

COLLINGWOOD VENUE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Our Tuesday evening meetings continue to be attended by a core group of regulars but overall the number of members has declined, a trend experienced by many of the Vic Masters venues. We continue to consider ways of retaining our members and attracting new members.

The usual annual events held at the venue this year included:

- the Don Warden Memorial 400 metre Handicap,
- the Alan Burgoyne Memorial 5 km Handicap,
- the Magpie Marathon, the age-graded winner of which receives the Denis O'Hehir Memorial trophy and,
- the Magpie Half-marathon.

The committee of management and all members at Collingwood venue were very saddened by the death of Keith Lodge early in the year. We all miss Keith standing at the bend before the finish line offering words of encouragement to each individual runner. He contributed enthusiastically and wisely to the running of the club for many years.

In memory of Keith, this year a new annual event, the Keith Lodge Memorial trophy was instituted and presented to the age-graded winner of the Magpie Half-marathon.

During daylight saving months, thanks largely to Ken helped by John, most of the longer events are run around Yarra Bend Park and the Merri Creek trails. We haven't lost any runners so far but have made a few modifications to ensure the safety of participants by improving the efficiency of the starts and finishes.

Collingwood Venue again successfully conducted the two Victoria Masters annual events it has hosted for the last few years:

- the Cross Country Championship (in Yarra Bend Park) and,
- the 10 kilometre Track Championship.

Some of our Club members competed in these two events and in Vic Masters events at other venues. We were also well represented at various other events locally, interstate and internationally and, in particular, at the Barb Dalgleish Memorial Relay where we just failed to retain the trophy.

Our website is working well and is used for posting the *Programme, Results* of the weekly events and *News* of interest and importance to members – there is also information about Victorian, Australian and World *Masters Athletics*.

We continue to enjoy regular social events during the year and always welcome visitors, friends and family members who want to join us.

The committee would like to thank all our members for their cooperation and assistance and, thanks also to the VMA officials who donated so much time and effort on our behalf.

Collingwood Venue Committee of Management:

**Rod Bayley, Helen Brown, Jim Hopkins, Heather Johnstone, Bernie Leddin,
John Pocock, Will Stuart.**