

COOK WINS FASTEST A.A.U. MARATHON

◦ BITTER BALLARAT WEATHER ◦

- 1: COOK
- 2: MACKINNEY
- 3: VAN WIJNGAARDEN

FRED LESTER REPORTS

It was bitterly cold when we left on Saturday morning to travel the 70 odd miles from Melbourne to Ballarat and every now and again we drove through misty spray. Arriving at the old airfield barracks, the assembly and departure point for the event, it was still cold with a driving Southwesterly, but with the clouds slowly lifting.

By shortly after 12 o'clock the doctors became busy on the constant flow of competitors checking in and one had only to sense the electric atmosphere, so commonly present at races of this kind. To the seasoned campaigner there seemed to be an extra quality in the air as the contestants quietly readied themselves.

Never previously had there been a gathering of so many highly qualified distance men in an Australian championship and with the added incentive of a trip to Jamaica it promised to be the most hotly contested Marathon title race. With the genuine appreciation and respect for each other which is so typical of Marathon men, we were glad to welcome TIMMY WALSH, W.A.'s lone representative, LEITH OLLERENSHAW, who specially made the trip to look after his NSW contingent, JACK DAVEY, former Empire Games rep and many others. TREVOR VINCENT, his leg still in plaster, was along with RON CLARKE AND JOHN COYLE, while nothing would have stopped LES PERRY from taking a close look.

The Weather closed in again just before starting time as the 35 runners made their way to the line. Only 1 Taswegian, K. BEATTIE, out of 4 entries, and three further scratchings reduced the field from the original 41, South Australia and Queensland had no one in the field. A knot of some 200 people gathered near the start and punctually at 1.30 the gun sounded for the big journey.

By the time the entrance to the airfield on the main road was reached, one mile after the start, a definite shaping had already taken place. TIM WALSH and DEREK CLAYTON were determined to use their speed, DAVE POWER had decided to stay with the leaders, no matter who, while NEIL RYAN looked good for a 10 miles at this pace. Some of the old hands sensed the fast pace and were reluctant to follow, yet kept a close eye on proceedings.

The leading four went through the 4 miles in 20.16, then George CLIXTON 20.26, followed by a bunch including, TONY COOK, HENK van WIJNGAARDEN, NORM DUFF, PAT CLOHESSY, FRED BROOKS (Vic. Country Marathon Champion) FRED HOWE, BEN MACKIE, GEOFF WALKER, ROD CONELLA, ALAN HARRISON, KERRY PEARCE and TOM KELLY with ROD MACKINNEY trailing by a few yards spread from 20.46 to 20.56.

COLIN EATON was another 9 seconds back, JOHN DOWERS, GEOFF WATT at intervals followed by IAN HASSALL, JACK BURNETT and JEFF DANIELS together in 21.36; DOUG WORLING, WOLF VOIGT, REX FOULKES and RAY BROWN running a cautious 22.27 GEORGE FREEMAN 21.46 and BOB TREBELCOCK 21.45 were already falling back to this bunch while JIMMY CRAWFORD and FRANK McCAFFREY in 22.46 formed the rearguard.

Light rain was falling, all the time and a biting wind behind the runners kept onlookers in their cars. Reaching the 7 miles in 36.01, the four leaders were 33 secs clear of Cook, Mackie and Walker, with a further 5 seconds to Van Wijngaarden, Duff and Clohessy. Just under 31 minutes an unhappy looking Fred Howe was running with tiring Claxton and Brooks, while while Kelly, Eaton and Conella were also losing more ground to the leaders. ROD MACKINNEY, BARRY TREGENZA and ALAN HARRISON looked unconcerned as they breezed through in 37.24, ten seconds behind, Pearce 37.28, Dowers 37.58, Brooks 37.59, Watt was running steady on his own in 38.06, with Daniels, Burnett and Hassall just as steady on 38.23. The rest strung out with McCaffrey last in 40.17 but looking set for hours at that pace.

52.09 for the leaders at 10 miles was a slight slackening of pace, Cook and Walker has closed the gap to 15 seconds, while Mackie had dropped to the next bunch for 52.59. Neither Power nor Clayton looked comfortable in the leading bunch, while the same went for Clohessy and Mackie in the second group. Mackinney and Harrison had speeded up to go through in 53.12

At the halfway mark the picture rapidly altered. Cook joined Clayton and Walsh, with the fading Ryan and Walker retiring. Turning back into the cold wind in their soaked clothes, numbers of runners started to falter. Cook turned in 68.16, Mackie passing Power and Ryan in 68.20. Mackinney, Wijngaarden and Harrison turned virtually together, but Mackinney soon lost his companions as he set out after the leaders. Wijngaarden struck a bad patch and had to let Harrison and Duff go.

Towards the 16 miles, Howe and Kelly started to struggle, while Daniels was moving well to pick up Tregenza, as Eaton was having trouble. Burnett teamed up with Watt and they kept together for the rest of the way.

Exhaustion after a fast beginning and the cold and wet were now taking their toll as Walsh, Power, Howe, Kelly, Pearce and Beattie limped and struggled past 19 miles to pull out soon after. Timmy Walsh was still with the leaders, Cook and Clayton in 1.40.33. Rod Mackinney was only 30 seconds down now and was maintaining his rapid stride with the low follow-through, while Cook with a longer stride appeared to be going just as well, but Clayton obvious to be in serious trouble before long. Henk van Wijngaarden had shaken off his troubles and was moving away again from Harrison and Duff, but too slow to impress the leaders. 1.42.26 - 1.42.32 - 1.42.39 for them. Tregenza and Daniels came by in 1.45.42 with the rest of the field now running 6 minute miles and slower.

Tony Cook knew by now that Mackinney was close to him as they went through 22 miles in 1.57.05 and 1.57.23 and decided to slow a little to get a closer look. Soon after, a surge took Tony well clear again and although Rod managed to stage a fighting finish he could narrow the gap only to just over 30 yards at the tape in the fastest Marathon ever run in Australia.

Henk finished full of running, while Alan ran a good fourth and Norm his usually reliable effort. Doug Worling looked as if he had been out for a training run. Frank McCaffrey broke 2.40 to be the fastest veteran in Australia. Last man in Pat Clohessy, deserves special mention for struggling along at 8 minute mile pace to complete the team for Victoria. Lesser men would have pulled out and let the team go hang!

The organisation by the Ballarat Local Centre functioned very smoothly and no hitches occurred. They deserve the highest praise for their unstinting effort in ensuring the success of the race and a most enjoyable relaxing buffet tea for participants afterwards.

One or two points are still weak though when organising major Marathon races. It is essential that timing points and feeding stations can always be seen clearly from the side that the runners approach, enthusiastic helpers, no matter how good their intentions, must under no circumstances obstruct the view. Officials in charge of these points and stations need to rigidly enforce that their area is kept clear.

It is also absolutely essential that everything is laid out on feeding tables as per instruction. At one table, one competitor asked for water to drink, but although a can was at hand, none had been poured ready. The official in charge said that this was the first time in his many years of experience anyone had ever asked for water. While I am inclined to agree that water is for washing or strictly for the birds, it also happens to be on the refreshment list.

However, whether or not water would have been beneficial to the athlete concerned or not is not the important point. What is important is that at the stage when competitors in an event are fighting off exhaustion, it is vital that everything is done which will avoid more strain mentally or physically. It has to be experienced to realise how upsetting it can be to a runner's morale not to be able to obtain what he has been assured he is able to expect.

Summin up, the 1966 Australian Marathon stands out as one of the great races of recent times and a living proof that Australian Marathon running has come of age. Even the A.A.U. of A. Conference has finally seen fit to give it the same status as other athletic events, namely an annual Australian Championship!

Interviewed after the race: this is what some of the boys had to say:

Tim Walsh (West. Aust.) "It was a good course but I was not fit enough for the distance."

Rod MacKinney (N.S.W.) "I was pleased with my time.... Tony Cook ran a great race,"
Geoff Watt (Warragul) "Best course I've ever run on. The weather should not have affected the fit."

Tony Cook (Glen Huntly) "Very happy to have won. McKinney is the best Marathon prospect we've ever had."

Pat Clohessy (Victoria) "The top boys ran very well.... I have no excuse to offer for my performance."

Henk van Wijngaarden (Vic) "The following wind assisted the early pace and it was hard to realise that it was so fast until after the turn into the wind. I started to move well after 16 miles but slowed a bit on the hills."

COMPLETE RESULT AND SECTION TIMES

Place	Name	Club	4 Mile	7 Mile	10 Mile	13 Mile	16 Mile	19 Mile	22 Mile	25 Mile	Finish
1	A. Cook	G'Hun	20-46	36-34	52-24	68-16	84-16	1-40-33	1-57-30	2-13-55	2-20-44.6
2	R. Mackinney	NSW	20-56	37-24	53-12	69-11	85-08	1-41-02	1-57-23	2-14-09	Record
3	H. Van Wyn- gaarden	Vic	20-46	36-39	52-59	69-12	86-13	1-42-26	1-59-30	2-17-05	2-23-51
4	A. Harrison	NSW	20-50	37-24	53-12	69-13	85-47	1-42-32	2-00-10	2-18-50	2-26-08
5	N. Duff	Vic	20-46	36-39	52-59	69-22	85-57	1-42-39	2-00-50	2-19-40	2-26-36
6	D. Tregenza	St.S.	20-50	37-24	53-40	70-49	88-16	1-45-42	2-03-40	2-22-31	2-29-35
7	J. Daniels	W.S.	21-36	38-23	54-58	71-38	88-19	1-45-42	2-03-25	2-22-10	2-30-25
8	G. Watt	Warr	21-30	38-06	54-58	72-09	89-53	1-47-20	2-05-40	2-24-29	2-31-51
9	J. Burnett	NSW	21-36	38-23	55-42	72-59	89-53	1-47-20	2-05-40	2-24-29	2-32-10
10	D. Worling	NSW	22-27	39-20	56-48	74-08	91-36	1-49-12	2-07-09	2-29-39	2-32-45
11	W. Voigt	S.Mel	22-27	39-28	56-48	74-09	91-36	1-49-35	2-08-10	2-27-35	2-35-15
12	G. Eaton	Oak	21-09	37-14	53-40	70-49	87-48	1-45-22	2-05-10	2-28-43	2-37-32
13	J. Dowers	St.G.	21-25	37-53	54-40	71-35	88-20	1-45-57	2-05-44	2-28-43	2-37-51
14	J. Crawford	S.Mel	22-47	39-36	57-29	75-29	93-04	1-50-32	2-10-00	2-30-32	2-38-05
15	J. McCaffrey	W.S.	22-46	40-17	58-10	75-57	94-02	1-51-55	2-10-58	2-31-13	2-39-26
16	R. Treblecock	W.S.	21-45	39-22	56-48	74-09	91-39	1-50-02	2-12-17	2-33-15	2-40-53
17	R. Foulkes	W.S.	22-27	39-36	56-48	74-08	91-41	1-49-35	2-09-53	2-32-40	2-41-45
18	R. Brown	Ivanhoe	22-27	39-36	57-28	75-29	93-04	1-49-58	2-08-24	2-32-28	2-42-24
19	I. Hassall	R-D	21-36	38-23	55-42	73-47	91-36	1-50-01	2-12-20	2-35-26	2-44-00
20	F. Brooks	D.Har.	20-48	36-59	53-25	70-33	88-21	1-47-56	2-10-20	2-36-10	2-47-55
21	P. Clohessy	Vic	20-46	36-39	52-59	70-08	88-54	1-50-03	2-15-31	2-39-16	2-48-05
	D. Clayton	Vic	20-16	36-01	52-09	68-15	84-17	1-40-33	1-59-05		
	W. Power	NSW	20-16	36-01	52-09	68-24	85-41	1-43-30			
	T. Walsh	W.A.	20-15	36-01	52-09	68-15	84-17	1-40-33			
	F. Howe	Vic	20-48	36-59	53-21	69-59	87-06	1-44-53			
	T. Kelly	Box H.	20-48	37-14	53-50	70-49	88-16	1-46-17			
	K. Pearce	Rich	20-50	37-28	53-50	71-19	89-03	1-50-09			
	K. Beattie	Tas	22-17	39-28	56-57	75-20	93-47	1-52-45			
	D. Mackie	Vic	20-45	36-34	52-59	68-20	85-35				
	M. Hunt	E.S.	22-27	39-55	57-29	75-36	93-48				
	G. Freeman	St.G.	21-46	39-21	57-46	77-29	90-15				
	N. Ryan	Rich	20-15	36-01	52-09	68-23					
	G. Walker	Sand	20-46	36-34	52-24	68-44					
	R. Donella	O.S.	20-50	37-14	53-50	70-19					
	G. Claxton	Rich	20-36	36-58	55-00						

"AUSTRALIAN HARRIER" - JULY 1966A.A.U. MARATHON... AN APOLOGY

We apologise to those Victorian Marathoners whose ages were quoted wrongly in our "Line-up" of competitors in the special Marathon Number released on May 21. We actually had some fellows four or five years older than their true age. Fred Howe, for instance, was 35. Fred is actually 31. Sorry fellows, it won't happen again. We'll get our facts straight next time!

We also had Jack Burnett as a Canadian from Toronto. Jack Hails from Vancouver. And Dave Power is the proud daddy of five girls, not four!

CONSISTENT PERFORMANCES OF DUFF.

As a sidelight to the recent Aust. Marathon Championship at Ballarat readers may be interested in the amazingly consistent performances of Norm Duff in the last 4 Aust. Marathon Championships. As you will see by the following table Norm has placed no worse than 5th in each of his 4 starts. Only 2 other athletes have been placed more than once, namely Sinfield and Chorlton.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
1960 Melbourne	Sinfield WA	Chorlton NSW	Junner WA	Russell NSW	<u>Duff</u> Vic	Guy NSW
1962 Perth	O'Brienshaw NSW	Donella Vic	Power NSW	Sinfield WA	<u>Duff</u> Vic	Chorlton NSW
1963 Sydney	Waga NSW	Aarbo Vic	<u>Duff</u> Vic	Coyle Vic	Morrissey NSW	Kelly Vic
1966 Ballarat	Cook Vic	McKinney NSW	Van Wyn- Gaarden Vic	Harrison NSW	<u>Duff</u> Vic	Tregenza Vic

As another example of consistency, Norm's time of 2:26:56 at Ballarat was exactly the same as his time in Sydney.

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