



Big M ^{MD} Melbourne Marathon



**COMPUTER
TECHNOLOGY**
A UNIT OF MAYNE NICKLESS LIMITED

1979 Official Computer results
Courtesy of Computer Technology

Melbourne Marathon Committee 1979



LEFT to RIGHT: J. Foley — J. King — W. May — T. Ferris — R. Bernadi — M. Batchelor — B. Dixon — F. Lester —
T. Paulin — A. Gribble — Dr. J. Diggle

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Melbourne marathoners accept the challenge on a hot October day

By Ron Carter
The Age

The Nepean Highway from Frankston became a test of courage when Melbourne suddenly turned on a beautiful October day for sun baking, not marathon running.

Still nothing was about to stop the second annual Big M Marathon on October 21 — not even the burning sun as the temperature climbed to 29 degrees.

Too many people of all ages had waiting too long for the day that even the thought of extra suffering and pain because of the heat could not dampen.

It was extremely pleasant at 9 a.m. as the huge field of 5561 — about 2600 more than the first run the year before — set off from Frankston for Melbourne 26 miles 385 yards away.

Hundreds had again made their way to the start on special trains from Flinders St. Station in the early hours of Sunday morning, relaxed, and hopeful.

Few realised as the starter's gun sent them on their way, that they

were headed into a great personal battle with a hot October sun.

Their feet would be on fire and their thirsts unquenchable.

One old timer, George Perdon, who has run more miles than anyone else in all kinds of weather knew what was ahead.

He'd been through it all before in his numerous long distance record making runs throughout Australia.

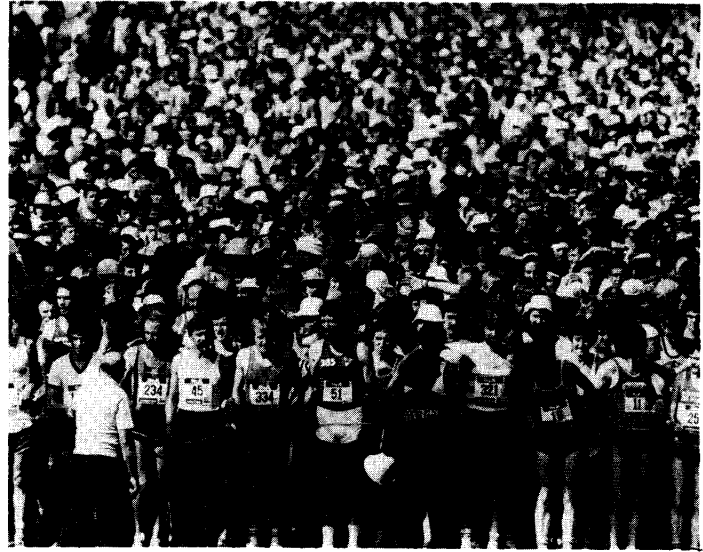
He advised those around him. "The heat will be a killer. Add at least 10 minutes to the time you expected to run . . . no make that 15 minutes, and don't forget to keep drinking."

Fifty-five year old Perdon was right. As the hot October morning wore on, heat exhaustion ripped through the long line of bodies on the burning bitumen.

A look at the weather forecast was enough to make the previous winner Bill Scott miss the race.

However, Scott had a very good reason to be a spectator this time.

He had another big international marathon in Fukuoka, Japan, in



Ready at Frankston

six weeks and the punishment he would have taken in the Big M could easily have wrecked his prospects in Japan.

As if the pitiless sun was not enough. A hot northerly — a head for most of the way — made the tortuous trek even more unbearable.

But still men, women and children went on. Those up front racing each other, those in the middle against the clock, and those at the rear just trying to stay on their feet and survive.

Thankfully, the people of Melbourne came to the rescue. Hundreds along the way came out with hoses, drinks, sponges and encouragement.

This lessened the pain for the weary, many of whom would not have made it to the finish without the outside help. There were no shortages of drinks and soaking sponges at the many feeding stations either. Still the heat took its toll and of the 5561 starters, only 2226 finished in a time period spanning 2 hrs. 26 min. to 6 hrs. 35 min.

Nine of the most seriously distressed were taken to hospital, while almost another 500 were treated by doctors and St. John Ambulance Brigade personal. As runners reached the finish and could go no further they were carried away by willing medical staff to the busy temporary casualty ward in the Lower Town Hall.

A team of young girls and boys was on standby to take the places of those too exhausted to stand in the finishing line and have their numbers recorded.

Members of the professional Cross Country Club in their



Jane Kuchins 1st Woman

Andy Lloyd Winner

red T shirts gently steered the sweating bodies into queues to hasten the recording at the finish. In the Lower Town Hall a team of sports medicine doctors, physiotherapists and nurses attended the suffering. Ambulances stood by outside to take the most serious to nearby hospitals. Those who made it to finish and could still stand were towelled and sponged down. Some made it to the Bourke St. Mall a block away and then collapsed. All around the St. John Ambulance Unit in the Mall were bodies on stretchers and on the ground. No one was in a hurry to move even if they could. The lucky ones were those like the winner Andy Lloyd, who were out on the road for the least time — even if they had run it faster and harder. Those who suffered most as the day grew hottest — and were less conditioned to take the punishment — were the slow coaches who battled the wind and sun for anything up to six and a half hours. The early finishers gave the race a strong interstate and international flavor.



8.30 a.m. Delecombe Park

Three of the first four men — Andy Lloyd, Horst Wegner and Brian Morgan were all from N.S.W. Wegner had only been in Australia from West Germany for 16 months. Jane Kuchins, the first female, was from overseas too, She had come from San Francisco, U.S.A., three years before. Lloyd from Church Point, Sydney, looked remarkably fresh as he headed along the tram line in Swanston St. to the finish under the Town Hall clock. He was alone, five minutes clear and still going strongly as he finished in 2 hrs. 26 min. 44 sec. This was five minutes slower than Scott's winning time the first year, but who cared. This was one race in which time did not matter — finishing was challenge enough. With his blue cap pulled well down over his eyes and shading his face Lloyd set a scorching pace over the final 15 km. to leave the big field well behind. He had been happy to take his time early and watched as Wegner and Ray Riordan burst away to wear each other out. Fifteen kilometres from the finish Lloyd again found himself with the leaders and decided

to "give it a go." "I hit it as hard as I could. I was waiting to hit the brick wall in the last six miles but I just kept on going. "I had been told to work as hard as I could over the last six miles and I must have gone straight through it. "I don't feel the heat as much as most people," said Lloyd at the finish. "Yes I was very hot and dehydrated. Hey Dad, could I have another drink? Make it three or four . . . get a bucket of it!" A 20 year-old self employed gardener — "I have to be self employed to get time off for training" — Lloyd drove from Sydney two

days before and had planned to just have a jog because of a lack of training. "I couldn't see myself winning not even in the first 20. I'd been training only 60 miles a week and that's not enough . . . I should have been doing 100 or 110 miles "I very nearly pulled out after 10 km. because of sore legs, but they didn't get any worse so I kept going. "The crowd along the way was terrific. You don't get that up in Sydney, except in the Sydney to Surf." Lloyd who started the long drive home a few hours after finishing, had contested only two previous marathons. The others were the annual Harbord Diggers Club marathons held every April in Sydney. He won last year in 2 hrs 32 min. but did not finish this year's race because of sore legs. Right now he has no big ambitions like trying for the Moscow Olympic marathon selection trial. However he will be taking his first prize of a trip to the Boston Marathon next April, and hopefully will do well there. Wegner, who came in second in 2 hrs 31 min. 20 sec., has run in 30 marathons with a best time in Germany of 2 hrs 18 min.



Wegner and Riordan Set a Scorching Pace



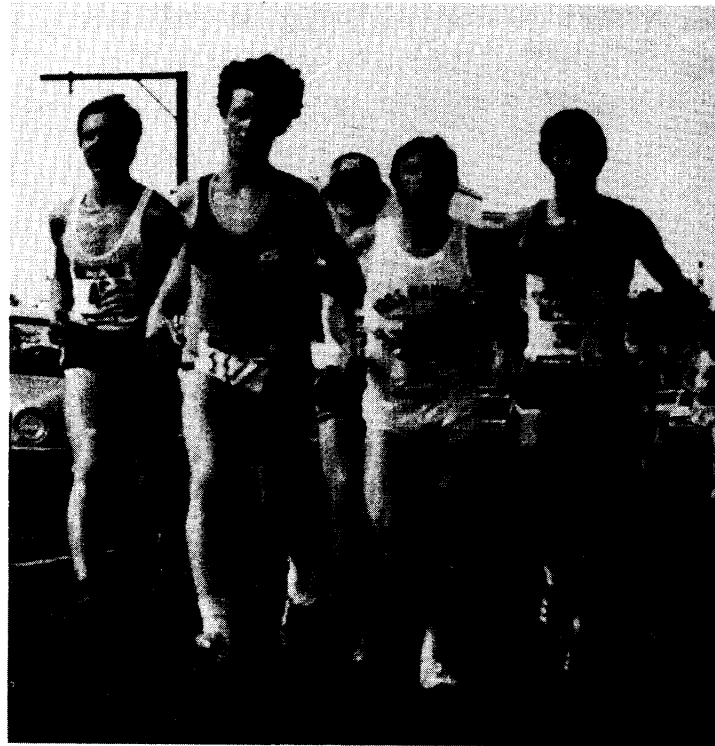
Limbering up at Frankston



Brian Dixon ready

Wegner also was a member of the winning team Western Suburbs Amateur Athletic Club, N.S.W. with J. N. Hearnshaw (2 hrs. 37 min. 38 sec) and P. L. Lockyer (2 hrs. 45 min. 08 sec.) Jane Kuchins, a sports and recreation officer at Preston Institute, said this was her first competitive run.

She was in last year's Big M, but only for fun and took 3 hrs. 48 min. This year though, she trained seriously with friends on the hills around Greensborough and increased her mileage to 70 miles a week. Her longest training run was 21 miles — with some big hills thrown in. "I approached this race hoping to break three hours. I planned to go as fast as I could, but still be relaxed and comfortable. "I didn't break three hours (her time was 3 hrs. 12 min. 35 sec.) but I won and that makes me very happy." She also praised the big crowd who lined the roadway. "They gave me an extra clap because I was the first woman. It was really fantastic." Jane will be able to visit home in San Francisco on her way to the Boston Marathon next year her prize for winning the female section. Second female was Joan Cameron, who was just three minutes behind Jane in 3 hrs. 15 min.



Early Leaders

38 sec. — another magnificent run under the conditions. Of the 274 females who entered the race, 104 finished. The youngest female and the youngest of all to finish was Michelle

Gojkovic, a nine year-old from Lalor, who took 4 hrs. 25 min.

Jacquie Gilmour from Carlton is only 10, but still she took less than four hours with 3: 59. 16. A truly remarkable effort.

While so many had slower times this year because of the unpleasant running weather, little Nathan Pollock from Balnarring improved.

Last year Nathan, then 10, covered the distance in 4 hrs 46 min. This time he clocked 4: 35. 38. Once again the oldest finisher was 74 year-old Joe Poelsma from East Newborough, Victoria, who took 5 hrs. 32 min. 36 sec. Last year Joe's time was 4: 30. 10.

Like the first year too, the State Minister for Sport, Youth and Recreation, Brian Dixon, was there, and despite a lack of training, he came in under four and a half hours.

Another familiar face was Richmond footballer Francis Bourke, who began training for the race in September at the end of the football



Des Cooper Chairman of the V.D.I.A. Congratulates the winner (Andy Lloyd)

season and made it in 3 hrs. 48 min. 25 sec. Special courage awards this year went to Fred Pointer, a paraplegic, Graham Huntington, a blind runner, and 10 year old Jacquie Gilmour. Fred 32, from Broadmeadows, came in 61st. in his wheel chair in 2 hrs 54 min. 39 sec.

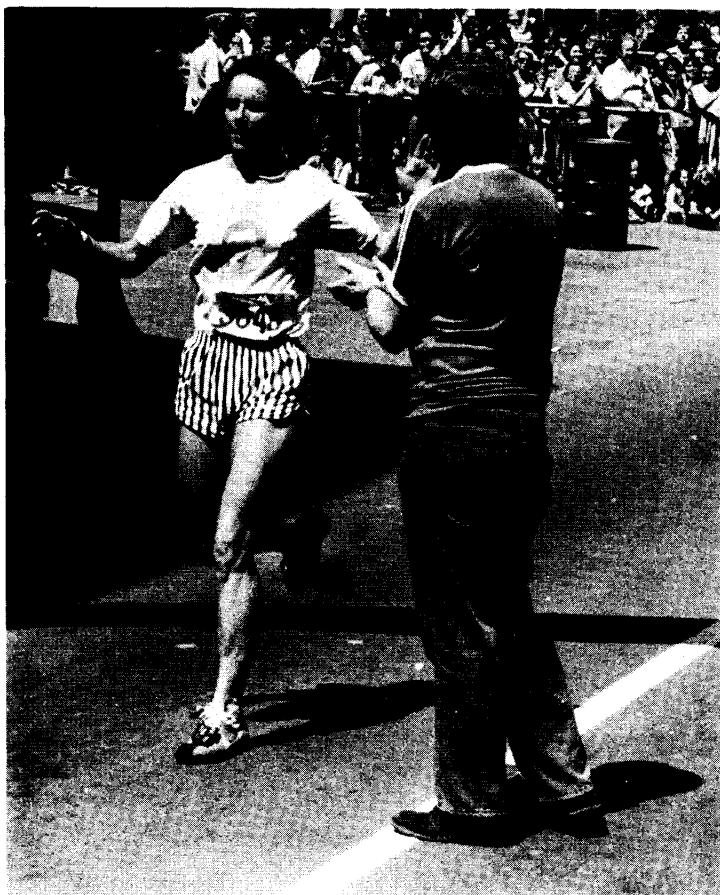
overseas trips. Two trips to the Honolulu Marathon in December were won by K. B. Heinecke from N.S.W. and from Benalla. Organisers of the Melbourne race are anxious to promote the race overseas with prizes like these. They are hopeful runners from the



Fred Pointer in full flight

Honolulu event will come to the Big M. Altogether 20 special feature prizes were selected at random from the finishes. The other 18 winners collected 10 track suits, five pairs of running shoes, a week-end for two at Broadbeach on the Gold Coast, and two trips next year for the Sydney to Surf run. Beside winning trips to the Boston Marathon next year, Andy Lloyd

and Jane Kuchins, also won nine carat gold medallions in the form of a Big M emblem. Once again the Victorian Police Department did a marvellous job controlling all major intersections along the Nepean Highway. For the first time the Police helicopter was used to help direct the race, and the Big M committee is most thankful for the support of the Police Department.



Jane Kuchins 1st Woman Home

This was a big improvement on his performance the previous year when he was 408th and took 3:31.11. Graham 43, from Pascoe Vale, was a little slower this time, but then weren't most runners. Last year Graham, who has about 10 per cent vision, took 3 hrs. 16 min. 10 sec.; this time he clocked 3:25.27. Third of the courage award winners, little Jacquie, beat home more than 2000 runners, and broke four hours in doing it. Other finishers also shared in "lucky dip"



Manchester Unity Lend a Hand



Peter Robinson and Wendy Milne — Computer Technology

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY have played an important role in the smooth running of this years marathon. We wish to thank the company and in particular Peter Robinson and Wendy Milne for their personal contribution.



Executive Committee 1979 Big M Melbourne Marathon
 Fred Lester — Ron Clarke — Rick Pannell — Win May — Ted Paulin



The Big M Melbourne Marathon Results 1979

Results

Qantas trips to compete in 1980 Boston Marathon plus gold medal- lion for winner and 1st woman

1. A. L. Lloyd, Church Point, N.S.W. 2.26.44
2. H. W. Wegner, Ashcroft, N.S.W. 2.31.20
3. B. D. Morgan, Adams Town, N.S.W. 2.32.09
4. R. F. G. Guthrie, Parkville, Vic. 2.34.14
5. P. Hannaford, Mount Waverley, Vic. 2.35.30
6. R. J. Shilston, Frankston, Vic. 2.37.09
7. J. N. Hearnshaw, Blaxland, N.S.W. 2.37.38
8. J. G. Nolan, North Carlton, Vic. 2.37.43
9. B. F. McInerney, Hawthorn, Vic. 2.38.35
10. E. R. Sigmont, Chadstone, Vic. 2.39.13

First 5 Females

1. J. C. Kuchins, North Carlton, Vic. 3.12.35
2. J. F. Cameron, Noble Park, Vic. 3.15.28
3. S. J. Clark, Parkdale, Vic. 3.19.36
4. M. A. Smith, Deer Park, Vic. 3.24.28
5. C. A. Halls, Birrong, N.S.W. 3.25.52

First Male 40-44

- P. Hannaford, Mount Waverley, Vic. 2.35.30

First Female 40-44

- M. A. Smith, Deer Park, Vic. 3.24.28

First Male 45-49

- H. Van Wijngaarden, East Brighton, Vic. 2.48.06

First Female 45-49

- S. G. Young, Blackburn, Vic. 3.40.31

First Male 50-54

- R. G. Sutcliffe, Oakland Park, S.A. 3.04.26

First Male 55-59

- G. Perdon, Burwood, Vic. 3.04.59

First Male 60 & Over

- E. W. McDonald, Mt. Eliza, Vic. 3.26.54

First Female 60 & Over and Oldest Female

- E. H. Harris, Daley's Point, N.S.W. 6.05.18

Oldest Male

- J. Poelsma, East Newborough, Vic. 5.32.36

First Junior Boy (Under 19)

- J. T. Toohey, Essendon, Vic. 2.57.17

First Junior Girl (Under 19)

- S. J. Clark, Parkdale, Vic. 2.19.36

First Paraplegic

- F. Pointer, Broadmeadows, Vic. 2.54.39

Special Courage Awards

- F. Pointer, Broadmeadows, Vic. 2.54.39

- G. R. Huntington, Pascoe Vale, Vic. 3.25.27

- J. M. Gilmour, Carlton, Vic. 3.59.16

Team Category

a Athletic Club-Western Suburbs A.A.C.

- H. W. Wegner, N.S.W. J. N. Hearnshaw, N.S.W.

- P. L. Lockyer, N.S.W.

b Sporting Club-Tuckonia

- G. K. Harrison, Vic. L. J. Jones, Vic.

- J. B. Oliver, Vic.

c Community Club-COJOG

- A. L. Lloyd, N.S.W. S. R. McNeill, N.S.W.

- E. Krenkels, N.S.W.

d Business Houses Work-

Ansett Airlines No. 1

- A. J. Plumstead, Vic. M. Crowley, Vic.

- A. R. Dods, Vic.

e Government & Semi-Government-

PTC of N.S.W. No. 1

- J. D. Burchett, N.S.W. W. Flanagan, N.S.W.

- A. V. Visalli, N.S.W.

Family Category

f Mother & Daughter

- C. A. Barker, Elwood, Vic. 4.27.05

- M. R. Barker, Elwood, Vic. 4.33.33

g Father & Son

- R. L. Orr, Ringwood, Vic. 2.55.22

- T. V. Orr, Ringwood, Vic. 3.46.42

h Husband & Wife

- R. D. Young, Blackburn, Vic. 3.05.09

- S. G. Young, Blackburn, Vic. 3.40.31

Special Prize Winners

Qantas trips to the Honolulu Marathon — December, 1979

- Mr. Kerry Heinecke, Kensington, N.S.W.

- Mr. Bob Webster, Benalla, Vic.

TAA Trip-Weekend for Two-Broadbeach International Hotel, Queensland

- Mr. Lawrence Doolan, Ivanhoe, Vic.

TAA Trips to Sydney for 1980 "City to Surf"

- Mr. Kevin McDonnell, Frankston, Vic.

- Mr. Ian Bissett, Doncaster, Vic.

Adidas Track Suits

- Mr. Andrew Lloyd, Church Point, N.S.W.

- Mr. Kevin Rock, Wantirna, Vic.

- Mr. Geoffrey Weekes, The Basin, Vic.

- Mr. Rod O'Connor, Highett, Vic.

- Mr. Andrew Kovess, Richmond, Vic.

- Mr. Robert Clark, Kirrawee, N.S.W.

- Mr. Peter Barber, Box Hill, Vic.

- Mr. Noel Halford, Donvale, Vic.

- Mr. Philip McIntosh, Coburg, Vic.

- Ms. Mora Main, Randwick, N.S.W.

Adidas Running Shoes

- Mr. Damien Davis, Glen Iris, Vic.

- Mr. Matthew Ireland, Wantirna South, Vic.

- Mr. Doug Humphrey, Highett, Vic.

- Mr. Jack Clarke, Beaumaris, Vic.

- Mr. Peter Axup, Glen Iris, Vic.

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Overport Primary School
Frankston High School
Frankston Police & Citizens' Youth Centre
St. John Ambulance Brigade
Victoria Police
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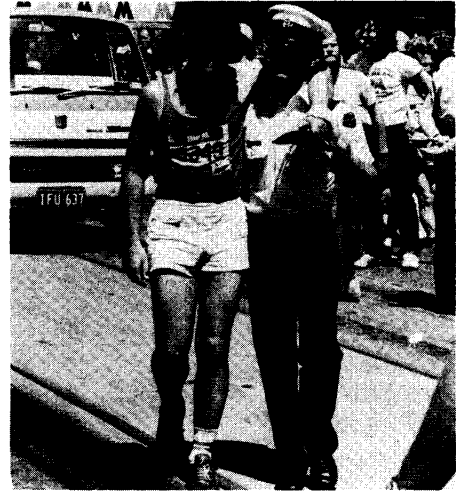
Bendigo Y.M.C.A. Athletic Club
Essendon — E.M.H.
Victorian Veterans Club
Frankston A.A.C.
Frankston W.A.A.C.
Peninsula Road Runners
Springvale-Noble Park A.A.C.
Knox-Sherbrooke A.A.C.
Knox-Sherbrooke W.A.A.C.
Waverley A.A.C.
Waverley W.A.A.C.
Nunawading A.A.C.
Nunawading W.A.A.C.
Sandringham A.A.C.
Bentleigh-McKinnon W.A.A.C.
Hakoah-Ajax A.A.C.
Glenhuntly A.A.C.
Glenhuntly W.A.A.C.
Oakleigh W.A.A.C.
Kew-Camberwell A.A.C.
Doncaster A.A.C.
Doncaster W.A.A.C.
Williamstown A.A.C.

To all sponsors a sincere thank you for assisting us in presenting the 1979 "Big M Melbourne Marathon", the largest marathon in the southern hemisphere.

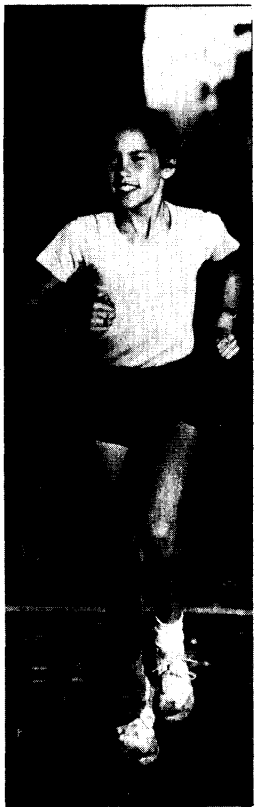
To all the support groups a special thank you for your contribution which enabled us to present a memorable event.



Graham Huntington — Blind Runner



St. John's were there to help



Jacquie Gilmour
10 years old (3hrs. 59 16)



1st Woman — Jane Kutchins



THEY'RE OFF



Melburnians turned out to help



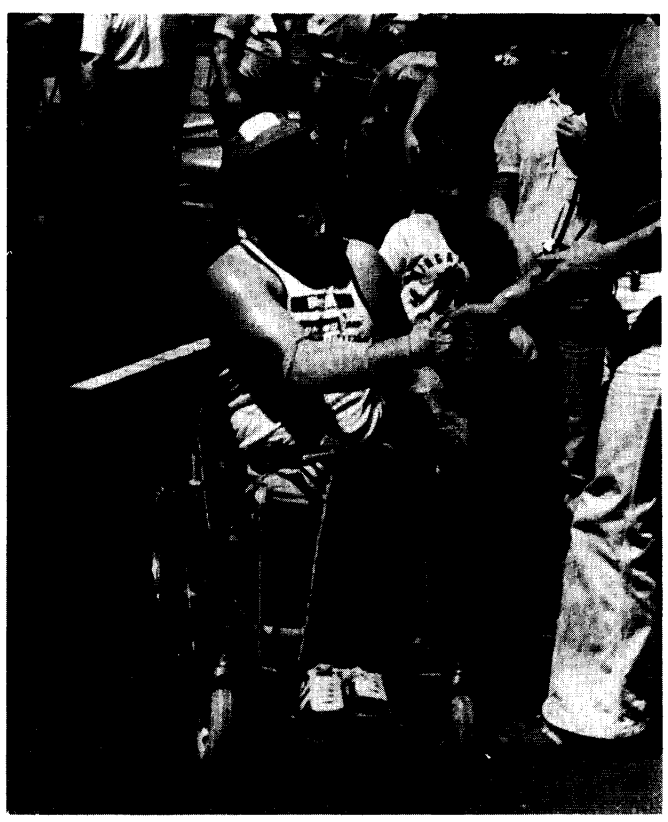
Boy! What a day



...d at the finish



Relief at the Town Hall



Congratulations — Fred Pointer



The early leaders into Frankston

PLACE	TIME	SURNAME, INIT.	START NO	AGE	CAT	TEAM	SUBURB, POST CODE
3181	5:53:57	POMPHELY, A K	5504	35			FRANKSTON 3199
3182	5:53:58	O'DONNELL, B D D	3500	14	G		GLEN WAVERLEY 3150
3183	5:53:59	ZWYNENBURG, C	1258	50			SEAFORD 3198
3184	5:54:00	SEXTON, J P	1937	43			GLEN WAVERLEY 3150
3185	5:54:02	RUSSELL, D R	5231	59			NARRE WARREN NORTH 3804
3186	5:54:30	KALNS, V K	1234	36	E	RAVING ROVERS	ROSANNA 3084
3187	5:54:31	CUSSONS, G F	2057	44			WEST DONCASTER 3108
3188	5:54:35	HEALY, J M	5673	F 20	C	THE ALBINO NIGHT OWLS	FRANKSTON 3199
3189	5:54:36	JOVIC, J	5674	F 20	C	THE ALBINO NIGHT OWLS	FRANKSTON 3199
3190	5:55:37	PHILLIPS, A J P	4544	28			RINGWOOD 3134
3191	5:56:38	SMITH, D J P	4406	48			CHELTENHAM 3192
3192	5:56:53	FRFARSON, J R	3555	29			TULLAMARINE 3043
3193	5:56:57	CLYDESDALE, M J	3523	15			NEWTOWN 3220
3194	5:57:29	MALCOLM, N W	2093	38			MITCHAM 3132
3195	5:57:31	WALKER, T J W	3118	20			ELWOOD 3184
3196	5:57:52	DIXON, J B	3083	46	B	SOCCER REFEREES	CHIRNSIDE PARK 3140
3197	5:57:53	KYPPI, A	3921	22			DONVALE 3111
3198	5:57:53	JAMES, C	4167	30			BRIGHTON 3184
3199	5:57:54	MCEWAN, D K	4308	13			SEAFORD 3198
3200	5:59:29	O'CALLAGHAN, J W	2883	54			WANGARRATTA 3677
3201	5:59:29	LEACH, G W L	4302	31			OFFICER 3809
3202	5:59:30	GIRDWOOD, C A	5702	15			MOORABBIN 3189
3203	5:59:31	MCGOWAN, K A M	5904	F 21	D	LUMLEYS INSURANCE	ROSANNA 3084
3204	5:59:49	HEADLAND, A J H	5741	32	C	CHIROPRACTIC TEAM	THOMASTOWN 3074
3205	6:00:11	DEASY, G J	1871	40			JORDANVILLE 3148
3206	6:00:59	HENRY, R J	1880	46			GLENWAVERLEY 3150
3207	6:00:59	CONSIDINE, C	4447	F 29			E DONCASTER 3109
3208	6:02:00	HOWATSON, C L	4359	F 20			EAST DONCASTER 3109
3209	6:03:02	BARRY, M G	2469	28			SHOREHAM 3916
3210	6:05:03	HUYBERS, R M	5161	14	E	BROADMEADOWS WEST TECH 1	BROADMEADOWS 3047
3211	6:05:03	HERON, J H	5739	F 23	C	CHIROPRACTIC TEAM	THOMASTOWN 3074
3212	6:05:04	COCKLE, R G C	3367	14			FRANKSTON 3199
3213	6:05:18	HAPRIS, E H	4078	F 60	H		DALEYS POINT 2256
3214	6:05:27	MACKENZIE, A M	5526	15			JACANA 3047
3215	6:05:57	GROVES, C L G	4384	18	D	MCDONALDS FRANKSTON	FRANKSTON 3199
3216	6:10:36	HULL, S R D	4631	22	G		DAYSDALE 2646
3217	6:10:56	WATSON, R C G	1148	23	D	COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY 2	ARMADALE 3143
3218	6:13:14	FRYER, P J	5780	28			FRANKSTON 3199
3219	6:13:35	RAYNER, D M R	5099	12			FAIRFIELD 3078
3220	6:17:13	SMYTH, G J	2639	28			HAWTHORN 3122
3221	6:17:16	MERRICK, C J	4283	43			SPRINGVALE STH 3172
3222	6:18:43	FELLOWS, R J	1179	33			MELBOURNE 3001
3223	6:34:50	NEAL, K G N	2946	F 18			HESKET 3442
3224	6:35:05	CAMERON, N A	3752	F 38			WARRANWOOD 3134
3225	6:35:07	LOCK, J A	5626	28			CLIFTON HILL 3068
3226	6:35:08	DOJCSAK, P N D	5157	15	E	BROADMEADOWS WEST TECH 1	GLENROY 3046

Murder – with a big M

By **GLENN LESTER**, who tackled the Big M for the first time and made it.

It was three kilometres from the finish when I really knew we were all on our own out there in the big oven called the Big M marathon.

I turned to the runner next to me for sympathy and encouragement. I had never seen him before. You don't pick and choose when your feet are on fire.

The boldness of my question slightly astounded me, and even more so him. Me: "Make sure I keep running or else I won't finish." Him: "What the hell do you think I'm trying to do".

He soon left this wandering, hurting, thirsting runner, who somehow made it to the line with a grandstand finish which succeeded only in making me vomit.

No sooner had I started to dry retch than two shoulders caught the flagging body. Then I was in the bowels of the GPO lying on a make-shift bed. In marathon ward one.

A young first-aid attendant, like many in that large hall, became a Florence Nightingale as she doused prostrate bodies with superbly-moist cloths.

Where do I send a donation, I asked her. Her answer was the nicest part of the day — "we are volunteers, like the people who ran in the marathon". Thatsaid it all.

More than 5000 people turned out to run 26 miles 385 yards on a day which promised a very warm 27 deg. C and a mountain of suffering.

Thousands more lessened the pain, the debilitating effects of the sun and the hard roads, by squirting hoses, giving drinks, and encouragement, handing out water-laden sponges.

This, I thought to myself as the runners walked, trotted and finally ran away from the start, must be one of the greatest sporting events in Australia. Why, one day it may almost match the Boston M.

But the feet are sore nine hours later, and the memory still strong of that gargantuan snake of people

between Frankston and Melbourne. All suffering.

Many went too fast early, caught up in the trance. And as sure the Big M is tough, they slowed and they walked. but hundreds kept going.

I remember the man who screamed at the start, seconds after the gun. He was hobbing in tremendous pain. Perhaps a victim of the crowding, perhaps a hamstring.

I remember those who "blew up". I did myself several times. The "wall" didn't come at 20 miles, as it was supposed to. It came early.

I remember drinking what seemed like gallons of Staminade, water and even, God forbid, lemonade. And feeling bloated but taking the next offering just up the road.

And I remember a friend who asked an assurance before the race. Whatever happens out there don't let it stop you running another marathon.

That wasn't the stuff confidence is made of. But the answer is yes. Bring on next year, only please, before "summer" arrives.



Photographs — Courtesy, The Age and Pacific Films