

WILLIAMS Weekly Update 09/01/2026

Welcome to 2026! Following a great meeting at Maryborough, and a fantastic first edition of the Portarlington Gift, tomorrow we celebrate 50 years of the Rye Gift, with great numbers entered and a bumper program.

Athletes should note that there will be a list at the gate with names of athletes who have entered at Rye, and registered trainers, which will provide free entry only. You will still be charged for your car should you wish to bring it into the venue.

A few things for athletes to be aware of in coming weeks:

Wangaratta Gift

There have been some increases to the prize money offered on some of the events, as follows:

- Restricted 70m Sprint – increase from \$300 to \$500
- U18 Mixed 120m – increase from \$300 to \$500
- Restricted 400m – increase from \$300 to \$500

Note – no increase in entry fees.

Ballarat Gift

All heats, semis and finals of the 120m Men's and Women's Gifts will now be held on Day 2, the Sunday. This will mean a slight reshuffle to the timetable for both days – the timetable on the website will be updated soon to reflect these changes.

Bendigo Gift

This will be a 2 day meeting this year, commencing at around 2pm on both the Saturday and the Sunday of the March long weekend. Timetable will be released shortly.

Stewards

VAL are always looking for people to get involved, and we would love to hear expressions of interest from people who may be interested in assisting in the role of race day steward. Contact Colin at val@val.org.au should you wish to receive some information on this important and rewarding role.