

Editorial

The last few years have been full of surprises, success and disappointment. None of us could have predicted that COVID-19 would continue for so long and wipe out two years of our beloved Cross Country competition.

This Edition reflects on our achievements during lockdown and touches on our past history. We have received a couple of great Letters to the Editor, have acknowledged the 50 year anniversary of the grand opening of the Olympic Village Track, and have included a couple of articles from our Cursus Edition in September 1981 which provides some insight into cross country competition of 40 years ago.

As for the present, we are now hopeful of participating in some form of Track and Field competition which is yet to be revealed. Athletics Victoria has announced a new start date of Saturday, 13th November 2021. Depending upon Govt. rules on numbers, we hope to see some detail around the structure of competition and the venues quite soon.

Your Committee has continued to meet via Zoom during lockdown. We have recently made application for Government Grants known as Community Support Survival Packages. These have been made available to support community sporting clubs during lockdown. If we are successful, the dollars will certainly assist us during the rebuild phase. Lockdowns mean no sport and no members, many clubs have folded.

We are in a sound financial state and we have a great group of young people on our training list and loads of talent. We have completed our new promotional brochure and despite lockdown, continued to encourage fitness and running training for our members and the students at Ivanhoe Grammar School. Participation in cross country by the students is at a 20 year high.

Please support the Club in our upcoming Trivia Night celebrations which are detailed below. Great prizes, a

bit of fun over Zoom at home and a bit of fundraising for the Club.

Keep well and stay healthy.



This excellent photo of Thomas Langdon with Ben Morrison challenging was chosen as the front page of our new brochure.

Training and Injuries

During lockdown, training has been difficult to organise, but many in our distance running group have done really well in maintaining their fitness.

The only serious injury that I am aware of is an iliotibial band issue which Harry Shaw has suffered. The issue can be quite painful and it is a common injury with distance runners. We wish Harry a speedy recovery. Harry was our highest ranked athlete last season and has a bright future ahead of him.

New Members and Member Renewals

Harley Mileto has joined the Club as a 15 year old middle distance runner. Harley competed in the Ivanhoe Grammar School Cross Country Team this winter and shows a lot of promise. He is very keen to improve, has competed in the Club 1000m time trial and certainly has a good "tank". Welcome to Harley.

Phil Ramsay has rejoined as an Official and continues to show wonderful loyalty to the Club. Phil is always one of the first to put his hand up to assist as an Official during summer track and Field. Thank you once again Phil.

Super-Six Series: The COVID Cup

Full results of our 1000m time trial are shown in the table below.

Andrew Luscombe was the winner of the handicap with an actual time of 3:04. Congratulations to Andrew.
Fastest time was David Greig with a very good 2:51.

Congratulations to everyone for having a crack during the lockdown, the next event is the 3k which will be held between now and Christmas — More on that to follow.

Ivanhoe Harriers Super Six Handicap Series - Virtual Competition 2021/22

Event 2: 1km race - Yarra Flats Trail

Date to complete Course: **3-Oct-2021**

Course: One way marked course - **Banksia Street end/Mid way to Ivanhoe end**

	Handicap Time	Actual Time	Diff.	Event Points
Andrew Luscombe	3:10	3:04	-0:06	10
Charlie Baker	3:30	3:30	0:00	9
Luke Malara	3:05	3:06	0:01	8
Alex Linke	2:52	2:54	0:02	7
Ella Rowe	3:50	3:54	0:04	6
Flynn Deacon	3:25	3:30	0:05	4:5
Sami Rowe	3:55	4:00	0:05	4:5
David Greig	2:45	2:51	0:06	3
Harley Mileto	3:10	3:17	0:07	2
Josh Phillip	2:50	2:59	0:09	1
Chris Branigan	3:25	3:41	0:16	1
Kate Bukovsan	3:45	4:05	0:20	1
Paige Bukovsan	3:25	3:50	0:25	1
David Burke	3:45	4:23	0:38	1
James Lynch	3:30	4:26	0:56	1

Trivia Night

- Saturday, 13th November 2021

This is a reminder note to get yourselves organised and enter the Trivia Night.

As noted in our previous Edition of Cursus, all members and friends of the Club are invited to attend and have a bit of fun.

It will be held on Zoom so you simply need to organise your group and register via the link below.

John Edney is our Trivia Night Organiser. John has done a terrific job now over many years. We are hoping to see over 100 participants, just like last year.

Join the night by accessing the trivia system at www.triviascore.com it is only \$15.00 a ticket and \$5.00 for kids under 15 so get involved and register. Look forward to seeing many familiar faces on the night.

From the Past

...40 years ago, Cursus - September 1981

Editor was: Bruce Meakin

A couple of selected items that will bring back some memories are included below.

12k Cross Country at Bundoora Park 8/08/1981

I think anyone who ran at Bundoora on this day would agree that the weather conditions would have been the toughest for a long time. The bitterly cold north wind was gale force and was literally roaring through the trees. It took some courage just to extract oneself from the relative warmth of the car, let alone stripping down to shorts and singlet.

The course was quite good with 3 laps. On 3 occasions on each lap the heading was directly into the wind and needless to say that it was here that the going was particularly tough. This was one race that we were all surely glad to see the end of.

In the Under 20 8k event, Barry Greig showed his class by finishing in 6th place.

Results: Open 12k

1 st	Max Little	(SSH)	37:11
65	Gus MacDonald	Ivanhoe	42:15
70	Steve Griffiths	Ivanhoe	42:21
75	Bruce Ackland	Ivanhoe	42:29
121	Bruce Meakin	Ivanhoe	44:11
138	Joe Anderson	Ivanhoe	44:48
160	Jeff Franklin	Ivanhoe	45:42
168	Ray Owens	Ivanhoe	45:57
201	Bob Cochrane	Ivanhoe	46:38
203	John Freeman	Ivanhoe	46:40
300	Brian Hodgson	Ivanhoe	50:51
323	Gordon Beith	Ivanhoe	53:33

Ivanhoe placed 3rd in B Grade.

Yan Yean Mini Marathons 29th August 1981

There had been a lot of rain leading up to this day and consequently the ground was a bit sloppy which mainly affected the Quarter Marathon.

The surprise of the day was Gerard Barrett starting in the half marathon. Our host, Graham Wise had bought him down from Queensland for the event. I don't know if Graham Wise was trying to set up a race with usual winner Steve Austin (Ivanhoe), but Steve wasn't there as he was leaving for the World Cup in Rome.

Needless to say, Barrett won easily from Max Little. Although Barrett did not run a course record in the Half Marathon, Nick De Castella did in the Quarter Marathon. Second was Frank Jordon and Gus MacDonald was third. Barry Greig ran 5th and Steve Griffiths ran 7th so we were right up there. Anthony Griffiths and Andrew Potocnik both made big improvements on their times from last year.

Results: Half Marathon (Ivanhoe)

11	Bruce Meakin	77:11
14	Jeff Franklin	80:10

Quarter Marathon (Ivanhoe)

3	Gus MacDonald	32:40
5	Barry Greig	33:19
7	Steve Griffiths	34:40
9	Anthony Griffiths	36:07
16	Andrew Porocnik	38:23

Following the races we all crammed into the house for the usual lavish afternoon tea and prize giving.

This Editor's note: Thanks Bruce for the memories, the Graham Wise mini marathons were a highlight of the winter calendar in those days and the feast that was supplied after the races was unbelievable. Runners would come from everywhere around the State just to feast on the afternoon tea that Graham provided.

Letters to the Editor

Greetings from Chris Cole (former Club President)

(Taken from a note to Andrew Edney and this Editor fellow)

As the Club's excellent historian, I guess you need no reminder that 50 years ago, on Sunday, 31st October 1971, the official opening of the Olympic Village Track, Heidelberg, was held.

I suggest it would be very good if you arranged a suitable notice to all members of Ivanhoe Harriers.

It was a great era in the Club's history, where so many contributed such a great deal in many different ways. It's just a pity that the facilities were taken away from the Club, due to misguided politics!
Best wishes to you and all members.

Chris Cole

Editor's note:

Many thanks Chris, your personal efforts at that time were an outstanding contribution to the Club and the (then) City of Heidelberg. As you know, that effort and the subsequent encouragement and initiative of the Ivanhoe Harriers resulted in the formation of Little Athletics in Heidelberg. Hundreds of little kids from the local community enjoyed the fun, fitness and activities. Unfortunately that valuable asset is also no longer available to the young families in Heidelberg/Ivanhoe.

We have included a historic recollection of the Olympic Village Track, written by our Club Historian, Andrew Edney, later in this Edition.
It makes for interesting reading.

A little bit of reminiscing...1970s

Dear Editor,

Back in the 1970s Ivanhoe Harriers' home was the Olympic Village Track (OVT) in West Heidelberg.

It was during this era that Melbourne seemed to be plagued with spasmodic petrol tanker driver strikes that would tend to drag on over many days. This resulted in petrol stations running low on fuel and motorists forming queues out into streets to obtain some of the precious fluid. The State Government of the day even resorted to an "odds and evens" system in an attempt to control the chaos, whereby car registrations ending in an odd number could refuel on one day and evens the next.

It was during one of these dreaded times that on club training days, and in order to preserve fuel in the car, I would run to OVT and back from where I lived in Macleod. Fellow club member Franc Vivarini (RIP) who lived next door to me would join me in the run to the track. So with the run there and back and some work on the track, they were quite substantial sessions. As it was all a bit of a novelty, and also draining, we only did it a few times in one particular strike period.
I am very glad that we are not suffering these annoying events these days.

Bruce Meakin.

Editor's note:

This Editor fellow remembers first seeing Bruce running 400s at the MacLeod Oval back in the 1970s. I

was returning home, by train from my job in the City. It was a hot evening as the train slowed into MacLeod and this bloke was hammering out 400 reps. I can remember being impressed, thinking to myself, I should be doing that!

Bruce was a fine distance runner and the backbone of the Ivanhoe Harriers Cross Country team back in the 70s & 80s.

OVT 50th Anniversary

from Andrew Edney

I was reminded recently by life member Chris Cole that Sunday, 31st October marked the 50th Anniversary of the official “re-opening” of the Olympic Village Track, for many years the home of our club.

The following is an excerpt from the Club’s official history, released to commemorate the Club’s centenary in 2014 which chronicles the events leading up to this auspicious event.

THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE TRACK

In 1954, the City of Heidelberg was chosen as the site of the Olympic Village, which would house athletes from all over the world taking part in the Melbourne Olympics. As part of the village, a cinders training track was established on the banks of the Darebin Creek. For periods following the Olympic Games and through to the early 1960's, the club gained use of the track for training facilities and for a number of years in the late 1950's Interclub competition for lower grades was held there.

At the time, the club did not have a great working relationship with the Council and the exorbitant fees of 20 pounds per week for a marked track or 15 pounds per week for an unmarked track were levied in the late 1950's. Despite many attempts to communicate with the Council, the track fell into disrepair and the club reverted back to Warringal Park as its training ground.

In November 1966, following much lobbying by the club, an invitation was received from the Heidelberg City Council to discuss the possibility of the Olympic Village track becoming the club’s training centre and headquarters. Over the following two years many discussions took place and the club presented Council with a comprehensive report detailing the probable costs of restoring the track and the various advantages and uses to be derived from the Track once restored.

In September 1968, following the club’s continued representations, the Council agreed to restore the track with a first class cinders surface and to grant the club occupation for at least two years. On October 9th 1968, a special General Meeting was held to announce plans for the future use and development of the track.

By May 1969, the base layer of the track had been completed and by December of the same year, work on the top layer had commenced and approval given to architects Anderson and Cassisi to prepare sketch plans and estimates for the construction of other facilities including the pavilion. A model of the pavilion went on display in the Town Hall foyer in April 1970.

Within a year, Tartan run ups had been laid for the High Jump, Long and Triple Jump, Pole Vault, Javelin and Steeplechase areas.

At that time, Ivanhoe was the first club in Australia to have the Tartan surface laid and it would be a further two years before Hensley Field in New South Wales, and three years before Olympic Park would become the first Tartan tracks in Australia.



Things did not always run smoothly and a number of club members put much time and effort into the project. None as much as Chris Cole. Chris would play a crucial role in the restoration of the track and without his efforts none of it would have eventuated.

Inspired by the distance running boom and the Melbourne Olympics, Chris attended the club trials held in October 1956. After running the half mile and following some words of encouragement from Jack McCann, Chris joined up for what would become a long and fruitful relationship with the club. Owing to work, study and family commitments Chris was never able to devote the time to training required to develop the promise he showed as a junior. However, this was to be the Club's advantage as Chris took on the roles of team manager, secretary, vice president and later still president with much enthusiasm and success. His hard work particularly during the mid to late 1960's was a contributing factor in the club’s rapid growth during these years. It was Chris, together with Professor Bill Rawlinson, who provided technical guidance and assistance to the Council during the project. Both these men, together with Herb Norman, the City Engineer, played a substantial part in forming and planning the project which would enable the club to become a major force in athletics during the 1970's.

In 1974 Chris was made a life member in recognition of his service to the club as an athlete, administrator and in particular the role he played in the restoration of the Olympic Village Track

The fully restored Olympic Village Track was officially opened by Sir Edgar Tanner, Honorary Secretary General of the Australian Olympic Federation and Cr Ross Christie, Mayor of Heidelberg at an All Star Meeting held on Sunday 31st October 1971. Although many top athletes would compete at this meeting and records broken, this was to be Ivanhoe's day, the culmination of five years hard work.

Athletes to compete at the meet included Ray Boyd who set an Australian record of 16'4" in the pole vault; Tony Sneazwell who cleared 6'10" to win the high jump, Judy Pollock, Charlene Rendina and Judy Canty in the women's 400 metres. Others to compete included Raelene Boyle, Pam Ryan and Peter Norman who ran an excellent 20.5 for 200 metres.

The highlight for Ivanhoe was the performance of new club member Sig Koscik who threw the Javelin a Victorian record 263'10½". Prior to the change of Javelin specifications by the IAAF in 1985, this throw was only surpassed twice by Australian athletes.



Official Opening of Olympic Village Track – 31 October 1971

Sponsorship Support



The Running Company has generously provided a voucher to the value of \$270.00 for our Trivia night. This is a wonderful gesture and very much appreciated by the Club.

The Running Company at Clifton Hill is a specialty running store borne out of a desire to offer premium footwear and honest, expert advice to runners. They take great pride in providing industry leading customer service, digital gait analysis, running and footwear advice.

Next time you are looking for a new pair of running shoes, please ask for Chris at 175a Queens Parade Clifton Hill.

www.therunningcompany.com.au

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