

MARATHON REPORT

WHYALLA

May 4, 1980

With temperatures in the high 20s, a cloudless blue sky and a gentle north-east wind picking up moisture from the Spencer Gulf, conditions were far from ideal for the Whyalla Marathon.

When the field had settled down after the start, the leaders were John Duck, David Byrnes and Bob Barnard and by 5km this trio had opened up a gap of about 100 metres to the chasing group of Phil Afford, David Martin, Steve Guy, Malcolm McKay, Ron Gribble, Iain Dobbie and Peter Hendry.

By 15km Duck had opened a gap of 50 metres to Byrnes and Barnard. The chasing group were now 300 metres behind and had been joined by Kevin Anderson.

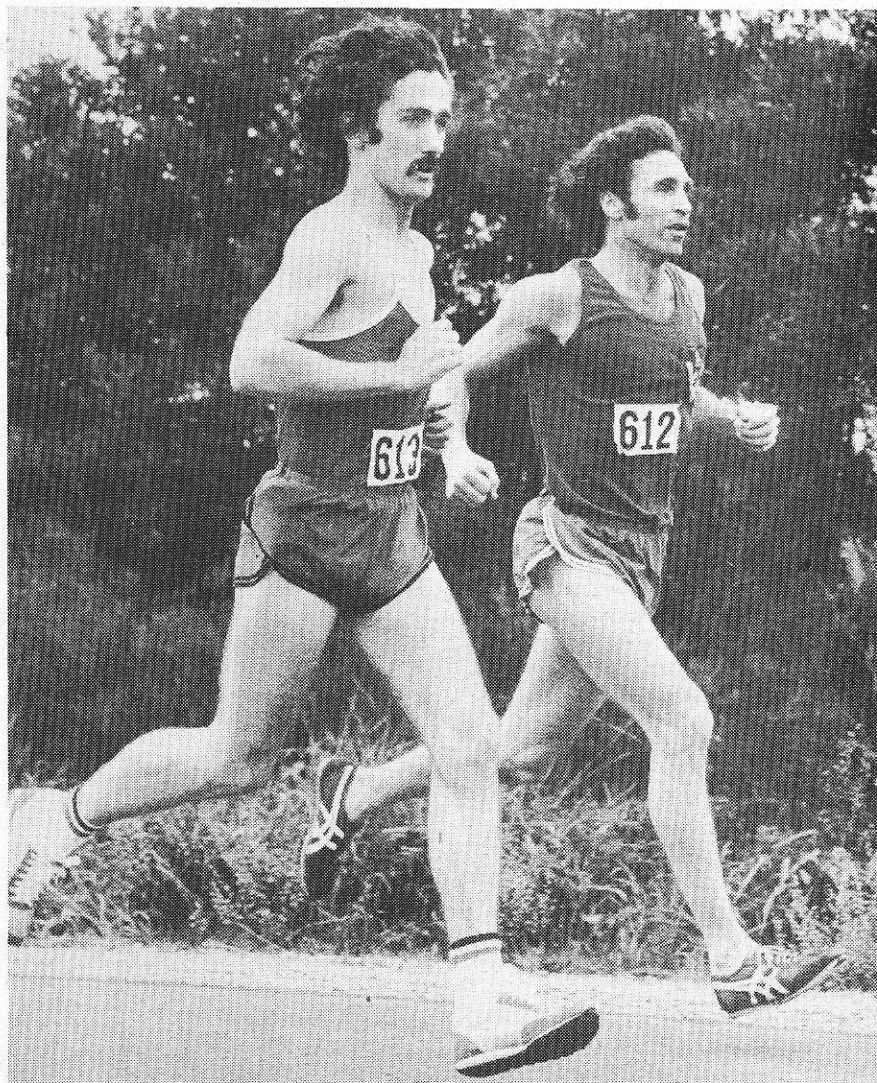
At 30km Duck was 30 seconds clear of Byrnes with Barnard 3 minutes behind leading a string of nine runners, all running separately but with only 100 metres between them. Duck went on to win well, after running strongly all the way. Byrnes in 2nd place lost some ground in the early stages and was unable to bridge the gap.

Twenty-one year old Malcolm McKay, running in his first marathon, ran on well to take 3rd. Kevin Anderson started easily but maintained form to the end to finish in 4th place. Ron Gribble took out the veterans division for the second year. Iain Dobbie was the winner of the inaugural SA Country Marathon Championship and his wife Jan completed a family double by being first female.

Forty-nine of the 59 starters finished with most of the casualties being local runners. How can you train for humid conditions in a place where it has only rained once this year?

RESULTS

J. Duck 2.29.31; D. Byrnes 2.30.39; M. McKay 2.39.05; K. Anderson 2.39.51; R. Gribble 2.42.54; D. Martin 2.43.23; P. Afford 2.45.12; S. Guy 2.46.32; I. Dobbie 2.50.46; D. Walker 2.55.11; G. Small 2.56.36; L. Duffin 3.00.27; E. Drew 3.04.26; P. Norris 3.07.47; P. Crosby 3.08.01; G. Inwood 3.08.16; R. Sara 3.09.04; P. Cibich 3.09.11; R. Dickenson 3.12.16; M. O'Dea 3.15.50; T. Read 3.16.28; P. Pye 3.17.03; R. Edwards 3.19.06; B. Russell 3.26.52; J. Record 3.29.27; P. Thoman 3.29.59; J. Gibson 3.32.54; J. Dobbie (F) 3.33.48; D.



JOHN DUCK (left) of Victoria ran strongly in spite of the difficult conditions to record 2.29.31. Here he competes in the Victorian Marathon Club's event at Crib Point with eventual winner BOB GUTHRIE. (John Punshon)

Mallet 3.36.25; A. Murray 3.38.22; G. Goodwin 3.39.50; G. Nichols 3.40.09; D. Mulqueen 3.50.49; F. Rodgers 3.54.13; D. Watson 3.56.18; P. Busch 3.56.21; P. Jenkins 3.56.24; G. McIntosh 3.57.39; C. Lodge 4.02.47; J. Brown (F) 4.04.01; B. Slape 4.05.02; R. Curnow 4.05.02; L. Toole 4.10.01; R. Weilacker 4.14.36; M. Pitkin 4.15.11; D. Campbell 4.16.11; W. White 4.17.09; N. Young (F) 4.18.07; C. Quinn (F) 4.24.31.

Categories: Males—J. Duck 2.29.31; D.

Byrnes 2.30.39; M. McKay 2.39.05. Females—J. Dobbie 3.33.48; J. Brown 4.04.01; N. Young 4.18.07. Veterans—R. Gribble 2.43.23; P. Afford 2.45.12; I. Dobbie 2.50.43.

SA Country Championship: I. Dobbie 2.50.43; E. Drew 3.04.26; R. Sara 3.09.04.

Teams: Whyalla A (I. Dobbie, E. Drew, R. Sara); Gawler (P. Afford, G. Inwood, M. O'Dea); Whyalla B (T. Read, P. Cibich, J. Dobbie).