

PETER BETHELL

1.12.1922- 4.7.2017

Peter Bethell was and is an icon of the Ivanhoe Harriers Athletic Club serving in many capacities for over 75 years, his contribution to the Club was enormous.

Peter was also an outstanding individual, a ready smile and a capacity to make those around him feel relaxed and comfortable.

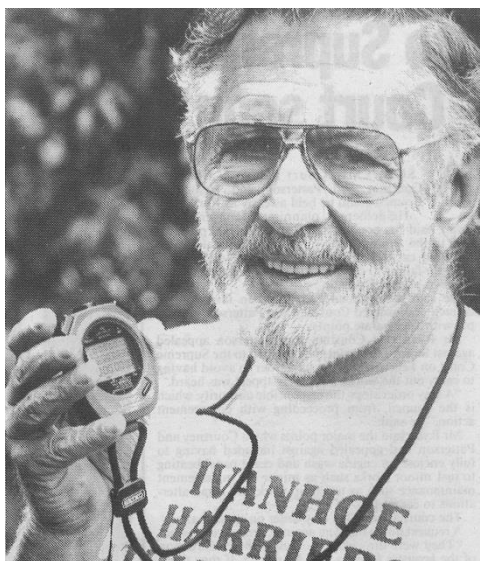
He was appointed Captain of Ivanhoe Grammar School in 1939 and carried that leadership role with him for the rest of his long and wonderful life. Peter was a true gentleman, a message that is echoed by his former teammates at the Ivanhoe Harriers.

Peter first joined Ivanhoe Harriers in the 1938-39 season, and apart from the interruption of war service, he remained heavily involved with the Club year after year. His record as an office bearer and official in the Club is remarkable, serving two terms totalling ten years as President in 1960's, three years as Treasurer in 1940's, three years as Secretary during the 1950's and a term as Vice President during 1950's followed by a further 14 years from 1982- 1996.

Peter remained on the General Committee until 2005.

His record as an athlete is also impressive. At Ivanhoe Grammar School, Peter excelled in sprints and long jump and early in his athletic career became one of the Clubs leading sprinters.

After the War, Peter progressed to distance events and in the late 1940's took up the walk, broke records, gained Victorian selection and won Australian Championships as a member of Victorian Teams. In 1953 Peter finished 4th as an individual in the Australian Championships.



Peter was awarded Life Membership of the Club and in 1994 a Merit Award from Athletics Victoria, in recognition of his service to athletics. He attended athletics for years on Saturdays acting as an Official, a Timekeeper, a Judge...whatever was needed.

Three years ago, in 2014, Peter was inducted into Ivanhoe Harriers Team of the Century for his performances in the 50k walk. He was absolutely thrilled to receive this recognition.

Peter was also blessed with a great sense of humour. In 1956 he was very proud to carry the Olympic Torch in the torch relay for the Melbourne Olympics. Each runner was to carry the torch for one mile...., to quote Peter "I duly completed the task of a one mile leg, north of Wangaratta in the middle of the night".

Peter has been a huge part of Ivanhoe Harriers history, we were fortunate to be touched by this truly remarkable man.

Jeff Franklin, President

Comments received on the passing of Peter Bethell

How could anyone forget Peter Bethell ...a real gentleman in the truest sense of the word, and a stalwart "walker". Thank you for letting me know. Life's inevitability, but always so sad when it finally happens.

Please let his family know that he was admired by so many from the Club where we knew him.

Andrew Young

It was good to chat with Peter at the centenary. It's not that sad, Peter had a long and wonderful life and was a true gentleman. And a very committed Ivanhoe Harrier. None of us live forever. He was an inspiration to me in how to work with committees. He was always the anemometer operator at the big meetings.

Mark Hennessy

I will try to make the funeral service on Thursday. I have many memories of Peter and was so pleased to see him again at the 'Team of the Century' function a couple of years ago.

Tim Erickson

As a junior walker I have fond memories of Peter having met him as an 11 year old at the Olympic Village track in West Heidelberg. We had a strong walks team back then, headed of course by Tim Erickson. Peter, along with all of our walkers, made me feel comfortable when I was so nervous competing for the first time by Invitation while still in Little Athletics. Peter of course, remained a stalwart of the club for decades, competing for as long as his body could manage and then as an official every Saturday afternoon. He was always up for a chat and always had an encouraging word. Peter was also still an active member of the committee when I first put my hand up and joined the committee. He always provided wise counsel to the whole committee but especially those newer members such as myself. As a club Life Member he will be hugely missed and I am so sorry I will not be able to be at the funeral.

Chris Lang

Peter's continuous involvement with Ivanhoe, in so many ways and for so long, is amazing! Our thoughts will be with all those present.

Chris Cole

I am saddened to read of the passing of Peter. I remember well the first time I met Peter as a 'newbie' at Ivanhoe Harriers back in early 1975, Peter had a quiet sense of humour and along with Harry Jones (Dec) and Tim Erickson I felt in esteemed walking company.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the service, however, please pass on my condolences to the Bethell family, and to IH members.

Joe Anderson

Sorry to hear of Peter's death. Our involvement with the Harriers was a long time ago but seems like only yesterday. I remember the time with happiness.

George Mill

That's indeed sad news. Peter's service to Ivanhoe Harriers stretched over at least 70 years, as an athlete, club committee man (including a term as president at a very important time in the Club's history) and official at state and National level.

I'm unable to attend Peter's funeral but if my sympathies and condolences could be passed on to Peter's family, that would be good.

John Boas

At the tender age of 17 I was asked to join the committee by Ron Stephens and upon my first meeting attendance Peter was the first to welcome me among all the heavyweights of Ron Mill, Jack McCann, John Anderson, Jack Osborne etc. Peter was a guiding light in many ways and I can recall when we first started interclub at the OVT he organized a great deal on soft drinks from Summit factory in Coburg. We took it in turns every Saturday morning to go to the factory to pick up the day's supply having agreed the previous week how many dozen to get...the demand just kept growing.

The house in Warrandyte saw several celebratory nights when junior or senior teams were finals winners. Too many other memories but great that we talked at the Centenary Dinner.

A most respected and admired gentleman, a friend to all who never became ruffled and could tell you of your mistake without making you feel bad!

Noel Burrows

IVANHOE HARRIERS SPIRIT STAYS STRONG

In attending the funeral service of Peter Bethell, I was struck with a couple of observations. Harriers attending the funeral numbered 16-18 which was a wonderful show of support for Peter and the Club in general. Those friendships of old team mates remain impressively strong and loyalty to the Club remains a core value.

After the service a letter was pushed into my hand which will remain anonymous as it wasn't intended as a "public" matter. However, I want to share the contents of the letter with you. It shows once again how much the Club means to so many.

"Please find enclosed a small donation from a former Harrier. I have been meaning to send this to you since the wonderful celebration dinner at the Heidelberg Town Hall some 3 years ago.

I am still able to enjoy the reading of Cursus- keep up the good work!

May the Club continue to do well and the publication which Andrew Edney put together is a brilliant piece of work from a Club legend.

Go Hoe!!

Regards etc."

Naturally we are delighted to receive such positive feedback and affection for our historic Club. It certainly encourages all of us to continue to work hard on all of the key things that matter. Recruiting new families, coaching, repositioning of the Club and strategic relationships are all a part of rebuilding our valuable brand.

Jeff Franklin

COMPETITION

Our Winter Cross Country season is progressing well as you will see from John David's attached Cross Country Report. This is our best showing in many years and with a number of new Ivanhoe Grammar students training hard at Chelsworth Park we should at least, have a very strong distance group emerging in the near future.

CROSS COUNTRY UPDATE

Round 4: Bundoora Park - 10km (17th June 2017)

This was a tough course with lots of hills, but weather conditions were perfect.

We had some impressive PB's on the day - both from our Juniors and Open Men.

Results for our Men's Division 5 Team were:

Men Division 5 - 10km

Place	Name	Time
257	Chris Branigan	00:42:54.270
(U20)	Thomas McGillion	00:44:31.783
330	James Lynch	00:46:59.097
338	Travis McIntosh	00:47:27.230
386	Jeremy Jones	00:53:42.590
407	David Burke	01:00:36.030
408	John David	01:01:20.610

Chris continues to excel, along with Thomas who really dug his heels in and achieved a great result being 44.31.

James was fresh from doing another Ironman event but still managed a solid result.



Thomas McGillion running uphill

We also had some Juniors running, with some competing on behalf of their schools, as this AV event was also held in conjunction with the Victorian All Schools Championships.

However Thomas Langdon ran for our club and achieved a good result of 26th in a time of 14.00min in the Under 16 men's 4km event, and in the Under 15 women's 4km event Freya Henriksen came 17th with a time of 16.00min.

David & Louis's results were also impressive being:

Victorian All Schools Cross Country Championships

Name	Team	Age Group	Place	Time
David GREIG	Trinity Grammar School	MU17 - 6km	44	24:21.350
Louis AJANI	Ivanhoe Grammar School	MU18 - 6km	79	26:40.760



Round 5 : Sandown Relays – 4 x 6.2km (8th July 2017)

What a fantastic day for our club with two Open Men's Division teams competing at the relays. This event is known for its 4 seasons in one day, and the notorious wind at the back straight of the racing track.

Each athlete had to complete two laps of the track (3.1km each) before tagging to the next relay runner.



Our Division 5 Men's team came 8th out of 13 entered teams, and ran against some very tough competition. Some good performance by our team, and the final times for 6th, 7th & 8th positions were very close.

Results as follows:

Men Division 5 – 4 x 6.2km

Leg	Name	Time
1	James Lynch	23:47
2	Chris Branigan	24:21
3	Travis McIntosh	27:00
4	Thomas McGillion	24:57

Place	Team	Time
1	BENDIGO REGION	1:20:02
2	ST STEPHENS HARRIERS	1:24:44
3	MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY	1:36:53
4	COBURG HARRIERS	1:37:15
5	WILLIAMSTOWN	1:37:23
6	GLENHUNTLY	1:39:26
7	YARRA RANGES	1:39:27
8	IVANHOE HARRIERS	1:40:05
9	SOUTH MELBOURNE	1:54:52
10	KNOX ATHLETICS	1:57:51
INV	OLD XAVERIANS	1:38:20
	COLLINGWOOD HARRIERS	DNF
	DIAMOND VALLEY	DNS

One of the highlights of the day was the performance of our Division 7 Men's team.

It has been at least 10 years since we have entered a team in this division.

It was also a good opportunity to include some of our Juniors and Females athletes in an Open team.

Congratulations for the team achieving 3rd place - beating Coburg Harriers by 2 seconds!!!!!!

The times for both Thomas and David were fantastic, and they both certainly enjoyed running in the Open Division.

Jeremy also had a great run, and a big thank you to Simone for her performance and making sure our team achieved points.

The results for this Division were:

Men Division 7 – 4 x 6.2km

Leg	Name	Time
1	Jeremy Jones	27:06
2	Simone David	34:48
3	Thomas Langdon	23:02
4	David Greig	23:16

Place	Team	Time
1	BENDIGO REGION	1:29:43
2	FRANKSTON	1:30:51
3	IVANHOE HARRIERS	1:48:12
4	COBURG HARRIERS	1:48:14
5	RICHMOND HARRIERS	1:50:06
6	ATHLETICS ESSENDON 1	1:50:43
7	BOX HILL	1:53:26
8	WESTERN ATHLETICS	1:54:01
9	YARRA RANGES 1	1:54:35
10	ATHLETICS ESSENDON 2	2:22:31

Thanks to Jill Wallis, Barry Greig & Mary Langdon for assisting on the day and fulfilling our club duties.

The next Cross Country event will be Sunday the 16th July 2017 at Albert Park, being the 10km Road Race.

John David – Winter Team Manager.





Above: David Greig's finishing effort to beat the Coburg runner.

Left: He gave it everything!

Go Hoe!