



WENDOUREE ATHLETIC CLUB Inc

Inc No A 2824 ABN 49 928 547 941
P.O Box 160N, Ballarat North, 3350



Meeting held on 29th July 2026. Meeting opened at 7.38pm

Present: Brendan Hawkes, Alison Fidler, Michelle Hawkes, Phil McLennan, Steve McLennan, Nev Down, Kylie Mitchell, Peter Luke

Apologies:

Matters Arising:

- Approve 27th May 2026 minutes.
- Internet Banking

Moved: Alison

Seconded: Nev

Outwards Correspondence:

Monthly Meeting Reminder - 29th July 2026
Athletics Ballarat – June Newsletter is live!
Athletics Ballarat – July Newsletter is live!
Athletics Victoria - Re: Call for nominated delegates - response
Ben Cartwright One Running - Wendouree Athletic Club Junior T-Shirts and Singlets
XCR R8 Ballarat - Club Helpers
Mervyn Pickford - Re: Life membership enquiry – various responses as documented below
AB - 2026 Australian Cross Country Championships - Volunteer

Inwards Correspondence:

Bank Statements
Banksia Statements

Emails Received:

AB - Athletics Victoria Bib Collection
AB - AVSL/XCR Committee Minutes - May 2026
AB - Athletics Facility Tour - Tuesday 16th June
AB - Athletics Ballarat AGM 2026
Mervyn Pickford – various – as documented below
Carissa Aldridge (Twomey) - Records from 1960's – for Dawn Allen
AB - Athletics Ballarat AGM - Documents
AB - Athletics Ballarat Annual Report
AB- Athletics Victoria bibs – List of Athletes bibs Ashley has.
AV - Updated version of XCR Club Duty Roster for 2026 XCR season
AV - Ashley Anderson - RE: Life membership enquiry -
AB - Lap of the Lake - Final Results
Small Dog - Invoice INV-7494 from SMALL DOG DESIGN PTY. LTD. for Wendouree Athletics Club
AB - Athletic Ballarat - Wal Brown info
City of Ballarat - BMEP Stakeholder Reference Group Minutes of Meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]
AV - Notice of 2025/26 AGM - Wednesday 29 July
AB - Victorian All Schools Championships 2026 - Results
Small Dog - Your Small Dog Design PTY LTD receipt [#1236-2274]

AB - Invoice INV-0641 from Ballarat Regional Athletic Centre for Wendouree Athletics Club
AB - 2026 Australian Cross Country Championships - Volunteer
Helen Rieniets - Wal Brown C.C.C. on 4th July 2026.
Rod Griffin – Wal Brown Results
AB - AVSL/XCR Committee Meeting - July 2026
AB - XCR R8 Ballarat - Club Helpers
AB - July Newsletter is live! - https://athleticsballarat.com.au/monthly-newsletter-july-2026/
City of Ballarat - RE: CE Brown Reserve Keys
Ben Cartwright - Re: Wendouree Athletic Club Junior T-Shirts and Singlets
AB - AVSL/XCR Committee Agenda
AV – AV Rnd 8 – Ballarat Helpers
AB – AVSL/XCR Committee Minutes

Treasurers Report:

Available on Request

Accounts for Payment:

Athletics Ballarat	Athletics Ballarat Cross Country Season - Installment #1	\$250
	TOTAL	\$250.00

Moved: Alison

Seconded: Peter

Reports:

Financial Report - (Alison Fidler)

Term Deposit is due on 17th April 2027. @4.8%

Banksia - we have received further dividend

Bank account continues to look healthy.

Social Report - (Michelle Hawkes)

We need to look at dates for our XCR end of season function

Fundraising Report - (Michelle Hawkes)

Cans and bottles are still going well.

Woody Yaloak Report - (Peter Luke)

Have 33 XCR athletes and a lot of them are new this season and are going well.

Athletics Ballarat Report - (Steve McLennan)

Please find attached AVSL/XCR Committee Meeting Minutes from May 2026

[AVSL/XCR Committee Minutes - May 2026](#)

Monday 25th May, 2026

[AVSL/XCR Committee Meeting - July 2026.](#)

Monday 20th July, 2026

Next meeting scheduled for 10th August 2026.

AGM:

Athletics Ballarat Annual Report

You can view the whole document via the website 

<https://athleticsballarat.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Athletics-Ballararat-Annual-Report-2526-4-2.pdf>

Club Concerns For Athletics Ballarat

List of questions to be address RE: New Facility and the next walk-through invite??

Non-Ballararat Athletics members, being invites before actual members??

Will there be an open day for all Athletics Ballarat members??

Access and security for athletes??

AV Report –

AV AGM is being held tonight 29th July , Anna Devonish , Claire Burton and Ben Buckingham were nominated to the board.

Michelle Hawkes was the winner of the 2025-26 Officials Awards for the Ballarat Region.

Cross Country Report – (Phil McLennan)

Attached at end of minutes

Track Report – (Nev Down)

Attached at end of minutes

Junior Report – Cross Country/ Track and Field – (Michelle Hawkes)

Junior Cross Country has started back after the holidays and it has been bitterly cold for the last few, but is going really well and the kids are all still very enthusiastic...

Moved: Alison

Seconded: Kylie

General Business:

Michelle Hawkes	Consumer Affairs stuff – we will do in August Cheaper Singlets/T-Shirts juniors – we will contact Ben from One Running and get the ball rolling.
Alison Fidler	Nil
Brendan Hawkes	Nil
Phil McLennan	We have a past member looking at providing a middle-distance scholarship, details aren't locked in but would like to float the idea past the committee.
Steve McLennan	Nil
Kylie Mitchell	Nil
Nev Down	Nil
Peter Luke	Nil

Meeting Closed at 8.57pm

Next meeting scheduled for the 26th August 2026.

MERVYN PICKFORD CORRESPONDENCE:

1/6/2026

The President Wendouree Athletic Club

I would have thought that by now you would have shown me the courtesy of a reply to at least let me know as to what phase you are at.

I can only assume the following.

- 1: You don't have any answers or any documentation or
- 2: You have chosen to ignore me. Ignorance just show how pathetic or the arrogance of people.

I reserve my judgement and give you the benefit of the doubt that you are still in discussion and that number one is still under consideration.

Regards Merv Pickford

3/6/2026

Mervyn Pickford,

We refer to our previous emails and communication; the reason we have not responded is that we consider the matter closed. The Committee has researched your queries and after the investigation we found no evidence to support your claim. We have also found your emails quite threatening and harassing and they have made several committee members quite uneasy.

We have informed our governing body (Athletics Victoria) and under the rules of clubs and our constitution all rules have been followed, hence our last correspondence email stating 'the matter is closed'.

While we are sympathetic to this situation, we hope that you can now understand that the committee has gone above and beyond to investigate the matter that happened more than 35 years ago.

The Wendouree Athletic Club Committee.

4/6/2026

I understand where you are coming from but it is not that difficult to supply me with the information I have asked for and can only assume you don't have the answers. I left the club because of its attitude to some members and how they were treated. Over the years you will find a number of athletes who have left Wendouree and if appears that this trend of treatment and respect has not changed. I have not decided yet as to if I will continue my pursuit of the information I have requested. They are not threats they are a means of going about how I can obtain the information. If the committee members feel uneasy I apologize. A threat means to inflict pain or loss on some one or some thing. I never made any threats, merely stating how I could get the information.

Rgds Merv

5/6/2026

Hi Brendan,

This is my phone number: 53392044.

I think we should make contact and start afresh and clear the air so to speak.

I can explain how this all came about.

I am contactable most days not before 11am as I am usually out walking or not after 6pm as that is news and dinner time.

Hope you will give this some consideration.

Regards Merv

9/6/2026

Hi Merv,

In response to your most recent email, our committee members will not be speaking to you one on one. We are a united committee, and all decisions are made together and in total consolidation. Therefore, the Wendouree Athletic Club would like to extend an invitation to you to attend one of our committee meetings, 'to explain how this all came about'. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 29th July at 7.30pm at the CE Brown Reserve Gudgeon Meeting Room.

Regards,

The Wendouree Athletic Club Committee

9/6/2026

Ashley Anderson<Ashley@athsvic.org.au>

Thanks Michelle

If he agrees to attend the meeting, I'll come along as well and sit in
Otherwise, I might loop Tim Crosbie in as well if it escalates further

Thanks,

Ashley Anderson

Sport Development Leader

(He/Him)

10/6/2026

Hi Wendouree Athletic Club Committee

6 pm is my tea time and after that I am done.

This all came about by a couple of your members at Bill McLennans Funeral asked why I had left the club.

I had couple of issues and the Life Membership was not one of them but it gave me an excuse to request a transfer.

They suggested I should look further into the Life Membership and the process that followed.

This is how it came about.

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WAC Minutes 29-7-2026

I am not interested in a Life Membership and cannot be bothered following it up anymore.

Consider yourselves a winner.

I will not be attending the meeting.

Regards Merv Pickford

WAC Track report

Meeting: Wed 29th July 2026

Congratulations

Congratulations to Yual Reath who competed at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Yual finished 7th in the final with a clearance of 2.10m

We wish Mackenzie Estlick all the best as she flies out soon for the World U20 Championships in Oregon, USA. She has been selected to represent Australia in the 4 x 100m relay.

Well done to both Yual and Mackenzie.

2026-27 AVSL season

A draft AVSL calendar has been released (tabled) for discussion. Round 1 has been scheduled for Saturday 17th October 2026. It is noted to have seven rounds of AVSL before Christmas and no rounds in December at all. An AVSL reserve round has been scheduled for for weekend after the Country Championships, Saturday 31st January.

Matters for discussion:

1. Metro will introduce a throws only venue with the option to compete in all four throws events on the one day. Based on the idea of more scoring points available, AV are open to regional areas creating further scoring events in the same round. Each athlete can still only score in three events each week but a region can place additional scoring events into the schedule.

For example, Ballarat could host a 100m, 200m, and 400m scoring events on the same weekend or SP, Hamm, Disc in the same round for scoring.

Thoughts / Ideas to take back to the AB Competitions committee.

#2. The LA regionals are likely to return to Ballarat on 8th – 9th February. This will clash with Round 10 of AVSL and Ballarat Gift. What alternative dates / times are available?

2027 Victorian Country Championships

The Victorian Country T&F Championships will run from Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th January, 2027 at the new Ballarat facility. With plenty of planning to go into the event, AB would like to start a working group to manage the scheduling, sponsorship, and catering for the event.

WAC Cross Country Report – July 2026.

Event Results

30/5/2026 - Gong Handicap

8km - 1st Russell Cheesman, 2nd Marcus Downes, 3rd Dayne Schnyder.

Fastest: Marcus Downes (34.34).

4km - 1st Evan Kisler, 2nd Robbie Brown, 3rd Carla Maxwell.

Fastest: Robbie Brown (19.27); Carla Maxwell (26.09).

30/5/2026 - XCR 8km, 5km CCC (St Annes Winery, Bendigo) – 6 + 2 runners.

8km: Jacob Cheesman – 24th (26.45); Angela Williams – 1st 50+ (34.23).

Premier Male – 6th, Female - 8th.

Handicap – 1st Joshua Hawkes, 2nd Michelle Hawkes, 3rd Angela Williams.

5km: Amali Torney - 8th U/18 (19.56).

Handicap – 1st Amali Torney.

6/6/2026 AB Lap of Lake – 16 runners

Open: 2nd Jacob Cheesman (17.46); Amali Torney - 5th (22.18).

U/20: 1st Cody Torney (18.52).

U/18: 1st Adam Conway (18.41).

U/18: 1st Amali Torney (22.18).

50+: 2nd Michelle Hawkes (25.17); 3rd Jenny Kisler (38.02).

50+: 3rd Marcus Downes (24.28).

Handicap: .

13/6/2026 – Brown Hill Handicap – 4 + 2 runners

6km – 1st Dayne Schnyder, 2nd Russell Cheesman, 3rd Marcus Downes.

Fastest: Marcus Downes (27.56).

4km – 1st Jenny Kisler, 2nd Heath Downes.

Fastest: Heath Downes (20.13); Jenny Kisler (28.02).

13/6/2026 – AV XCR 12km CCC (Cruden Farm, Langwarrin) – 2 runners.

12km: Michelle Hawkes – 1st 50+ (56.35); Stephen McLennan – 30th 60+ (69.05).

Premier Men – 10th, Women - 9th.

Handicap: Stephen McLennan, Michelle Hawkes.

20/6/2026 – Schnyder Handicap 7.1km, 4.5km (Nerrina) – 9 + 1 runners.

7.1km - 1st Dayne Schnyder, 2nd Juliette Downes, 3rd Stephen McLennan.

Fastest: Dayne Schnyder (36.27); Juliette Downes (37.27).

4.5km 1st Heath Downes (28.15).

27/6/2026 – Johnstone Handicap (Brown Hill) – 8 runners.

5km – 1st Micah Poole, 2nd Dayne Schnyder, 3rd Jenny Kisler.

Fastest: Micah Poole (21.43); Jenny Kisler (33.21).

28/6/2026 – AV Road Relays (Calder Park, 7.4km) – 4 runners.

Men Premier – 9th Jacob Cheesman (21.25), Ed Beischer (27.43), Joshua Hawkes (24.35).

Men 40+ – 2nd Marcus Downes (29.32).

Male 60+ - 5th Stephen McLennan (36.18).

4/7/2026 AB Wal Brown 8km, 4km CCC (Victoria Park) – 10+4 runners

8km

Open: 1st Matthew Catterson (27.35); 2nd Adam Conway (28.00). Teams 1st.

40+: 1st Russell Cheesman (46.10).

50+: 2nd Marcus Downes (32.25); 3rd Phillip McLennan (42.15).

U/18: 1st Adam Conway (28.00).

4km

U/18: 2nd Amali Torney (13.41).

Handicap: 8km – Dayne Schnyder, Marcus Downes, Micah Poole.

4km – Robbie Brown, Jenny Kisler, Juliette Downes.

11/7/2026 – George Eppingstall Handicap – 4+4 runners

9.6km – 1st Phillip McLennan, 2nd Juliette Downes, 3rd Russell Cheesman

Fastest: Marcus Downes (48.30); Juliette Downes (50.08).

5km – 1st Heath Downes, 2nd Dayne Schnyder, 3rd Jenny Kisler.

Fastest: Dayne Schnyder (23.11); Jenny Kisler (34.39).

11/7/2026 – AV XCR 10km, 8km, 6km CCC (Bundoora Park) – 5 +1 + 2 runners.

10km: Jacob Cheesman (33.36). Premier Men – 6th, Women – 9th.

Handicap – Stephen McLennan, Mitch Thompson, Joshua Hawkes.

8km – Cody Torney (28.55).

6km – Adam Conway (19.53), U/18 – 2nd . Amali Torney (24.10) U/18 – 9th.

Handicap – 1st Adam Conway, 2nd Amalia Torney.

18/7/2026 – Kingsley Curtis Handicap 5km (Nerrina) – 10 + 1 runners.

5km - 1st Micah Poole; 2nd Dayne Schnyder; 3rd Amali Torney.

Fastest: Amali Torney (21.39), Marcus Downes (23.37).

2km – 1st Evan Kisler.

25/7/2026 – Buninyong Winery Handicap 5km, 2km – 9 + 1 runners

5km - 1st Juliette Downes; 2nd Heath Downes; 3rd Marcus Downes.

Fastest: Marcus Downes (21.21); Juliette Downes (21.40).

2km – 1st Natalie McLennan.

26/7/2026 – AV XCR 10km Road (Albert Park) – 8 runners

10km: Jacob Cheesman (30.54); Amali Torney (37.37). Men Premier 9th, Women – 8th

10km Championship Results:

Open: 1st Jacob Cheesman (30.54); 2nd Edward Beischer (31.47), 3rd Mitch Thompson (32.24).

1st Amali Torney (37.37); 2nd Michelle Hawkes (43.27).

60+: 1st Stephen McLennan (53.18).

U/18: 1st Adam Conway (32.51).

U/18: 1st Amali Torney (37.37).

Gudgeon Cup Handicap Winners:

10km: Amali Torney, 2nd Mitch Thompson, 3rd Michelle Hawkes

3km: Jeremy Hampson