

Melbourne Marathon Spartans Club

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on
Monday 1 October 2018 at 7.30 pm in the
Harrison Room at the Melbourne Cricket Ground**

No	Item
1.	Welcome by President Jay Fleming - Jay opened the Meeting by welcoming everyone, especially new and milestone Spartans. He acknowledged that the turnout for the AGM was terrific with nearly 240 attendees. This year is the 41 st anniversary of the Melbourne Marathon. Jay thanked the Committee for their work and welcomed Guest Speaker, Sonia O' Sullivan.
2.	Apologies – Chris Muirden, Jane Sturzaker, Bruce Hargreaves, Frank Biviano, Alex Whitworth, Frank Palermo, Bruce Venables, Peter Nicholl, Antony Barnett, Colin Sing, Joanne Parlevliet, Greg Gentry, Stuart Patterson, John David, Stephen Keating, Peder Haugen, Sebastian Warmerdam, Andrew Baker, Sally Webster, Kerri Comer, Kelvin Prince, Christopher Talbot, Alan Killeen, Zhu Castaldi
3.	Confirmation of Minutes - The Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting held on 28 August 2017 have been available for viewing on the Website. Jay summarized the Minutes then they were moved as a true and correct record by John Raskas, seconded David Foskey.
4.	Business Arising from above Minutes – Nil
5.	Correspondence received from Bruce Hargreaves giving apologies for not attending, advising re his health issue and that he hopes to make it to the Start line this year! Also received an email from Chris Muirden re this year's Melbourne Marathon Course. He advised that as per last year, runners will have to head up Dallas Brooks Drive given works being done on the Tunnel. And the Slow course will no longer include the 5km runners.
6.	President's Report Welcome to our AGM Spartans! It has been another productive year on Committee and a great year generally on the Spartan landscape. We have focused on brainstorming engaging and interesting initiatives to present to you, the Spartan Community for your opinions and input. We have tried to open-up Committee to new people and fresh ideas in order to better reflect our ever-broadening demographic. Going forward, our intention is to extend the opportunity to any runners who have successfully completed 9 Melbourne Marathons to attend Committee meetings for the whole year leading up to their incoming Spartan singlet presentation at the following year's AGM. This would harness the initial excitement of runners who are about to become Spartans as they will have become familiar enough with the Melbourne Marathon over their 9 years to offer fresh constructive input into improving runners' experience of the event as well as perhaps creatively expanding on existing initiatives. I feel that for any organisation it is always challenging to balance tradition with progress, so establishing a potential feed of fresh views from these future incoming reservoirs of 'almost-Spartans' would help with this. Change-management is a whole industry

in the corporate sector because it is generally agreed that most people hate change. For people pushing change, it is an arrogance to assume that all change is good change. Frankly, some change is purely change for change's sake and some change is totally harmful and negative. There are often repeated howls of "Why do they always wanna keep changing everything? If it ain't broke don't fix it!" Frankly, this view isn't very effective either as it implies that it's essential to wait for something to break or become outdated before fixing it, which, instead of being proactive is a totally reactive approach.

Without big-noting ourselves, my honest assessment is that Spartans are gaining quite the reputation and presence as one of the leading elder statesmen on the Australian Marathon scene. I often receive forwarded correspondence from similar clubs in Oz who either loosely base their operations on ours or at the very least mention us in their correspondence to their own members or potential members, citing our initiatives. I think this is great and as these clubs grow their own traditions and numbers, I look forward to learning from their initiatives and adapting certain suitable elements into our club. After all there's no point reinventing the ideas wheel as ours is not a cut-throat competitive corporate environment. Long may we pirate ideas and initiatives from each other! I would just like to pay a great tribute here to two of our long-standing Committee members, John Dean and David Foskey. For the longest time, John has been a custodian of enormous amounts of Melbourne Marathon historical artefacts and has spent countless man-hours organising these into hard-copy display books and other formats to preserve our history. David has done a brilliant job in not only starting our Spartans website around seven years ago but also building it up and maintaining it as a record of Spartans' running achievements. All Spartans who have successfully completed over 15 Melbourne Marathons are listed on the site as is every Spartan that has served on Committee since 1988. Additionally, David always aims to improve the diversity and content of the site by adding inspirational and diverse content for members to read. Recording a rich historical tapestry like ours doesn't happen by accident but rather by much fine work such as this and other contributions from all members, all on a voluntary basis among busy lives..

In ongoing consultation with IMG, Committee have had successful involvement in quite a few recent initiatives including: resurrection of the results booklet in e-format, resurrection of the pre-event pasta night, maintaining our runner exchange and reciprocal relationship since 2012 with Japan's Teganuma Half-Marathon, the automatic disconnection of the finish-line time-clock at the event cut-off time to prevent times exceeding the cut-off time being recorded, revised and improved signage along the marathon course to cater for non-English speaking participants and those with cognitive impairments, the increased presence of musical acts along the marathon course and an increased musical presence at both the start and finish lines to generate greater excitement and goose-bumps,

Committee has also been engaged in making some difficult determinations regarding Spartans' requests to have some of their run/s deemed legal and worthy of incrementing their Spartan tally. This has included being asked to deem several Melbourne Marathons as legally completed, where the events were actually run, but the entries weren't submitted due to lateness. Others have involved being asked to deem times greater than the cut-off time as legally completed and worthy of incrementing the Spartan tally and in a couple of extreme circumstances we have had to deal with blatant cheating where runners have not completed the full course but rather started the run at places other than the start-line, or deliberately cut across certain parts of the course saving themselves precious km. In one extreme example we have asked for the return of a Spartan singlet and stripped the member of Spartan privileges due to retrospectively discovering serial cheating in several Melbourne Marathons, and sadly there is a similar case we have yet to deal with. Enforcing regulatory

compliance is an onerous process that gives us absolutely no joy as we would dearly love to make everyone happy and spread the love, but I feel it is crucial to maintain the fidelity and integrity of the path to an initial green Spartan singlet and the progression through the milestone colours rather than cheapening the process with elastic parameters and ‘mate’s rates’. Some of the fresh new ideas suggested to Committee and currently either being considered, explored, discussed or fleshed-out in various stages include: Spartan running shirt, jacket, buff, ring design, car sticker, visor, pen, blazer, tie, calendar, mouse pad, track suit, socks, shorts, headband and bandana. Shortly, we will be sending out a brief document canvassing your views on what else you would like your club to stand for, any additional events you may wish to be organised and any other Spartan initiatives you might be willing to support. In the past, such surveys haven’t generated much feedback but as a representative body, we fully intend to keep trying to be as consultative as possible with our growing membership. We look forward to your input and feedback! Happy running Spartans!!!!
 Jay Fleming, President (S1012)
“Happiness is the absence of striving for happiness” – Chuang Tzu

7. **Treasurer’s Report**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1ST JULY 2017 – 30TH June 2018

Bank balance 1 st July 2017		\$9455.73
<u>INCOME:</u>		
Membership	\$5580.00	
Donations	\$1863.28	
Post	\$ 285.00	
Singlets	\$ 3820.00	
Merchandise	<u>\$ 825.00</u>	
	\$12,373.28	<u>\$12,373.28</u>
		\$21,829.01
<u>EXPENSES:</u>		
A.G.M.	\$5,594.62	
Marathon Day Expenses	\$1,196.95	
Singlets	\$3,095.40	
Postage	\$ 257.47	
Miscellaneous (Internet, Web, Display Books & Consumer Affairs)	<u>\$1,176.16</u>	
	<u>\$11,320.60</u>	<u>\$11,320.60</u>
Membership 2017/18 255 (LY289)		Bank Balance \$10,508.41
		Term Deposit \$ 5,309.81
		TOTAL FUNDS <u>\$15,818.22</u>

Rod Bayley – Treasurer (S0612)

8. **Secretary’s Report**

Our year has followed on from a successful 2017 with Spartan numbers continuing to grow to

	<p>a total at 30 June 2018 of 1,427. A break-up of this figure is Males: 1305, Females: 120 and Wheelchair: 2. Not in the wildest dreams of those involved in establishing the Spartans Club was it ever envisaged that Spartan numbers would grow to what they are today. Following the loss of two committee members at last year's AGM, the Committee over the past twelve months has been kept quite busy. Again, the Spartan tent at the finish of the marathon continues to be well patronised as was the Spartans Expo Display on the Friday and Saturday of the marathon weekend. Several Spartan runs were also well attended during the year with members enjoying the company of their fellow runners. We have been fortunate to have had two young members show an interest in joining the Committee during the year and we look forward to their future participation. Unfortunately, I will not be at the AGM as I have accepted the challenge of running in the 273km Grand to Grand Ultra in North America which so happened to coincide with our AGM. I congratulate all incoming Spartans and a warm welcome to our great Club. As you can see from the Treasurer's report we have a healthy bank balance which allows the Committee a little flexibility when purchasing singlet and other stock items.</p> <p>Anne Ziogos, Secretary (SF0045)</p> <p>PS – Felicity advised that there are 53 incoming Spartans this year.</p>
9.	<p>General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Teganuma Half-Marathon update - Jay spoke about the Teganuma Half Marathon competition which we hold every second year. This year the competition was won by Michelle Tham and Anne Ziogos. The times were quite restrictive as they wanted very fast runners. Hopefully in the future the qualifying times can be a little slower to making more Spartans eligible. Jay asked any Spartans travelling for running to please consider giving us a report for our Newsletter. We love these contributions. b. Spartan Survey – currently compiling a survey - please respond! c. Proposed marketing items – Buffs and jacket – Jay asked the audience and about 50 indicated that they'd purchase a jacket.
10.	<p>Election of Office Bearers</p> <p>President: Jay Fleming Vice President: Paul Basile Secretary: Anne Ziogos Treasurer: Rod Bayley Immediate Past President: John Dean General Committee: John Kaparelis, David Foskey, John Dobson, Matt Callaghan, Colin Silcock-Delaney</p> <p>Have also been approached by 8 year MM runner - Vicky Chung - to join the Committee. Any 9 year Spartan is also welcome to attend the Committee Meetings. Expressions of interest were invited from the floor and Spartan Pamela Young indicated her interest.</p>
11.	<p>Presentations/Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Life Membership – John Dean thanked Jay for the opportunity to speak tonight of this Clubs highest award – Life Membership. “It’s certainly an honour for me standing

here tonight knowing that only fifteen (15) Life Memberships have been awarded over the past (31) thirty-one years and that we'll be adding to that (15) fifteen, with this meetings approval in a few moments. As Life Membership proposals require the support and recommendation of the General Committee and then the approval of an Annual General Meeting, it is not always easy to keep Life Membership proposals from those actually receiving the award, particularly, if the person involved continues to have a high Committee or other level of involvement. I hope tonight we have been able to do that though. As we all know, all Sporting Clubs need members to volunteer their time to be on Committees, to work behind the scenes planning events, helping out at functions and setting up of nights like this evening. Without people volunteering and offering their time, I'm sure any Club would struggle and not be as effective as it should be. With over 1400 Spartans on its books, The Melbourne Marathon Spartans Club is no different to any other Sporting Club, it needs people to volunteer their services and time and, I'm pleased to say that the two Spartans I now have pleasure in proposing for Life Membership most certainly fall into the category of having been excellent contributors over many years and have given outstanding service to the Club. I have no doubt they are most worthy recipients of this, our Clubs highest award. Fellow Spartans, ladies and gentlemen, the first Life Membership I would like to propose is to someone who joined the Spartan Committee seven years ago and whose contribution to the Club over this period has been outstanding. I speak of Committee Member David Foskey. Since joining the Committee seven years ago David has been a most valuable, dedicated and hardworking member of Committee. It is without question that he has been a most significant and well respected contributor at Committee level and to the shaping and growth of the Club. The Club has also been extremely fortunate to have David as a Committee member as with his IT and website development skills he has developed the Spartan website from scratch into what it is today. That is, a first class website full of Club History, Spartan stories and general information. I can recall at the time David joined the Committee, the Club was very much reliant on a link it had on IMG's website to help communicate with members. We now present a more polished face to the world, thanks to David's many hours of hard work building the website and also maintaining the Spartan database. David's ongoing involvement with the Cerebral Palsy Education Centre has resulted in the third cerebral palsy runner becoming an Honorary Spartan to be presented with his singlet. Thank you David for this important link with CPEC and for your many year of outstanding service to the Club. The second Life Membership Fellow Spartans I would like to propose is that of our President Jay Fleming whose eight years on Committee, the last seven as President, have been most valuable to our Club. Jay's consultative leadership style, dedication and loyalty to the Club have been first class, as has his desire to shape the direction of the Club which in turn has allowed the Club to grow into what it is today. That is, a well-known and respected Club that marathon runners around Australia are eager to become members of. Jay has been an excellent contributor, leader and listener at Committee level and with our growing Club membership has worked hard on the Committee being as consultative as possible. The Club has certainly grown and benefited under Jay's leadership. Thank you Jay for your contribution to this great Club. It is only with the support of dedicated and passionate people like Jay and David that has allowed our Club to develop over the years into what it is today, that is, a well-respected Club open to all 10-Year Melbourne Marathon runners to join. Whilst the clubs General

	<p>Committee has discussed these two proposals for Life Membership and has unanimously supported each, the proposals now need to be ratified by you, the members at this AGM hence, I now put the two proposals for Life Membership to this meeting for your approval. Could I please have a show of hands of all those in favour of Life Membership being granted to Jay Fleming and David Foskey. Thank you. Those against. Thank you. Carried It is with pleasure that I now ask Jay and David to please come forward to receive their Life Membership Certificate and Badge.” Certificate and Badge were presented by Guest Speaker Sonia O’Sullivan.</p> <p>b. Spartan Award started in 2005 – only 3 recipients to date. If you do know someone who is worthy please let the Committee know.</p> <p>c. Hall of Fame Inductions Peter & Andy Moore (brothers)</p> <p>d. Honorary Spartan Singlet Presentation to Tyler Parfuss of CPEC by David Foskey</p> <p>e. Shirley Young Award - First Female Spartan in 2017 – Kirsten Jackson – Time 3.10.57</p> <p>f. Jack Gubbins Award - First Male Spartan in 2017 – Andrew Selby – Time 2.44.20</p>
12.	<p>Guest Speaker – Sonia O’Sullivan – Olympian, World Record Holder and World Champion Sonia O’Sullivan engaged the audience with stories of the 7 Marathons she has run. She ran her first Marathon in Dublin in 2000 shortly after the Sydney Olympics and she won it! She then trained for the New York Marathon preparing much more comprehensively however ran it only 3 minutes faster! Sonia then ran London in 2005 (2.29), New York again (2.42). Then in 2008 ran the Boston marathon in 2.52. She even walked one! Then her last was the Dublin marathon again which she ran in 3.03. Sonia comes from Cobh in County Cork where there is a statue of her! Sonia talked about her journey from athletics at School where she won her first cross country race. At the Barcelona Olympics she finished 4th place in the 3,000m event. In 1995 won a World Championship in her event. She came to Australia and in 1998 and did some altitude training for the first time in Falls Creek. She also talked about the Olympics. Sonia believes everyone should exercise for an hour a day and her motto is “live like someone left the door open.” Sonia promoted an upcoming event being the “Ever Caskey” run on 26/5/19 at Jells Park.</p> <p>Matt Callaghan thanked Sonia and presented her with gifts.</p>
13.	<p>Presentation of Spartan Singlets by Sonia O’Sullivan to incoming & Milestone Spartans: 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years.</p>
14.	<p>Meeting Closed 10.00 pm Refreshments were then served.</p>