



**Melbourne Marathon Spartans Club Inc.**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held on Monday 16 September 2024**

**7.30pm-9.00pm, AFL Dining Room, Melbourne Cricket Ground**

**Meeting Opened:** 7.30pm

**In Attendance: President/People & Culture Secretary:** Jay Fleming, **Vice President:** Paul Basile

**Treasurer (Incoming):** Vicky Chung, **Membership Secretary:** Felicity Doolan

**Committee Members:** David Foskey, Candida Baskcomb, Kai Ooi, Peter Seal, John Zeleznikow, Gavin Criddle, John Kaparelis

**Apologies:** Muhammad Hanafiah Abdul Rashid, Caroline Anderson, Helen Bayley, Rod Bayley, Mark Bergamasco, Craig Bowe, Vin Brereton, Luke Brophy, Douglas Brown, Nick Burnett, Stewart Calder, Ian Campbell, Jordan Cowley, Robert Davis, Tim Fearn-Wannan, Chris Firth, Luke Fowler, Christopher Giese, Matthew Grange, Rick Hargreaves, Carly Heggie, Adrian Hoel, Wayne Hogan, Danielle Jansse, Ashley Kissick, Adrian Lacey, Patrick McKinney, Mike Meadows, Stephen Murphy, Ngoh Ngoh Nester, Tim Nolan, Grant Padula, Stephen Paine, Elan Pamensky, Zeb Phoenix, Heather Robinson, Michael Rooney, Nick Saunders, Michelle Sawyer, Karin Smith, Trevor Smith, Neil Styles, Joseph Ta, Karin Thorburn, Karen Travill, Nicholas Turner, Ian Twite, Jeff Wright.

**Minute Secretary:** Pamela Young

Item	Topic & Discussion	Action
1	<b>Welcome</b>	
	<p>President, Jay Fleming, declared the meeting open at 7.30pm and welcomed all Spartans, family members and friends to this special evening at Australia's home of sport. Jay spoke about what a privilege it has been for him to be President for a decade and a half. He also spoke about the personal challenges facing many Spartans in the room, and how running binds and connects us all.</p> <p>Jay warmly welcomed everyone and our Guest Speaker, Oscar Carlson, who was wearing a vintage singlet from the late 80s. He welcomed our incoming Spartans, 68 in total. Although not all could make it to the AGM, we still have an incredible 40 incoming Spartans here. A new addition to the evening is the green carpet, we are trying to make a Hollywood production of it and rock and roll with you as much as we can. Jay told the room that while we are not elite, you are elite because less than one percent of Melbourne Marathon finishers continue and aspire to wear the Spartan singlet. Tonight, we also present a milestone singlet to Tyler Parfuss. The second of our four runners involved with the Cerebral Palsy Education Centre (CPEC). Tyler is progressing to his 15-year runner singlet.</p> <p>RSVP numbers for the AGM have increased. We have outgrown our previous venues. With this famous MCG view behind us and the 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Melbourne Marathon in less than four weeks. Jay spoke about the Club's inception and past Committee efforts that have created a firm foundation. John Dean and David Foskey have done so much to document the history of Spartans in hard copy and on the website. Jay invited members to visit the website and read about the many successes and he told the room that it was approximately 14 years ago that the phrase 'Legends' was coined, and that there were 13 of them then. We have invited the Legends here this evening; and everyone acknowledged Spartan royalty; <b>John Dobson, David Foskey and Wayne Thompson.</b></p> <p>Jay asked incoming Spartans to stand and be acknowledged, followed by milestone recipients for 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 and 45 year singlets, and all members who have run and are still running the years in between the five year incremental structure, to receive a new singlet, including runners who have run 40-44 Melbourne Marathons, in addition he asked the Legends to stand.</p> <p>Jay spoke to some of the achievements of the Committee over the past year and thanked Marcus Gale of IMG, who has been so helpful. Jay mentioned an uptick in registrations for the Marathon, and its sellout this year in a short space of time and how the Committee has worked with IMG to secure priority entry. We are humble about this privilege. Jay encouraged Spartans to register early for the 2025 event. The days of hesitation are gone.</p>	
2	<b>Apologies</b>	
	Secretary, Pamela Young, read out the apologies which are recorded above. Apologies were accepted.	

<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting</b>	
	<p>Jay spoke to some of last year's issues and main events for the Melbourne Marathon Spartans Club. Referring to the 2023 Minutes particularly which can be found on the website.</p> <p>Moved: Ian Gainey                      Seconded: Peter Battrick</p> <p><i>That the Minutes are true and accurate. Carried</i></p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Business Arising</b>	
	No business arising	
<b>5</b>	<b>President's Report</b>	
	<p>Jay referred to the President's Report published in the agenda. He advised a new award that has been introduced and will be presented at next year's AGM. <i>The Pheidippides Award</i> will be presented to the runner with the closest time inside the cut-off time (currently seven hours). Jay spoke to the many challenges facing Spartans, ie runners who are running with newly tweaked medication regimens, those unable to go over a certain pulse rate, runners recovering from car accidents, runners undergoing rehabilitation and post joint replacement, runners in remission between cancer diagnoses, runners undergoing major trauma either personally or in their immediate and extended family circle. Life does not care that we are running a marathon. This award will acknowledge that runner. The presentation of the Award to this person will be optional and with their permission.</p> <p>Jay spoke about his second role as the People and Culture Secretary, which engages and reports on milestones, and Spartan stories, and that he is the primary contact. He mentioned the importance of the historical and photographic recording of the Melbourne Marathon, which John Dean has been instrumental in archiving. John is a Spartan spiritual leader who has dedicated his life to keeping the Melbourne Marathon story alive.</p> <p>David Foskey was also thanked and mentioned for the work he has done with website management. Jay acknowledged John Dobson, and outgoing Treasurer, Rod Bayley, who resigned from the Committee during 2024 and thanked them for their commitment and years of service. The Committee cannot do what it does, without people like them.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	
	<p>Outgoing Treasurer, Rod Bayley, prepared the 2023/2024 Financial Statement that is recorded on the Agenda. Interim Treasurer Vicky Chung affirmed the report's details.</p> <p>Moved: Maureen Wilson                      Seconded: Anne Ziogos</p> <p><i>That the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Carried</i></p>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Secretary's Report</b>	
	Secretary's Report is published on the Agenda.	
<b>8</b>	<b>General Business</b>	
	<p>No General Business. However, Jay invited George Dyer to the podium. George spoke about the process of becoming a Spartan and how running influences you. You start with one and then nine Melbourne Marathons later, you are a Spartan. George spoke about the conundrum of what singlet to wear to other runs and clubs he is affiliated with. He had sewn different singlets together to create one, that represented those clubs.</p> <p>George is looking forward to the black and white one (Collingwood supporter). George has run over 100 marathons, and his is a great story. Jay said that there are many ideas amongst Spartans. When there was a dilemma, this is how George resolved that. A novel solution.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Election of Office Bearers</b>	
	<p>The existing Committee was re-elected with two new Committee members nominated: Gavin Criddle and John Kaparelis.</p> <p>Moved: Anne Ziogos                      Seconded: Neville Gardner</p> <p><i>That the existing Committee be re-elected, and the two new nominees be accepted. Carried</i></p> <p>Jay invited incoming Spartans who might be interested, to join the Committee for dinner and to be a guest at the meeting that follows.</p>	

<b>10</b>	<b>Presentation of Awards</b>	
	<p><b>Shirley Young Award</b> - First Female Spartan in 2023 – <b>Meta Vincent</b> (SF0095) – Net Time: 3:26:08 Presentation by Life Member Maureen Wilson (SF0034)</p> <p><b>Jack Gubbins Award</b> - First Male Spartan in 2023 – <b>Jason Daye</b> (S1293) – Net Time: 2:29:43 Presentation by Life Member Peter Battrick (S0005)</p> <p><b>Hall of Fame Award Induction</b> – 31 Melbourne Marathons - <b>Jamie Craik</b> (S738) Presentation by Clarke Whitehand (S0160)</p> <p>Jay explained the importance and significance of the Hall of Fame concept. It was put forward by past President Peter Ryan and John Dean embraced the idea, and since then it has grown and developed. They are our highest achievers. There are 51 members in the Hall of Fame. These runners represent only 3% of the Club membership. The club has adopted a stepped approach, and a singlet is presented. The HOF are not inducted until the next AGM, the committee invites the runner to the meeting. This year we welcome Jamie Craik.</p> <p><b>Life Membership Award</b> - Presentation by John Dean (S0020)</p> <p>Jay spoke about the Life Membership nomination. John Dean spoke about the recipient of the Award. He said it is an honour again to present, with the Club having 18 Life Members to date. Adding another one tonight. He spoke about the volunteers, and the Committee members. Any club would struggle without its volunteers. The Spartans are no different. John invited the recipient, Membership Secretary, Felicity Doolan to come forward and accept her Life Membership Award.</p> <p>Felicity is a hardworking contributor to the Club and the Committee. She has long been the first point of contact for incoming Spartans, and there would not be many in the room who have not communicated with her. She does an impeccable job as Membership Secretary, in an exemplary manner. It is because of her contribution that the Spartans Club has been able to grow. This Life Membership Award is acknowledgement of her dedication and efforts.</p> <p>Everyone in attendance, unanimously supported the award with much applause.</p> <p><b>Honorary Spartan - 15 Year Milestone Singlet - Tyler Parfuss</b> (SH0003) Presentation by Guest Speaker and Spartan, Oscar Carlson (S0096)</p> <p>Jay explained that we have four Honorary Spartans associated with CPEC and we are thrilled to present a 15-year milestone singlet this year to Tyler Parfuss. Guest Speaker Oscar Carlson presented Tyler with his singlet, to great applause.</p> <p>Everyone applauded the outstanding achievements of all the award winners.</p> <p>Legends, Wayne Thompson and John Dobson were invited to speak about their prostate cancer journey. Their sage message was to the men in the audience, to please get tested. The disease does not only affect older men. It affects young men also. It was a great message and well received.</p>	
	<b>10 Minute Break</b> – The meeting broke and all members enjoyed refreshments	
<b>11</b>	<b>Guest Speaker – Oscar Carlson</b>	
	<p>Peter Battrick introduced the Guest Speaker, Oscar Carlson (Spartan, Ironman, Teacher, Coach and Artist) and spoke of his incredible achievements. Oscar then introduced himself to the audience and spoke to the difficulties and the achievements of people in the room and encouraged everyone present to live the life that they believe in.</p> <p>He asked the question: Why did you get out of bed this morning? Oscar explained that he gets out of bed 'to make a difference' to himself and so he can make a difference to others (the people he coaches). Every day is an event. An event of life.</p> <p>Oscar spoke of qualifying for the Hawaii Ironman in 1979, of running into the lava fields in 52 degrees, and in the wind. It was on. He stopped to watch the epic contest between Dave Scott and Mark Allen who ran side by side up a hill before Mark Allen made the winning break. Oscar's pause cost him a place on an age group podium. This changed Oscar's life.</p> <p>Oscar's achievements are many, and adversity motivates him. He spoke of being hit by a car in the 1980s, whilst out training. He was dead, he saw it from a great height. Oscar came back. Pain is his friend. Pain changed his life. He spent two weeks in intensive care. Two months later he won a race. Six months later he won the Australian Iron Man. Oscar told the room, 'There is no such thing as can't.'</p> <p>Oscar joined a monastery as a teenager and was a rule breaker. It was hard, but nothing was going to break him, and nothing has. Running became his happy place. Nothing has changed.</p>	

	<p>Oscar is still doing what he did when he was 18. He has experienced events and tragedies in life; he spoke of the loss of his three year old daughter, of being dyslexic, of being bullied as a school boy, and he spoke of his adult son who has a disability through another accident. Oscar became a teacher, a Sports Master, and coach and he did a degree in fine art at RMIT.</p> <p>The point of his story was, regardless of the adversity, you cannot change what has happened, there is only one way and that is forward. Oscar has been able to succeed in living the life he believes in. Running has taken Oscar to many places. Life is about making the most of what you have got. It is about you doing your thing. Overcome adversity and if you can, make a difference. Oscar has been working at Fitzroy Community School for 22 years now, and he said, 'it is awesome'. There is only one way and that is forward.</p> <p>Oscar had brought some of his artwork to the meeting and he spoke about his work and love of art. He then answered questions from the floor.</p> <p>Paul Basile thanked Oscar for his honesty and inspiration in telling his story and presented him with a thank you gift.</p>	
<b>12</b>	<b>Presentation of Spartan Singlets by Oscar Carlson</b>	
	<p>Singlets were presented to 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 45-year runners by Oscar.</p> <p>Jay spoke to the effort required ie dedication and commitment to get to this point. Jay asked recipients to gather so they could walk the green carpet up to the podium as Felicity Doolan announced their name and their achievement. He advised them 'This is your moment, and we want it to be special'. Jay shook everyone's hand.</p> <p>Recipients walked the green carpet and had their photograph taken with Oscar Carlson, by Hamish Blair, Spartan (S1423), and professional sport photographer.</p> <p>At the end of the presentations, Jay extended a special welcome to incoming Spartans and told them to enjoy wearing their green singlet on race day and the compliments and encouragement they will no doubt receive from other runners, who aspire to becoming Spartans.</p> <p>Jay invited everyone to peruse the merchandise on display from Running Warehouse and to also check and update their membership status. He hopes to see new Spartans at the Club Runs and in the tent on race day.</p> <p>He asked incoming Spartans to also pick up their copy of <i>The Wall</i>, a book about the Melbourne Marathon and Melbourne Marathon Spartans history.</p> <p><i>Once a Spartan, always a Spartan.</i></p>	
<b>13</b>	<b>Raffle Draw</b>	
	Raffle tickets were drawn with a selection of prizes for the winners.	
<b>14</b>	<b>Meeting Closed at 9.30pm</b>	
	Jay thanked guests for attending.	