



Allan Barlow OAM 12 December 1912 - 1 June 2009

It is with deep regret that Box Hill Athletic Club notes the passing of its inspirational coach and leader, Allan Barlow. Allan Barlow was an outstanding coach and the mainstay of the rise and success of Box Hill Athletic Club in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980's. Allan maintained his interest and involvement in the club well into the 1990's when he retired from active coaching in 1994. The success that the Box Hill Athletic Club continues to enjoy is built on the foundation of achievements for which he was responsible over so many years.

Allan's contribution to the Box Hill Athletic Club augmented that made by the late Reg Barlow, his brother. Together they made a formidable team and partnership and made a great impression on Australian Athletics. Box Hill had an unrivalled period of success between 1964 and 1980 when the club swept all opposition away in recording A Grade Premierships for 17 consecutive years.

The Box Hill Athletic Club was formed in 1932 and through the efforts of some very committed members was able to survive the difficult years of the great depression and 2nd World War. It was not long after the 2nd World War that the older Barlow, Reg, joined the club. Box Hill's progression was slow but sure, rising from D-Grade in 1946 to A-Grade in 1951.

Allan Barlow arrived at Box Hill in 1958. To quote the club's publication 'A Decade of Achievement':

"Allan hit the club like a tropical tornado – adding new drive and energy in administration and coaching. To Allan, being second best is nowhere near good enough and he raised the hackles of many a conservative with his refusal to abide by negative thinking. He was often bodily removed from the Town Hall where he insisted on presenting his case for better facilities."

The Barlow recruiting campaign in the local schools paid large dividends - for the enormous injection of talent into the club later blossomed in 1964 to record the first of the club's 17 consecutive A-Grade premierships. The club went on to win another 7 premierships before Allan's retirement.

Allan coached many elite athletes. His combination of Olympic, Commonwealth Games, World Championships, World Cup, Pacific Conference Games and World Cross Country representatives (see list below) combined with National and State champions would place him as the most successful athletics coach Australia has had. The honour boards at Box Hill tell the tale of how successful he was. One of his most distinguished moments came in 1976 when five Box Hill athletes were selected in the Olympic team, and he was chosen as an Australian Olympic coach, an honour he richly deserved.

Allan was a perfectionist and his painstaking care resulted in the remarkable improvement of so many athletes. He was just as generous with his time and knowledge with the average interclub athlete as he was with an Olympian. Under Allan's guidance, ordinary athletes performed way above the norm for the grade that they competed in. It was quite customary to see a Barlow athlete running a two minute 800m performance as low as D-Grade, such was the club's depth.

The success of the Box Hill Athletic Club was not just reserved for the A-Grade team. During Allan's reign, the club invariably won all the lower and junior grades as well. To achieve this, Allan needed to be able to reach down to all levels. He did this with amazing success. Many of these athletes have to this day continued to stay in the sport in coaching and administrative roles in the club.

Since his retirement from the sport, Allan's appearance at an athletics meet or function would always create a flurry of activity. At the club's 70th Anniversary dinner in 2002, the depth of feeling towards him was amazing to see. Two hundred plus attendees mobbed him when he arrived and a succession of former athletes he had helped, guided and influenced made their way to his table to reminisce and to tell him about what they had done after finishing at the Box Hill Athletic Club.

Allan Barlow was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1987 in recognition of his services to athletics.

Allan Barlow was a very determined person who had a major positive influence on the lives of many young people and who encouraged them to do their best. He encouraged a great sense of pride in personal and club achievement and was largely responsible for the incredible success of the club for which he did so much. He was a great man who will live on in the hearts and lives of the Box Hill Athletic Club members for as long as the club survives.

Allan passed away on June 1, 2009, aged 96.

Vale Allan Barlow.

Year	Championship	Athlete
1991	World Championships	Leigh Miller
1990	Commonwealth Games	Leigh Miller
1990	Commonwealth Games	Michael Morgan

1990	Commonwealth Games	Robert Stone
1990	Commonwealth Games	Matthew Sweeney
1989	World Cup	Leigh Miller
1989	World Cup	Matthew Sweeney
1989	World Student Games	Matthew Sweeney
1988	Olympic Games	Leigh Miller
1988	Olympic Games	Robert Stone
1986	Commonwealth Games	Vladimir Slavnic
1986	Commonwealth Games	Robert Stone
1985	World Walking Championships	William Dyer
1985	Pacific Conference Games	Robert Stone
1983	World Walking Championships	William Dyer
1982	Commonwealth Games	Sanitesi Latu (Tonga)
1981	World Walking Championships	William Dyer
1981	World Cross-Country	Steve Austin
1981	World Cross-Country	Tim O'Shaughnessy
1981	World Cup	Steve Austin
1981	World Cup	Peter Larkins
1980	Olympic Games	Steve Austin
1980	Olympic Games	William Scott
1979	World Cross-Country	Steve Austin
1979	World Cross-Country	William Scott
1978	Commonwealth Games	Chris Commons
1978	Commonwealth Games	C. Considine
1978	Commonwealth Games	Manfred Rohkamper
1977	Pacific Conference Games	Chris Commons
1977	Pacific Conference Games	Don Commons
1977	Pacific Conference Games	Graham Crouch
1977	World Cup	Don Commons
1977	World Student Games	Don Commons
1976	Olympic Games	Chris Commons
1976	Olympic Games	Graham Crouch
1976	Olympic Games	Peter Grant
1976	Olympic Games	Ross Haywood
1976	Olympic Games	Peter Larkins
1976	Olympic Games	Allan Barlow - Coach
1975	World Cross-Country	John Axsentieff
1975	World Cross-Country	Bruce Jones
1975	World Cross-Country	William Scott
1974	Commonwealth Games	Sanitesi Latu (Tonga)
1974	Commonwealth Games	Graham Crouch
1974	Commonwealth Games	Graham Haskell
1974	Commonwealth Games	Ross Haywood
1974	Commonwealth Games	Don Commons
1974	Commonwealth Games	Allan Barlow - Coach
1973	Pacific Conference Games	Graham Crouch
1973	Pacific Conference Games	Brendan Layh
1972	Olympic Games	Anthony Benson
1970	Commonwealth Games	Phil King
1969	Pacific Conference Games	Anthony Benson
1969	Pacific Conference Games	Graham Crouch
1969	Pacific Conference Games	Phil King
1968	Olympic Games	P.J. Boyce
1967	World Student Games	Phil King
1966	Commonwealth Games	Gary Eddy
1964	Olympic Games	Gary Eddy
1964	Olympic Games	Warwick Selvey
1962	Commonwealth Games	Warwick Selvey
1962	Commonwealth Games	B.D. Williams

