



**50<sup>th</sup> Annual Report**  
**VICTORIAN MASTERS ATHLETICS INC**  
**&**

**Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet for the Period**

**1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

**OFFICE BEARERS**

<b>President:</b>	Rob Mayston
<b>Vice President:</b>	Tony Bradford
<b>Secretary:</b>	Margaret Hunter
<b>Assistant Secretary:</b>	Ewen Wilson
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Simon Evans
<b>Club Captain:</b>	Shane Draper
<b>VMA Team Manager:</b>	David Sheehan

**General Committee**

Russell Oakley  
Judy Pfanner  
Chris Worsnop

## President's Report

### VMA Presidents Report – May 2022

As I write my first President's Annual Report, it comes as a relief that the havoc caused by Covid to VMA looks to now be a thing of the past, although feelings about this still need to be tempered somewhat by the impact Covid has had – and still continues to have – on the community.

And so it was around October last year that masters athletes were finally able to reunite in our Venues, Training Groups and the like and return to our sport. There were still some restrictions in place but in time these too also were relaxed. The 2021/22 Summer season was successfully completed, with the Winter Season to follow.

The year 2022 was always going to be a key milestone for VMA as it marked the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our formation – with Masters replaced by Veterans – at our inception. A celebration to mark our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was held in March in the form of a series of track and field events at the Murrumbeena Track. This was then followed by our first ever State Championships to be held at “headquarters” (Lakeside Stadium).

And so, 50 years on, something that is worthy of contemplation is: “what might the next 50 years have in store ?” And one way to kick that off is to reflect on how VMA is tracking right now and whether we are “moving with the times” and are providing the best opportunities possible for 30+ aged athletes. Opinions of course as always will vary in relation to this, but as President I see there are opportunities and new initiatives that we can look to implement that if done the right way can see participation in masters athletics in Victoria increase and as a result the numbers of VMA members grow, And so I see this metric – VMA membership – as a simple measure as to whether VMA is connecting with the 30+ cohort of our community that wish to pursue athletics as their sport / hobby.

A process has been kicked off to review how VMA is going about things now and what changes / new initiatives might be introduced. To this point the VMA Board and Venue Managers have had a series of meetings to progress this. In the coming months the plan is to provide the opportunity to all VMA members to have their say & provide input and their ideas. ‘Footprints’ will be used as the common medium to keep everyone up to date on how this process is tracking. By our next AGM the goal is for the process to be completed and a roadmap prepared for changes we wish to pursue in the near future.

Change in anything is always interesting. Often it can seem easier just to continue “doing what we know now” and not “risk change”. I certainly don't subscribe to that and am of a view that change is something that is needed to stay relevant and to prosper into the venture. A great feature of VMA – and one which is unique amongst Masters State / Territory Associations is our Venues. I see the Venues as a solid bedrock of the future VMA and at the same time I see opportunity to improve how they function (with an example being the introduction of electronic timing and the ability to share results online – with an added advantage being that this would also reduce the administrative burden associated with the way things are being done now).

To help keep a focus on how we go about improving VMA and growing our membership, the VMA Board/Committee will be streamlining how it functions. My goal here is so that we have maximum time available to discuss the things that matter the most.

Probably the main message I would like to convey is that, to change VMA, to bring in new initiatives will require people to step up and “make it happen”. And so I would like to appeal

to VMA members that as they learn of what is being proposed to improve the VMA “athlete experience” and the skills that will be required to make these things happen, then they will be keen to get involved. “Good change” is exciting and both rewarding and fun to be part of. The old saying “many hands make light work” also comes to mind here; I’m looking for whatever we might do to be a team effort and to share the effort accordingly. Finally I would like to thank all members for their participation in VMA’s “post Covid reboot”. In particular I would like to thank the VMA Committee and Venue Managers who put in significant time and effort to ensure all of the organisation is in place for all of us to enjoy what we do.

Rob Mayston - President

The “masters athletics experience” itself can be split into three parts:

1. what the athletes are actually doing / how they are participating
2. the structure in place for their participation &
3. the support they have to enable them to do what they do. I will briefly cover each of these here.

## **Secretary’s Report**

The year 2021-22 since taking over from the shoes of long term Secretary Phil Urquhart has been both rewarding and challenging. I have learnt new skills and meet many venue members and made friendships among members of the Victorian Masters Athletics community. I have enjoyed the experience as well.

Thank you to Phil Urquhart, committee members of the Victorian Masters Athletics and venue members. I have been able to visit over the last year for the ongoing support and encouragement I have experienced in a very positive and encouraging manner.

A particular thanks to Ewen Wilson, as Assistant Secretary, as well as other roles, who always had the time to give me the required information when needed with a smile and more support in this role. I thank the venue members, and all Masters athletes for their support also, as you all make my job interesting and enjoyable.

I plan to visit more events and venues in 2022, and look forward to meeting with Masters Athletes at these venues Thank you all for your support and interest in Victorian Masters Athletics. The committee has meet monthly with some delayed events due to covid, which seems now to some extent behind us, and I look forward to working with the Masters venues in 2022 to further increase my knowledge and experience in the Masters community.

## **Financial statements**

## **Auditors statement Venue reports for 2021**

### **ABERFELDIE VENUE REPORT 2021**

Aberfeldie Masters, like all other venues were badly affected by Covid Protocols and restrictions in 2021. As a Venue we soldiered on and used every opportunity to get our hard core members together every week in some form.

The Clubrooms were finally refurbished for which we must thank the Moonee Valley Council, in 2022 the Council will complete the proposal to construct a World Class new Track Lighting system. Essendon Athletics, through the secretary John Cooper has played a major role (well supported by Aberfeldie Masters) in the enhancement to the Moonee Valley Athletic Centre. The Track and its surrounds will provide a first class facility for major track and field events in the future.

Aberfeldie was able to enter in the Annual Neighbours Nights Relays. One of the very few highlights in a restricted year,

Once we get through another Melbourne Winter, I am sure we can re-establish ourselves and consolidate our flagging numbers on a Wednesday night, even during winter our new lighting system may encourage age runners from other venues to participate.

Tony Bradford

Aberfeldie Venue Manager

### **COBURG VENUE ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

In another disjointed and challenging year, the Coburg Masters managed to squeeze in as many of their key events as possible. With restrictions, clubroom renovations and general uncertainty the normal attendance numbers were a little down from previous years.

The cross country season took place over January and February. The two planned trips to the Golden Domes (8.5 km) was reduced to only one successful trip due to the creek flooding for a second year in a row.

March/April signifies Teams Championships. This year we managed to have 5 teams of 4 competitors. The events were 3x100m Teams Relay, 100m, 1500m, 400m and 4km. The winning team was Boyle with 114 points, holding out Elliott with 111 points. Winning team members were Ben Pearmain, Isabelle Raines, Len Hallett, and Rob Davey. The individual with the highest score was Ben Pearmain who won all events and collected the maximum 60 points on offer.

In the May/June program the feature was the Mashed Marathon held over 9 nights of the program. Normally this would finish in June, but this year was exceptional and continued on where possible until the conclusion of the ninth night of the competition in November.

Despite this challenge 7 people managed to complete the full marathon distance. They were Ben Pearmain ((2:57), Fraser Murray (3:12), Matthew Hallett(3:24), Michael Meaney(3:31), Fiona Ely(3:34), Maria Barbetti(3:55) and Len Hallett(4:16). The 1,000m Age Graded Championships were also held, with Fraser Murray claiming victory in 3:22(Age graded =74.2%).

Fast forward to November/December that included as many key events as possible. The 300m beat your age challenge was achieved by Michael Meaney(62seconds at 66 years). Managers challenge 400m was achieved by Isabelle Raines, 4km by Fraser Murray and Michael Meaney and the 2km by Tracey Colbert, Rob Lewis and Rob Davey. The 3.5 km Spiral Handicap was won by Rob Davey. Rounding out the year was the annual Pudding Gift

and Mile. This year it was run as a secret handicap as there was very little form to assess. Rob Lewis managed to win both events.

The renovated clubrooms are expected to be completed in May 2022 and will be much welcomed.

**Paul O'Neill**  
**Venue Manager**

## **COLLINGWOOD VENUE ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

The Collingwood venue meets at the George Knott Reserve in Clifton Hill every Tuesday evening.

This year, we had to miss three weeks in June and twelve weeks during August, September and October.

As a result, we were unable to hold -

- our annual Magpie Half-Marathon,
- the 5-Km Handicap,
- the 8-weeks Winter points comp.

We were able to hold -

- the Don Warden 400 metre Handicap,
- the Magpie Marathon featuring the Denis O'Hehir trophy for the age-graded winner,

As we have done for several years, we again successfully hosted \_

- the VMA 10000m Track Champs.
- The 8-km (6-km >60) Cross-Country Champs.

We also hosted the inter-club 4 x 200m Relay, known as Neighbours' Night.

Collingwood was the most successful of the four clubs (the others being Doncaster, Aberfeldie and Coburg) winning both the 240+ and 180+ Relay events.

The management committee (Jim, John, Rod, Ian, Mary, Carmel and Chris) would like to thank all venue members for their cooperation and assistance during this difficult period. A special thanks to Helen Bayley for her tireless work in the kitchen and to Keith, Herbie, Bruce and Rocket for their valuable assistance in organizing the events.

**Casey \*\*\*\*\***

## **CROYDON MASTERS VENUE MANAGERS REPORT APRIL 2022**

Hi All,

And welcome to a new year!

What a trying few years it has been for us at Croydon Masters Athletics with covid restrictions.

Our venue, I believe, to be the last venue to resume activities due to the issue of our track being fully accessible to the general public.

When we did resume we had a great response from our members and were getting 25-30 athletes each Tuesday night. It was so good to see many faces with stories to tell. We have our usual group of social walkers, along with our finely tuned athletes, which compete at the elite level of athletics.

On a sad note, our esteemed members of Alison & Colin Thompson have decided to retire. After 30 plus years of membership, they have moved north to Mackay, Far Nth Qld, to be with family. A huge loss to us, as both were very active members to our group. Colin was our Treasurer for as long as I can remember and Alison being very active with all of our social events.

During the last few months we have had our elections for Office Bearers. Myself and Grant Murfett have re-elected as Venue Manager and Assistant Venue Manager, and with the retirement of Colin Thompson as our Treasurer, we searched for a replacement and are very happy that Rob Stagg has come on board to fulfil this role.

Unfortunately, after many good months of competition, we have had to temporarily close down our venue due to major renovations occurring to our track/inside arena. We explored all options and none really appealed to everyone, so it was inevitable to close until our track is accessible to us again.

Thank you to all who supported us during our time back and look forward to our resumption in late September – All going to plan!

Many thanks,

*Andrew Egginton*

Croydon Masters Venue Manager

## **DONCASTER VENUE ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

2021 was another stop-start year. There were no long lockdowns due to Covid, but there were several times in the year that we were locked out for a few weeks. The Victorian Championships were back, but the Australian Championships were cancelled again.

The Inter-Venue Challenge was a bigger challenge than usual, but after three postponements, it finally happened in December and was most successful, with Doncaster again coming out on top. Our regular competitions of pentathlon, Doncaster Gift etc., were also interrupted, and the winter competitions were completed in summer.

The Victorian Pentathlon Championships were held at Doncaster this year, with over 40 competitors, Doncaster coming away with five gold. Doncaster were heavily involved in the running of this, and thanks to all who helped on the day.

Due to lockdown, the Victorian Championships were held at the end of April, again at Doncaster. It was another successful day for Doncaster, with multiple medals.

The other major issue facing DMA has been the resurfacing of the track at Doncaster. Fortunately, Box Hill have been most generous, and we continue to meet there until the track is finished at no charge. Our first meet there was the 60 minutes, which was quite successful,

though with smaller fields. Finish date is end of May.

Thanks to the committee who carried on valiantly: Secretary Nigel Shipley, Treasurer David McConnell, web administrator Kevin Bates and Darryl Kilmartin, Katrina Phillips and Barry Dorr.

To all Doncaster athletes; enjoy a fantastic year of health, happiness and great running in **2021!** Visitors from other venues are also welcome at any time!

**GRAHAM FORD  
VENUE MANAGER**

**EAST BURWOOD VENUE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

The Covid-19 pandemic again disrupted our year in 2021. We had our weekly Thursday night competition for four months at the start of the year, and we were able to resume again after the lock downs, for five weeks at the end of the year.

Despite these difficulties we were still able to hold a successful John Gosbell 5000 m with fifty runners, as well as the Hawley Thomas 3 x 2000 m relay. We are pleased to welcome masters athletes from other venues for these special nights. However, it is not just these special nights, but we often have people from other venues for our regular evenings, and they are always most welcome. East Burwood were well represented at the Andy Salter Relays, Doncaster Track Challenge and Doncaster Sixty Minutes.

We are able to squeeze in some of our series including the Bob Lewis 400 m handicap, Gwen Davidson 100 m handicap, Manager's Pentathlon, Tri Throws series, Freezing "Freddo Frog" 4000 m handicap, Terrific Tetra Two km, Sizzling Summer Spiral 3000 m handicap, 800 m walk handicap, 1000 m NOT walk, 6000 m Legends handicap.

We have great suppers every week, but in addition we had some specially themed suppers and dressing up for Australia Day, Valentine's Day, St Patrick's Day and Oaks Day. We also had a social dinner at Café Oggi near the track on a Saturday night, and got together at the Forest Hill Chase Hotel to watch some Olympics. Thanks to Chris Joseph for organizing these. We also had a special dinner at the track to celebrate Christmas.

Thanks very much to Toni Matters for managing our online payment and check in system. Toni also looks after our accounts. Unfortunately we have to keep paying rent all year, even during the lock downs when we cannot use the track.

Special thanks to Shirley Coppock and Christine Robinson for organizing supper every week, and to others who also contribute. They also do a great job with various decorations for our theme nights – Australia day, Leo Coffey's ninety-first birthday in February, Valentine's Day, St Patrick's Day

Special thanks to Gerald Burke fills in as venue manager when I cannot make it on a Thursday night, and for the Christmas dinner, which he does with his wife Annette; Jack Fredrickson for organizing the field events and locking up the sheds; Pete Battrick for the handicaps for the longer running and walking events; Paul Durrant for the sprint handicaps; Alan Wood for organizing our trophies and medals; Stephen Day for our online presence, and acting as an assistant manager; Phyllis Gosbell for recording results; Donna Clarke for her support and assistance.

Everyone who comes to the venue, both those that call East Burwood their home venue, as well as those who are very welcome visitors from other venues, make it a great pleasure to do

masters athletics.

## **CHRISTOPHER WORSNOP VENUE MANAGER**

### **EASTERN MASTERS 2021 Report:**

Like all other VMA venues (and the rest of the world!) Covid 19 restrictions presented testing times with winter training interrupted for long periods due to lock downs.

Despite being unable to meet up as a group and gain the benefit of others company for inspiration, we did our best to keep in regular touch with our members via emails and our Eastern Masters Facebook page. Weekly emails were sent out to all our members with suggested efforts and tempo training sessions which could be completed within their 5km exclusion zone.

Given the constrictions we were under it was gratifying to hear the majority followed the schedules and not only completed the sessions but used considerable ingenuity to ensure they could partner up with another member without breaking Covid rules.

Feed back was excellent, with many reporting they used the sessions as a Covid 'release valve' and felt fitter than ever due to consistent training! Our members co-operation and understanding throughout this difficult time was fantastic and very much appreciated. It also gave us considerable amusement to see their posts and photos on how they overcame obstacles to complete their sessions. Perhaps inspiration for a new edition of the novel: 'The loneliness of the long distance runner'!

We are extremely grateful to Brad Buyck who did not hesitate to volunteer to be our Covid Safety Officer' during these difficult times. Brad had the onerous task of keeping abreast with what appeared to be daily changes of Covid protocols & rules and decipher & précis relevant information for us to understand & follow. He also did a wonderful job in tactfully ensuring we adhered to the Covid protocols. Thank you Brad, for a job well done.

Interestingly, in the periods when some Covid restrictions were relaxed and we were able to travel further afield and in larger numbers, we managed to meet up for sessions when many track VMA venues remained closed. This gave us the opportunity to welcome visiting members from other venues who were missing their regular social & competitive evenings. It was a pleasure to welcome these guests, many of whom have now become regular members of the Eastern Masters training sessions whilst still attending and remaining loyal to their first venues. This bonus does not come without a cost! Having members competing for other venues can make it very difficult for us to field competitive teams for inter venue competition. However, we still do our best to participate and take pride in our ability to remain competitive despite the fact that many of our colleagues are running in rival colours! That does not mean they don't endure some teasing, but our philosophy being, it does not



matter if one is competing for Eastern Masters, Croydon, Knox, Glen Eira or East Burwood etc providing participants gain some satisfaction from our training sessions and enjoy our sport.

Having a very small pool of official Eastern Masters competitors meant it was gratifying to be able to field individuals and teams in various VMA events once competition recommenced.

We entered several teams in Springvale's annual 'Andy Salter' memorial road relays and were delighted when our first team secured second place and Kym Osmand was awarded the fastest female. Most importantly, it gave us the opportunity to introduce new members to VMA competition many of whom are often a little apprehensive to compete. The introduction to the customary friendly but competitive spirit of Masters events did much to alleviate fears and resulted in an enthusiastic response.

Unanimous conclusion: 'great evening, let's do more'!

Covid restrictions and being unable to witness our members progression made our usual Christmas and end of year 'Anna D'Alberto Memorial' 5km handicap run a difficult event to organise. A brilliant suggestion by Mark Travill meant it was hastily re-organised as a 'Nominate your own time' run. Our winner this year was the vastly improved, Jamie Rae. Not only has he improved his speed but obviously knows how quick he runs! Fastest male was Brad Buyck who not only held on to his customary fastest runner title but broke his own course record!

Great to see Michelle Quan continue to set faster times in taking out the fastest female title (& wearing Eastern Masters's yellow & black rather than her customary Knox singlet on this occasion!). Congratulations to all competitors and lovely to meet partners & friends in our usual post event social.

For many years we have customarily met at Jells Park for our summer sessions and reluctantly trained at the illuminated Knox Industrial estate for our winter sessions. Concerns regarding the increasing amount of traffic using the Knox Industrial estate after business hours forced us to reevaluate the safety of the venue. At members suggestions we tested out various alternative winter venues and eventually opted to move to Lewis Park, South Wantirna. This offers a flat, fairly well illuminated 3.2km circuit with parking & toilet facilities available. This is proving ideal for our members to meet and safely carry out their interval & repetition sessions with their ability groups.

If you are interested in joining in with fellow VMA members for organised middle distance training sessions please feel welcome to come and try us out on Tuesday evenings, 6pm at Lewis Park, Blind Creek Trail (meet at Sports Pavilion off Lewis Rd. 3152). With a

reminder: you are still welcome to join us even if you run and compete with other venues!  
 Finally, can we say a huge thank you to all our Eastern Masters members.  
 Their friendships and support for one another makes all the effort involved very worthwhile.

Bronwen Cardy & David Sheehan.  
 Eastern Masters.

### Frankston & Peninsula Venue Report 2021

The year 2021 was another Covid affected year, but the Frankston & Peninsula venue still managed a few highlights.

Significantly, at February 2021 AGM, the Frankston and Southern Peninsula venues formalised the merger to become the Frankston & Peninsula venue. The merger has gone seamlessly with renaming and advising all the relevant authorities being an ongoing process. The Frankston & Peninsula venue actively participated in the inter venue competitions during 2021. The walkers were successful in winning the Bert Warburton trophy at Springvale venue's Andy Salter relay night. The Frankston & Peninsula venue had good representation numbers at the Andy Salter, John Gosbell & Browne Shield events before the Covid restrictions closed down the competition.

We look forward to competing in the inter venue events in a more normal 2022.

While the 2021 competition year was shortened by Covid restrictions, there was sufficient competition to award the Annual Club championship to Pramesh Prasad with Bill & Heather Carr coming second and third respectively. Congratulations to Mesh, Bill & Heather. The Peter Duggan trophy for Outstanding Service was deservedly awarded to Mike Hall for many years of magnificent service to our venue.

The venue was able to conduct most of our memorial events with the winners being;

- Paul Curran Memorial walk – Pramesh Prasad
- Graeme Richards 200m – Mike Hall
- Andrew Piercey 5km walk – Lindsay Beaton
- Syd Elks memorial trophy – Pramesh Prasad
- Ian MacArthur 200m – Mike Hall
- Graham Kilfoyle Christmas 200m handicap Trophy – Bill Carr

During 2021 co-venue manager, Frances Halton announced that 2021 was to be her final year as venue manager after eight years as co-venue manager. The venue owes Fran a great debt for her dedicated service. Fran was instrumental in implementing many initiatives to make Thursday night competition more interesting and raising the overall profile of our venue.

Moving forward, Frankston, finally, has a Parkrun. This gives the Frankston & Peninsula venue an opportunity for our Frankston based members to participate locally and increase the local profile of our venue.

David Dodson  
 Frances Halton

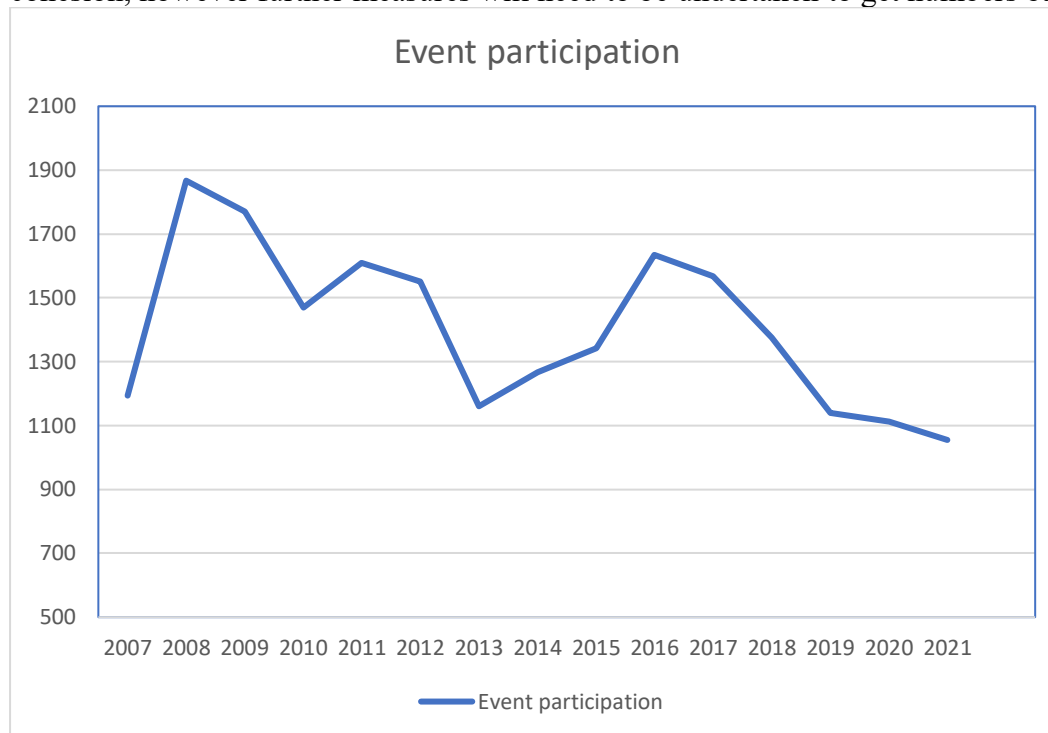
## **GEELONG VENUE ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

2020, a season like no other... is how we described 2020, then there was 2021. Covid-19 cancellation of competition through Sept – October had follow on impacts on participation.

The venue pivoted to running virtual competition to fill the gap again – with some losses of participants to the gap in competition.

Our crude measure of participation for 2021 then remained on par with 2020 due to the virtual competition.

Challenge again is to get runners back – the venue is working on social side of group cohesion, however further measures will need to be undertaken to get numbers back.



Thanks to our volunteers and others that have served to keep the venue viable over this difficult year.

**ALAN JENKINS**

**GEELONG VENUE, April 2022**

#### **GLEN EIRA VENUE**

##### **ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

2021 was another difficult year for sporting clubs. We had no competition between mid-June and early November, and even when we were competing, it was usually in somewhat compromised circumstances.

Nevertheless, numbers were still quite strong, averaging between 30 and 40 members each week.

Many of our normal events could not be held, including our Annual Living Legend relays and we were unable to hold the planned memorial event for Jim Sinclair (though this was finally held in February 2022). We did compete in the much-delayed inter-venue competition at Doncaster where, once again, we pushed the host team all the way but eventually fell just short of victory, finishing a clear second for the third time. Several of our members competed very successfully in State Championship events, though unfortunately the National Championships were cancelled.

Two of our members, Andrew Edwards and Janine McKerron, received service awards from VMA, both well-deserved!

The few winners on the track this year were:

The "Leo Charles" 100 Metres Series – Jim McLure

The "Ray Kemp" 3km Distance series – Michelle Edmonds

The "Sandra Middleton" Walk series – John Allan

The Annual Sprint points – Mike Clapper

The Annual Middle Distance points – Greg Hughes

We did manage to squeeze in 10 rounds in our annual points competitions.

Financially, we have not suffered too much because Glen Eira Council did not impose rent during the lockdown period.

Once again thank you to all who have assisted in the successful running of our Venue for 2021.

Many thanks to our Committee members: Jim McLure, Janet Holmes, Peter McGrath, Phil Urquhart, Andrew Edwards, Jo Cockwill, Michelle Edmonds, Sarah Lorentzen, June Treweek, Chris Brown and Tony Doran.

Our Event handicappers: Simon Lloyd, Jim Rountree and Des Middleton.

Our event sponsors: Bob Wishart, Ray O'Connor, Kevin Browne, Judy Wines and Sandra Middleton.

Thanks also to our starters, Sarah Lorentzen and Tony Doran, our track organiser Andrew Edwards and to the many others who help out each week with timekeeping and other duties.

Mike Clapper

**VENUE MANAGER**

## **MENTONE VENUE ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

2021 was another year impacted by Covid 19.

During the financial Year of 2020/2021, the Club showed a deficit of \$3496.01.

This was largely made up of a onetime payment of \$3000.00, to the Mentone Track and Field Centre Inc., which was our contribution towards the cost of the new track at Mentone. Our annual payment to the MTFC Inc was \$612.00.

The payment to the Mentone Track and Field Centre Inc. is calculated at a rate per club member and MTFC Inc. is made up of three Clubs using the track; Mentone Little Athletics, Mentone Athletic Club and Mentone Masters. The contribution from the clubs is used for maintenance and general expenses required to keep the Centre running efficiently.

During the year, like all other Clubs in 2021, we were subject to more lockdowns, a week during February, three weeks in June and a further twelve weeks from August until late October. From April until December, when not locked down, our meetings were held at Bricker Reserve in Moorabbin. This necessitated a payment of \$500.00 to Moorabbin Little Athletics for the use of their track and lighting. This arrangement contributed to further reduction of our income for the year in 2021.

Despite the lockdowns we were able to hold three celebration nights throughout the year, marking 'Significant Birthdays' and other special events. The return of activities at our new track was a most welcome and very happy occasion for all concerned.

Attendance at the weekly meetings both before and after suspension of activities remained steady.

Our Newsletter remains a very popular publication for the Club and much appreciation goes to our Editor Sonya McLennan who again this year was happily settled in NSW for the duration of the Victorian lockdown. The Newsletter was a very welcome distraction from the gloom of lockdown and Sonya's efforts to find and publish good news when very little was available, were particularly appreciated.

The Newsletter, coupled with a regular Results sheet, now resumed, keeps members well informed of club activities.

As with most venues, the assistance of volunteers is invaluable in maintaining a high standard of weekly events. We are fortunate at Mentone in having a strong core of athletes who help with all the various duties required, be it on the track or helping to serve supper each week. Membership of the Club remains steady and as in other years, we have had several new members join in 2021. Although our core group members are in higher age groups, there are younger members who participate on a regular basis keeping numbers at a steady rate over the age groups. .

The Mentone Venue continues to provide an ideal centre for athletic pursuits and social interaction and, providing our membership numbers remain at the desired level, we can look forward to a positive future for the Club.

**ASHLEY PAGE**  
**VENUE MANAGER**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - Springvale/Noble Park**

Following on from the lockdowns of 2020, 2121 was not much different with lots of uncertainty arising from the Covid restrictions.. We started off the Year as usual with lots of enthusiasm and everyone looking forward to getting back into some fitness training and competition. Our first major event of the year was to be the 30th running of the Lindsay Thomas memorial at Braeside Park on the 3rd week in January. All was set to go and for the 2nd year running we had to cancel again due to more lock downs. Lucky for us we managed to stage the very popular Andy Salter relay on the first Wednesday in February before Covid restrictions struck again the day after the event. As usual the event was very well attended with everyone enjoying the night immensely. Again Knox was the winner with Shane Grand running an all time record of 8.58 for the 3100m

The remainder of the year was no better than the previous year with lockdowns & restrictions resulting in confusion and not being able to attend our venue until mid

November. We managed to get about 3-4 weeks in including our Christmas breakup with Covid restriction in place.

Being true to our spirit the pandemic did not dampen our determination to compete. During the lockdown we continued with a modified virtual programme. Each participant reported their results online which were then analysed and reposted. We managed to conduct most of our Handicap and special events virtually with the assistance of Christine McCardle.

Again special mention to Christine McCardle who manages our Facebook and the on-line programme during lockdown and all the members who participated to keep our spirits up. Also special mention to Kelly Davidson taking over from our beloved Jimmy Sinclair in the kitchen keeping his spirit alive.

Office bearers for 2021

Claudio Riga - Manager

Tony Doran - Assistant manager

Alan Bennie - Treasurer

Christine McCardle - Social Media

Lou Buccieri - Results

Natalie Irvine - Social Activities/events

Handicappers - Howard Rees/Frank Alan/Bill Irvine

**CLAUDIO RIGA**

**VENUE MANAGER**

## **THROWERS VENUE 2021**

With the horrors of 2020 behind us we all looked forward to a healthy and successful year of competition in 2021. Unfortunately we only enjoyed just over six months of competition before the State went back into lockdown again. We did not resume again until November. While the Victorian Masters went ahead the AMA T & F Championships, in Canberra were cancelled and the AMA Winter Throws were cancelled. However we were able to successfully conduct our VMA Throws Pentathlon Championships.

In 2021 we had plans to conduct our first indoor competition. Judy Pfanner had organized the construction of a portable indoor throwing ring through the agency of Simon van Baalen's brother. Clyde Riddoch had sourced an equestrian centre that could be the indoor venue.

After

painting of the portable ring all seemed set for a late July indoor meet. Lockdown and other issues unfortunately meant postponement for the rest of 2021

In February we held our AGM, at Duncan Mackinnon, where 12 members attended. The Committee for 2021 was elected. The President presented the Annual Report for 2020 and announced Judy Pfanner as the “Best Clubperson” for 2020.

The Throws Pentathlon Championships, held on 21<sup>st</sup> March, attracted 20 throwers with one interstate thrower from South Australia. The Roy Foley Trophy for the best throws pentathlete among the Throwers at this Championship was won by Simon van Baalen.

In late April the Victorian Masters was held at Doncaster with many Throwers competing. This was the last major event for 2021. The Throwers continued to hold meets until mid July when Victoria went into lockdown again. As mentioned earlier this basically meant the possibility of an indoor meet had to be shelved.

We were very fortunate to have Judy Pfanner implement a QR registration procedure for all our meets so that the Safety Officer would have information on those present and their arrival times plus their contact details.

With the easing of restrictions in late October events could again be conducted in November and up to our final meet in December – a TP and the Ilmars Mancs discus trophy which preceded our Christmas BBQ which was well organized by Narelle and her team. Nineteen throwers competed in the TP with fourteen also eligible for the Ilmars Mancs trophy. The winner of the Ilmars Mancs was Megan Champion.

Throughout the restricted times of the year I am so thankful to those who have stepped forward to play a significant role to ensure the Throwers enjoyed as much activity as possible. Judy Pfanner organized training activities for the Throwers and Roger Glass fulfilled the role of Safety Officer.

We have also been well looked after in coaching with our main coach Roger ably assisted by Megan. Thank you both. Our numbers have remained steady at around 40 with some with four new members joining.

We look forward to a better year in 2022 with the AMA Championships taking place again in Brisbane. We will aim for more competition Sundays in 2022 to provide more opportunities to compete in the greater number of throwing events available to throwers. In winter we will hopefully conduct our first indoor meet.

*Graeme G Rose*

