

# WILLIAMS Weekly Update 06/02/2026

Following a bumper Beachside Gift, we head to Ballarat tomorrow for the historic Ballarat Gift, with over 1,000 entries spread across the 2 days. The weather looks like it's taken a turn in our favour the past couple of weeks, but I've learnt to always take a jacket to Ballarat!

Some news and updates:

## Race Entries

We are still encountering the occasional glitch in our race entry system, much to our frustration. If you do not receive an email confirmation for your entry, please check the 'View My Nominations' under the 'Athletes' tab on the website. If nothing is showing, please email [val@val.org.au](mailto:val@val.org.au) with a copy of your payment transaction receipt, as soon as possible. It is also a wise idea to ensure that you have completed your race entries well in advance of the closing date, in case something does go wrong.

## Castlemaine Gift

Entries for Castlemaine close at **8pm** on Sunday 8 February.

## Shepparton Gift

An event that goes from strength to strength – a 2pm start for this great twilight meet!

## Bendigo Gift

Entries are now open. The action Saturday kicking off at approximately 3.30pm Saturday, with the last race scheduled for 8.50pm. Sunday action begins at 12pm and should finish around 6pm. The draft timetable is now on the website entry page.

## Performance History

The onus rests with athletes to ensure that all performances outside the VAL or NSWAL are entered into the athlete's performance history, via the 'View Past Results & Enter New Results' under the 'Athletes' tab. This is particularly important if the performance is a personal best, as failure to declare these performances will likely result in a fine or disqualification, and/or leaves the athlete subject to handicap alterations on race day.

## Vale Mike Smith

The VAL is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of athlete Mike Smith.

Mike joined Team Fiedler in 2023 on the comeback trail after being in remission from brain cancer and he debuted in the VAL at Terang in the 800m in December 2023. Running was his passion and he loved sharing it with like-minded people and enjoyed the community spirit that comes with the VAL and pro running. He competed at numerous events through until January 2025.

The cancer returned last year, and he battled it stoically and always with optimism.

Mike was 45. The VAL extends its sincere sympathies to Mike's family, and to his Team Fiedler training partners and friends.