



# Victorian Athletic League Inc.

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## UP COMING EVENT

# Stawell Gift

# 7th-9th April

For all event details view each meeting under the events section on the website.

# Pro League News April 2007

Season 2006/07 | Issue 8

## Report from the Distance Handicapper ...

**March Distance Events | Burramine** presented us with a warm day and a lush track. In the 800 Chris Dixon, Bernard Baxter and Carl Neill ran well to make their first final which was taken out in great style by one of the true legends of pro running in Mark Hipworth. Mark proved far too strong, defeating a number of his own athletes winning off 62 metres in 1.54.64 with Chris Brown and Alan Cook taking out the minors. Andrew Sullivan recorded the fastest rpm running 1.57.6 off 30 metres. The 1600 developed into a 2 man war with Mike Tuhan off 140 and Gordon Muir off 135 going head to head for the entire distance and smashing the field in the process. Tuhan eventually narrowly triumphed in 4.14.75 from Muir in 4.15.56. David Card backed up for a strong third in 4.19.58 after making the 800 final.

The big **Bendigo** Madison event saw some tight exciting distance racing with one of the many highlights being a breakthrough open win by Andrew Sullivan in the 800. Sullivan got up in the last stride to win by a few inches in the fast time of 1.50.47 off 30 metres. The evergreen Alan Cook was the unlucky second in 1.50.50 with James Deane a further .01 back in third. The first 5 places were within a tenth of a second in what resembled the finish of a gift event packed into one lane. Wayne James also made the 800 final for first time for some years. The Women's and Vets 1600 was taken out by the highly versatile Celia Cosgriff in 4.06.93 off 325 metres. Celia got hold of and followed a strong middle pack then burst clear over the last 300. Greg Whitecross finished strongly for second with Austin Beamish third. Arguably the strongest field for the year lined up in the back markers 1600 with David Card running brilliantly from the front winning in 4.05.00 off 140. In what was another super tight finish Nathan Hartigan and Neil Brennan were both only a step away in second and third in 4.05.24 and .25 respectively. Both ran from 100 and recorded the fastest rpms of the race, a great effort considering the field included some quality back markers. After a number of close places the frustration ended for Chris Brown when he took out the front markers 1600 in 4.05.53 off 245 in another blanket finish from stablemate Michael Marantelli off 150. Michael threw at the line but missed by a mere .01 of a second with Paul Carroll third.

The Women's and Vets 1600 at **Waverley** was hit heavily by scratchings but was won in great style by 16 year old Kate Sly running off the tight mark of 240 and working through the field to hit the lead in the last lap and hold out Hugo Sarpa and Corina Kapusta in 4.10.59, with all 3 place getters being within .06 of a second. The tight finishes continued in the Open 1600 with a 5 way battle up the home straight and Chris Palermo completing a double for the Graham Watkins stable grabbing victory on the line in 4.08.52 off 160. Alan Cook, Michael Ryde and Neil Brennan all finished within .03 of Chris, which amounts to 4 runners within a foot of each other. New runner, Woulo Audy, running 4.14.72 off 60 looked good in recording the fastest rpm and Sean Quilty got in the only 2 mile of the season backing up for the open 1600 in 4.16.34 about 20 minutes after completing the Women's and Vets event.

Poor weather and a switch to Saturday probably contributed to depleted fields for the 1600s on the program at **Geelong**, however the Novice 1600 again proved to be an exciting race with Jonathon Woodman improving significantly to win in 4.13.66 off 200. Jonathon had to hold off a late challenge from another of the new quality young females to join the VAL this year in Renee Wilmlink who ran strongly to record 4.16.21 off 265. Steven Sachau ran bravely from the front for third. Jonathon's time was faster than the open 1600 as would Renee's time be off her Open mark of 280. The Open 1600 saw the stellar season of local athlete Carl Neill continue when he just defeated Gordon Muir and Sean Quilty in 4.14.57 off 140. Again all three place getters were within a tenth of a second. Woulo Audy recorded the fastest rpm for the second week in a row.

The non penalty clause at **St Bernards** saw a few athletes emerge from the shadows however there were again too many scratchings. After some tight finishes in the heats of the 800 Brendan Liddicoat made a mockery of a strong field winning decisively in 1.51.48 off 74. Carl Neill showed he is starting to adapt well to the shorter journey with a strong second with Alan Cook third. Neil Brennan recorded the fastest rpm in winning his heat in 1.54.05 off 20. Adrian Patti and Jamie Mayhew-Sharp also made their first 800 finals. The Women's 1600 was one by another talented female distance runner in Sarah Klein in a tight battle from Renee Wilmlink and Olivia White, all new to the VAL this season. Sarah ran in the red off 100 and recorded 4.42.6, an excellent time for 1500 on grass. The back markers 1600 was taken out in fine style by novice runner Colin Thornton in 4.07.32 off 105. The quality of the run is best judged by looking at who he defeated with Matt McDonough finishing second off 85, recording the fastest rpm in the process and Richie Polkinghorne third. Another eye catching run came from first year runner David Ireland off 90 who looked likely to threaten up until the last lap. Hugo Sarpa continued his excellent season grabbing victory in the front markers 1600 in 4.08.46 off 245 with a strong finish to defeat Austin Beamish and Martine Beer. Visiting Scotsman, John Thompson ran well for 5<sup>th</sup> in his first race off the plane.

**Stawell Handicaps** | As it is the only 2 mile for the year, all entrants in the Stawell 3200 were OGA and handicapped from scratch to a target time of 9.10. Prior 2 mile form, amateur performances and this year's mile form were all used to arrive at a mark for each entrant that, based on their best form over the last couple of seasons, would see them capable of this time, within the 400 limit. The handicaps for the Restricted 1600 have been based on the best performance of each athlete allowing for track and conditions and targeted to a time of 4.10. The guidelines provided for the calculation of the 550 handicaps are 1.3 times the athlete's 400 mark.

Finally I would like to thank all the athletes for their patience and understanding in my first season on the other side of the track and wish you all the best for Stawell.

Mark O'Brien

# VRTA Presentation Dinner | Friday 11 May 2007

VENUE: Windy Hill, Essendon Football Club  
Napier Street, Essendon (Mel 28 H3)

TIME: 7.30pm–12.30am  
COST: \$45 per person

RSVP: Friday 4th May  
DRESS: Semi-Formal

To Book: Contact Emma Poynton 0402 460 500 or [ep500@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ep500@bigpond.net.au)

PAYMENT OPTIONS: Via Internet into VRTA Account—Account no: 31067304, BSB: 802380, Bank: Australian National Credit Union. Please leave a description of your surname/stable, & confirm via email to Emma.

2. Cash or cheque before the night. Cheques may be posted to Emma Poynton at 9a Tashinny Road Toorak 3142 or given to Emma Poynton at race meetings.

VRTA are now selling Entertainment Books \$60 each. The popular Entertainment Books contain hundreds of 25 to 50% off and two-for-one offers from leading restaurants, cinemas, the arts, sporting events and hotel accommodation. There truly is something for everyone, with high value offers from Avis, Warner Bros. Movie World, Crown Towers, Hamilton Island and many more.

In addition, the 2007/2008 Entertainment Book also features the following new benefits: · An exciting new section in the Book called "Health and Beauty" which features exclusive offers for fragrances and cosmetics from Ralph Lauren, Clarins, Calvin Klein and over 250 other leading brands. · A brand new on line hotel booking service called 'My Bookings' where you can check availability, and compare rates to make sure you get the best rate available.

## Betfair & the Stawell Gift

Betfair is the world's leading online betting exchange, a concept it has pioneered. Driven by cutting-edge technology, Betfair enables punters to choose their own odds and bet against each other, even after an event has started. Betfair processes 5 million transactions a day and more than 300 bets a second.

Place your bets for the Stawell Gift—visit [www.betfair.com](http://www.betfair.com) .

## March Winners ...

Burramine			Geelong			Waverley		
70m	Open	Billie Jo Petersen	70m	Open	Adam Cabble	70m	Open	Steven Hurl
100m	Vets	Dean Maclennan	100m	Gift	Peter Dudkiewicz	100m	Gift	Kelly Sheldrick
120m	Gift	Arthur Muzelenga	100m	Women's	Emma Poynton	100m	Women's	Tamara Hamond
120m	Novice	Darryl Nettleton	100m	Novice	Leigh Ettridge	400m	Open	Robert Garland
120m	Invitation	Zoy Frangos	300m	Open	Andrew Flanagan	300m	Vets/Women's	
400m	Open	Adam Ratcliffe	300m	Vets	Rob Lehmann			Dennis Hughes
400m	Women's	Jennifer Macgibbon	300m	Women's	Jennifer Macgibbon	1600m	Open	Chris Palermo
800m		Mark Hipworth	1600m	Open	Carl Neil	1600m	Women's/Vets	
1600m	Open	Michael Tuhan	1600m	Novice	Jonathon Woodman			Kate Sly
			Stable Relay		Rob Lehmann			
Bendigo			St Bernard's					
70m	Open	Rob Lehmann	70m	Don	Peter Walsh			
20m	Women's	Ramona Casey	70m	Open	Daniel Steinhauer			
120m	Gift	Peter Dudkiewicz	120m	Gift	John Adams			
1600m	Vets/Women's		120m	Women's	Katrina Buckingham			
		Celia Cosgriff	400m	Open	Michael Marantelli			
400m	Opal	Nick Magree	300m	Vets	Tara Gleeson			
800m	Open	Andrew Sullivan	400m	Women's	Billie Jo Petersen			
400m	Women's	Bronwyn Andersen	800m	Open	Brendan Liddicoat			
1600m	Front	Chris E Brown	1600m	Back	Colin Thornton			
1600m	Back	David Card	1600m	Front	Hugo Sarpa			
			1600m		Sara Klein			



## Sponsors ...

The Victorian Athletic League would like to thank it's sponsors for season 2006/07.

### Simon Yu Pharmacy

20 Sydney Rd , Kilmore Vic 3764  
P: 03 5782 1432  
F: 03 5782 1432

### Robert Gordon Real Estate



Shop 1, 41-43, High Street, Wallan Vic 3756  
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#### Commercial/Business Sales/Lease

As well as residential and rural property, we also deal in a wide variety of commercial properties, commercial land and businesses.

Please email us for brochures or further information on our commercial/business listings on: [property@robertgordon.com.au](mailto:property@robertgordon.com.au)

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### RetireInvest Bendigo



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E [RI.Bendigo@retireinvest.com.au](mailto:RI.Bendigo@retireinvest.com.au)

## Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority | (ASADA)

As most people are aware ASADA have been regularly attending Victorian Athletic League events over the past couple of months. They have randomly tested athletes of all abilities. More information can be found on the ASADA website - [www.asada.gov.au](http://www.asada.gov.au) - We highly recommend you visit this site so that you are informed of all your rights and responsibilities as an athlete.

### VAL Meeting in New Zealand

The Victorian Athletic League is proud to announce the newest meeting on the VAL calendar for 2007/2008. Early details are as follows :

- The meeting will be held in Wanganui, New Zealand.
- The meeting is planned for early February 2008.
- The event will be a major meeting and athletes from both Australia and New Zealand along with other internationals will be competing.
- The event will be run conducted by VAL and will run under normal VAL rules.

All events will be run under the current VAL handicap system. Further information will be released within the coming weeks.



Tune into the award winning "Sports of all Sorts" on 98.9 Northwest FM for all of your athletic news this summer season.

Hosts, *Ivor Jenkins, Jim Calthorpe & Matthew Webster* will bring you all the latest news, results, interviews and special guests each week from 7.30am - 8.00am.