



Melbourne Marathon Spartans Club Inc.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2026
7.30pm, AFL Dining Room, Melbourne Cricket Ground
Agenda

Item	Topic & Discussion
1	WELCOME – PRESIDENT JAY FLEMING (S1012)
2	Apologies: As read by Minute Secretary, Pamela Young (SF0093)
3	Confirmation of Minutes: Of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 15 September 2025
4	Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil
5	Correspondence Incoming/Outgoing: Nil
6	President's Report (please see Page 2&3)
7	Treasurer's Report (please see Page 3&4)
8	Minute Secretary's Report (please see Page 4)
9	GENERAL BUSINESS
9.1	MMSC Membership Restructure (to include Aspiring Spartans, seven years plus Melbourne Marathon runners). To be ratified by members: Motion 1: <i>That there will be a fee for Aspiring Spartans. The fee will be 50% of the regular Spartan Membership fee, to enable them to receive a link from the event organiser to enter future Melbourne Marathons, i.e. a runner who has successfully completed seven and eight Melbourne Marathons or whatever the event organiser decrees that year.</i> Motion 2: <i>That Incoming Spartans, i.e. a runner who has run nine and is about to run their tenth, must be financial to receive the link from the event organiser to register for future Melbourne Marathons.</i> Motion 3: <i>That existing Spartans must be financial to receive the link from the event organiser to register for future Melbourne Marathons.</i> Motion 4: <i>That milestone Spartans must be financial to receive a singlet and/or presentation of their milestone singlet for completion of 15, 20, 25 etc Melbourne Marathons.</i>
9.2	Melbourne Marathon course changes. Start and finish cut-off times 2026.
10	ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS – NOMINATIONS RECEIVED
	President: Jay Fleming (S1012), Vice President: Paul Basile (S0874), Treasurer: Gavin Ma (S1603) Membership Secretary: Felicity Doolan (SF0080), Minute Secretary: Pamela Young (SF0093) People and Culture Secretary: Jay Fleming (S1012) General Committee (10): David Foskey (S0025), Kai Ooi (S1346), John Zeleznikow (S0682), Candida Baskcomb (SF0106), Peter Seal (S1218), John Kaparelis (S0749), Gavin Criddle (S0973), Vilim Podreka (S1052), Jo Moxon (S1590), Mark Wenckowski (S1600)
11	PRESENTATION OF AWARDS
	Shirley Young Award - First Female Spartan in 2025 – Andrea Lung (SF0154) – Net Time: 3:20:08 Presentation by Life Member John Dean (S0020) Jack Gubbins Award - First Male Spartan in 2025 – Dion Finocchiaro (S1476) – Net Time: 2:23:46 Presentation by Life Member Peter Battrick (S0005) Pheidippides Award – Vicki Thompson (SF0010) Presentation by President Jay Fleming (S1012)
	10 MINUTE BREAK Light refreshments will be served
12	GUEST SPEAKER – David Staehr (S1253)
	Vice President Paul Basile (S0874) to thank David
13	PRESENTATION OF SPARTAN SINGLETS
	Felicity Doolan (SF0080) to announce. Presentation of singlets by David Staehr (S1253) to: 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 45 year runners. Photography by Hamish Blair (S1423)
14	MEETING CLOSE

PRESIDENT – Jay Fleming (S1012)

On behalf of the Melbourne Marathon Spartans Club Committee, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our 2026 Annual General Meeting. We especially extend a warm welcome to our Incoming Spartans, who next month will run their tenth Melbourne Marathon ... in a lovely shade of green and for the first time emblazoned with the now famous 'Running Man' logo. This year there is an amazing total of 77 Incoming Spartans, not all of whom could be here this evening. Welcome also to around 30 milestone Spartans moving up to the next singlet colour and a couple of others being presented with awards.

It has been another creative and constructive year on Committee! We have worked even harder to further enhance the specialness of the Spartan experience, making Spartans an even more inclusive and outward-facing organisation by establishing quite a few initiatives and working on several others in various stages of development:

- Securing priority entry into the Melbourne Marathon for Spartans and 'Aspiring Spartans' (runners who have successfully completed a minimum of seven Melbourne Marathons).
- Athletics Victoria affiliation and Indemnity insurance for Spartan Club Runs.
- Ongoing facilitation of the Spartans Tan Club Run (every fourth Sunday of the month).
- Successful launch of the Spartans Frankston Club Run (every second Sunday of the month), initiated by Spartan **Trent Malcolm (S1399)** who saw an opportunity to make a fine contribution.
- Reinvigorated relationship with Indigenous Marathon Foundation (IMF) as our primary organisation for fundraising (formed in 2009 by our patron Rob de Castella).
- As from next year, our AGM will be streamed online as we are aware that many Spartans live regionally, interstate and even overseas, and are simply not able to attend at the MCG on a weeknight.
- We have begun the process of planning Spartan Cheer Squads, Friends of Spartans (FOSSIES), dressed in 'battle uniforms' with the chanting of the Spartan War Cry over portable speakers as Spartans run past ... and we will collaborate with event organisers regarding protocols to have several located safely at different parts of the course for maximum impact and visibility.
- Since the 2021 Melbourne Marathon, we have worked closely with event organisers to greatly enhance the race-day experience for Spartans by seeking permission to locate a photo podium right at the Finish Line on the sacred turf of the MCG ... which is not only loved by Spartans ... but also those aspiring runners who have run several Melbourne Marathons and keep glancing over at the photo podium as they cross the Finish Line each year, vowing to get there themselves.
- Spartans have become a regular go-to contact for event organisers around the country as a high-profile and reliable source of top-quality pacers, thanks to the 'force of nature' that is 35-year Spartan **John Kaparelis (S0749)** who has single handedly elevated Spartans' pacing profile into the Stratosphere!
- From this year, we have collaborated with event organisers to facilitate a Spartan Team Tent that is **twice the size of previous years** ... which will enable a safer and more organised storage of Spartans bag-drops in alphabetical order, meaning safer manual handling for our tent staff and easier locating of bags for exhausted Spartans after the event.
- The introduction of the annual **Pheidippides Award** a couple of years ago celebrates inclusivity across the breadth of the Spartan Community and seeks to elevate the triumph of the human spirit by **offering the option of acknowledgement and recognition** each year to the Spartan who has put in a mighty long day at the office to run the net-time closest to the Event cut-off time without exceeding it.
- Following a welcome proposal by **Grayson Summers (S0290)**, we will be facilitating additional recognition and acknowledgement for Spartans who have run the Melbourne Marathon or are continuing to run the Melbourne Marathon into their 70s and 80s.
- **Spartan Runner Profile** offers an invitation for each Spartan to tell their unique story ... of the person behind the Spartan Number and some of the journey leading up to achieving their Spartan Number ... by answering a few suggested questions as prompts (see March Newsletter for details) ... and to have them securely stored on our website, enabling all Spartans to be inspired by all Spartans.
- As we become a more financially sound entity, and while still ensuring fiscally-sound decision-making, we will be investing funds back into initiatives that further enhance the Spartan experience ... and along with implementing proposals at Committee level, we will continue to be open and receptive to any initiatives from members, as every member has devoted a minimum of a decade to be part of this journey.
- Membership Secretary **Felicity Doolan (SF0080)**, has done an incredible amount of work since adding the singlets portfolio to her role, after the passing of our dear friend, and fellow Collingwood supporter, **Helen Bayley**, who looked after singlets with hubby, Spartan **Rod Bayley (S0612)** for over a decade ... along with Webmaster **David Foskey (S0025)** have ensured we have maintained best practice with customer service, singlet issue and website maintenance over the last decade or so ... which together with the tireless work of Immediate Past President **John Dean (S0020)** to preserve the rich tapestry of Spartan history since Spartans' inception in 1988 ... assisted by **everyone who has served on past Committees** ... has ensured today's Melbourne Marathon Spartans Club stands as

one of the very few such clubs in the world with our level of organisation, visibility, relevance, currency and presence on the running landscape.

I hope you have a fantastic evening!

You need three hobbies ... one to keep you creative, one to keep you in shape, one to make you money ... let no one tell you otherwise! – Gareth Lloyd

TREASURER - Vicky Chung (SF0133)

Financial Statement 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

Profit and Loss

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Income	\$
AGM Income	
Donation Income	1,276.00
Interest Income	666.88
Membership Fees Income	17,245.00
Merchandise Income	8,071.00
Milestone Singlets Income	5,670.00
Postage Income	849.47
Total Income	33,778.35
Expenses	
AGM Expenses	7,929.63
Marathon Race Day Expenses	2,143.90
Merchandise Expenses	13,147.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	267.54
Office & Stationery Expenses	512.74
Postage & Freight Expenses	1,075.57
Singlets Expenses	2,904.00
Square Processing Fees	398.23
Storage Hire Rent	904.00
Subscriptions	360.00
Website & Computer Software Expenses	2,439.91
Total Expenses	32,082.52
Net Profit	1,695.83

Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2026

Assets	\$
Bank	
Melbourne Marathon Spartans Club Inc	13,080.76
Melbourne Marathon Spartans Club Inc (Term Deposit)	15,666.88
Total Bank	28,747.64
Current Assets	
Prepayments	1,500.00
Total Current Assets	1,500.00
Total Assets	30,247.64
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	20.85
Membership Fees Paid in Advance	3,145.00
Total Current Liabilities	3,165.85
Non-current Liabilities	
Membership Fees in Advance (Aspiring)	45.00
Membership Fees Paid in Advance (Non Current)	2,830.00
Total Non-current Liabilities	2,875.00
Total Liabilities	6,040.85
Net Assets	24,206.79
Equity	
Current Year Earnings	1,695.83
Retained Earnings	22,510.96

Total Equity	24,206.79
Membership 2025/26	391
SECRETARY - Pamela Young (SF0093) Welcome to this special night on the Spartan calendar, and to this room that is filled with runners who know the meaning of grit, effort, and perseverance. It has been another year abundant with the pursuit of running, celebrating successes, rich and lively discussions at committee meetings, and many ideas and suggestions on how we might improve and grow the Spartan brand and our profile, have been forthcoming from our members. The Spartan community is a microcosm of the greater world. Where we experience a wide range of human traits, with many of us facing personal challenges, including injury, illness, family commitments, work expectations that can be demanding, and where a variety of personalities, viewpoints, and opinions exist; but, at our core, it is the running that is the common denominator, and being a Spartan is one remarkable achievement that speaks to the enormous benefits exercise and mental buoyancy gift us. Spartans understand the commitment and discipline it takes to run even one marathon, with nearly all of us in attendance tonight, having run at least ten. Running worldwide has grown exponentially, and the Melbourne Marathon is also evidence of this. With that growth, we now see that entry is not guaranteed, unless you are already a Spartan and therefore receive a special link to enable registration and guaranteed entry. This initiative has been crucial, and it has provided relief to runners who are aspiring to become a Spartan, and the rest of us who may be running towards another Spartan milestone. The growth in Melbourne Marathon participation means that our club is growing too, with us this evening acknowledging a healthy number of Incoming Spartans who once they have completed the 2026 Melbourne Marathon, will add to our membership base. As we manage timeframes and responsibilities, the dedication to recreational running has been and continues to be a kind of panacea to the inevitable demands of life, and the issues we see facing society and indeed the world. A need to belong is innate to humans. Many of us seek it, not only in one space, but in many areas of our lives. Being a Spartan means that we do 'belong' to a community and a club whose members have achieved what the majority of people on the planet will never know. Globally statistics reveal that fewer than 1% of the world's population has ever completed a marathon. Go us!! Our current total membership is 1870 with the breakdown of membership as follows: Male Spartans - 1647, Female Spartans - 216, Wheelchair Spartans - 2, Honorary Spartans – 4, Non-Binary - 1. We are proud of the Spartan spirit, epitomised by our inspiring Spartan Legends, John Dobson (S0021), David Foskey (S0025) and Wayne Thompson (S0078), who are lining up for their 48th Melbourne Marathon on Sunday 11 October, and our broad and inclusive membership base. Through all you have done to become a Spartan, and in all you do to maintain your running, you have earned belief in self; you <i>are</i> special, you <i>are</i> unique, and perhaps you <i>are</i> even rare. To our Incoming Spartans, and our Milestone Spartans, enjoy the long run to ultimately earn the singlet you are presented with tonight and to everyone who is running the 48th Melbourne Marathon, know that way ahead of the field and leading the charge will be the great Eliud Kipchoge who said, <i>Running is the ultimate expression of freedom</i>. Who can argue with that?	

Tonight's QR Codes:



Spartan Membership \$45

Non-Member AGM \$5.00 (Donation to IMF)



Robert de Castella's Indigenous Marathon Foundation

MARATHON DAY – SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2026

WE NEED YOU!! Get Involved! Volunteers are needed for the Expo on: **Wednesday 7 October 11.00am-6.00pm; Thursday 8 October 8.00am-6.00pm; Friday 9 October 8.00am-6.00pm; Saturday 10 October 8.00am-3.00pm;** and on marathon day in the Marathon Day Village marquee. See one of our friendly Committee members or contact **Paul Basile** 0439 718 281 if you are interested in assisting.

Spartans who are not running this year, please wear your singlets and come along to cheer on your fellow Spartans (and others) who are running. Seeing you on the sidelines will buoy many of us.

