

Saturday August 13th.

THE FIVE

YARRA BEND

Our eagerly awaited big day arrived with much anticipation as the weather forecast was favourable and the senior race in particular promised perhaps the best field for many years. Last year's winner **Patrick O'Keeffe** had to be fancied but last week's run of **Simon Bevege** in the road relays was ominous. Our early season star, **Liam Delany**, was back from a month in Europe so his form was a bit of a mystery. Newcomer **Andrew Patten** was the real dark horse while **Paul Munro's** form had been improving with each race.

The winner of the lady's race was seen as a bit of a formality with the return of **Susan Michelsson**, but the minor placings were certainly up for grabs with a lot of runners showing good form in recent weeks.

The Senior race saw a field of over 60 start, including a number of visitors from Richmond and St. Stephen's Harriers. The runners from these Clubs along with those from Collingwood compete for the City of Yarra medals. Numbers from the other Clubs were probably down a few on the last few years but Collingwood's numbers were good. Our lady's numbers were particularly pleasing with there being more than double any previous roll up. Ten of the twelve medals went to Collingwood athletes.

The junior race suffered with the absence of the three under 14 state representatives (**White, Leyden and White**) who were required in Ballarat for a team 'get together'. Notwithstanding the under 16 field was good one with many members and a few invites making perhaps our biggest field ever. We were pleased to welcome **Helen Crews**, sister of **Anthony**, along for a run and newcomer **Tess McDonald** brought along a neighbour, **Tom Hall** for his first go at Yarra Bend. It would seem that Tom will join up and make his Club debut at the Tan Relays with our under 14 team.

Jordan Minter set off at a cracking pace and was never in any real danger to take out the junior race. **Adam Garganis** was second, while Andre Chambers powered home in another promising performance. **Meaghan Gaunt** was a clear winner in the girl's event. The minor placings were filled by two of our newer members, **Amy Twigg-Edwards** and **Tess McDonald**. A very much 'less than well' **Nikki White** completed the course to try and hold her lead in the Junior Winter Points Award. The Committee, while not encouraging people to endanger their health, is certainly very happy that athletes are so keen to win these reasonably new awards that they will go that extra mile to get the points! **Eleanor Boylen** received a reception to equal the winner's with her effort to cross the line.

As usual we were ecstatic to have many previous winners in attendance. Apart from those having a run including; **Susan Michelsson, Janette Chapman** and **Jane Kanizay** in the lady's event and **Chris Waldron** and **Patrick O'Keeffe** in the men's, we had a number of champions from days gone by turn up for the day. **John Morgan**, the winner in 1950 and 1951 was there along with brother **Bill** who was successful in 1954 and 1955. **Norm Duff, Barry Gust, Brian Clarke, Robert Hendy, Ian Minter, Magnus Michelsson** and **Steve Griffiths** were also along for the festivities and their participation in the Parade of **Champions** was again a highlight of our athletic calendar. Of course in both events there is a sealed handicap. These results have been, in the past, instrumental in deciding the winners of the respective Winter Points Awards and this season will be no exception. The winners are not announced until the opening run of next season and so the results of last Saturday's handicaps are kept under wraps until then. Needless to say our Club Handicapper **Ray Harbert** spent many hours pouring over the season's results to try and give everyone an even chance. Of course there will be only a couple of happy people (one junior and one senior), but Ray does a tremendous job as he has done for many years now.

JUNIOR RESULTS

1	Jordan Minter	9:46
2	Adam Garganis	10:00
3	Andre Chambers	10:05
4	Jacob Barnes	10:29
1	Meaghan Gaunt	11:13
Inv	Tom Hall	11:24
2	Amy Twigg-Edwards	11:56
Inv	Emily Noonan	13:16
3	Tess McDonald	13:21
Inv	Hannah Garganis	13:26
Inv	David Waldron	13:57
5	* Lachlan Derby	14:16
4	Adele Boylen	14:38
5	Nikki White	15:04
Inv	Helen Crews	15:08
Inv	Clare Hendy	16:00
6	Eleanor Boylen	18:56

* started 1 minute late

The senior race got away to a cracking start with the four favourites, **O’Keeffe, Bevege, Delany** and **Patten** breaking away right from the gun. **Justin Murphy** was prominent early with junior **Jai Edmonds** and first season member **John Charles** in hot pursuit. Perennial high finisher **Malcolm Campbell** was back early, but this could be excused as the pace set by the leaders was hot. **Susan Michelsson** skipped to an early lead in the women’s section, but two distinct groups formed in the chase pack with the first including **Jane Kanizay, Heather Gaunt, Alison Chapman** and **Annette Van Rooyen** breaking away in an attempt to fill the minor placings. **Patrick O’Keeffe** made a move on the second lap that was to prove to be decisive in the wash up. **Liam Delany** dropped off a little, perhaps discovering that a month in Paris and London is not an ideal preparation for the event of the year. **Simon Bevege** had a real go but just couldn’t bridge the gap while **Andrew Patten**, the unknown quantity just kept on going. **Jai Edmonds** and **John Charles** used the advantage of running together to make move on **Justin Murphy**, picking him up on the final lap. **Mason Barnes** recorded a big PB, while **Adam Paleg** again improved. Next season will be a beauty for Adam as he is slowly getting back to the form he showed running in NSW a couple of years ago. It was great to have **Paul Skipper** along for the day. Paul, an occasional cross-country runner, turned up to kick start his summer season and we were glad he did.

Susan Michelsson was a clear winner in the women’s event, but only twenty-one seconds separated the next four finishers with last year’s winner **Jane Kanizay** holding on to second spot ahead of **Heather, Alison and Annette**.

SENIOR RESULTS

1	Patrick O’Keeffe	26:29
2	Simon Bevege	27:18
3	Andrew Patten	27:34
4	Liam Delany	27:59
Inv	Liam Magee	28:04
5	Jai Edmonds	28:21
6	John Charles	28:23
7	Justin Murphy	28:29
8	Malcolm Campbell	29:02
9	Anthony Mithen	29:30
10	Simon Duffy	29:45
11	Anthony Weiland	30:12
12	Mason Barnes	30:48
1	Susan Michelsson	31:00
13	Adam Paleg	31:02
14	Steven Oliver	31:21
15	Chris Waldron	32:55
16	Tony Bird	33:51
17	Paul Skipper	34:41
18	Danny Hecker	34:41
19	Peter Gaunt	34:53
20	Nick Denner	36:20
2	Jane Kanizay	36:29
3	Heather Gaunt	36:45
4	Alison Chapman	36:46
5	Annette Van Rooyen	36:50
21	Jim Hopkins	37:25
22	Shane Derby	37:38
6	Carmel Pardy	37:48
7	Alicia Arnott	37:50
8	Paula Charlton	37:57
9	Frances Willmot	38:09
10	Nina Field	39:36
11	Sofie Fabre	39:46
12	Janette Chapman	40:01
Inv	Alistair Reed	40:42
13	Rachel Barnes	41:35
23	Paul Willmot	42:59
14	Amanda Green	44:14
24	Robert Barnes	45:30
DNF	Josh Debinski	
DNF	Ken Duxbury	

Officials: Our day can’t happen without a big input from many volunteers. As usual **Ray Harbert** had done a power of work in marking out the course over the past couple of weekends. **Tony Williams, Peter Gaunt, John Crameri,** and **Tony** and **Theadora Hally** helped Ray flag the course in the morning.

Brian Moore again exercised his trigger finger to get the fields underway. **Matthew Webster** and the aforementioned **Rocket Williams** together with injured would be runners **Tony Hally** and **John Crameri** helped out directing the athletes on the course.

Ray, Kevin Wigmore and **Allan Minter** looked after the timing and recording while **Diana Barnett** was instrumental in making sure that all runners had a tag.

Back at the rooms **Therese Barnes** and **Judy Mason** looked after the preparation of the afternoon tea of which there was very little left at the end of the day.

Afternoon Tea: Thanks to everyone who contributed. Many people brought along 'a plate' and the sausages disappeared very quickly.

Thanks to everyone who helped pick up the flags - thus enabling all to get back to the rooms as soon as possible.

Thanks also to the people from Richmond and St. Stephen's for their help, particularly at the finish line.

An added feature to the day was a special presentation to **Terry Lanham**.

Terry was presented with the **Norm Francisco Medal** for his services to **Collingwood Harriers**.

This medal is presented to those who have continued to serve the Club in an exemplary fashion for at least 20 years after being awarded Life Membership.

Norm Francisco was one of the founders of the Club and after an outline of Terry's service given by **Ray Harbert**, Norm's son **John Francisco** presented the medal to a most appreciative and it must be said, a very humble Terry Lanham.

Terry, apart from being a member of one of our two A Grade Premiership (track) Teams, has served Collingwood Harriers for a long time. He has been a committee member, serving as Treasurer for many years as well as acting as our auditor for what may well be a Guinness Book of Records stint. Joining in the late 50's, Terry is one of those people who has helped make Collingwood Harriers the great Club it is!

Congratulations Lou!