



2026 STAWELL GIFT HERB HEDEMANN 1600m INVITATION

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Victorian Athletic League (VAL) invites nominations for the 73rd running of the Stawell Gift Herb Hedemann 1600m Invitational Handicap—Australia’s most prestigious professional distance race.

This elite event will take place during the 2026 Powercor Stawell Gift Carnival, held from Saturday, April 4th, to Monday, April 6th, 2026. The Herb Hedemann Invitational 1600m is scheduled for Monday.

What’s at Stake?

-  A coveted Stawell sash & trophy
-  A share of \$5,000 in prize money
-  Your name etched in history at the Stawell Gift Hall of Fame

Nomination Criteria:

- 1500m time under 4 minutes (or equivalent standard across 800m to 5000m)

How to Apply

 Deadline: Midnight, Friday March 20th 2026

 Submit nominations to: val@val.org.au

 Include the following details:

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Personal Best Times (Lifetime & Best in Last 12 Months)
 - 1500m/1600m, 800m, 3000m

Handicapping & Final Selection

- Handicapping will be discretionary, ensuring a fair and competitive race.
- The fastest seeded athlete (backmarker) will start from scratch (0m handicap).
- The final field will be announced the week after nominations close.

Don’t miss your chance to compete in this historic event—submit your nomination today!