

COLLINGWOOD VENUE

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

The committee of management, consisting of eight members, quickly learnt the ropes of the various tasks involved in running the weekly meetings and, despite the inevitable hiccups, the year proceeded without major disaster

During 2015 we ran our usual annual events - the Don Warden Memorial 400-m Handicap, the Alan Burgoyne 5-km Handicap, the Magpie Marathon (incorporating the Denis O'Hehir Memorial trophy), the Magpie Half-marathon and the July Challenge.

For the first time a few of our park-runs were started and finished on the track and these events proved to be very practical for the timekeepers and popular with the members.

Once again, Collingwood Venue conducted both the VMA 10-km Track Championships and VMA 8-km Cross Country Championship in Yarra Bend Park. The Barb Dalglish Memorial Trophy for 2015 was also staged by our club and no less than six Collingwood teams participated - the Collingwood Cougars taking out the winner's trophy.

Many of our runners competed in various events locally, interstate and internationally and it was interesting to hear their accounts of their experiences and to view their photos.

Social evenings throughout the year were, as always, very successful, well attended and enjoyed by everyone present.

During the year we experimented with timing gates that belong to the Harriers for some of the sprint events. Most of the time they worked well and the results were terrific but understandably there was a bit of disquiet amongst the members when the gates did not work as they should. However, we were inspired to persist with the timing gates for some of the Club Trophy events when the recorded electronic times showed that the manually recorded times were around half a second out.

The committee has dreams of a purpose built construction at the finish line equipped with a state of the art timing setup so that the officials can sit in comfort behind glass protected from the elements and avoid the agony of pressing the wrong button on the stopwatch or losing track of which runner is in which lane.

The committee is committed to increasing our membership and it remains a goal that we will pursue in 2016. In this regard, during the year we undertook setting up our own website to advertise our club in the hope of attracting more members. Also, by posting the weekly results and details of past and future events on the website, we are able to provide better communication with our members

It has taken a while to establish the website but it is generally agreed it has been a great success and has attracted admiration and interest from outsiders.

My heartfelt thanks to all our members who have so willingly given their support and help in all areas of management of the club. There were always volunteers to step in to help out with setting up, starting, timing, marshalling, marking out courses, entering results and many other jobs.

Thanks also to all the VMA officials who also donate so much of their time, energy and expertise to enable us to reap the benefits of being part of VMA.

I and the other committee members (Heather & Peter, Keith, Rod & Helen, Bernie and John) have really enjoyed looking after, and being part of, our wonderful club.

HELEN BROWN
VENUE MANAGER