

Traralgon Harriers Athletics Club

'Running Into Form as a Club'

www.clubhelp.org.au

About the Club



Traralgon Harriers Athletics Club has a long history dating back to 1966 when the club commenced. Over the years it has had mixed success on and off the road and track. A distance and recreational running club, it lays claim to holding Australia's Oldest Marathon each year. For some time there was a sense that the club was doing the same old thing and had started to lose its way.

Over recent years the club committee started to question where it was going and how it would get there. The committee identified that it wanted to be a family friendly and inclusive club which provided sustainable running programs and events for the local and Gippsland communities. The committee realized that there was a lot of good will at the club but there were limited management structures and processes to support and achieve a new direction.

What They Did

In 2012 the club sought assistance from GippSport to work with the committee to help review the club's structures, operating procedures and processes. GippSport provided advice about existing information, resources and grants available to help the club. Committee members found one of the best resources was ClubHelp www.clubhelp.org.au because it had everything they needed to assist in the review and restructure of their Club.

The Committee of Management wanted to strengthen and grow its membership and recognised it needed to become more welcoming and inclusive of runners and walkers of all abilities. The committee realised that it was necessary to improve club committee procedures, reporting and accountability processes.

The Outcomes

The club is embarking on a significant change process and recognises that it will take time to achieve their goals. At the core of the change is to ensure the committee consulted with members to obtain their views and provide regular feedback to members about progress and the change that is taking place. The club has made progress in a number of areas so far including:

- Conducting a survey of all members and reporting back the findings
- Reviewing club policies and procedures to make expectations clear for all members, including developing a Members Handbook for new members
- Reshaping the club committee structures and reporting processes
- Developing Terms of Reference for all committees and job descriptions for all members of our committees
- Developing a formal club coaching structure, all coaches now require a minimum of level 2 accreditation and the club provides additional support
- Reviewing and redeveloping the social opportunities including the introduction of regular monthly social nights
- The club has commenced the Healthy Sporting Environments Program
- A Strategic Plan has been developed for next 2 years
- The club has secured many new sponsors and is receiving excellent support from the community at its major event. The Traralgon Marathon has three times the number of participants now compared to 2011.

SUCCESS FACTORS:

- ✓ The club Committee developed a clear and agreed vision about what they want the club to look like in the future – family friendly and inclusive
- ✓ Club champions have been prepared to put in the hard work
- ✓ Gippsport has provided the club with resources and Project Officer time to assist with the development of policies procedures and a Strategic Plan
- ✓ The club has formed excellent relationships with media partners and sponsors to effectively promote events, increase participation and membership.
- ✓ The club has a proud and strong history which keeps everyone motivated.

