

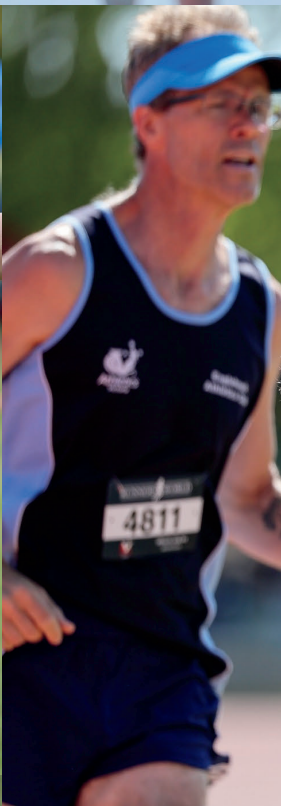


ATHLETICS BALLARAT

ANNUAL REPORT

2025/2026





CONTENTS

4	Season Snapshot
5	Who Are We
7	Acknowledging Our People
8	Reports
12	Coming Together
13	Summer Season
21	Representation
22	Records
24	Winter Season
29	Financials
32	Sponsors

MISSION

To provide an environment for athletics to grow within Ballarat and surrounding communities

VISION

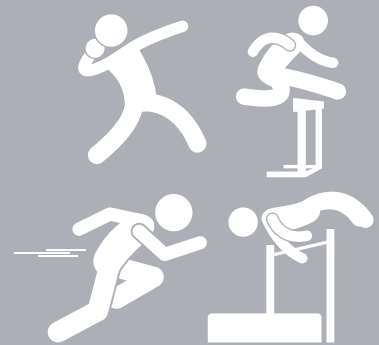
To become the leading region for athletics in Australia

DESCRIPTION

Athletics Ballarat will work to assist in the promotion of athletics in Ballarat and welcomes the interest of parents and friends to help assist the centre in its athletic and social pursuits.

SEASON SNAPSHOT

592
Members

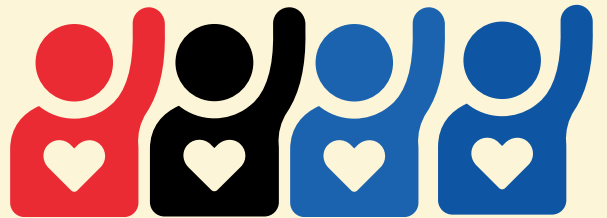


240+
AVSL
Participants



108
AV XCR
Participants

3000+
Estimated Volunteer Hours



100+ State Championship
Participants

73 Medalists

9 National
Championship
Medalists



13 National
All-School
Medalists

WHO ARE WE?

OUR BOARD



Matt Jenkins
Board Chair

Portfolio:
Sports Delivery



Bree Sharp
Deputy Board Chair

Portfolio:
Business Operations
Finished January 2026



Matt Lenton

Portfolio:
Business Operations



Stephen McLennan
Board Member

Portfolio:
Sports Delivery



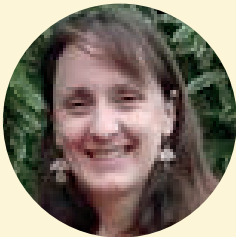
Mark Simmonds
Board Member

Portfolio:
Sports Development



Rod Griffin
Board Member

Portfolio:
Sports Delivery



Ruth Bartlett
Board Member

Portfolio:
Sports Development



Poppy Stamatellis
Board Member

Portfolio:
Business Operations
Commenced January 2026

OUR EMPLOYEES



Ashley Anderson
Llanberris Reserve Manager

Commenced Nov 2021



Jacob Cheesman
Llanberris Reserve Support

Commenced February 2026

WHO ARE WE?

OUR SUB-COMMITTEES

AVSL/XCR Committee

Matt Jenkins (co-chair)

Helen Rieniets

Michelle Hawkes

Stephen McLennan

Nev Down

Marita Rieniets

Ash Rogers

Ruth Bartlett

Rod Griffin (co-chair)

Conrad Oberholzer

Paul Hayes

Paul Burge

Cathryn Harris

Brendan Hawkes

Conrad Oberholzer

Facilities

Stephen McLennan (Chair)

Mick Jones

Sean O'Meara

Ashley Rogers

Mick O'Meara

Sam Blood



ACKNOWLEDGING OUR PEOPLE

Officials & Volunteers



Life Members

† J. Hutton	† S. Hunter
† Jones	† J. Larkin
† G. Meeney	A. Hunt
† J. Trekardo	† W. Sandford
† C. Williams	† M. Murray
† H. Wakeling	L. Opie
† J. Evans	† S.L. Nicholls O.A.M
† N. Williams	W. Stewart
† E. Crimmins	† K. Hall
† L. Curnow	† W. McLennan
† R. Stevens	R. Griffin
† K. Curtis	M. Rieniets
† T. Conroy	M. Nunn
† W. Brown	H. Rieniets
† D. Stevens	S. McLennan
† E. Schreenan	† B. Howlett
	M. Hayes



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Athletics Ballarat Presidents Report

What another exciting year in Athletics. Athletics Ballarat, our Athletes, Officials, Volunteers and Clubs have all had great successes over the past 12 months and are exceptionally well positioned to continue building on these great foundations.

With what seemed like a very full 12 months, there were many amazing performances on and off the track, field and trails.

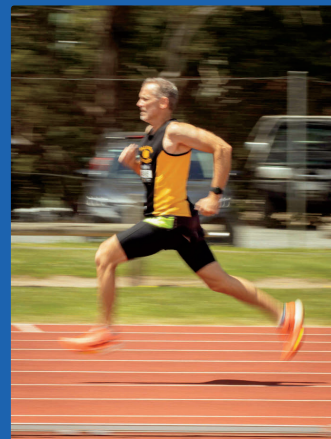
While most are covered later in this annual report, some of my season highlights included:

- Katherine Dowie's outstanding form during the XCR season, claiming three Open wins at Hanging Rock, Myrniong, and Ballarat, the later giving her the State Title in the Female Open 10km.
- Successfully hosting the National Cross Country Championships right here in Ballarat in August, which received an overwhelmingly positive response from the wider athletics community.
- Cooper Sherman & Yual Reath's spectacular continuation on the international stage.
- Sam Rizzo's exceptional performances representing Australia at the World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi, finishing fourth in the Men's 5000m T54.
- The dominance of our U16 Ballarat girls taking out the XCR Premiership, with Aria Violini crowned the U16 Champion athlete.
- Brilliant Ballarat performances at State Relay Championships bring home a total of 11 Medals.
- The emergence of our female sprinters shinning at a national level, with Grace Crowe, Nyjima Jock, Mackenzie Estlick and Darcy Thaxter all winning State titles and or national medals.
- Archie Grant cementing himself as one of Australia's most promising up and coming middle distance runners.

Our summer track and field season saw the continuation of a strong and fiercely competitive AVSL campaign across 10 rounds at Llanberris Athletics Reserve, wrapping up at the end of February.

It was fantastic to see our local clubs battling it out across the divisions, bringing an incredible level of depth, rivalry, and energy to our fields.

Whilst there were plenty of highlights on the track and on the field, the thing that stood out most this season was the huge number of participants we had and the weekly commitment of everyone involved. The spirit of our athletics community and connection amongst it connection has never been stronger.



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

CONTINUED...

Whilst the season brought great success, running a 10-round competition comes with its challenges, and I would like to thank all Athletes and Officials for your patience, flexibility, and additional support during this time. I would especially like to thank the AVSL Committee for their willingness to try new things and evolve ideas as the season progressed.

Away from competition it has certainly been an eventful year also. Having fully embedded our name "Athletics Ballarat" and our vibrant brand over the past 12 months, our merchandise, redeveloped website, and community messaging continue to resonate well across the region.

The profile of local athletics remains at all-time high levels with consistent media coverage across all news channels, high recognition of athletes being noted for their achievements, and strengthened relationships with major stakeholders.

Additionally, as we prepare for future transitions, the board has been actively engaged with the City of Ballarat as they seek public input to reimagine the historic Llanberris site.

Looking forward to the next 12 months, the profile of Athletics within our region is poised to continue its extraordinary trajectory. We will continue to see our local athletes test themselves against the absolute best on both the national and international stage.

Most excitingly, the construction of our brand-new facility at the old Showgrounds site on Creswick Road is rapidly nearing completion and is on track to be finished in time for the upcoming summer track and field season, ensuring our sport remains firmly in the spotlight.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank a number of people. As we all know, our sport is exceptionally labour demanding and couldn't happen without the support of many people.

Starting with our Board—thank you for continuing to challenge each other, provide excellent governance and drive our sport forward.

Thanks to all of the subcommittees and volunteers who do much of the heavy lifting in regard to bringing all of the events together. We could not deliver the sport without you. So to the many officials and volunteers who consistently help out in their various capacities, your efforts are again, greatly appreciated.

We again thank Athletics Victoria for their on-going support, in particular the support of Ashley Anderson. Locally, we most definitely could not achieve a fraction of what we do without you.

And finally, an enormous thank you to the clubs—including their hard-working committees—and the athletes and administrators who drive them forward.

Together we are all very well equipped for an exceptional 2026-27 season.



MANAGER REPORT

The 2025/26 season was a tremendous one for so many reasons, an increase in participation numbers in both XCR and AVSL saw Ballarat continue to rise as a regional city

Our top athletes showcased their talents on the world stage with Cooper Sherman, Yual Reath and Sam Rizzo all representing Australia at some point.

Back home Llanberris Reserve was kept busy with over 50 school events and the return of the Western Country Region Little Aths relays! A full season of AVSL saw over 120 participants each round of the season with clubs holding their own in the state wide competition

Our athletes continued to excel in championship events, crushing PB's and earning themselves medals along the way. Our officials continued their reputation as some of Australia's best by being selected for numerous top level meets

To cap off, our coaches have seen major growth in athletes development and are showing the rest of the country what they are capable of on the big stage

I would like to thank the board and chair Matt Jenkins for their continued support in managing the organisation. Special shout out to Steve McLennan for all he does for the facility

Looking forward, Athletics Ballarat is in an exciting position to grow the sport with a new facility expected to be complete by October 2026.



LLANBERRIS RESERVE REPORT

The 2025/26 season at Llanberris Reserve saw several club meets, regional meets and plenty of schools come through the gates

Another successful school season saw over 50+ schools enter the ground with an estimated 25,000 people hitting the track through various sporting events. We welcomed several new schools to the calendar and enjoyed an increase in training groups

With various upgrades in the previous seasons, Llanberris had little upgrades with the view the 2025/26 summer season may be the last at the venue

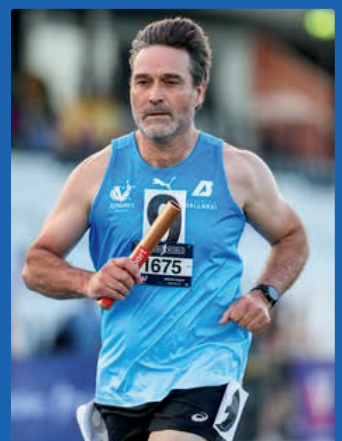
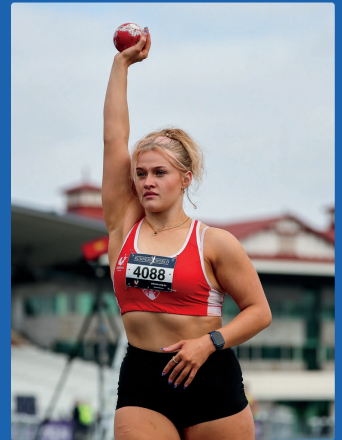
We hosted the Little Athletics WCR Relay event in November which saw over 500 Little Aths athletes descend on the venue. We also welcomed Special Olympics who held their State Championships at the venue in October

A full summer saw Ballarat YCW junior return on a Friday night, with Little Aths Sat morning and AVSL in Sat Afternoons

Big thank you as usual to Stephen McLennan for all his work around the venue. Shout out to other technical team members who supported the schools events over the previous 12 months

Thanks

Llanberris Reserve Manager
Ashley Anderson



COMING TOGETHER

Presentation Night

The Athletics Ballarat Presentation night was held on Friday 27th March at North Ballarat Sports Clubs with over 110 people entering the event. A terrific night of awards saw all clubs represented with plenty of fun had

After a late minute change to guest speaker, Nev Down and Matt Jenkins interviewed our athletes, coaches and officials heading to nationals in 2026. This added a positive experience to the night along with the now annual quiz





Summer Season



AVSL RECAP 2025/26

200+ individuals

1200+ Total Entries

131 Entries (R2)

Age Champions

OPEN Men	James Pendred
U20 Men	Jace Murray
U18 Men	Jesse Nankervis
U16 Men	Jye Altay
U14 Men	Archer Spackman
40+ Men	David Grigg
50+ Men	Marcus Downes
60+ Men	Kevin Ruddick

OPEN Women	Caitlin Christie
U20 Women	Charlie Inkster
U18 Women	Julliette Downes
U16 Women	Aria Violini
U14 Women	Misha Jenkins
40+ Women	Kylie Alexander
50+ Women	Bridget Wetherall

Club Champions

OPEN Men	Ballarat YCW
U20 Men	Wendouree Aths
U18 Men	Ballarat YCW
U16 Men	Eureka Aths
U14 Men	Ballarat YCW
40+ Men	Wendouree Aths

OPEN COMBINED	Ballarat YCW
--------------------------	--------------

OPEN Women	Ballarat Harriers
U20 Women	Eureka Aths
U18 Women	Ballarat YCW
U16 Women	Wendouree Aths
U14 Women	Ballarat Harriers
40+ Women	Ballarat Harriers

OPEN COMBINED	Ballarat Harriers
--------------------------	-------------------



AVSL REPORT

The Ballarat clubs were in full flight this AVSL season with both Ballarat Harriers and Wendouree battling it out the premier division.

With some top Victorian club heavyweights in the premier division, Wendouree ended up in 7th spot while Harriers had a few big weeks to finish 5th overall

Eureka found itself in a competitive battle at the top of division 2 and missed out on a promotion despite a 4th place finish.

Ballarat YCW had the most success ladder wise dominating division 3 on their way to winning their division and promotion Ballarat YCW will join Eureka in Division 2 next AVSL season and is in great form

From an age group perspective, Ballarat Harriers 50-59 Mens scored the most points across the whole state

Ballarat YCW U14 men also had a great year with a 2nd overall finish

Athletics Victoria State League



**7th Place
AVSL Premier Division**



**5th Place
AVSL Premier Division**



**4th Place
AVSL Division 2**



**1st Place
AVSL Division 3**



VICTORIAN COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Victorian Country Championships

Victorian Country Champs is always a strong event for the ballarat region. With each club averaging over 50% medal rate for athletes, it's always a day out for the athletes.

There was a total of 119 medals from Ballarat Athletes where 56 of those were golds. Here are the seperate medal tallies for the clubs:

- BHA - 29
- EKA - 28
- WEN - 28
- BYC - 34

All club finishes strongly to be ranked in the top 10 at the ened of the event. Ballarat Region also had several officials who made the trip up to Albury for the event

Awards

Margaret Saunders Country cup

VWAAA Ex Athletes Cup

David Kitt Memorial Cup

Joyce Lockyer Memorial Shield

Stuart Hunter Memorial Shield

Australia Day Awards

Athletics Chilwell Veteran Athlete of the Meet

Winners

Eaglehawk Athletics Club

Eaglehawk Athletics Club

Eaglehawk Athletics Club

Isaac Snow

Poppy Robinson & Phoenix Wise

Leah Berry & Ben Day

Luke Edgley & Glenys Whitehead



VICTORIAN STATE RELAYS

Victorian State Relays

Ballarat Region sent over 30 teams to the Victorian Relay Championships in 2025 with one of the strongest teams ever assembled

With Long Jump & Shot Put relays added to the list, Ballarat was in great form with 11 medals making their way back to the city.

On the opening Friday night, the Men OPEN 1500m side of Ben Stevens, Mitch Thompson, Josh Johnston and Ben Mornane stormed home for a gold medal in one of the highlights of the weekend

A year after breaking the state country record in the OPEN Men's 4x400m event, the team consisting of Cooper Sherman, Stuart Aberdein, Patrick Martin and Flynn Duggan managed a silver in strong conditions

The event was well supported by the region as all clubs came together for spots. A big thank you to Michelle Hawkes, Rod Griffin, Bernie Blood and Matt Jenkins for their support in creating and managing the teams

[Victorian State Relay Results](#)



STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Combined Event

3

Participants

0

Medalists



State Relays

GOLD

29

Relay Teams

11

Medal

Male 50+ - 4x100m
Male 50+ - 4x400m
Male OPEN - 4x1500m
Female U16 - 4x400m



Participants

All Schools

45

Participants

26

Medals won

12

Schools Represented



Track & Field

77

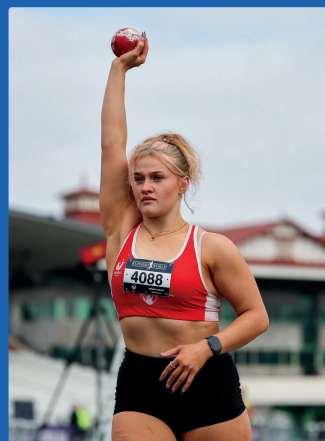
Participants

73

Medals won

30

State Champions



Victorian Masters

6

Participants

21

Medals

A
ATHLETICS
BALLARAT

LITTLE ATHLETICS

State Track & Field Championships

33
PARTICIPANTS

Gold

Paige Tuddenham - U15 G 1500m
Peneolpe Mallard - U11 G Discus

8
MEDALISTS

Silver

Anni Clarke - U13 G 800m
Anni Clarke - U13 G 1500m

Bronze

Anni Clarke - U13 G Javelin
Charlie Wright - U13 B 1500m Walk
Lily Austin - U15 G Long Jump



State Track & XCR Relay Championships

50
ATHLETES

35
TEAMS

State Track & Field
Bronze - U13 G Field

State XCR Relays
Bronze - U12 G
Bronze U11 B
Bronze - U9 B

State XCR Championships

17
ATHLETES

1
MEDALS

Australian Little Athletics Championships

Anni Clarke - U13 G

Charlie Wright - B U14

800m - BRONZE
1500m
Javelin
Discus

1500m Race Walk

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



38 Athletes from Ballarat represented Victoria

9 Ballarat athletes won Medals

1 National Champion

Individual National Medalists



Yual Reath
Men's High Jump
2.16m
Wendouree Aths
SILVER



Nyajima Jock
Women's 200m
23.27s
Wendouree Aths
SILVER



Sam Rizzo
Male OPEN WC 800m
1:48.54m
Ballarat YCW
SILVER



Archie Grant
Men's U16 800m
1:46.47m
Eureka Aths
GOLD



Armani Anderson
Female U20 4 x 100m
44.93
Ballarat Harriers
GOLD



Aria Violini
Female U17 1500m
4:40.87m
Ballarat YCW
BRONZE



Eleanor Downey
400m, 800m,
Eureka Aths
SILVER BRONZE



Mackenzie Estlick
Female U20 4 x 100m
44.93
Wendouree Aths
GOLD



Grace Crowe
Female U20 100m
10.52s
Ballarat Harriers
SILVER



AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATION

PARA WORLD
TOKYO 2025

**Sam
Rizzo**

Ballarat YCW

Man T54 800m WC

Men T54 1500m WC

Men T54 3000m WC

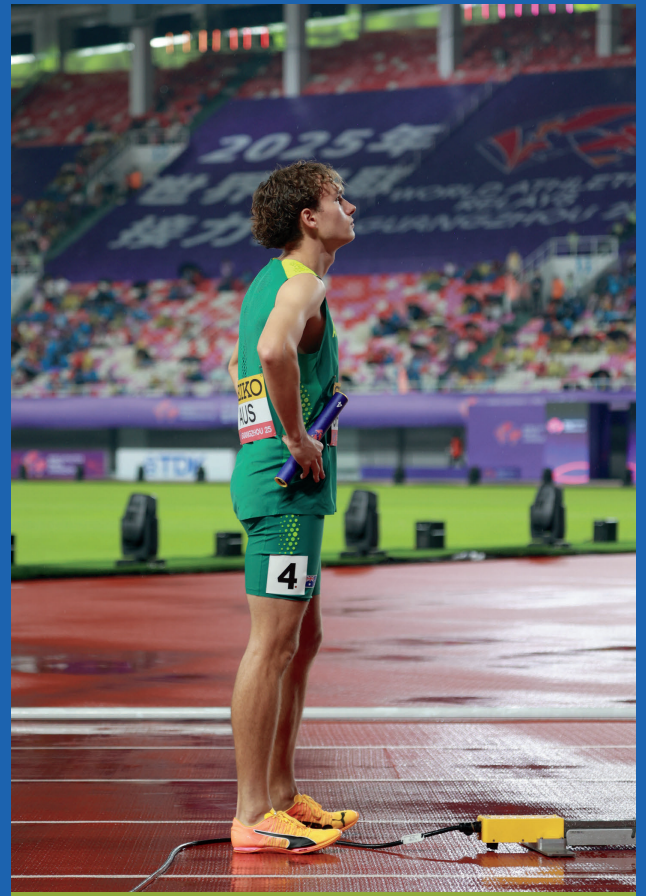


WORLD INDOORS
NANJING 2025

**Cooper
Sherman**

Ballarat Harriers

Men 400m



AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATION

WORLD CHAMPS
TOKYO 2025

**Yual
Reath**
Wendouree Aths
High Jump



RECORDS

BRAC RECORDS

BRAC Records are a special part of Ballarat athletics history with records spanning decades of competition at Llanberris Reserve. In the 2025/26 season, we saw 61 records broken across a majority of events and age groups.

Across the season, athletes etched themselves in the record books with impressive performances showcasing the talent Ballarat Region has at the moment.

RECORDS STATISTICS

- 61 Records broken in AVSL
- 12 Records broken in Round 10 of AVSL
- 35 Overage Records broken in AVSL
- 22 Junior Records broken in AVSL





@lucid.visuals_

Winter Season



CC RECAP 2025

150+ individuals

800+ Total Entries

76 Entries (R8)

Age Champions

OPEN Men	Ben Mornane
U20 Men	Kody Taggart
U18 Men	Gus Barton
U16 Men	Adam Conway
U14 Men	Archer Spackman
40+ Men	Leigh Hutchinson
50+ Men	Paul McBratney-Owen
60+ Men	Daryl Brown

OPEN Women	Michelle Hawkes
U20 Women	Katrina Prior
U18 Women	Bonnie Burt
U16 Women	Aria Violini
U14 Women	Charlotte Staaks
40+ Women	Heather O'Brien
50+ Women	Michelle Hawkes

Runners - Up

Ben Stevens
Jacob Cheesman
Ollie Burt
Ollie Ryan
Cooper Tuddenham
David Grigg
Phil McLennan
Stephen McLennan

Katherine Dowie
Gretta Ashley
Amali Torney
Paige Tuddenham
Ruby Trenorden
Lauren Wright
Bridget Wetherall



CROSS COUNTRY REPORT(BRAC)

The local Cross Country season started with the Lap of the Lake this year in late May. Katherine Dowie made it two wins in a row stopping the clock in 20.24 minutes to claim the win ahead of Aria Violini and Bonnie Burt.

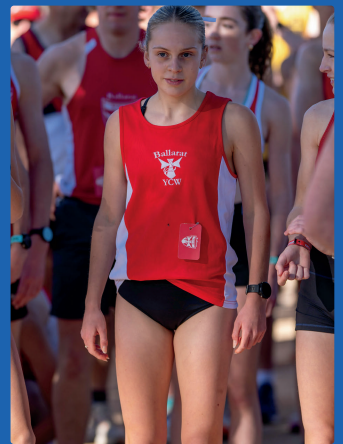
Ben Stevens started his season strong with a 17.33 minute win ahead of Ben Ludbrook and Ed Beischer with over 105 athletes taking on the 6km lake course

The Wal Brown event saw Chris Hutchinson take the win for the Female's while Ben Stevens stormed home in the Men's. The course this year a preparation for the National Cross Country Championships at VicPark in August

The annual Chas Suffren had a beautiful day at the Equestrian Centre with Gretta Ashley taking the win in the OPEN Females. Eureka's Josh Johnston a winner in the Men's taking on the muddy yet fun course

The relays were back at the lake for 2025 with Eureka continuing their dominance at the event winning both Male & Female A grades. Over 100 people entered the event with all teams well represented

Thank you to all officials and tech crew that helped facilitate the year, a fantastic year of cross country in Ballarat



CROSS COUNTRY REPORT(AV XCR)

The Ballarat Region stepped into the season with their NEW Athletics Ballarat singlets on display across 10 rounds of competition. The first event on the calendar was Hanging Rock with over 25 athletes making the trip for the 8km course.

Ballarat Region were strong across the relay rounds with several top 3 finishes including winners in junior category. Ballarat had some of their strongest relay sides in 2025 with athletes excited to put on the new blue singlet

The Men's Premier Division team was filled with superstars and didn't take long to show their talent with top 5 finishes at nearly every event this season. The team ended up 2nd overall and will be eyeing off the prize in 2026. The Female Premier Division struggled with numbers at times but finished in 9th to retain premier division status

In the junior grades the Female U16 team dominated the entire year with 5 individual wins on their way to a 1st place finish in the state! The Male U14 and Male U16 teams also had a top 3 finish in a successful season for junior grades

In the overage grades, the Female 50+ were asked to fill spot in the OPEN division and lost ground in their overall placings but managed two individual first places. The Men 40+ & 60+ had top 5 overall finishes

Katherine Dowie added to her collection with a 1st place finish at Hanging Rock XCR1, Myrniong XCR2 to start the season. Dowie followed up with a win at the Victorian State Cross Country Championships OPEN Female

Athletics Ballarat would like to thank Michelle Hawkes and Rod Griffin for all their work over the winter season. A special mention to Stephen McLennan for setting up event sites at each XCR run



WINTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Cross Country State Championships

The State Championships were in Ballarat for 2025 with athletes taking home venue advantage into the run
Katherine Dowie won the Victorian OPEN title finishing the 10km course in 35.13 minutes, a fantastic performance
Kirstie Newcombe made it another gold in the Female OPEN Para 3km event

In the Men's OPEN, Ben Stevens was the fastest Ballarat Male finishing 22nd in a very strong field



All Schools

Ballarat athletes represented their schools within Cross Country states with several athletes qualifying for nationals with big performances

Over 25 athletes took on the course in Bundoora with several top 12 finishes leading to qualification to Nationals

Ava MacGowan	Female U14	4th
Charlotte Staaks	Female U14	9th
Paige Tuddenham	Female U16	6th
Aria Violini	Female U16	5th
Bonnie Burt	Female U18	5th
Archer Spackman	Male U14	9th
Adam Conway	Male U16	6th
Oliver Ryan	Male U16	8th
Augustus Barton	Male U18	10th

Financial Statements



FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Athletics Ballarat recorded an operating surplus of \$19,130 before interest & depreciation in 2025-26, with an overall deficit of \$36,621 largely due to a review of fixed assets that was completed during the year and resulting increase to depreciation.

In particular the useful life of the Athletics Track Resurfacing completed in 2013 was reassessed, resulting in additional depreciation charges being recognised in the 2025-26 financial year results.

Overall Athletics Ballarat had a strong year financially in 2025-26, with cash & investment balances increasing over the year, and current assets remaining well above liabilities.

There was a large overall increase to revenue that was only partially offset by additional expenses, with the increase in catering & donations driven by the involvement in the National Cross-Country Championships.

An external independent audit of the 2025-26 financial reports was completed in May 2026, concluding that the financial reports give a true and fair view of Athletics Ballarat's financial position & performance.



PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

Profit and Loss Report

Athletics Ballarat Inc.

For the year ended 31 March 2026

Account	2025-26	2024-25
Operating Income		
Canteen & Catering	21,511	12,000
Competition Activities	16,066	9,963
Donations & Sponsorship	3,200	0
Grants Received	6,020	3,190
Track & Equipment Hire	46,290	39,070
Merchandise	6,749	610
Other Income	607	149
Total Operating Income	100,444	64,983
Operating Expenses		
Canteen & Catering Expenses	8,916	3,948
Competition Expenses	9,305	6,450
Employee Benefits	2,308	8,825
Equipment	2,902	7,673
Marketing & Communications	4,907	4,496
Merchandise	11,058	2,754
Office & Facilities	20,911	20,210
Other Expenses	3,265	226
Professional Services	17,743	12,230
Volunteers	0	1,326
Total Operating Expenses	81,314	68,137
Operating EBITDA	19,130	(3,155)
Interest & Depreciation		
Interest Received	12,426	13,959
Depreciation	(68,177)	(19,174)
Surplus (Deficit)	(36,621)	(8,370)

BALANCE SHEET

Balance Sheet

Athletics Ballarat Inc.

As at 31 March 2026

Account	31 Mar 2026	31 Mar 2025
Assets		
Bank		
Ballarat Regional Athletics	19,775.31	7,300.46
Cash at Bank - Canteen	194.02	489.70
Total Bank	19,969.33	7,790.16
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	17,400.00	17,380.00
Sandhurst Managed Fund	102,142.54	89,716.34
Term Deposit	200,805.36	200,805.36
Total Current Assets	320,347.90	307,901.70
Fixed Assets		
Plant & Equipment	340,435.07	323,646.61
Plant & Equipment Depreciation Accum	(236,894.70)	(168,585.56)
Total Fixed Assets	103,540.37	155,061.05
Total Assets	443,857.60	470,752.91
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	15,300.00	5,492.85
Deposits	200.00	200.00
PAYG Withholding	248.00	16.00
Superannuation Payable	158.42	282.90
Wages Payable - Payroll	0.00	189.24
Total Current Liabilities	15,906.42	6,180.99
Total Liabilities	15,906.42	6,180.99
Net Assets	427,951.18	464,571.92
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	(36,620.74)	(8,370.10)
Retained Earnings	464,571.92	472,942.02
Total Equity	427,951.18	464,571.92





OUR CLUBS



OUR STATE PARTNERS



OUR SPONSORS

