

OUR FORMATION

In 1966 a dedicated band of children and their parents from the Bundoora area drove across to McDonald Reserve in Bell Street, Coburg each Saturday morning to compete as the Bundoora Little Athletics Club at the newly formed Coburg Little Athletics Centre.

At this time the relatively new Shire of Diamond Valley was rapidly growing and interest in sporting pursuits for children such as football and athletics was spreading quickly.

The driving force behind our centre being formed was Bundoora resident Pam Telfer; an Australian Javelin Champion and 1962 Commonwealth Games Representative. Pam visited local schools and businesses to sell the concept of Little Athletics in the Diamond Valley area and along with other Bundoora Little Athletics Club parents, Maurice Wellington and Shirley Fraser organised the inaugural meeting of the centre at All Saints Anglican Church, Greensborough on 10 May 1967.

This meeting was a resounding success being attended by over 200 people including Olympians Ron Clarke, Pam Kilborn & Jean Roberts and “pledges” of over 600 children as being available to compete.

An Interim committee meeting was held two weeks later, appointing an executive committee that successfully applied for our centre to become the 8th Centre affiliated with VLAA following centres from Geelong, Bendigo, Corio, Sandringham, Coburg, Traralgon and Warrnambool.

On 30 September 1967 the first competition of the Centre was held at Willinda Park, preceded by a march of athletes through Main Street, Greensborough and followed by an official opening ceremony conducted by Roy ‘Monty’ Vale MLA for Greensborough. Thirteen Clubs; St Mary’s, Diamond Creek, Eltham, St Martin’s, Macleod, Greenhills, Greensborough, Bundoora, Watsonia Heights, Montmorency, Watsonia, St Frances and Briar Hill competed on that first competition day.

40 years have now elapsed since that first competition and while other centres have disappeared or their glory days little more than a distant memory, we remain as one of the largest and leading centres in the state.

Since inception our centre has been run under the little athletics credo of “Family, Fun and Fitness” and as a result in the order of 20,000 children and their families, have benefited from their time, experiences and memories of little athletics at Willinda Park.