>CHARGES</u>	40¢ Race Fee for each event.
<u>AWARDS</u>	Trophy Orders to the first three placegetters in every Handicap, and to the competitor gaining fastest time in each of these events. Additional trophies will be awarded to Veteran Runners in selected events. The V.M.C. Marathon Championship carries extra prize trophies.
<u>ENTITLES</u>	All financial members to share in the awards, receive information issued by the Committee, and to attend V.M.C. Meetings with full voting and electoral rights.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION DIRECT YOUR INQUIRIES TO THE

HONORARY SECRETARY  
of  
VICTORIAN MARATHON CLUB,  
FRED LESTER,  
1 GOLDING STREET,  
CANTERBURY. 3126

## VICTORIAN MARATHON CLUB

24th ANNUAL REPORT.

SEASON 1969/70

The past year has been another one of considerable growth in membership and participation for the Club, a reflection of the growth of our nation and athletics in particular. The popularity of the events conducted by the V.M.C. is the outcome of the policy of our Club as envisaged by its founders and extended over successive years.

This policy is one of combining an opportunity for maximum participation with an atmosphere of minimum informality and the chance for everyone, no matter at what standard, to figure on the honours list as a reward for trying his best.

It should be noted that in the two major Victorian Marathons ten V.M.C. members notched under 2½ hours performances and monopolised the top ten finishing places. In the A.A.U. Marathon V.M.C. members Neil RYAN (2) Peter BRUCE (5) and Tom KELLY (6) secured the team honours for their home state.

However, readers would be well advised to study once again the point made in our last Annual Report in regard to additional and more varied competition, if we are to consolidate progress. Athletic achievement is the result of combined efforts by many individuals, apart from actual running there are many necessary jobs which appear trivial but if left undone can turn sure success into abject failure.

The starting point for success is punctuality and attention to the few formal details without which no race can be conducted. It is precisely the painstaking attention to these few but vital formal details that allows us to dispense with tiresome rigmarole and red tape. In general our members deserve high praise for observing these essentials and a firm, but friendly, word to the few who are forgetful of our obligations to each other for the fullest enjoyment of our sport is only an isolated instance.

With an aggregate attendance of 686 runners in 12 events for an all time high of 57 average per race, it is easy to see that each event is quite a complex operation if we are to record progressive and final times, as well as placings and ensure road safety.

In actual membership we have 149 seniors and 27 juniors on our books, although quite a number of those listed have supplied no other details except for their name. That has made it difficult to maintain an up-to-date register and notify all concerned, so please do make sure to let us have enough data for keeping you on the mailing list after paying your subscription!!

Financially, we are as sound as in previous years, managing to pay our way as far as administration and prize moneys are concerned. The Quarterly Newsletter which was introduced several years ago has become a regular feature of the Club and is regarded as effort and money well spent, both from the points of view of information and publicity. With the demise of the "Australian Harrier" and no replacement in sight, your Executive decided to give a try to the Newsletter in coping with the additional material usually carried by other magazines. While that may entail extra costs, these may be kept at a minimum through an enthusiastic response on the part of the distance running fraternity throughout Australia in supplying it with articles and results and comments as well as endeavouring to sell additional copies to interested non-members. Every Club should be on our mailing list!!

One aspect which still does not receive enough attention by either athletes or officials, is the great need for additional competition of the most varied kind right throughout the year.

There should be no objection from anyone to an enterprising Club conducting a multi-event scratch programme any week night during twilight hours or on a Sunday. This can be done without complicated record conditions having to be fulfilled or an eye to possible money profits. The only profit to aim for is better performances through extra opportunities for competition.

As usual, the V.M.C. has worked in harmony with the V.A.A.A. and its sub-committees and affiliated clubs. Our thanks must go to the following bodies:-

- The Cross Country Organising Committee,
- The Track and Field Interclub Committee,
- The Victorian Amateur Walkers Club,
- The Mentone Amateur Athletic Club,
- The St. Stephens Harriers, and
- The Y.M.C.A. Amateur Athletic Club.

It is possibly somewhat difficult to single out several names from the many who have contributed to the Club's success. It is often overlooked that their share in it is quite often considerable.

From the V.A.A.A. we must single out ALF ROBINSON, who bobs up everywhere with watches, scoresheets and other paraphernalia so essential to the good conduct of athletics, as well as producing our Newsletter and being the chief co-ordinator of Competition in Victoria.

In our own ranks we have SAM HILDITCH who has taken over the main task of handicapping for our events from the redoubtable BERT GARDINER, not that the latter has been entirely free from blame this season! But, joking aside, V.M.C. handicapping has been in excellent hands for years and looks like carrying on in the same vein. A quick glance over the year's results will show a very wide spread of handicap prizes, yet all of them had to be earned by the runner doing close to his best.

As one who has an intense dislike of backslapping either at meetings or in reports, I must nevertheless express my sincere appreciation of the work done by your Committee and the selfless spirit which characterises their attitude. All of them endeavoured to attend whenever possible, either to help organise our events or to discuss policy and execute routine administrative tasks. Possibly we are very lucky that our Club does not depend on just one or two men, personally I feel that it is the mature outlook born of mutual respect for the hard work put in by all who love distance running which creates this atmosphere.

Fred Lester.

Secretary.

PLEASURES IN STORE

The February Meeting of the Council of the V.A.A.A. approved quite a lengthy list of open events for the coming Winter Season. The following are the main ROAD EVENTS which should be of interest to the members of the V.M.C.:-

April	11.	10 Miles Run.	Princes Park
"	25.	7½ Miles Run. "Fallen Comrades"	Domain
May	3.	15,000 Metres Run	Albert Park
"	23.	25,000 Metres Run	Albert Park
June	15.	20,000 Metres Run	Albert Park
"	27.	20 Miles "King of the Mountain"	Point Leo
July	18.	C.C.O.C. 10000 Metres Road Championship.	Flemington
"	25.	Marathon Championship	Tyabb
Aug.	8.	C.C.O.C. 10 Miles Road Championship.	Fishermen's Bend
"	15.	Country Marathon Championship	Bendigo
"	22.	C.C.O.C. Victorian Marathon Champ.	Werribee
Sept.	5.	C.C.O.C. 15 Miles Road Championship	Sandown
"	13.	Half Marathon "Watt Memorial"	Warragul
"	26.	Australian Marathon Championship	Werribee

\* \* \* \* \*

VICTORIAN MARATHON CLUB

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR PERIOD ENDING 31st JANUARY, 1970

<u>1968/69</u>	<u>RECEIPTS.</u>	<u>1968/69</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>1969/70</u>
\$671.75	Balance 31/1/69	\$605.13	Trophy Orders	\$199.09
158.50	Subscriptions	172.00	V.A.A.A. Affiliation Fee	15.00
- -	Subscriptions in advance	2.00	Hire of Hall, Dressing Rooms	24.90
267.80	Entry Fees for events	332.30	Stationery, Postage, Printing	140.30
22.90	Sale of Club Badges	3.10	Contribution to Members - A.A.U. Marathon - Hobart	- -
1.70	Donations	- -	Donation to "Australian Harrier"	- -
24.90	Bank Interest	23.33	Hire of Running Track	- -
1.00	Miscellaneous	1.50	Bank Charges	2.50
			Miscellaneous Expenses	35.80
			Miscellaneous Donations	10.00
			Competition Prize	10.00
			Cash at Bank	701.77
<u>\$1148.56</u>		<u>\$1139.36</u>		<u>\$1139.36</u>

VICTORIAN MARATHON CLUB

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31/1/70

<u>1968/69</u>	<u>LIABILITIES</u>	<u>1969/70</u>	<u>1968/69</u>	<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>1969/70</u>
40.00	Trophy Orders outstanding to 31/1/69	40.00	605.13	Cash at Bank	701.77
124.00	Trophy Orders outstanding to 31/1/70	104.00	23.30	V.M.C. Badges	20.45
1.00	Subscriptions paid in advance	2.00			
463.43	Accumulated Funds (Excess of Assets over Liabilities)	576.22			
<u>628.43</u>		<u>722.22</u>	<u>628.43</u>		<u>722.22</u>

VICTORIAN MARATHON CLUB EVENTS.

SEASON 1969/70

HANDICAPS.

FASTEST TIMES

<u>April 5th</u> <u>10 MILES</u> 69 Starters	1. Mal KIRKWOOD (10.30) 57.38 2. Ross LAUGHTON (20.00) 67.45 3. Neil McLENNAN ( 4.30) 52.24	Neil RYAN 51.27 Neil McLENNAN 52.24 Tom KELLY 52.53
<u>April 25th</u> <u>7½ M.</u> "COMRADES" 107 Starters	1. Kevin CUMMINS ( 9.30) 43.38 2. Mark VINES (11.00) 45.14 3. Ivan DAVIDSON ( 7.30) 41.45	Trevor VINCENT 36.59 Ian BLACKWOOD 37.20 Nail RYAN 37.42
<u>May 3rd</u> <u>15 Kilos.</u> 79 Starters	1. Wally SHEPPARD ( 9.30) 52.05 2. Kevin Solomon ( 8.30) 51.13 3. Don WOOD (10.30) 53.17	Neil RYAN 46.25 Ian WHEELER 46.58 Ian LEEDER 48.28
<u>June 16th</u> <u>20 Kilos</u> 81 Starters	1. Allan McDONALD (22.00) 76.40 2. George Wilson (43.00) 99.37 3. Ray SOLOMON ( 6.30) 64.06	Neil RYAN 62.15 Ray SOLOMON 64.06 Ian LEEDER 64.48
<u>June 28th</u> <u>20 Miles</u> 37 Starters	1. Doug OLIVER (29) 2.09.27 2. Martin THOMPSON (22) 2.02.33 3. Geoff HALL (17) 1.59.35	Neil RYAN (3 H) 1.47.23 Tom KELLY 1.53.05 Colin EATON 1.54.12
<u>July 26th</u> <u>MARATHON</u> 84 Starters	1. Tom DAVISON (45) 2.59.19 2. Allen JONES (60) 3.15.18 3. Ian LEEDER (11) 2.26.38	Neil RYAN 2.21.59 Terry PHELAN 2.23.03 Peter BRUCE 2.24.07
<u>Oct. 12th</u> <u>1 Hr. Run.</u> 14 Starters	1. Ian BLACKWOOD 11 M. 1428 Y. 2 ft. 2. David MARBURG 10 M. 1624 Y. 1 ft. 3. Ray WYATT 10 M. 1518 Y. 1 ft.	- 19 Kilos 006 Metres - 17 Kilos 576 Metres. - 17 Kilos 479 Metres.
<u>Nov. 3rd</u> <u>8 Kilos.</u> 49 Starters	1. Mike PORTER (12.30) 32.01 2. Noel ANDERSON (10.00) 30.20 3. John STAFFORD ( 6.10) 27.20	Kevin FALLOON 24.33 Barry CROCKER 24.39 Roger ELLIS 24.42
<u>Nov. 17th</u> <u>12 Kilos.</u> 57 Starters	1. Bruce SULLIVAN (7.00) 41.00 2. David JONES (7.45) 42.16 3. Wal ROBINSON (3.35) 38.26	Ron CLARKE 36.06 Kevin FALLOON 37.41 Tom KELLY 38.12
<u>Dec. 1st</u> <u>16 Kilos.</u> 45 Starters	1. Rod McKINNEY ( 7.10) 51.47 2. Terry JORGENSON (10.50) 55.33 3. Tom KELLY ( 4.35) 52.07 B 3. Mike HENNESSY (13.20) 60.52	Kevin FALLOON (3 H) 50.26 Rod McKINNEY 51.47 Wal ROBINSON 51.59
<u>Dec. 17th</u> <u>10,000 M.</u> <u>EMIL ZAROPEK</u> 50 Starters	1. Bob SCHICKERT ( 6.40) 33.57 2. Mark HENNESSY ( 6.00) 34.10 3. Neil McLENNAN ( 2.45) 30.59	Ron CLARKE 29.15.4 Ian BLACKWOOD 30.57 Neil McLENNAN 30.59
<u>MASTERS MILE</u> 14 Starters	1. Jim DAVY (0.15) 4.47 2. Mike O'NEILL (0.20) 4.52 3. Bill WARR (0.20) 4.53	Wal SHEPPARD 4.41.1 John DAVEY 4.47 Mike O'NEILL 4.52

OTHER OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES BY CLUB MEMBERS:-

<u>5 MILES C.C.C.</u>	<u>10 MILES C.C.C.</u>	<u>10 MILES ROAD</u>	<u>15 MILES ROAD.</u>
3 Ian BLACKWOOD	1 Ron CLARKE	1 Ron CLARKE	3 Neil RYAN
4 Ray WHITE	2 Peter GALLAGHER	4 Trevor VINCENT	5 Rod McKINNEY
6 Peter GALLAGHER	3 Ray WHITE	5 Ian BLACKWOOD	6 Trevor VINCENT
8 Trevor VINCENT	<u>UNDER 19</u>	6 Barry CROCKER	7 Tom KELLY
9 Neil RYAN	2 Ian MINTER	7 Neil RYAN	8 Peter BRUCE
<u>UNDER 17</u>	<u>UNDER 17</u>	8 Peter GALLAGHER	9 Ian MINTER
1 Mike McINERNEY	1 Mike McINERNEY	10 Kevin FALLOON	10 Ray WHITE

RACE CONDITIONS OF THE VICTORIAN MARATHON CLUB.

The V.M.C. Constitution, Paragraph 17 - Race Rules:

- (a) Entries for all Marathon and Track Races conducted by the Club must be lodged at the office of the Victorian Amateur Athletic Association on the official Association Entry Form at least seven (7) days prior to the race, such form to be clearly endorsed "V.M.C."
- (b) Entries for all other Club events shall be made verbally and shall close thirty (30) minutes prior to the advertised starting time of the event, provided that later entries may be accepted for scratch purposes. It shall be at the discretion of the handicapper whether or not to allot a handicap in any such case.
- (c) Each competitor in a track race shall provide one person to act as an official under the direction of the Manager of the race.
- (d) In road events competitors must run on the side of the road against oncoming traffic unless the official in charge of the race shall decide to the contrary and cause such decision to be conveyed to the competitors before the start of the race.

Paragraph 18:

Any member who wins a race for which a trophy is awarded may hold such trophy during the following year, but he shall return same to the secretary prior to the date of the next running of the race for which the trophy is awarded.

Trophy Prizes: (In \$ Aust.)

	<u>Hand.</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>- 2nd</u>	<u>- 3rd</u>	<u>Fastest</u>	<u>- 2nd</u>	<u>- 3rd</u>	<u>1st Vet.</u>
1. VMC MARATHON	8	5	3	10	6	3	5	
2. 20M. "KING OF THE MOUNTAIN"	6	4	2	6	-	-	-	
3. 10,000 M. "EMIL ZATOPEK"	6	4	2	6	-	-	-	
4. 15 Kilos.	5	3	2	5	-	-	3	
5. All Other Events	5	3	2	5	-	-	-	

Where perpetual trophies are presented to the winner, the recipient will be photographed with the trophy and a suitable print given to the holder. The print is to be endorsed by the signatures of two members of the V.M.C. Executive.

The age limit for the determination of the term "Veteran" shall be forty (40) years on the day of competition or such age as the V.A.A.A. may determine from time to time.

All members may wear a plain VMC Club Badge (50¢)  
Those who have completed a Marathon in 3.30 or better may add a star.  
Those who have timed inside 2.50 may add two stars.

Members having broken the 2.30 limit are entitled to wear the VMC Badge with Laurel Wreath (60¢)

Stars must be of white material, have five points and must not exceed the diameter of a 5¢ piece.

They are to be attached below the letters of the badge

17/12/69. V.M.C. 10,000 METRES "E MIL ZATPEK" TRACK. YARRA PARK.

50 Starters. Weather - warm and sunny. Track - heavy from watering.

PL.	NAME	Handicap	Actual Time	Handicap	Place.
1.	RONALD CLARKE	Scratch	29.15.4		9
2.	IAN BLACKWOOD	0.30	30.57		21
3.	NEIL McLENNAN	2.45	30.59		4
4.	KEVIN FALLOON	1.30	31.04		11
5.	ROGER ELLIS	2.10	31.16		6
6.	JOHN STANLEY	2.05	31.38		10
7.	TOM KELLY	3.00	31.49		5
8.	ROD McKINNEY	2.10	32.06		13
9.	JIM CRAWFORD	3.10	32.20		7
10.	MAX SHILLIT	-	33.15		-
11.	TERRY HARRISON	2.55	33.20	E	19
12.	FRED HOWE	4.15	33.26		8
13.	MIKE HUBBERT	3.40	33.55		16
14.	BOB SCHICKERT	6.40	33.57		1
15.	MARK HENNESSY	6.00	34.10		3
16.	IAN GASKELL	3.50	34.33		24
17.	PHIL LEAR	4.40	34.54		15
18.	STEPHEN O'CONNOR	4.00	35.00		26
19.	BRUCE HICKS	3.23	35.30		29
20.	DAVID JONES	6.00	35.55		12
21.	BARRY SAWYER	2.10	36.15		31
22.	BRIAN McINERNEY	-	36.28		-
23.	RON DEWHURST	-	36.35		-
24.	MIKE O'RYAN	6.15	36.37		18
25.	DES WHITE	6.35	36.43		14
26.	KEVIN SKELTON	5.25	36.51		28
27.	KEVIN CUMMINS	6.20	36.56		23
28.	SAM HILDITCH	6.40	37.05	E	19
29.	MIKE CUMMINS	6.45	37.31		25
30.	MATTHEW VEALE	10.00	37.44		2 N.F.
31.	ALAN McDONALD	7.00	38.04		27
32.	TOM DAVISON	7.30	38.04		22
33.	JOHN DUCK	-	38.16		-
34.	PAUL DUCK	8.00	38.20		17
35.	JOHN HARDIE	-	41.47		-
36.	MIKE PORTER	11.10	44.51		30

DID NOT FINISH:- N. GRAY J. SMITH G. ELLIS J. CASEY  
R. WHITE P. BRUCE D. OLIVER W. ROGERS  
T. PHELAN R. THOMAS D. McCLURE M. KIRKLAND  
K. SANDERSON A. HICKS

VETERAN 1 MILE

1.	WALLY SHEPPARD	Scratch	4.41.1		10
2.	JIM DAVY	0.15	4.47.0	D	1
3.	MIKE O'NEILL	0.20	4.52.0	E	1
4.	BILL WARR	0.20	4.53.0	E	3
5.	KEITH ROUTLEY	0.25	4.59.0	E	5
6.	JOHN POTTAGE	0.30	5.06.0		7
7.	JACK DIBBS	0.45	5.19.0	E	5
8.	NOEL ANDERSON	0.40	5.23.0		11
9.	ALF O'CONNOR	0.50	5.29.0		9
10.	ALAN JONES	1.00	5.37.0		8
11.	HORRY WARD	1.20	5.53.0	E	3 N.F.
12.	BERT PHILLIPS	1.50	6.48.0		13
13.	GEORGE WILSON	2.10	7.07.0		12
14.	GEORGE SIMPSON	2.30	7.47.0		14

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(Trotting is not fast enough)by MIKE HUBBERT.

In early November last year four long distance runners set off on a world tour which will probably take them three to four years.

Neil Ryan, John Claxton and David Locke, all of the Richmond Harriers, and Mal Cother of E.M.H. drove across the Nullabor to Perth where they caught a ship to Singapore - their first foreign port of call. They soon settled down to solid training - Neil and Dave running 50 miles per week and the four of them cycling 12 to 15 miles per day on newly purchased bicycles.

A  $5\frac{1}{4}$  miles cross country race held near the R.A.F. Base in Singapore attracted 60 starters. Neil Ryan won it easily in 27.25.0. Second place went to Dave Locke in 28.40.0 - the local athletes followed them in and somewhere back in the field were Mal Cother and John Claxton.

On December 21st, David travelled to Ipoh, 100 miles north of Kuala Lumpur, for a 5 miles cross country ( it was actually  $3\frac{3}{4}$  miles) The field was a mixed lot - men, women, children, veterans all together, and 120 of them were sent on their way. Dave spreadeagled the field to win in 20.18.0, second was local runner M. Sivaji Krishnan. The wife of the Perak Sports Council - President Dato Haji Kamaruddin Mahomed Isa, presented Dave with an enormous trophy before he left to return to Singapore.

From Singapore they travelled "deck class" on a freighter to Hong Kong and apparently the trip was rough.

On January 11th, the 24th Annual International Harrier Road Race was held in Hong Kong. The course was flat except for a very steep half mile hill and then  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of undulating road round the side of the mountain. Total length was  $9\frac{1}{2}$  miles. The race started at 8.a.m., and 162 runners were sent on their way followed by a truck-load of officials, press photographers and T.V. men. More officials rode back and forth on motor bikes and scooter bikes. Traffic was held up by police all along the route. Each runner wore a cloth number with a passport photo stapled to it.

Neil Ryan soon cleared out from the rest of the field and won easily in 48.10.6. Dave Locke was second in 49.50.0 and further back were Mal Cother (44th) in 62.05 and John Claxton (53rd) in 63.10. Neil and Dave received a great reception from Press and T.V. and were presented with two cups and a bagfull of Chinese Medicines.

Two days later the four travellers left Hong Kong on another freighter bound for Keelung. When they docked the sight of two large trophies and the bicycles was too much for waiting Press-men who swooped in search of a story. The trophies were also instrumental in getting them through Customs in record time - "You runner? - O.K., you pass"

Neil Ryan decided it was time to get down to some serious training so he left the other three in Keelung, took a train to Taipeh and then flew to Tokyo. Here again the trophy speeded his passage through Customs. It seems that athletes are recognised for their true worth in the Orient. Neil is now staying in Tokyo with Masaaki Usui, who ran with Richmond when he was in Melbourne last year. Both are training quite hard in the gardens of the Imperial Palace despite the snow.

Dave, Mal and John spent a week cycling through Taiwan, then flew to Fukuoka in Southern Japan. They will spend a few weeks cycling slowly towards Tokyo where they will meet up with Neil and Masaaki.

February 1st, 1970.

In view of the general agitation caused throughout the sporting world whenever South Africa becomes involved and the recent publicity to the debate over the invitation from Victoria to specified South African athletes, the following information is placed before our members.

Thursday morning, December 18th, 1969, the Melbourne morning papers carried the first announcement that a team of athletes had been officially invited from South Africa through the V.A.A.A. Executive and the invitation passed on for the A.A.U's approval. It was stated that Ron Clarke had been instrumental in this by sounding out the position on a recent visit to South Africa and through having the approval of his club, Glenhuntly A.A.C.

With the holiday period getting into swing and the next V.A.A.A. Council Meeting not due until Wednesday, 14th January, 1970, very little could be gauged as to the feeling among athletes on this matter. However, the whole period already from early December on had been agitated through the warning by British Commonwealth Games official Sandy Duncan's statement that the swimming visit by the Australian Swimming Union was likely to jeopardise Melbourne's application for the following Games. In view of the fact that of the 32 countries entered for the B.C.G. at Edinburgh, 21 will be largely non-European, or 'colored'; the sending of an Australian Swimming Team to South Africa which by law prohibits social association between different races would have some serious repercussions on the relations between countries of the British Commonwealth (London Despatch - 8/1/70)

Prior to the V.A.A.A. Council Meeting in January, Ken Taggart, Records Officer of the Association, submitted a letter of resignation to the V.A.A.A. on the grounds of finding it morally against his principles to be associated with any move to have relations with South Africa while the doctrine of Apartheid was in force.

At the Council Meeting itself, on the motion to support the action of the Executive in inviting 2 white and 2 black athletes from South Africa, a vigorous debate took place. It was significant that not a single member of the Executive indicated any disapproval of the action, the motion being finally endorsed with only five votes against. Your secretary, Fred Lester, directed that his dissent be recorded in the minutes.

In brief, the two main lines of argument are as follows:

FOR. To bring two colored and two white athletes here would mean a break in the policy of strict separation of the races and enforcement of Apartheid. We must keep politics out of sport, hence it does not matter what attitudes or politics exist inside South Africa affecting sport, we must ignore them. We cannot hold the sportsmen of a country responsible for the policies of its Government - they have to abide by the laws of the land.

AGAINST. Charter of the Olympic Games - Fundamental Principles:

1. No discrimination is allowed against any country or person on grounds of colour, religion or politics.

Constitution - I.A.A.F. Rule 3 - Objects:

1. To establish friendly and loyal co-operation between all Members for the benefit of amateur athletics throughout the world.
2. To strive to ensure that no racial, religious, political or other kind of discrimination be allowed in athletics and to take all necessary measures to stop such discrimination.
3. To strive to secure that there shall be no hindrance to the participation of any country or individual in international athletic competition on racial, religious or political grounds.

Association with any sporting body contravening the basic principles of non-discrimination in sport implies acquiescence to such mal-practice.

Part of Editorial, The Australian, 30th January, 1970.

"Keep politics out of Sport" is the catchcry the South African Government and its apologists have used every time they put politics into it.

South Africa's refusal to grant a visa to the American Negro tennis player Arthur Ashe has surely brought the hypocrisy of this plea to such heights that it can never be used again.

In making its political decision to ban Ashe from the South African Tennis Championships, Pretoria used the excuse that he made political statements criticising Racism. It is true that as a Negro and a sportsman, Ashe has in the past said he thought it wrong that black athletes should be excluded from South Africa because of their colour. He could hardly say less.

Editor's Comment

I have made my attitude on this question quite clear in letters to the press, articles to Australian Harrier, my resignation from official V.A.A.A. positions until the invitations were withdrawn and I do not intend to add anything at this stage.

I feel that it is most important for all Sportsmen, no matter what their ability or official capacity, to consider this very serious question which is so fundamental to the well being of our sport and proper relations between people in any walk of life.

It is vital to the development of individuals themselves that they express and formulate opinions on any subject which affects their activities and livelihood and test these opinions so gained in the practice of their daily lives with other people.

All members and readers of the V.M.C. Newsletter are invited to discuss and express opinions on this or any other subject pertaining to sport and of general interest to others.

Fred Lester.

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The Editor, V.M.C. Newsletter.

February 8th, 1970

Dear Sir,

Although the proposed visit by a multi-racial team of athletes from South Africa will not now come off, I would like to make my position clear.

In his New Year's message to the nation, the South African Prime Minister, Mr. Vorster, warned sports administrators that the idea of sending multi-racial sports teams on overseas tours would get South Africa nowhere. Some sports had proposed "on merit" touring teams as a way to buy time for South Africa in international sport. It was thought that Mr. Vorster may accept the idea, although he would not condone mixed selection trials. However his New Year speech and the obvious embarrassment of the South African A.A.U. at our invitation, appears to put an end to any hopes for multi-racial teams in the foreseeable future.

In view of Mr. Vorster's attitude to multi-racial teams, it seems clear to me that our invitation for a team of two whites and two coloreds did in no way condone his apartheid policy, in fact it was a very pointed indication to South Africa that Australian athletes abhor the policy which separates coloreds from whites in sport.

For this reason I wholeheartedly supported our invitation for a multi-racial team from South Africa, and I would seriously suggest that we continue to send similar invitations at regular intervals during the next few years. South African sports administrators need as much evidence as they can get that mixed competition is the only hope for South African sport in the future, and invitations for multi-racial teams only will help them in their efforts to convince the Government.

Yours in sport.

MIKE HUBBERT.

COMBINED FIXTURE LIST FOR WINTER 1970

April	4	8 Hours Relay	BOX HILL	
"	11	V.M.C. - 10 MILES -	PRINCES PARK -	2.30.P.M.
"	18	V.A.A.A. Cross Country Opening Run -	Flemington -	2.30.P.M.
"	25	V.M.C. - 7½ MILES "FALLEN COMRADES" -	DOMAIN -	2.30.P.M.
May	2	V.A.A.A. - 5000 Metres Open - Veterans -	Clifton Hill -	2.30.P.M.
			and Under 19.	
"	3	V.M.C. - 15 KILOMETRES -	ALBERT PARK. (Sunday)	2.30.P.M.
"	10	Monash Relays -	Yallourn	
"	16	V.A.A.A. Interclub Relays -	Sandown -	2.30.P.M.
"	23	V.M.C. - 25 KILOMETRES -	ALBERT PARK -	2.30.P.M.
"	30	V.A.A.A. - 5 Miles Open - Under 17 -	Bundoora	2.30.P.M.
June	6	Traralgon -	MARATHON	
"	13	Tasmanian 10000 Metres C.C.C. -	Launceston	
"	15	V.M.C. - 20 KILOMETRES -	ALBERT PARK.	2.30.P.M.
"	20	V.A.A.A. - 10000 Metres C.C.C. -	Cranbourne	
			Under 17. 5000 Metres	
			South Australian 5 Miles C.C.C.	
"	27	V.M.C. - 20 MILES -	KING OF THE MOUNTAINS -	
			POINT LEO.	1.30.P.M.
"	28	Power House to Somers Relay		
July	4	V.A.A.A. - 10 Miles C.C.C. - Under 19 5 Miles,	Sunbury	2.30.P.M.
"	11	Eaglehawk to Bendigo, 4 Miles Handicap & Teams.		3.00.P.M.
"	18	V.A.A.A. - 10000 Metres Road Championship &	4 Miles Veterans, Flemington	2.30.P.M.
		South Australian 10000 Metres C.C.C.		
		Hobart Mountain Relay (4 per team, 6 X 1 M.	stages per runner.)	
"	25	V.M.C. - MARATHON -	TYABB	1.00.P.M.
Aug	1	Schoolboys C.C.C. -	Coburg	2.00.P.M.
"	2	100 Miles Relay -	Prince Henry's Hospital	
"	8	V.A.A.A. 10 Miles Road Champ. -	Fishermen's Bend	2.30.P.M.
"	15	Victorian Country Marathon -	Bendigo	1.00.P.M.
		South Australian Marathon		
"	22	V.A.A.A. - MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIP -	WERRIBEE	1.30.P.M.
		Tasmanian MARATHON -	Devonport	
"	29	20 Kilometres Road Race -	Warrnambool	
Sept.	5	V.A.A.A. - 15 Miles Road Champ. -	Sandown	2.30.P.M.
		South Australian 10 Miles Championship.		
"	13	"Geoff Watt" Half Marathon -	Warragul	
"	26	A.A.U. - AUSTRALIAN MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIP.	WERRIBEE.	1.30.P.M.
Oct.	11	V.M.C. - 1 HOUR RUN - 4 MILES SENIOR -	2 MILES JUNIOR - TEAMS RACES -	DOLOMORE 2.00.P.M.

Members are asked to make every effort to attend one hour prior to the advertised starting time and to check in their entry immediately on arrival to ensure that our races start on time every time.

Please observe our rule that entries for the MARATHON AND THE RACES AT DOLOMORE OVAL are sent in at least one week earlier.

If at all possible let us know two or three weeks earlier.

Remember too that you must bring along one other person to assist in an official capacity in the conduct of the meetings.

ODDS AND ENDS AND RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM FREDDIE LESTER

It came as a tremendous shock to all our Marathon followers to learn of the untimely death of REX FOULKES in a road accident.

It appears that Rex was returning after spending his weekend, February 28th/ March 1st, as usual with athletic friends in Canberra. About one hour after leaving at 4.30.p.m. he was driving across a narrow bridge when a fast travelling car entered from the opposite direction and swung wide and gave Rex no chance of avoiding the collision.

Rex had already made arrangements to return to England for six months, to see his mother and run in events all over Britain and take in the Edinburgh Games. He had already bought plane tickets and anticipated leaving in about six weeks time.

We of the V.M.C. extend our sympathies to his relatives and to his friends in Canberra athletic circles, where he had many friends. As for ourselves we shall miss his cheerful countenance that bobbed up on many unexpected and expected occasions. He was very welcome wherever he went.

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Had an enthusiastic letter from LES LINSSELL, who sent \$3 for three years subscription to the V.M.C. from Tassie as the result of receiving the last V.M.C. Newsletter. He supplied the fixtures from the Tassie calender and urges the "mainlanders" to have a go at the Mountrin Relay up and down Mount Wellington. Each of the four members of a team has to do three one mile stretches on the way up and three more on the way down. Les reckons this may well be the only opportunity ever for some blokes to break the 4 minute barrier.

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Letter to the Editor, V.M.C. Newsletter. Extract. Feb. 4th, 1970.

Dear Sir,

John Farrington represented Australia in the International Marathon held in Hongkong recently. The following is an extract from a letter I received from David Locke, who is touring through Asia:

" Farrington disliked by local (Hongkong) athletes - complained that printed results were 2 seconds out on his stopwatched time - walked out of reception meal held the same evening- weather was perfect but he complained of the heat - he also did not like the other runners sitting on him for 20 miles, before the Korean took off and left him. Not a good sportsman nor diplomat, our John."

Yours in sport,  
Mike Hubbert.

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Had a good look at the "sit-in" at the recent Victorian Track and Field Championships. No wonder the quality is thin at the top when so few of the aspiring champions showed any aggression at all. GRAEME CROUCH is one of these few and he sure reaps the dividends. As for the rest, is that a new gimmick to run on your heels or are you only after failing your Army Medical?

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Noted that the new Olympic Park track is now a metric 400 metres circuit. This was done very quietly and unobtrusively after various spurious arguments against the switch had prevented the V.A.A.A. from falling into line with international practice three or four years ago. Can't help wondering how much less British this is going to make us, Mr. Patching?

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MORE IMPORTANT NEW SOUTH WALES FIXTURES.

May 16.	10 Kilometres	Scarborough.	1.30.p.m.
" 23.	Country Marathon	Newcastle	1.00.p.m.
June 13	"R.G.Menzies" 7½ Miles	Canberra	2.00.p.m.
July 7	10 Kilometres Championship	Macquarie University	1.00.p.m.
Aug. 22	Marathon Championship	Randwick-Botany	1.30.p.m.

GLIMPSES OF THE 1970 VICTORIAN TITLE RACES. From FRED LESTER.

Due to the relaying of the Olympic Park track with a new bitumenous running surface (and incidentally making it Olympic Standard, i.e. metric size) the Championships were transferred to the Sandringham Club track at Hampton, which has an excellent cinder based grass circuit. For the first time two consecutive weekends with two full afternoons to contain heats and finals for Seniors, Juniors and Sub-Juniors were used. This worked very well with possibly more consideration having to be given to holding some of the preliminary rounds in the middle distance events during the morning to give competitors more rest. There is little doubt that times in the finals tended to suffer under the schedule used this time.

Outstanding performances of the first day were: GREG CARTER'S 7.15.3 win in the Sub-Junior Mile Walk with NEIL CROKER AND BARRY LARCHIN neck and neck for next position in 7.18.3. - A. EVANS outclassing the other juniors in the Discus with 160'6".

A firm headwind in the straight, gusting up to 7 Met. per second, blew on the second day, but that was hardly excuse enough for the waiting game played in the middle distance events. The senior field jogged around the first circuit in 59.6 for RALPH DOUBELL to waltz away at his leisure. The most interesting aspect was MIKE GERAGHTY snatching third place over several other fancied runners. The huge gap between RON CLARKE and the rest in the 3 miles merely underlined the extent to which distance running on the track has deteriorated in Victoria, a feature even more clearly demonstrated during the week when RON CLARKE took the 6 miles title by almost a full minute.

PETER NORMAN, GREG LEWIS and GARY EDDY provided the fireworks in the heats and final of the 220, eventually finishing in that order into a 7 metres head wind with times of 22.3; 22.4; and 22.4.

Conditions on the third day on Saturday, February 28th were much more pleasant, but contestants in the heats of the mile and steeplechase were obviously trying to save every ounce of energy for the next day, which made it a lean day for spectators. It was great to see GRAEME GLEDHILL back after a serious injury and run fifth in the first heat of the mile. This however did not earn him a place in the final.

The fourth and final day was another excellent day for good times until a firm wind sprang up midway through the afternoon. GARY EDDY whirled down the track for a 9.5 100 Yards Semi-Final. IAN BLACKWOOD, not quite as fit as he would like, tried to steal the 3000 Metres Steeplechase, but was caught easily by the slower starting ROSS HAYWOOD, with GEOFF WALKER, a former Australian Titleholder, storming past Ian in the last few yards. Times were: 9.01.0; 9.07.2 and 9.07.4. Noteable were the next places: IAN MINTER, 9.12.0., D. HORN, 9.17.2., and E. COYLE, 9.20.8., all personal bests.

The 2 Miles Walk was kept at pressure all the way by GRAEME NICHOLLS, who managed to draw away from NOEL FREEMAN towards the end, having shaken off all other pursuers a few laps earlier. It was great to see TED ALLSOPP take third place in a major championship again after his two decades at the top. Times of the placegetters were - 13.41.2., 13.45.2., and 14.30.6.

It was a tight field that swept over the line in the 100 yards - GREG LEWIS JUST SHADED GARY EDDY, both timed at 9.6., LAURIE FANSHAW next in 9.8 from GARY HOLDSWORTH, PETER NORMAN and GRAHAM HASKELL.

A 440 field with the winner B. MOORE home in 48.1 did little to encourage any national title hopes.

The mile was almost an anti-climax as an unwilling BOB FALCONER was left in the lead for the first two laps while the field kept jostling each other in close formation. Down the straight in the third lap GEOFF CROUCH came to life and drew TREVOR VINCENT AND TONY BENSON with him, although Falconer kept fighting back and GRAEME THOMPSON was also still in it. 3.14 at the bell and it was a furious battle around the last circuit, although Crouch appeared to have just enough to stave off any last ditch attack. 4.09.6., 4.11.5., and 4.12.4 for the first three home was a poor reward for a largely tactical race.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TITLES - From AMOR NOWELL.

Some of the boys have really improved this year. The standard in depth especially with eight athletes under 15 minutes for 5000 Metres. Let's see if any of them can improve more in the coming Nationals.

KERRY O'BRIEN slashed more than 5 seconds off the previous 5000 Metres Record with 13.46. B. NORMAN, 14.29, and MIKE BUTLER, 14.45.6 were next. This in the week after Kerry's 10,000 Metres record of 28.47.4. The order after him was: B. NORMAN, 30.47. ., M. BUTLER, 31.16. , R. WOITTELL, 31.28. B. CHAPMAN, 31.36., J. WILLIAMS, 31.42., and W. JAMES 32.15.

CHRIS FISHER, 1.50.6 scored in the 800 metres from CHRIS WOODS, 1.51.3, and KEVIN FRANCIS, 1.51.8., looking in command all the way.

While ALAN BRADSHAW took the short sprint, clubmate DAVID STOKES wrested the 200 Metres title from him by a whisker, both runners timed in 21.6, the fastest in Adelaide this season.

Junior hurdlers in the 400 metres race smashed the South Australian Junior Record, STEVE CASEY by 1.7 seconds by clocking 54.5, with ADAM PEDLER 54.6 in a very tight finish.

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AMERICAN NEWS ON AUSSIE PERFORMANCES. From LAURIE HILL

Letter from Wayne Vandenburg to Laurie contained the following items:

ROD HILL - suffering recurring bronchitis troubles nevertheless had marks of 1.52.1 on way to 2.09.9 for 1000 yards, a 4.03.4 mile after running 4.12.4 the night before and travelling 2000 miles to the next meet. Wayne forecasts approximately 1.49 and 3.59 for Rod in the coming season, barring illness and injury.

KERRY PEARCE - at present suffering Achilles troubles, is down a little on his 1968 bests in the mile, but has outdoor 8.35.6 for 2 miles and 13.23.1 for 3 miles as well as an 8.44 steeplechase. His best 1970 performance so far in an indoor 8.39.4 for 2 miles.

KEN BREEN - has marks of 8.44.6 for 2 miles indoors and 13.43 for 3 miles and 28.51.2 for 6 miles as well as 8.54.6 for the Steeplechase.

BOB WALCZAK - has a 4.14.2 indoors and a 1.55; also a 9.31 Steeplechase.

BOB CROWE - is expected by wayny to time 13.50 and 28.45 for the 3 and 6 miles this year, and 8.55 for the Steeplechase.

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POOR SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS.

The two night meetings held in Melbourne, organised once again by the International Athletes Club and Glenhuntly A. A. C. were dogged by poor weather and even poorer attendances for such a line-up of stars. Final figures are sure to show a substantial loss. The relaying of the Olympic Park track caused a postponement in the first place, and the weather was cold and windy most of the time, although at the actual time of competition conditions improved to being quite reasonable.

McGRADY, CARLOS and GREEN showed what great class sprinters they are, the first named is a particularly graceful mover. BOB SEAGREN was obviously either not in form or hampered by injury, but gave an object lesson in how to attack the Pole Vault. It appears that LAWRIE PECKHAM also has a few prepared to follow his approach to jumping also.

The RON CLARKE - KERRY O'BRIEN 5000 Metres duel was a beauty while it lasted, and Ron was not disgraced when he finally wilted under Kerry's sustained aggression. RALPH DOUBELL sure looks supreme among the shorter middle distance men, but NOEL CLOUGH looks to be coming back into calculations, while GRAEME CROUCH is one who will be in hot contention before very long.

The meetings were very well run and the excellent announcing and commentary, mainly through DAVE PRINCE, was something some of the other athletic bodies could well copy.

It is good for the spectators to know what goes on, to have something said about the peoply competing (past performances, titles held, experiance, etc.) and to be told who is who while a race is in progress.