



**2023/24 – 2024/25
VICTORIAN ATHLETIC LEAGUE COMMITTEE NOMINEES**

Election to be held at AGM on
Sunday 25th June 2023 at 11:00am
at
Lakeside Stadium, Cathy Freeman Room,
Ground Floor Athletics House, 31 Aughtie Drive, Albert Park VIC 3206

CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Matthew McDonough
- Keely Henderson
- Chris Macdonald
- Dominic Condello
- Katie Moore

COMMITTEE NOMINEES
• Mathew Boyes (seeking re-election)
• Simon Jackson (seeking re-election)
• Craig Burnett
• Richard Wearmouth
• Todd Ireland
• Les Williams

Four nominees are required to be elected at the 2023 AGM.

Section 18.2 (b) – Powers of the Committee

- The committee shall consist of 10 members to capture the widest range of skills and experience. It should seek to achieve a representation aligned to that of the demographic of the Leagues community, with an aspiration for gender and age balance after consideration of skill requirements and diversity.

Please find details on each nominee below.



Mathew Boyes 2023 Re-election Nomination

Reason for seeking re- election:

I have been deeply connected to the VAL over the past 30 years as an athlete, club official and Board member. I am seeking re-election so I can continue to provide sound advice on both the financial and structural integrity of our sport.

The clubs and communities they represent are integral to the success of the sport and I would like to strengthen this partnership to ensure mutual success.

What are your relevant qualifications and/or experience, and how can they be applied to the Victorian Athletic League strategic plan?

I'm the current owner of two partner accounting firms that run over multiple sites, I have over 25 years' experience in assisting business owners with the running, financial and management of their businesses.

With my business and accounting background I bring a skill set that can continue to assist and ensure financial viability of the sport both now and in the future. I have been on the Board for 12 years and have provided significant accounting and financial resources to the League with regards to banking, tax, superannuation, financial planning and accounting services.

Given my extensive history in our sport, I also have an in depth knowledge of our rules and regulations which greatly assists in structuring the strategic plan, making Board decisions and providing both Club and athlete/trainer support.

Most recently on the VAL committee I have -

- Attended all Committee meetings and provided constructive discussions with respect to our rules, events, prize money and the progression of our sport.
- Coordinated and obtained sponsors for Frankston & Geelong Gifts.
- Have provided financial services to the league including accounting, tax, super and other financial planning advice and services.

Simon Jackson 2023 Re-election Nomination

Reason for seeking re- election:

I am passionate about growing our sport – from attracting everyday active people, to recruiting more amateur runners, to increasing participation amongst our existing athlete membership base. My vision for professional running is to build an enduring, recognisable, and renowned product for participants and sports followers.

In particular, a key interest is to continue working towards building a national professional running league. A national league will deliver a significantly higher athlete membership base, which will be more attractive to major sponsors. In turn, a major sponsorship will help us grow our resources to invest further in spreading awareness and growing the athlete membership base again.

I have had the privilege of being a VAL board member for the last 4 years. I will not be satisfied until we have established a functional national league to ensure professional running thrives in the future.

What are your relevant qualifications and/or experience, and how can they be applied to the Victorian Athletic League strategic plan?

My professional expertise is in developing enduring growth strategies to satisfy end-users and suppliers. This spans Marketing, Sales, and functions in between.

This experience has helped the VAL over the last four years in two key pillars of the strategic plan:
Marketing & Communications
Growing the Athlete & Trainer Membership base

As a logical, strategic thinker with no formal ties to any athletes or trainers, I act independently and in the best interests of growing the league.



Craig Burnett 2023 Election Nomination

Please provide your reasons for seeking election to the VAL Committee?

I have been a long time supporter of the Victorian Athletic League as a runner, spectator and the coordinator of 2 Gift Meetings

I enjoy the unpredictability handicap running brings and that people of all abilities have the opportunity to be competitive against the best runners in the country.

I believe that I have experience through my role as a school Principal over the past 20 years to work with the team that makes up the Board to further grow the sport of professional running.

I would bring a regional perspective to the board, experience in developing policy, the ability to bring a variety of people together to develop plans and ensure that the actions of those plans come to fruition.

What are your relevant qualifications and/or experience, and how can they be applied to the Victorian Athletic League strategic plan?

- Collaborated with the Victorian Athletic League and the City of Greater Bendigo to ensure that Gift meetings were able to be held in Bendigo in 2022 and 2023 when the Bendigo Madison/Gift meeting was cancelled at short notice. Feedback from the running community was extremely positive for both of these events.
- Ability to develop positive relationships with a wide range of people and build strong communities through my role as President of Athletics Bendigo and Principal of Redesdale, Huntly and Eaglehawk North Primary Schools
- Led teams that have developed enacted policies that have ensured the smooth running of school communities in terms of learning and teaching, behaviour of both students and adults in the community and finance.
- Selected as Principal of three schools over the past 20 years which included:
 - the administration of budgets of \$2 000 000-\$ 3000 000,
 - building a sustainable staffing profiles
 - coordinating reviews of 5 school strategic plans in collaboration with the school community and the Department of Education.
- As a consequence of these school reviews developed new strategic plans the reflected the aspirations of the school community and the priorities of the Department of Education.
- President of Athletics Bendigo, an organisation that coordinates and administers the sport of running in Bendigo. As President I:
 - oversaw the amalgamation of Little Athletics and Senior Athletics in Bendigo.
 - Negotiated with the City of Greater Bendigo to become the managers of the Flora Hill Athletics complex.
 - Athletics in Bendigo regularly has 500 competitors (Littles and Seniors numbers combined) on Saturdays at the track during summer, coordinates school competitions that sees 20 000 school students from primary through to senior secondary use the Flora Hill track every year and has negotiated track and lighting upgrades with the City of Greater Bendigo.
- Worked with AFL Central Victoria as the league advocate, tribunal member and tribunal chair over the past 15 years.

I believe that I would bring a number of attributes that would enable me to contribute to the development of professional running now and into the future. I am happy to talk further with the board and key stakeholders about my experiences and how these would benefit the sport.



Richard Wearmouth 2023 Election Nomination

Please provide your reasons for seeking election to the VAL Committee?

I want to give something back to the VAL after many years of enjoyment. I love the social environment it provides for families, groups and individuals. The VAL is steeped in history, is a very well run, strong organisation and I want to help to ensure that we maintain that status by progressing into the future.

My contribution to the VAL has been enormous as I instigated the running of the Terang Gift for 11 years and now for 5 years in Warrnambool. I have attended almost every meeting in the last 10 years except for a few meetings in 2021 through illness. To be a board member I believe you need to be present and listen to what the athletes have to say. This is something that is lacking and needs to be addressed.

What are your relevant qualifications and/or experience, and how can they be applied to the Victorian Athletic League strategic plan?

I have held many positions on committees from Chairperson down. I was President of Terang Basketball (Senior and Junior) for 34 seasons and twelve years as Treasurer on the South West Sports Assembly. I was eight years on the State Government controlled Community Opportunity Workshop and was the Project Manager on the Terang Fitness Centre project, a \$1.5 million scheme. I was on the executive of the Terang Athletic Club for fifteen years and coordinated the Terang Gift for eleven years. The past four years I have been President of the Warrnambool Gift Committee. I was on the Terang College School Council for a period. I am a life member at Terang Basketball, Terang Football Club and South West Sport Assembly. In the early 1980's I graduated as a teacher and taught for a number of years at metropolitan and country schools.

For twenty-six years I was manager of Terang and District Indoor Sport and Recreation Centre which catered for Basketball, Netball, Badminton, Table Tennis, Indoor Tennis and Indoor Soccer. I also added Terang Fitness Centre (Gym and Classes Room) for the past seven years of my employment. I retired in 2018. Both T.D.I.S.R.C. and Terang Fitness had substantial loans which we were able to alleviate quickly.

Todd Ireland 2023 Election Nomination

Please provide your reasons for seeking election to the VAL Committee?

Previous Vice President of the VAL and board member for approx. 10 years. I have had a few years away board level to allow some new blood to have some input. I feel my experience of 35 years of continual involvement in the sport at competition, board and club level provides a good balance with the current board, and my experience in all three of these areas allows me to have good clarity in the direction the sport should be heading.

What are your relevant qualifications and/or experience, and how can they be applied to the Victorian Athletic League strategic plan?

Former VAL board member and Vice President for a number of years, which provides me with an intricate knowledge of how the VAL operates and what needs to be worked on going forward. VRTA President and committee person since 2010. My involvement with the VRTA allows me to be a conduit between both bodies allowing a closer alignment between the two committees. President of the Waverley Athletic Club. As someone who is involved in putting on our own meeting, I feel I am acutely aware of the issues and challenges that the clubs face. As a director of a family business that employs office staff and tradesmen I feel as though I operate daily in a real world environment.



Leslie Williams 2023 Election Nomination

Please provide your reasons for seeking election to the VAL Committee?

I believe through my 50 years of involvement in pro-running, both in Australia and in Scotland, I can make a contribution and provide sound feedback in the running of the sport.

What are your relevant qualifications and/or experience, and how can they be applied to the Victorian Athletic League strategic plan?

Through my current employment as a Horticulture Operations Manager, I have to deal with people and delegate on a daily basis. Being a people person, I believe I can provide a voice for Clubs and athletes to contribute to the workings of the Board with ideas and involvement on planning committees to advance the sport. I have numerous contacts, that given the right exposure, would be willing to put money into the sport and I have done this personally by sponsoring races at Castlemaine and various other meetings over many seasons.

I personally assisted in the development and implementation of the Masters 45+ series races and the Masters Legends series races, to continue building masters participation in our sport across the season. I am keen to keep building both of these series and look at the development of a woman's distance series to help increase the number of distance athletes competing in pros.

I love this sport and want to help in anyway I can to continue building it up and promoting it to the broader community.