



## President's Message

The future for our Club and indeed cross country/athletics competition during the next 12 months is very uncertain. I cannot imagine a more difficult period for our Club as we continue to follow the advice provided by health authorities and Government.

The Committee will need to consider strategies to keep the Club functioning. Our membership, indeed the support of our non-competing members will become even more important as we try to weather this storm together. We need to stick tight for Ivanhoe!!

This time last year we were looking forward to continuous improvement in season 2019/20. As noted in the last edition of Cursus we have achieved that objective in part. Promotion to Division 4 by both our Cross Country and Track and Field teams is a satisfying achievement. However, overall numbers of athletes are still static.

The Club itself is in good shape. The strategies employed over the past few years have turned out to be of critical importance. Our administration is sound, we have no major financial obligations having dispensed with rental obligations at Willinda. We have grown our balance sheet by about 30% and the Club is well placed to deal with the close-down and eventual resumption of operations when bans are lifted. In addition, our connection with Ivanhoe Grammar School has been strengthened with our inclusion in the Old Ivanhoe Grammarians' Association.

Jeff Franklin – Club President

## Coaching

Our coaching relationship with IGS is a real strength with our formal coaching of students in both cross country and track and field adding value to the school program. Regular numbers at Chelsworth training have increased to about 20 juniors and seniors on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

On the negative side of things, the Coronavirus impact on sport will be huge this year. At the time of writing, the Cross Country season has been delayed until 31st May 2020 and in all likelihood, the delayed timeframe may be extended. The impact on new Club registrations will therefore be massive given little or no competition.

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## Athletics Victoria

AV relies on the clubs for cash flow, having very limited reserves to call upon. This has always been a risk. We have been advised that the AV Office in Albert Park has been closed until further notice. Two staff members have been laid off and the remaining staff working from home on half pay. AV has applied for Government assistance.

Government policy on social gatherings is becoming very strict. Even Committee Meetings will not qualify as "essential" so we will need to manage the Club in this period electronically. In addition, the current restrictions may well require a different approach to our AGM and Trophy Presentation which is scheduled for 20th May.

We will keep you posted on this matter as the AGM and Committee elections in particular may present some practical difficulties.

## Training

Unfortunately we have cancelled training to comply with Govt. non-essential activities, as have all other sporting codes. Our training and the relationships built up with a great group of young students will be placed "on hold" which is a pity.

Collingwood Harriers has advised that the clubrooms at George Knott Reserve (Collingwood Track) are closed indefinitely, therefore no access to toilets or change-rooms. No formal Club training is permitted, however, the track is still open to members of the public (including our members) as long as social distancing and hygiene standards are adhered to.

We will closely watch the decisions of Athletics Victoria in relation to competition (if any) and registrations. Apart from World Wars, I am not aware of any more serious situation than the one facing our historic club at this moment.

Cursus now becomes more important than ever. Our current circulation is about 300 which keeps everyone in touch. Particularly important during these difficult times....please stay in contact with your Club and pass on any news. We need to support each other.

On that subject, if any of our wider Club family requires assistance please let the Club know. Some of us may be able to help with shopping or some other task where assistance is needed.

In the meantime, stay healthy and do not take any risks.

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## Tom Hancock

On the subject of staying in touch, Tom rang me to advise of his new address. He and wife Margaret decided some time ago to move to a warmer location away from the Melbourne winter.

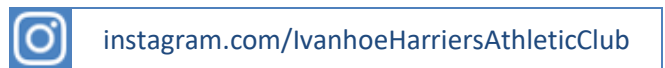
Tom has bought a place in Maclean, a small town in northern NSW where Tom has been wintering over the past 10-12 years.

Tom's new address is:

15 Taloumbi St. Maclean NSW 2436

Well done Tom and Margaret, hope all goes well.

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## 6km Handicap held on Saturday 21st March 2020

This year we had 20 runners trying their best to beat the handicapper. As usual Barry Greig did a fantastic job trying to identify the smokies but a couple of youngsters got under our guard.

First across the line was Zac Philip in 27:45, closely followed by young Will Franklin with an actual time of 28:58.

Fastest time was David Greig in a new course record of 19:47.

Everyone enjoyed the challenge. It was great to see such a good turnout from IGS students and a few of the old IGS stars, Richard Russell, James Lynch and Adam Franklin who managed to squeeze into his old singlet.

A full listing of results as follows:

Name	Handicap Time	Finishing Place	Actual Time	Rank
Christina Franklin	38:00	11th	37:43	20
Zac Philip	32:00	1st	27:45	16
Will Franklin	32:00	2nd	28:58	18
David Burke	31:00	13th	32:00	19
Richard Russell	29:00	5th	27:17	13
Adam Franklin	28:40	7th	27:23	14
Thomas Franklin	28:30	6th	26:58	12
Calum Rothnie	28:20	4th	26:03	10
Thomas Heap	28:20	3rd	26:02	9
Luke Malara	27:20	8th	26:08	11
James Lynch	26:00	15th	27:39	15
Jal Wishart	26:00	9th	25:23	8
Flynn Deacon	25:50	10th	25:16	7
Marcia Wishart	24:00	20th	28:20	17
Charles Shea	21:00	19th	24:30	6
Ben Morrison	20:30	17th	22:14	4
Josh Philip	20:10	18th	22:18	5
Justin Cementon	20:00	16th	21:43	3
Thomas Langdon	19:40	14th	20:41	2
David Greig	19:30	12th	19:47	1

Congratulations to all participants, it was very competitive.

A number of the boys had trained very hard on the preceding Tuesday and Thursday so were a little tired. The times emphasise the quality of David Greig's run which was 5 seconds quicker than Tom Langdon's record run from the previous year.

We are starting to develop some great depth and talent in the squad.



L-R: Zac Philip, Richard Russell, Jal Wishart, David Burke, James Lynch, Flynn Deacon, Thomas Heap, Marcia Wishart, Ben Morrison, Charles Shea, Luke Malara, Calum Rothnie, David Greig, Justin Cementon, Josh Philip, Thomas Langdon, Barry Greig, Adam Franklin, Thomas Franklin, Will Franklin, Christina Franklin