



Big M Melbourne Marathon

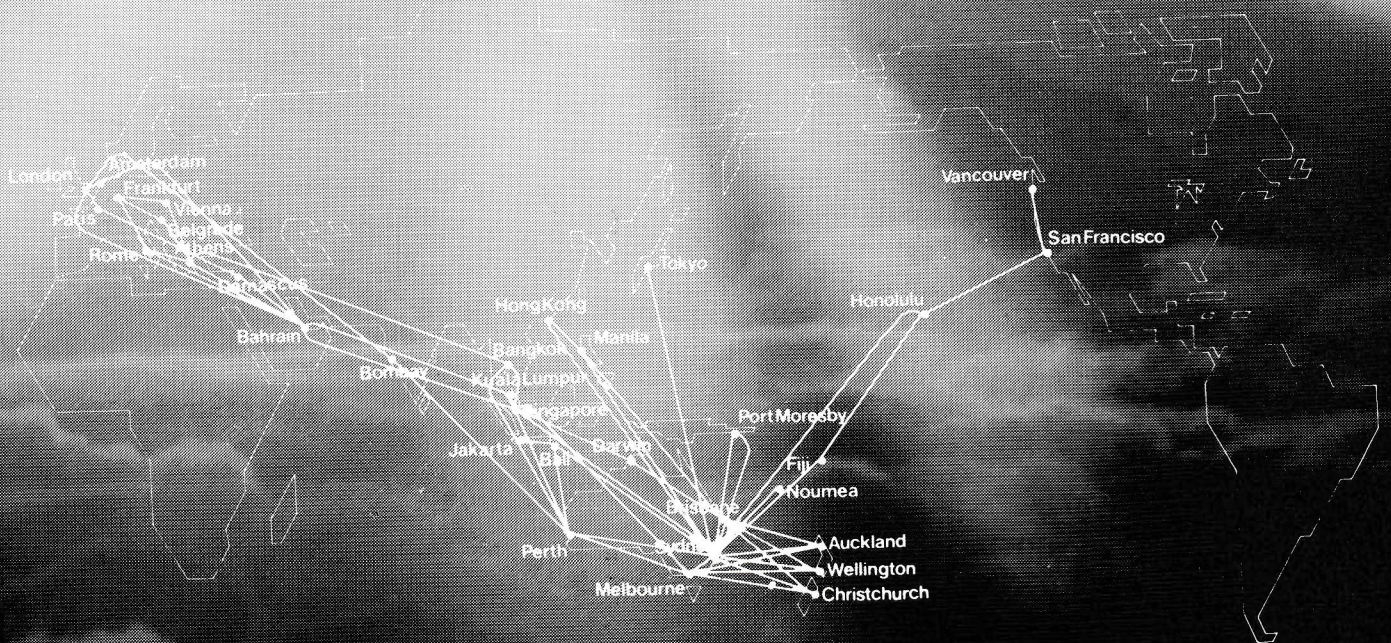
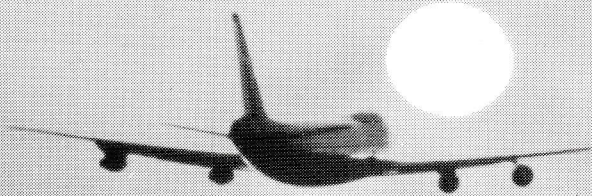


1978 Official Computer results

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'BIG M' MELBOURNE MARATHON NOVEMBER 1978

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The Big M Melbourne Marathon

On behalf of the Melbourne Marathon Committee I am pleased to send you this souvenir as a memento of the inaugural Melbourne Marathon.

You are all aware that the history of marathon running goes back to ancient times when the Greek soldier named Pheidippides was ordered to run to Athens from the coastal town of Marathon with the news of a battle victory.

Although traditionally an Olympic event, marathon running has become one of the fastest growing sports today. In America last year 26,000 runners both male and female, completed a marathon. The Boston Marathon, the most famous outside the Olympic Games, has a history dating back to 1897. New York, Maryland, San Francisco, Chicago and Honolulu are all cities where a marathon is becoming a regular event each year.



I am proud to say Melbourne now has its own marathon with nearly 3,000 entrants in its first race. We plan it to become bigger and better with each succeeding year.

The idea of the Melbourne Marathon was suggested to me by Peter Clemenger who was very impressed with the annual marathon run that he witnessed whilst visiting New York. This suggestion prompted me to call together the Melbourne Marathon Committee. The committee members are to be congratulated for the hard work they have put into the organisation of this first Melbourne Marathon.

The Councillors of Melbourne and Frankston deserve special thanks for their enthusiastic support.

I am particularly grateful to the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority, Qantas Airways, Woodleigh Homes and Radio 3MP. Their generous sponsorship has enabled this race to take place.

Vital supplementary roles have been filled by hundreds of volunteers who made this race a true community effort. The officials, the doctors and other paramedic volunteers, the families, friends, supporters, and all those workers who assisted behind the scenes between Frankston and Melbourne deserve credit for their magnificent contribution.

The competitors are by far the most important element and our congratulations go to the hundreds of competitors who achieved personal goals in this race. Congratulations go to the winners for their courageous efforts.

My personal thanks to all the media which supported the event and encouraged thousands to line the route.

I know you will be interested in the material on the following pages. I hope you will keep the book as a reminder of a great day and as an incentive to 'Be in it' with your friends next year.

Yours sincerely,

BRIAN DIXON
Chairman
Melbourne Marathon Committee

CHAIRMAN — The Hon. Brian
Dixon M.P. Minister for Youth,
Sport and Recreation.

Melbourne Marathon Committee 1978

COMMITTEE:—

Cr. Irvin Rockman
Lord Mayor, City of Melbourne

Cr. Max Batchelor
City of Frankston

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Australian Olympic Federation

Ted Paulin
The Professional Cross-Country
Club of Victoria.

Dr. John Diggle
Australian Sports Medicine
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Alison Gribble
Department of Youth, Sport
and Recreation

Tony Williams
Department of Youth, Sport
and Recreation

Ron Clark
Lifestyle

Win. May
Secretary

Fred Lester
Victorian Marathon Club



Left to right - J. Diggle, R. Pannel, F. Lester, W. May, M. Batchelor, J. Foley, T. Paulin,
B. Dixon, T. Williams, A. Gribble, I. Stewart.

Melbourne Marathon Results 1978

		TIME
1st	W. Scott	2 21 04
2nd	D. H. Byrnes	2 23 06
3rd	J. Langford W.A.	2 25 14
4th	K. Rock	2 26 36
5th	P. O'Hare	2 27 09
6th	A. Guthrie	2 32 06
7th	R. Gribble	2 32 24
8th	T. Paulin	2 33 37
9th	J. Duck	2 34 22
10th	J. Rands	2 34 33

FIRST 5 FEMALES

1st	E. Hassell	2 53 38
2nd	A. Beames	3 00 50
3rd	B. Byrnes	3 07 01
4th	J. Cameron	3 33 34
5th	B. Fay	3 34 43

MALE OVER 40

1st	R. Gribble	2 32 24
2nd	E. Paulin	2 33 37
3rd	J. Seymon	2 38 52

FEMALES OVER 40

1st	P. Smith	3 43 58
2nd	S. Young	3 51 50
3rd	C. McKerr	3 51 50

1ST JUNIOR BOY

1st	J. Boland	3 11 28
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1ST JUNIOR GIRL

1st	D. Leahy	4 08 34
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1ST MALE OVER 50

1st	T. Orr	3 06 33
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1ST FEMALE OVER 50

1st	S. Brasher	4 00 58
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OLDEST MALE

J. Poelsma	4 30 10
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OLDEST FEMALE

B. Newman	4 51 10
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TEAMS EVENT

1st	Ringwood A.A.C.
2nd	Glenhuntly A.A.C.
3rd	P.C.C.C.

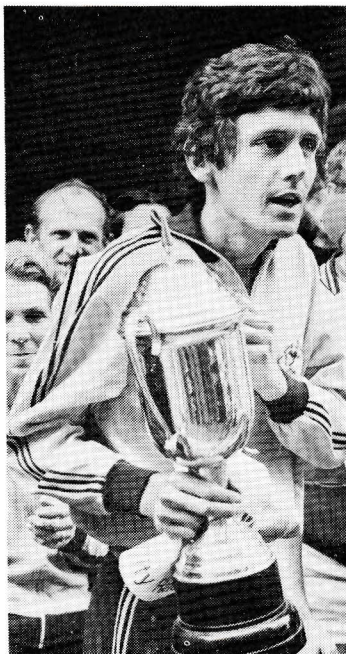
The day Melbourne became a marathon city

BY RON CARTER
THE AGE

It seemed everyone in Melbourne, and for miles around, who owned a pair of running shoes and shorts were up and eager to go in the early hours of a pleasant Sunday morning on November 5, 1978.

That was the day Melbourne became one of the big marathon cities of the world . . . certainly the biggest in the Southern Hemisphere.

Host city of the 1956 Olympic Games and home of the 100,000-plus spectator sports like the Melbourne Cup and Victorian Football League grand final, unfolded a great new sporting achievement with its history-making first community marathon.



Bill Scott with winners cup

Almost 3000 men and women, boys and girls, headed for the bayside city of Frankston for the long run back to the heart of Melbourne outside the Town Hall.

None of the other great marathon cities and venues around the world like New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and

Honolulu could boast as many in their initial event of 26 miles 385 yards as Melbourne did at its first race.

The enthusiasm from the public for Melbourne's Big M marathon took everyone by surprise.

Organisers knew it was going to be the biggest happening in foot-running in Australia — but almost 3000 starters was far beyond expectations.

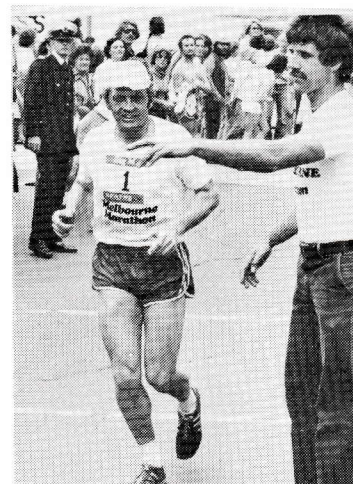
And when 1947 of the 3000 finished, no more proof was needed to show that the race was here to stay as an annual event on Melbourne's already impressive sporting calendar.

HSV-7 had a TV unit at the Town Hall for live television of the finish, and helping with the commentary was well

known Olympic runner Chris Wardlaw, who was seventh in the Fukuoka, Japan, marathon in 2 hrs 13 min 02 sec a month later.

Fears that the Big M day could be a scorcher and wreck the finishing hopes of many were dispelled as the Sunday broke with a clouded sky.

Still it was warm enough and the feeding stations, with drinks and sponges every five kilometres, were kept busy.

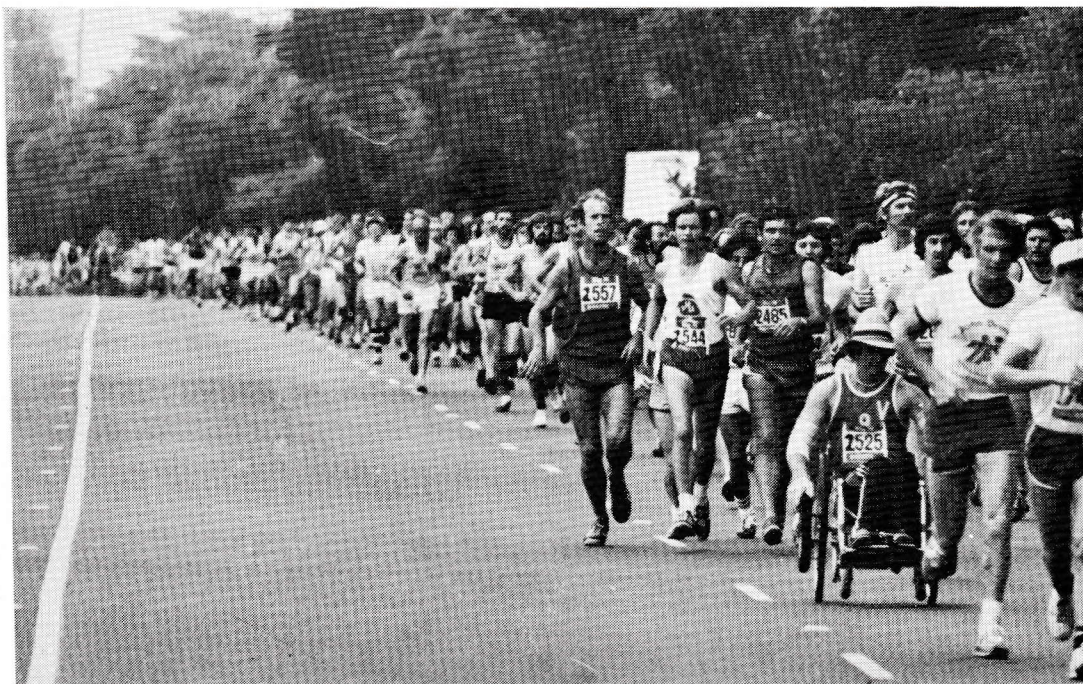


Brian Dixon finishes

The only weather problem was a slight head wind which increased over the final 15 kilometres.

Intense excitement hung thickly in the air over Flinders Street Railway Station as about 800 runners in an array of colorful track suits waited for the two Mornington Peninsula radio station, 3MP, special trains to take them to Frankston.

Platform Seven was packed to overflowing by 7.00 am for the arrival of the first special express to Frankston. It was a good-humored crowd that



Crowded Nepean Highway

greeted the announcements that the trains had been delayed 15 minutes and then 30 minutes.

Eventually they were speeding to Frankston and after a short bus ride they joined the other 2000 runners who had made their own way to Delacombe Park for the start.

Despite the late arrival of the two trains and the officials' first experience at getting such a multitude of runners ready for the start, the long grind to Melbourne began at 9.15 am — just 15 minutes late.

With the whole-hearted backing of the Victorian Government's Minister for Youth, Sport & Recreation, Brian Dixon, the race had all the credibility and organisational back-up needed to burst upon the local scene.



David Byrnes helps his wife Barbara at the finish



Flinders Street station at 7 a.m.

No one had a keener involvement in the race than Mr Dixon. How many government ministers would be prepared to start a race like this, see the massive field begin and then join in at the rear and run the full distance?

Mr Dixon did and he was still around at the end to help present the winners' trophies. How's that for dedication to the job!

For hundreds like Mr Dixon, this was their first taste of marathon running and all of the pain and agony associated with it. The joy of finishing too.

Even the winner, a well performed amateur track runner, Bill Scott, was competing in only his second marathon and is still learning the art of battling over the gruelling distance.

Scott led the never-ending stream of runners from the starting point in Frankston up the Nepean Highway through the bayside suburbs of Seaford,

Carrum, Chelsea, Edithvale, Aspendale, Mordialloc, Sandringham, Hampton, Brighton, Elwood, St. Kilda and onto the Melbourne Town Hall.

With the lean and hungry look of all good marathon men, Scott ran his first 26 miles 385 yards only four months earlier when he won the Victorian championships.

In his first marathon Scott, who holds the Victorian 5000 metres track record,

went too hard too early and just survived to the finish to win the state title in 2 hrs 16 min.

This time the 27 year-old Vermont primary school teacher paced himself better and held back early with the leading group of half a dozen runners.

Scotty resisted the temptation to surge away from the men he knew would give him most trouble — West Australian Jim Langford, the current National champion, and David Byrnes.

At the half way mark under the Mordialloc bridge, Scott, unhappy with the low pace, let himself go and shot clear.

From then on it was a solo run all the way home. Thousands of people lined the highway to cheer Scott as he climbed up High Street — it seemed like a mountain to most — and down through St. Kilda Junction.



They're off and running



Life wasn't meant to be easy

Two minutes behind, Byrnes had left Langford and had second place wrapped up.

Scott, who had been running 180 kilometres a week in training, was barely puffing as he crossed Princes Bridge and headed for the finishing line two blocks away.

It was obvious he could have kept going for miles

as he took a victory salute from Melbourne's Lord Mayor. Cr Irvin Rockman.

As marathons go, Scott's time of 2 hrs 21 min 04 sec was not fast, but the head wind had slowed him considerably.

But time didn't matter to Scott. He was first and that's what counted most because he had won a trip to the Boston marathon in April.

Bynres, a 27 year-old economist, who also had put in close to 200 kilometres a week training for the race, clocked 2 hrs 23 min 06 sec.

Perth born Langford, winner of the national title for the first time at Caboolture, Queensland, on August 6, in 2 hrs 19 min 20 sec., was third -- another two minutes behind Byrnes.



Elizabeth Hassell first woman home

Then at short intervals came Kevin Rock, Paul O'Hare, Robert Guthrie and Ron Gribble, the first over-40 runner home in 2:32:24.

Ted Paulin took eighth place to be the first professional runner and second over-40 runner.

While the other place-getters relaxed at the finish, Byrnes stood anxiously about looking back down Swanston Street.

His wife Barbara, 26, was somewhere down the road trying for the women's first prize of a trip to Boston as well.



The leaders soon after the start

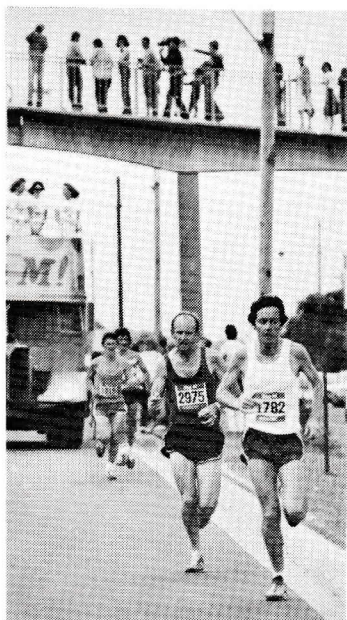
But that wasn't to be. Ahead in the women's section came Elizabeth Hassell who made a quick trip from Sydney, N.S.W. to beat the local girls.

Elizabeth, 35, a former N.S.W. sprinter, kept up a smart pace all the way -- except for a short walk after she suffered cramp in a calf muscle.

A total of 123 women started and Elizabeth easily had the best time of 2 hrs 53 min 38 sec. after hoping for 2 hrs 45 min.

Mrs Hassell, married to a former Australian marathon champion, Ian, won her second overseas trip within two months.

Previously she was the first woman home in the Sydney-to-Surf race and collected a trip for two to Japan.



Bill Scott makes his winning break at Mordialloc

Hot favourite to win the women's section, Adrienne Beames, finished seven minutes behind the N.S.W. women in 3:00:50.

The older women did remarkably well too. Peg Smith trained 80 kilometres a week to finish her seventh marathon and was the first over-40 home in 3 hrs 43 min 58 sec.

Tasmanian Shirley Brasher took 4 hrs 00 min 58 sec. to be the first woman

over-50, and the oldest to survive the punishment was Bev Newman, 54, from Doncaster, who clocked 4:51:10.

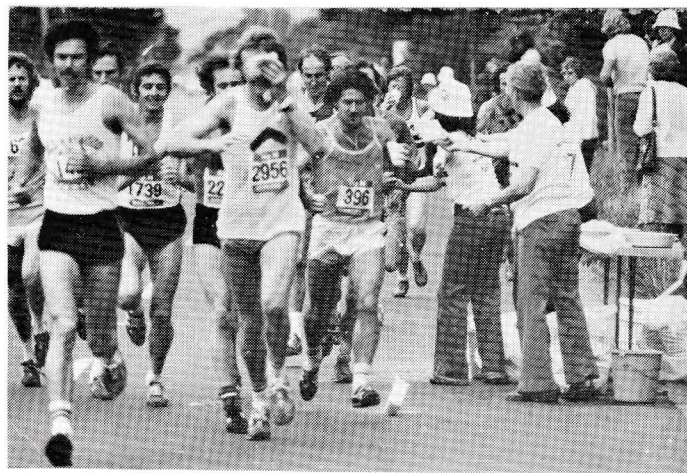
The older men set a cracking pace too. Like Theo Orr, father of Olympic Games runner Jenny. Theo took just over three hours to be the first over 50 male, and Joe Poelsma, a 73 year-old from Newborough in Gippsland, took just on 4½ hours.

And let's not forget the youngsters -- many of whom beat home their mums and dads. Julian Boland was the first under 19 boy in 3:11:28 and Debbie Leahy, 14, took the junior girls' prize in 4:08:34.

There weren't any prizes for the other littlies, except great satisfaction in knowing they had completed the toughest of all athletic events.



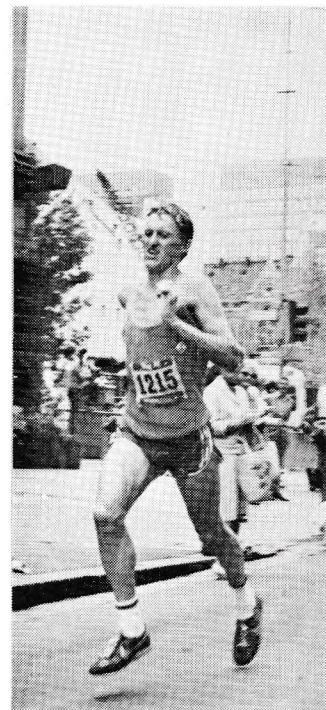
Olympian Judy Pollock finishes her first marathon



Drinking stations were kept busy

Among these was 10 year-old Nathan Pollock, son of Olympic track star Judy Pollock, who led home a family team. She was followed by young Nathan and husband Euan.

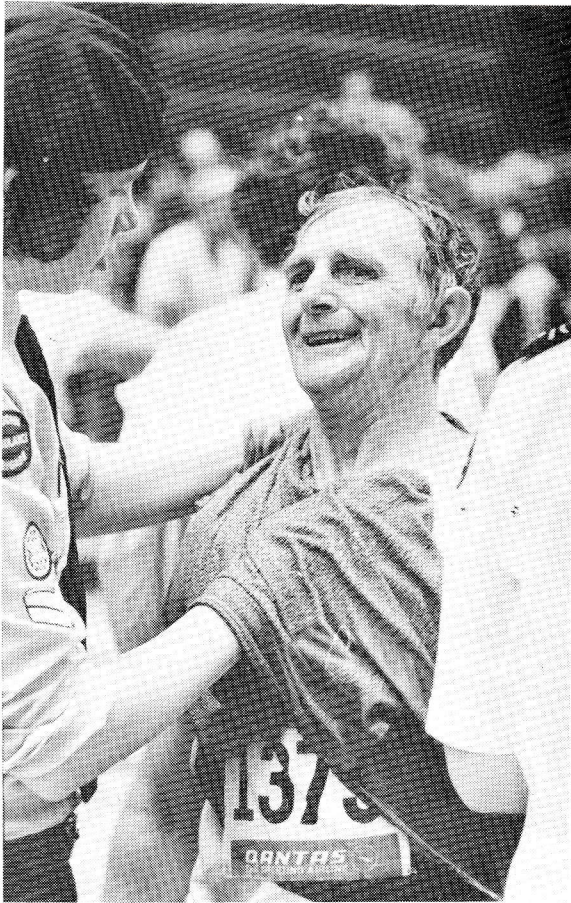
Those who finished the long run from Frankston -- and a few of those who didn't -- voted it a memorable day, and 5000 starters next year would not be too much of a shock.



Kevin Rock finishing fourth.



National Marathon Champion Jim Langford (W.A.) finishes third



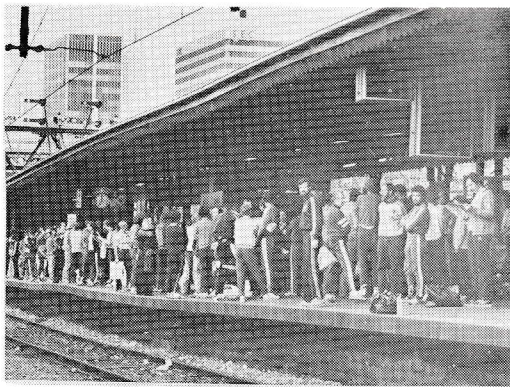
I MADE IT



A. Cavallo - 14 years polio victim
MADE IT TOO



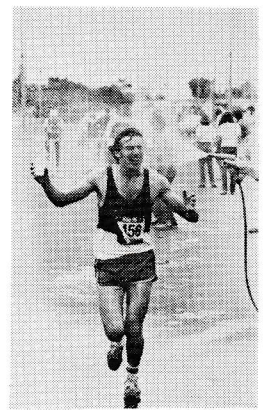
YOUTH WAS THERE TOO



Flinders St. at 7 a.m.



All aboard for Frankston



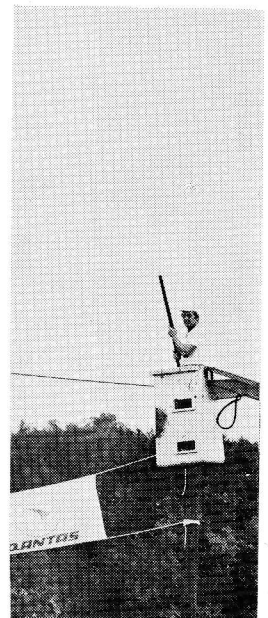
Or a hose?



Relax Boys - this is the easy part



Where are they?



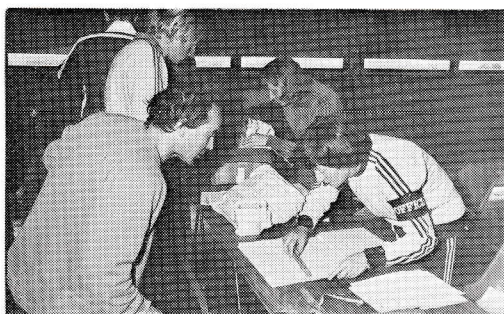
GO!



Frankston at last



ready



Am I on the list?



Anyone for a sponge?



How did you do it?



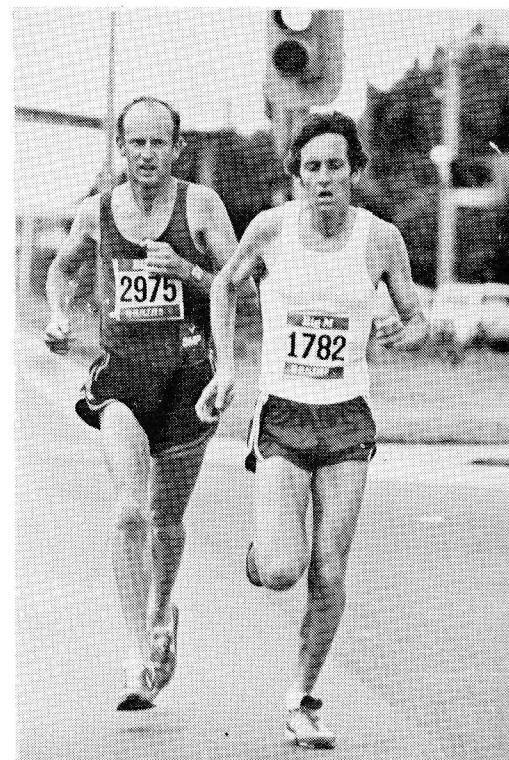
And behind them



The leaders emerge



I made it



half way home



The Victors

PLACE	TIME	SURNAME, INIT	START NO	TEAM	SUBURB, POST CODE	BIRTH DATE
1921	5.11.00	McHardy, P.A.	1466	-	MARIBYRNONG, 3032	50/10/18
1922	5.11.00	Alexander, D E J	307	-	Forest Hill, 3131	37/02/03
1923	5.11.00	Condratoff, A.	2982	Super Gulls	Warragul, 3820	
1924	5.11.00	O'Meara, B.W.	1913	-	HAWTHORN, 3122	41/03/12
1925	5.12.00	Taylor, P.N.	1182	-	RYE. VIC., 3941	60/05/19
1926	5.12.00	Cowling, R	395	-	Brighton, 3186	51/11/08
1927	5.12.00	Palmer, M.S.	1943	-	DROMANA, 3936	47/06/07
1928	5.12.00	Vendenbergh, A.J.	2518	-	Geelong West, 3218	
1929	5.13.00	Thompson, L.M.	1262	Traralgon Harriers AAC	MIRBOO NORTH. VIC., 3871	50/12/25
1930	5.13.00	Malseed, R.C.	1432	-	CANTERBURY, 3126	34/06/03
1931	5.13.00	Faulkhead, R	138	-	Seaford, 3198	63/03/19
1932	5.13.00	Anderson, M	589	-	Noble Park, 3174	57/01/04
1933	5.14.00	Rabach, G.	1721	-	WEST BRUNSWICK, 3055	58/09/12
1934	5.14.00	Vernon, L.J.	1258	-	NOBLE PARK. VIC., 3174	51/05/29
1935	5.14.00	Williams, D.P.	1666	-	VERMONT, 3133	60/10/13
1936	5.14.00	Blackie, T	374	-	North Carlton, 3054	51/06/16
1937	5.14.00	Tait, K.	2891	-	LALOR, 3075	37/06/08
1938	5.15.00	McCabe, B.J.	1480	-	GLEN WAVERLEY, 3150	35/01/16
1939	5.15.00	Priestly, J.D.	1978	The Stumbling Starfires	MORDIALLOC., 3195	50/11/26
1940	5.15.00	Di Maggio, A	969	-	Williamstown, 3016	25/01/04
1941	5.15.00	De Angelis, P J V	960	-	Doncaster, 3108	57/08/04
1942	5.16.00	Boyd, C J	617	-	Rye, 3941	57/02/23
1943	5.16.00	Maddock, G.H.	1124	-	FRANKSTON. VIC., 3199	61/01/07
1944	5.16.00	Farrell, M.F.	1118	-	NOBLE PARK. VIC., 3174	59/02/26
1945	5.16.00	Darby, R.M.	1256	-	LWR TEMPLESTONE., 3107	43/07/02
1946	5.16.00	Dean, F.	1561	-	HAWTHORN, 3122	46/01/26
1947	5.16.00	Young, G.F.	2491	-	MT. WAVERLEY, 3149	56/08/27

THANK YOU SPONSORS

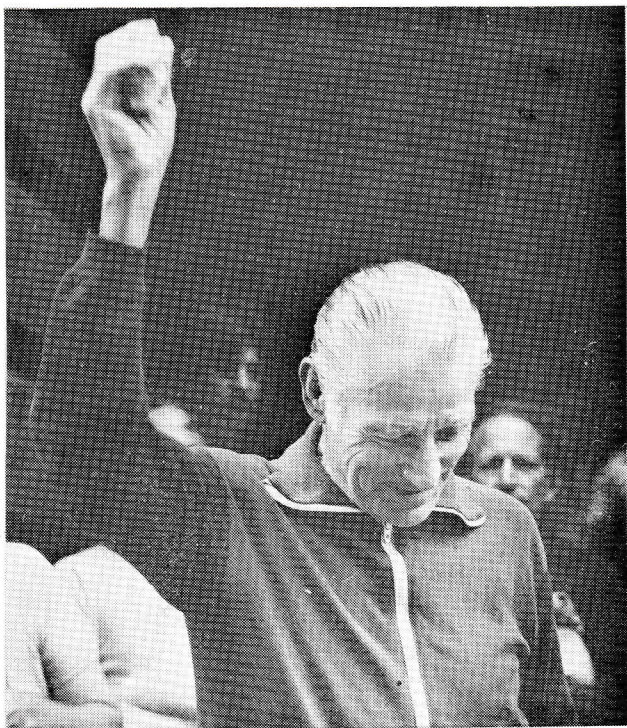
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 Springvale-Noble Park Amateur Athletic Club
 Chelsea Amateur Athletic Club
 Mentone Amateur Athletic Club
 Sandringham Amateur Athletic Club
 Oakleigh Amateur Athletic Club
 Glenhuntly Amateur Athletic Club
 South Melbourne Amateur Athletic Club



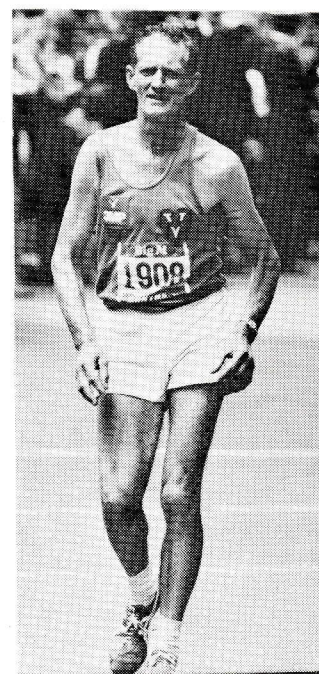
Joe Poelsma - Oldest to Finish (73)



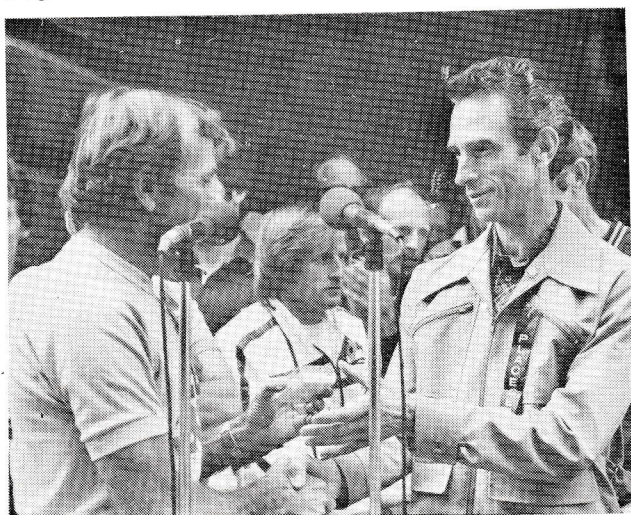
Peg Smith - First Female Over 40



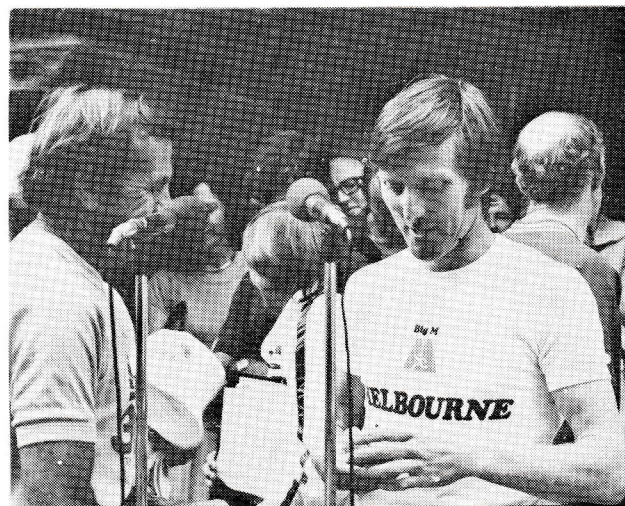
Shirley Brasher
First Female Over 50



Theo Orr
First Male Over 50



Ron Gribble - First Male Over 40



Ted Paulin - First Professional

