



Knox Centre 40th Anniversary Celebrations

The Knox Little Athletics Centre has been planning their 40th Anniversary with a series of events for the start of the 2008/09 season since forming a sub-committee in October 2007.

It will be kicked off with a Mayoral Function at the Knox Civic Centre in September by the City of Knox in formally recognising this historic occasion and the benefits Little Aths has brought to the local community. The Knox Centre formation meetings held in August 1968 were chaired by the Councillors of the time who were instrumental in bring Little Athletics to Knox.

Other events planned are the opening day march past on Oct 4th, a photographic day with a group photo of all athletes and officials in the grandstand on Oct 18th. A "Come back to Knox" Family Fun Day on 19th Nov which is open to all who have been involved with the Knox Centre since 1968 with activities and a display of memorabilia. Then the Knox Open Twilight on 24th Jan 2009 where we will have once off special 40th Anniversary medals.

If you had ever been involved with the Knox Centre, please checkout the latest details of the Knox Centre's celebrations which can be found at:

www.klac23.org.au/KLAC1968-2008.htm

Most EMR Centres were formed right at the height of the Little Athletics phenomenon, which at the time, was sweeping our state like wildfire. Up until the early 1960's, there were generally no organised weekend sport for those at Primary School age, as it had been considered only appropriate for those who had reached High School.

Against the odds and ignoring the many critics of the time, Trevor Billingham persevered with his experiment for those within this age group, which he had started at Landy Field, Geelong in October 1964. Little did he know at that time on how popular it would become.

From the late 1960's, Little Athletic Centres were springing up at a rate of around 20 per season in Victoria, and were just being started in New South Wales and Western Australia. A new Centre formed had to consist of at least three clubs and age groups only went to Under 12's.

Other sporting codes by this time were following the Little Athletics experiment and were developing modified versions of their own codes for those within this age group. For example, the forerunner to "Aus Kick" was "Little League", which also had its foundations in Geelong. This would ultimately lead to a plateau in numbers from the early 1970's onwards with so many other sports being available at this age group.

When Was Your EMR Centre Formed?

Two EMR Centres have already celebrated their own 40th Anniversaries in the season just passed in Collingwood (#10) and Kew (#13) who were both formed in season 1967/68.



Collingwood's 40th Cake at their Open Day



Kew's 40th Cake at the start of last season

Knox is not the only EMR Centre celebrating their 40th this coming season. Centres registered with the VLAA in season 1968/69 with their formation meeting dates were:

- Box Hill (# 21 – 12 Jul 1968)
- Knox (# 23 – 12 Aug 1968)
- Nunawading (# 33 – 29 Oct 1968),
- Doncaster (# 39 – 4 Dec 1968)

EMR Centres formed in season 1969/70 were:

- Lilydale (# 43 – changed name to Yarra Ranges, then to Lilydale/Yarra Ranges),
- Camberwell/Malvern (# 45)
- Croydon (# 49),
- Ringwood (# 52),

Only one EMR Centre was formed in season 1970/71 which was Sherbrooke (# 71) although they had started as a club in the previous season with the Knox Centre with the intention of forming their own Centre.

Cockatoo (#123) was formed in season 1986/87

Stephen Egan
 Knox Little Athletics Centre
 Chairperson – 40th Anniversary Sub-Committee and Historical Co-Ordinator



Boys U8 with different starting and footwear styles – November 1968 at the Boronia High School Oval, the home of the Knox Centre's first track which was for this season only before moving to Chandler Park, Boronia. Knox moved to their current location in season 1978/79