

Sunbury Little Athletics Centre

Chronology

1971	
Wednesday September 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inaugural meeting held to form Sunbury Little Athletics Club held at Sunbury West Primary School. • Present: Mr Leigh Cousins, Mr John Kelly, Mrs Veronica O'Farrell, Mr Alan Coates, Mr G Reddan, Mr D Brooks, Mr W Leetch, Mrs Rochester, Mrs Monahan, Mr Knight, Mr E Roberts, K Matthews, Mr Marko, Mr Oakden , Mr Rush, and others. • The meeting was attended by 3 members of the Keilor LAC Leo Dineen , Michael Hemey, Peter Chrsytie • A motion was passed that Sunbury Little Athletics form a club as part of Keilor LAC for the 1971/72 season. • Mr Leigh Cousins was elected President, Veronica O'Farrell Secretary, Alan Coates (Treasurer), John Kelly Team Manager, along with representatives fro 3 local schools – Sunbury West, Sunbury Central and Mount Carmel. • Initial age groups eligible were U7-U12. • \$2 registration fee agreed. • Uniform agreed – purple T shirt, white shorts, white socks and shoes.
Saturday October 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commence competition as a club at Keilor LAC (Keilor oval????) • Meet at the Sunbury Post Office at 8am on Saturdays to provide lifts for children to Keilor, and drop children off there on the way back. (Committee member to stay with children until all picked up by parents). Children waiting for lifts to Keilor were warned against playing with public telephones and postal property.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early suggestions for fund raising include: TV Ringside night, Progressive Dinner and a Car Trial and BBQ.
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 60 registrations, later recorded as 68. • Keilor have 650 registrations • Discussed coaching children on Competition days between events

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund raising event planned – Beetle Night at Youth Club Hall – 2 bottles of champagne donated by Mr Cousins as the raffle prize. The night was later reported to be a “complete disaster” with no support from parents. • Car trial also mapped out and planned for December 1971.
21 st November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Sunbury athletes represent Keilor at the Zone (Regional) relays at Coburg. Teams were not placed but “gained experience in how Zone Championships are run”.
November 1971	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First constitution drafted.
1972	
13 th March 1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zone track and field championships. 6 Sunbury athletes selected to compete. Club pays 30c per event entry fee for athletes.
15 th April 1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Sunbury Little Athletics Championship day held after being washed out on the 9th April. Posters advertising this event were displayed in shop windows. Held at Sunbury High School. • Events involving parents were held. • The day was reported as “successful and enjoyable”, although the attendance by athletes was “below expectations”.
May 1972?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 children ride a float entered in the Sunbury Arch Conservation Festival
28 th June 1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inaugural AGM held at Sunbury West State school. • Decision on forming a Centre delayed - it appears as though the committee were not sure how much community support there would be. • Public Relations Officer elected – Mr P Preedy?
4 th July 1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee meeting held at the home of Mr and Mrs A Coates. • Unanimous vote to form a Centre and adopt teams based on colors not the 3 schools.. “as this could cause more competition between the 3 schools” (Mt Carmel, Sunbury Central and Sunbury West). • Trevor Billingham addressed the meeting and explained how to promote the Centre through schools, and how the VLAA could help fund equipment etc

17 th July 1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Emergency meeting" of the committee held to discuss lack of funds - it appears as though funds had been expended arranging the formation meeting planned for the 25th July 1972. It is agreed to hold a raffle on the night of the formation meeting – sell tickets at the door – 10c each or 3 for 20c – Mr Alan Coates donated a bottle of Dimple whiskey for the prize.
Tuesday 25 th July 1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation meeting and film night held at Memorial Hall. • Guests – Councillor Richards (Shire of Bulla), MHR Athol Guy (of Seekers fame), Trevor Billingham (VLAA, "Father" of Little Aths), M. Hemey (Secretary of Keilor LAC). • Attended by approximately 60 parents. • Cr Richards noted that "council wanted Sunbury to be a team with a difference.. they would like to see the community spirit conserved... and Little Athletics could only bring people closer together". • Trevor Billingham and Athol Guy also spoke to the meeting and a film about Little Athletics was shown. • At the end of the meeting parents were split into area groups so they could form themselves into area clubs.
16 th August 1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gala Ball planned as part of season opening on 22nd September. \$5 per double. • Sunbury Recreation Reserve planned to used for competition. • Estimated that \$700.00 would be needed for equipment. • Age limit agreed – school age to U15 at 23rd September. • Fees - \$3 - \$1 registration and insurance, \$2 meeting fee. • Uniform (t-shirt) sales and profits from these sales was a cause of great debate. Some thought the profits should go 1/3 to clubs, 2/3 to centre. Others thought the opposite. Those that thought the clubs were of prime concern and should get the profits had the numbers on the night! • Discussions about selling uniforms during competition - Barbara Coates was willing to manage the shop providing she would "not be excluded from the athletics" <i>-who wants to be stuck in the uniform shop all day!!!</i> • Kiosk at the Recreation Reserve planned for use as a canteen.

<p>13th September 1972</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council agreed to do initial marking of the ground!!!! • Tony Rafferty to perform the opening ceremony <i>(Is this the famous distance runner???) - In 1972, Tony Rafferty became the first man to run from Melbourne to Sydney, pioneering ultra-distance running in Australia and breaking many records. Tony was the first man in 1973 to run across the Australian continent from Fremantle to Surfers Paradise (5931 km). First man to run from Perth to Brisbane, Perth to Adelaide, Adelaide to Brisbane, Melbourne to Brisbane and Sydney to Brisbane. In 1975 Tony ran for 50 hours non-stop, creating a world record and in 1978 was the first man to run from Melbourne to Sydney and return. In 1979 he was the first to do what was thought impossible to run through Death Valley in California, the hottest place on earth. Road temperatures soared to more than 70 deg. Celsius.)</i> • Keilor LAC and Diamond Creek LAC offered support for our opening. • U13 -15 not covered by adequate insurance and the Centre was investigating purchasing additional insurance. • Registration before the season started stood at 215. Flames-72, Green 42, Red 50, Gold 46. • Memorial Hall booked for "eve of opening picnic cabaret" • Motion carried that telephone and phone calls made of behalf of the Centre to be reimbursed. • Equipment cost \$805. The minutes detail the cost and quantity of each item. 12 stop watches coast a total of \$316.96, and 30 hurdles cost \$224.40.
<p>18th September</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed that each club should provide 8 officials each week. • Motion passed that "transfer of individuals points to the club be invalid if the club does not provide officials" Clubs to be fined \$8 if they don't provide officials for any 3 weeks.
<p>23rd September 1972</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First ever competition of SLAC held at Sunbury Recreation Reserve. • First meeting described as "disorganised" mainly due to inexperience of all involved. A warning was given that "children roaming off to the creek would be penalised by at least one weeks disqualification." • Membership 250. 225 were registered with VLAA (up to U12). 25

	not eligible for membership because they were over 12. Red -54. Gold 48, Flames 87, Green 97.
28 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic Cabaret made a \$157 profit.
17 th October 1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jog a thon held on 30th September raised \$40 for the freedom from hunger campaign. • Point scoring system used by Coburg adopted.
28 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting held at McMahon Pavilion. • Green club reprimanded for not providing the required 8 officials on the 14th October. Much discussion ensued about clubs providing officials. Motion regarding penalties for not providing officials was updated.
1 st November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration recorded as 330. • Children's Christmas party planned . A special effort will be run to help finance the prize at the party of a Hills Play gym. • Agreed to field a team in every age group , boys and girls at upcoming Regional Relay Championships.
21 st November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model constitution discussed.
1973	
25 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency meeting held at the home of Mr and Mrs Needham, to discuss some of the executive committee not carrying out their duties.
14 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLAC hosts Regional executive meeting for the first time??? • Sunbury represented by Mr D Brooks and Leigh Cousins.
20 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership recorded as 368 – Flames 99, Green 113, Gold 79, Red 77. • Discussion about complaints about soft drinks on sale in the canteen. Vigorade was considered but was deemed to be too expensive. It was agreed that he Golden Circle Fruit Juices be sold at the canteen.
7 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New line marker to be purchased. • Complaints from meeting held in the week before about the 200

	<p>metre track being too short. It was measured and indeed found to be short!!!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shire of Bulla athletics club discussed???? Draft constitution presented to meeting
12 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Track and Field Championships at ?????? • No info about how many Sunbury athletes competed.
14 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about affiliation with proposed Shire of Bulla aths club.????
24 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lions club BBQ held at Punjel Estates to aid SLAC (<i>Punjel Estates owned by Stan Payne – local Real Estate Agent and SLAC supporter</i>)
27 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More discussion about clubs not providing officials and clubs protesting about other clubs not providing enough help
30 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First AGM of SLAC?????
28 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about cross country – looking for venues - Salesian College discussed. • Letter of complaint sent to the Regional newspaper – numerous articles submitted for publishing are cut or omitted entirely. Final straw was the omission of a report on the SLAC AGM.
30 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
10 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football and netball matches between Gold & Red v Flames and Green at Sunbury West State school to maintain interest in Little Sths during the “closed season”.
17 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Cross Country Championships at Watsonia • Glen Hopkins represented Sunbury????
17 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minuted that efforts to find cross country venues had “proved abortive” • Agreed to enter a team of 9 at Melton Bacchus Marsh Cross Country. • Mr Bill Hogbin offered to provide walks coaching. • Centre coach appointment discussed - Brian Smith nominated. • Entertainments Committee changed name to Financial and Advisory Committee – one of its functions is to “investigate all

	aspects of availability of grounds and facilities for use an athletics track".
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VLAA Annual Conference at Morwell – Sunbury Delegates - Mr Brookes and Mrs Rochester
21 st / 22 nd August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk clinic reported to be "poorly attended". • Discussion about relayathon – at Evans St Oval – planned for 24 November 6am -12noon. • Letter sent to council expressing SLAC's desire to conform with the Sunbury Soccer Club regrading an athletics track and soccer field combined.?? • Clark Oval not available for season – Sunbury High school to be approached • Club points system discussed – and penalties for non supply of officials abolished. • Brian Smith appointed as Centre Coach.
4 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Dobbie requested to resign from executive committee for failure to attend 3 meetings in a row. • Walks agreed to be included in the season program. • Sponsors sought for preparation of Centre booklet.
30 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLA C Cross Country Championship day • Reported to be "poorly supported".. • This prompted the committee to ensure that the cross country season is promoted at the end of the summer season, and that they discourage the "closed season".
2 nd October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much discussion about the points system!!! Red club not happy!!! • Registration stands at – Green 40, Flames 40, Gold 70 and Red 50. • Membership fees - \$3 association, \$2 Centre fee.
6 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1973/74 Summer season Opening day at Sunbury High School oval. • Cross country championship medallions presented.
7 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This meeting to be reviewed

November	
24 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relayathon held at Evans St Oval.