



Victorian Athletic League Inc.

AGENDA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SEASON 2005 - 2006

SUNDAY JULY 30 2006

**QUALITY HOTEL
265 MICKLEHAM RD
TULLAMARINE 3043**

Commencing at 10.00 am

For a 10.30 Start



Victorian Athletic League Inc.

- 1 **Opening and Welcome**
- 2 **Voting Eligibility**
- 3 **Apologies and Attendance**
- 4 **Acceptance of 2005 Minutes**
- 5 **Copy of the 2005 Minutes**
- 6 **Reports**
 - 6.1 **President's Report**
 - 6.2 **Chief Stewards Report**
 - 6.3 **Sprint Handicappers Report**
 - 6.4 **Distance Handicappers Report**
 - 6.5 **Chief Executive Officers Report**
- 7 **Constitutional Motions**
Life Membership Award
- 8 **Vale**
- 9 **Presentation of Awards**
- 10 **Election of Directors**
- 11 **Calendar**
- 12 **General Business**
Women's/Veterans Races
Novice 1600 Races
- 13 **Finance Reports**
- 14 **Forum**
- 15 **Lunch**



Victorian Athletic League Inc.

1 OPENING AND WELCOME

2 VOTING ELIGIBILITY

ARARAT, BALLARAT, BURRAMINE, BENDIGO,
DANDENONG, DAYLESFORD, GEELONG, KEILOR,
MARYBOROUGH, MITCHELL SHIRE, NORTHCOTE,
NOBLE PARK, RINGWOOD, RYE, SANDRINGHAM,
STAWELL, ST BERNARDS, VRTA, WANGARATTA,
WAVERLEY

3 APOLOGIES AND ATTENDANCES

Apologies - John Holloway, Frances Connell, Pat Connell, Bernie Comerford, Rod Mathews

4 ACCEPTANCE OF 2005 MINUTES

A copy of those minutes is included in this document for your information.



Victorian Athletic League Inc.

Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting Held at Quality Hotel 265 Mickleham Rd Tullamarine

1 Opening and Welcome

Meeting opened at 10.30am

2 Voting Eligibility

Burramine, Wangaratta, Northcote, Ballarat, Ararat, Bendigo, Sandringham, Ringwood, St Bernard's, Keilor, Geelong, Stawell, Dandenong, Rye, Noble Park, VRTA, Maryborough, Mitchell Shire

3 Apologies and Attendance

Present

Henry Gunstone	Ararat	Peter Emerson	Ballarat
Steve Hocking	Bendigo	Peter Lawless	Burramine
Frances Connell	Burramine	Pat Connell	Burramine
Carol Lawless	Burramine	John Crichton	Dandenong
Adrian Tinetti	Daylesford	George Underwood	Geelong
Antony Mahony	Keilor	Max Martin	Maryborough
Robert Gordon	Mitchell Shire	Bill Sutton	Noble Park
Rick Dunbar	Northcote	Bob Woodbridge	Ringwood
Brian Morgan	Ringwood	William Meechan	Rye
Bob Wishart	Sandringham	Rupert Arnold	Sandringham
Peter O'Connor	St Bernard's	Peter Donovan	Stawell
Mark Baxter	Waverley	Darren McGee	Waverley
Wally Pasquali	VRTA	Andrew Muhlhan	VRTA
Terry O'Donnell	Handicapper	Rick Trusler	Chief Steward
Matthew Webster	Starter	George Flack	President
Graeme Ireland	Vice President	Sue Dunbar	Director
James King	Director	George Underwood	Director
Keith Douglas	Director	Brian Marantelli	Director
Wally Meechan	Director	Frances McDonald	VAL
Mark Howard	VAL	Jim Bradley	Observer
Noel Rexter	Observer	John Henry	Observer



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Apologies

John Holloway	Steward	Greg O'Keefe	Wangaratta
Peter O'Dwyer	Ballarat	Rod Matthews	Ballarat
Ian Marchesi	Northcote	Kevin Seers	Handicapper
Paul Connolly	VRTA	Hugh Peucker	Rye

Apologies Accepted

Moved Sandringham **Seconded** Northcote

Carried

Acceptance of 2003/04 Minutes

Moved Mitchell Shire **Seconded** Northcote

Carried

Reports

George Flack read through Report 6.1, the president's report - he then explained all events from the past twelve months. This related to George being elected as president and chair, the board meetings being held all over the state, the VAL's loss turned into a profit, athlete registrations and entry fees and he also discussed the direction in which he envisages the sport to head in.

Reports 6.2 Chief Stewards, 6.3 Sprint Handicappers, 6.4 Distance Handicapper and 6.5 Administrators Report were tabled and acknowledged by the Chair.

Moved Bendigo **Seconded** Northcote

Carried

Constitutional Motions

There were no Constitutional Motions put forward

Vale

Lou Salvas, Bill (W.X) O'Brien, Leo Hicks, Bill Bond, Bob Beel, Garry Pell, Jim Hayes, Trevor McRostie, Col Plozza, Thomas Andrew Kettle, John Decoyt (Sn) George Nuiney

A minutes silence was observed to remember those lives and their contribution to our sport.



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Presentation of Awards

A certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Chris Padgham for his contribution to the sport over the past ten years

Election of Directors

The nominations for the board were Noel Rexter and Michael Kelly. Three reinstatements to the board were elected unopposed - They were George Flack, Sue Dunbar and Brian Marantelli. There were no more nominations to the board.

Moved

Bendigo

Seconded

Ballarat

Calendar

Ringwood expressed their disappointment at the date they have been allocated with due to having their meeting the day after Rye. It was noted that Rye always have their meeting on the second Saturday of the year and Ringwood always have their meeting on the third Sunday of the year. Unfortunately this year both those days and dates are on the same weekend, this only occurs once in every twelve years and due to both clubs securing their grounds for those dates a clash has occurred and cannot be prevented.

Max Martin from Maryborough explained why they have moved their meeting date to the 2nd January 2006. The advantages to the Club are that they will not clash with the meeting at Burnie in Tasmania and they will possibly attract more athletes due to Public Holiday on the Monday.

Peter Emerson wanted to change its closing date but it was agreed to leave it as it is.

General Business

Program of Events

Max Martin from Maryborough mentioned the problems associated with the programs being sent from the office. It was agreed that the administrator will advise all clubs what format the disk will be put in.

Bill Sutton - enquired about the rules to the payment of Heat winners and Semi-Finalist. It was noted that all eliminated Semi-Finalists of the main event of the program must be payed prizemoney.

Peter Emerson from Ballarat mentioned the entry fee structure - The chair acknowledged Peters comments but the entry fee structure has been discussed in board meetings and will remain the same for the next season as the system is fair for both the clubs and the VAL.



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General Business

Kevin Seers was recognised for his efforts with the VAL over the past 40 years as an official and a runner. It was noted that he will be moving interstate in the near future and is unable to take up his position as a handicapper for the upcoming season.

Life Membership Award

The VAL awarded Life Membership to Frances Connell

Close of Meeting

Meeting Closed at 11.50am



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6 REPORTS

- 6.1 President's Report**
- 6.2 Chief Stewards Report**
- 6.3 Sprint Handicappers Report**
- 6.4 Distance Handicappers Report**
- 6.5 Chief Executive Officers Report**

6.1 President's Report

In presenting this my second report as President and Chair of the Victorian Athletic League Inc (VAL) may I say that my Board has been most diligent in carrying out its tasks throughout its second most difficult year in the VAL's long history of administering professional athletics in this State.

Personally, I had to contend with a dying mother-in-law and her subsequent death at Christmas with the ensuing finalization of her estate over the past 6 months. She endured a lot during her 40 months of illness suffering ovarian cancer as did ourselves from a different viewpoint. We had the tyranny of distance – Bendigo/Geelong/St Leonard's, the only daughter (my wife) in the State, and the only son living in NZ. So much of the brunt fell on our shoulders.

With the hard work of Graeme Ireland and the Board with Mark Howard's full support I was able to devote more time to assist my wife throughout this ordeal.

My special thanks goes to each and every one of my Board and Mark for handling all the tasks most professionally, diligently and with every employee, volunteer, member's and VRTA's views in mind.

Your Board has seen Athlete Registrations of 713 throughout the 05/06 year compared to 726 in the previous year.

The 05/06 season ended with the conclusion of the 125th Stawell Gift with Adrian Mott winning from 7.25m congratulations Adrian. In the lead-up to this great sporting event some quite immature antics were experienced by Mark and various Board members – much to my disgust and that of your Board. Considerable time and effort goes into making sure all decisions of the Board are adopted in a totally professional manner. We also expect others to be the same.



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Whilst the season was interrupted by the Commonwealth Games during March it provided some re-jigging of race meetings – for example Burramine on 2nd March instead of the usual near St Patrick’s Day. It was my first meeting that I had the chance to attend following my mother-in-law’s death and always provides many happy memories for myself winning the 1600m in 1980 there.

In the 05/06 year Registered Athletes were required to supply “Proof of Age” to enable a one-off data collection of this information for age-based events. I thank everyone for taking this into account as it has enabled the Board to ensure the accuracy of our records and correct race entry verification for age-based events.

Your Board embarked on the upgrading of its trailer to a purpose-built van enabling greater security and weather-proofing of valuable equipment as well as greater driver safety. We have secured sponsorship that will greatly assist in the financing of the vehicle.

Your Board has maintained the same number of meetings in 05/06 by welcoming Cricket Willow (Daylesford) for Sat 19 November 05 and Waverley for Sun 2 April 06. Both events were conducted quite successfully.

Financially the Board ended up digging into reserves as a direct result of some excessive accounting fees that were eventually reduced to a level more acceptable but still highly inflated in my personal opinion. In addition the vehicle acquisition, unexpected lump sum payouts and top-up’s of superannuation entitlements that had not been correctly maintained by our former administrator for her own entitlements has led to our disappointing situation by year’s end. However having said that, as “one-off’s” they will not occur in the coming 12 months thus enabling the Board to get quickly back onto a more even keel.

Earlier this year, I personally prepared a major financial submission to the State Government seeking a substantial funding grant for development of our Professional Sport at each meeting, junior sport succession planning and administrative support. Regrettably and much to my personal annoyance the submission was just recently rejected. Having worked within the Federal Public Service over 19 years ago the wording of the rejection letter smells of bureaucratic mumbo-jumbo and did NOT address any of the reasons for seeking the funding nor does the State Government recognise the VAL as a Professional Athletic body or a body capable of being able to obtain funding support.



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In addition much of the rhetoric contained in the letter attempts to encourage individual meetings to apply for tourism funding support – again not the clear intent of why I sought VAL funding. The saga will not doubt continue as I aim to take another swipe at our politicians in the lead up to the coming State elections.

The Board was so impressed with the first 12 months of the Administrator's position that it chose to offer Mark a two year contract instead of the usual one year contract earlier this year - such was the Board's confidence in a job well done over the first 12 months.

In concluding I take this opportunity of thanking all personnel at Board level and Administration level for their diligence, professionalism and dedication to their tasks – sometimes under extremely “trying” conditions both on and off the athletic tracks around the State and supporting myself through my difficult family traumas.

We go forward confident that over the next 12 months the VAL will continue to consolidate its place within the Victorian sporting arena.

By: George Flack CFP, FPNA, AFAIM, RFC(USA).

6.2 Chief Stewards Report

The season 2005/2006 has again been one of consolidation of the handicapping system. By and large as the wider comprehension among our athletes and their connections of its benefits have flowed through, the greater the acceptance by our membership. This season saw a number of very good performances from athletes with a number of athletes winning over numerous distances along with a good mix of Classic and Group 1 winners. The handicap system will have further consolidation together with minor refinements to further enhance its application and significant input has been sought by the Board from the officials. The proposed changes will of necessity place greater onus on the stewarding aspects of our sport whilst making the handicapping system more transparent. This can only benefit the sport and should be gladly accepted by all.

On the whole, we witnessed greater participation at most meetings from athletes and this trend does auger well for the future of not only our member clubs but also for our sport in general. This I believe can be directly attributed to the handicapping system. There is no benefit from not running but very great opportunities available the more an athlete participates. And thus our sport gains.



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I wish to express my thanks for the tireless work of Mark Howard and his able and prompt assistance given. Thanks must also be given to the Board, whose members work with the interests of our great sport and for the most part gain very little recognition for their considerable efforts. The efforts of the Dunbar family with regard to the finishing machine are to be greatly commended and should be acknowledged by all.

Lastly, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to Terry O'Donnell, Luke Young and John Holloway for their unswerving support and assistance in the somewhat thankless tasks that the Stewarding panel face on a weekly basis.

I look forward to the next season and have expressed my intention to re nominate for the position again.

Rick Trusler
Chief Steward

6.3 Sprint Handicapper's Report

The early appointment of the handicapper's positions enabled a lot of work to be done in the off season and enabled me to set a starting handicap for all previous competitors over all distances prior to the season start. This then allowed time to assess everybody without the usual time restraints imposed during the season.

This year we established formula's for the distances where very few races were conducted and they seemed to work well.

These were-

100 metres 5/ths of 120 mark.

200 metres 1.6 of 120 mark.

300 metres 3/4ths of 400 mark minus 5 metres.

550 metres 6/5ths of 400 mark.

We felt that as the 120 and 400 metres were the common distances run we were able to establish a mark that reflected the runner's ability over these two areas and thus all other distances (exception 70m) would be linked to these.



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A summary of the season was-

70 metres- All year the races were very competitive with the winners well spread. Overall there were 20 individual winners with 25 races conducted. The two highlights were the three wins of Craig Taft and the win of Daniel Burgess off 1 metre at St. Bernard's.

100/120 metres- Again keenly contested with close finishes most of the year. If you were to take the winner out of Stawell the rest of the field were very close. Again overall 32 races conducted and 26 individual winners. The stand out performer was Nathan Dixon in winning Geelong, Ballarat and Waverley.

200 metres- under the formula worked well with the highlight being the deadheat at Maryborough and the run of David Flowers at VRTA meeting.- three races four individual winners. The race at Stawell proved a lot more competitive than in previous years.

300/400 metres - Again these appear to be popular and a good spread of winners. Overall 33 races and 26 individual winners. The 300 metres has been a winner for the veterans with good entries, close races and many participants. The veteran John Hilditch was the stand out here with two 300 m wins and one 400 win. Some new young talent came on the scene with Lachlan Taylor (Stawell) and Tommy Neim (Bendigo) winning races.

550 metres- by using the formula these proved competitive with 3 races offered and three different winners. The times fitted in nicely with the net times set previously.

Women's- 100/120 metres – The outstanding runner was Sonya Pollard and much was talked about her dominance. However she only won three 100's and one 120 metres. A number of others won two races. Sonya was in a lot of finals which gave this impression.

400 metres- Cara white was the stand out with two wins off back marks. however outside her there was no other dual winner.

This year we changed the interstate conditions and although a lot of criticism from our interstate colleagues the new system proved that if you came over and competed in Victoria early you were made competitive with a number winning races throughout the season. There needs a little work to “fine tune” this area but overall a success.



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There are a few areas that need correcting with our handicap system but now that people understand the transparency of it and how it works we should see even more competitive racing. This season being the third under the system has seen a lot of tightening in the margins and there is no doubt this system is working. We need now to tighten up on the stewarding in regards to this and we can only go forward. It was very noticeable at the number of under 21 registrations that a younger group are embracing our method of running.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow officials in Rick Trusler, Luke Young and John Holloway for a successful season and to the other helpers in Sue, Nila and Joy and Ian and to the board who have supported this handicap system all the way. To Graeme Ireland I offer thanks for the time taken in picking up the small discrepancies that always crop up with so many entries and time lines to meet.

There is always criticism in regards to the handicapper however most rumours are unfounded and the only people that have input into the handicaps besides the handicapper is the handicap review board and this is only to query a perceived discrepancy.

Finally I would like to congratulate two new clubs - Daylesford and Waverley for putting on meetings that were of high quality.

All clubs should now look forward to a bigger and better 2006-2007.

Regards

Terry O'Donnell
Sprint Handicapper

6.4 Distance Handicapper Report

This season saw a deterioration in the standard of distance running. The season was dominated by veteran Glen Weston who won six 1600 metre races and two 800 metres. Yet all were small races and won in slow times. It appeared unfortunately that others were unable to run up to their previous ability. Although we had a few new runners on the scene the majority of entries were from the veteran class even though entries were good at most meetings there were a lot of scratchings. Another veteran in Graeme Watkins won three races.



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The standard penalty table for wins has been revised for the new season to adequately penalise a winner as previously this was not the case when you took into account the lift policy now in operation.

The 3200 metres continues to be a worry and although all three races were won by different people and the races were closely fought out by a hand full numbers are not great and this situation will need to be looked at. The 800 metres continue to be popular with clubs catering for all standards and the limits at meetings providing a chance for all.

This year we worked on a formula for the 550 metres based on 400 marks and these worked well with exciting races. Unfortunately there are not enough on the programme for the year.

There is no doubt a lot of work will need to be done to promote distance running in the season ahead and I know the board are already looking towards this.

6.5 Chief Executive Officer's Report

Season 2005/2006 was an action packed season for all involved, the Victorian Athletic League conducted twenty four successful meetings throughout the season. We kicked off at Bacchus Marsh on Melbourne Cup day and finished the season with the Stawell Gift Meeting. In between these meetings we had the running of the Commonwealth Games which generated much needed exposure for the sport.

In season 2006/2007 the Victorian Athletic League will be introducing some new initiatives for the enhancement of our sport. These include a range of new novice mile races, free registration for both new athletes under 25 and all first year female athletes of any age who have never competed with the Victorian Athletic League.

The aim of the novice mile races is to increase participation in the mile races, we are especially aiming at gaining new young runners to the distance races. The free registration concept is aimed at new runners under 25 and all new female athletes of any age, we are looking at increasing participation in these demographics. Increasing registrations will hopefully lead to increased participation. Registration fees will remain the same from last season.



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We are currently working on an online entry system which we hope may be ready for the 2006/2007 season. This will give athletes the opportunity to view all events they have entered. Athletes will also be able to enter themselves in and withdraw out of an event as long as the closing date of the event has not expired. Results will also be easier to view and to access when this system is introduced.

Our monthly newsletter which began last season was a success - athletes were able to view information on upcoming events, view the latest news and changes and it also provided sponsors the opportunity to advertise their business on a monthly basis. The first edition of the 2006/2007 Newsletter will be published in August.

Last year the board introduced a policy that no late entries were to be accepted after the closing date of meetings. Some athletes found out the hard way that this policy was not going to be taken lightly. Most athletes entered on time so this allowed little or no administration mistakes to be made.

The two new meetings that were run last season were Waverley and Daylesford. Both meetings proved to be success stories, both meetings attracted some quality athletes and competition on the day. To add to this the meetings were voted joint winner of the Meeting of the year award at the VRTA awards night. The only meeting we have lost from last season is the Heidelberg meet, to compensate for this loss we have gained a new meeting, it is the Casey Scorpions meeting to be held on the Friday night at Cranbourne.

The sprint races produced many different winners throughout the season. The two standouts in the sprints were Daniel Burgess and Nathan Dixon. Nathan was awarded with the sprinter of the year award. Middle Distance races were very competitive throughout the season, the standout in these events was the ever consistent James Deane he was awarded the middle distance athlete award. Distance races were dominated by Veteran runner Glenn Weston he won 8 races throughout the season and was awarded distance athlete of the year. The female athlete of the year was Sonya Pollard she was ultra consistent throughout the season and picked up some major and minor women's gifts. The 2005 Stawell Gift saw a sensational win to up and comer Adrian Mott.



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I would like to thank and give a special mention to all the Victorian Athletic League officials for season 2006/2007 who dedicate many hours of work to the sport - Terry O'Donnell, Matthew Webster, John Holloway, Nila Blennerhasset, Sue Dunbar, Rick Trusler, Bill Sutton, Ian and Joy Cox, Robert Astill and Luke Young. I would also like to thank to Victorian Athletic League board for all their support.

Finally I look forward to another successful season with the Victorian Athletic League. I trust you will have an enjoyable and successful season with the league and I wish everyone involved all the best of luck.

Mark Howard
Chief Executive Officer

7 Constitutional Motions

None

8 Vale

Bob Stringer, Len Williams, Cyril Ogier, Hal Thomas, Neil Colston, Gilbert Hills, Kevin Hilet, Alan Cumming, Richard (Dick) Wicks.

9 Presentation of Awards

Life Member Award Winner

10 Election of Directors

Nominations for the board are Robert Astill and Robert Lehmann

Reinstatements to the board are George Underwood, Graeme Ireland and Wally Meechan.



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11 Calendar

V. A. L. Meetings	Closing Date	Meeting Date
Bacchus Marsh	Monday 9 th October 2006	Tuesday 7 th November 2006
Dandenong Show	Monday 16 th October 2006	Saturday 11 th November 2006
Cranbourne	Monday 16 th October 2006	Sunday 12 th November 2006
VRTA	Monday 30 th October 2006	Sunday 26 th November 2006
Mitchell Shire	Monday 6 th November 2006	Sunday 3 rd December 2006
Daylesford	Monday 13 th November 2006	Saturday 9 th December 2006
ZATOPEK	Monday 13 th November 2006	Thursday 14 th December 2006
Northcote	Monday 20 th November 2006	Sunday 18 th December 2006
MCG : <u>TBA</u>		
Maryborough	Monday 4 th December 2006	Monday 1 st January 2007
Rye	Monday 11 th December 2006	Saturday 13 th January 2007
Ringwood	Monday 18 th December 2006	Sunday 21 st January 2007
Wangaratta	Monday 18 th December 2006	Saturday 28 th January 2007
St Bernard's	Monday 8 th January 2007	Saturday 3 rd February 2007
Sandringham	Monday 8 th January 2007	Sunday 4 th February 2007
Ballarat	Monday 15 th January 2007	Saturday 10 th February 2007
Ararat	Monday 15 th January 2007	Sunday 11 th February 2007
Keilor	Monday 22 nd January 2007	Saturday 17 th February 2007
Casey Scorpions	Monday 29 th January 2007	Friday 23 rd February 2007
Noble Park	Monday 29 th January 2007	Sunday 25 th February 2007
Stawell	Monday 5 th February 2007	Sat 7 th - Mon 9 th April 2007
Burramine	Monday 5 th February 2007	Saturday 3 rd March 2007
Bendigo	Monday 12 th February 2007	Sat 10 th - Sun 11 th 2007
Waverley	Monday 19 th February 2007	Sunday 18 th March 2007
Geelong	Monday 26 th February 2007	Sunday 25 th March 2007



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12 GENERAL BUSINESS

Women's/Veterans Races
Novice 1600 Races

13 FINANCE REPORTS