



MARATHON RUNNING  
IN  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
CENTENARY 21 August 1920–2020  
RE-ENACTMENT of the FIRST EVENT



**Notice No. 8** Updated – see page 2

**Wednesday 12 August 2020**

Only a week to go now and it seems the major worry is what the weather will be like on the Friday? It's been fairly "iffy" all week and next week's forecast is for more of the same. By now everyone will have the detailed maps of the course and all the relevant information they need including some of the hazards. The main one is the unpredictable footpaths, some of which are a disgrace to the local councils. Please be careful everywhere and particularly on Cross Road. Other hazards are at traffic lights and vehicles turning right. The Emerson railway crossing is particularly dangerous because the cars and trucks are concealed by the large bridge stanchions.

Two people have already started the event by walking it in three sections. Peter and Sue Worley were at Victoria Square at 9:15am last Saturday and pretended to start together for the camera and then Sue continued while Peter drove to the Emerson crossing to start at the 15km point. When Sue arrived there she drove to the 30km point at the Firlle Plaza to collect Peter. This weekend they do it again but in the reverse roles. Peter will be the only person in history to have done the marathon "inside out" (for want of a better term). On the Friday they will start together at Firlle for the final 12.2km.

Sue has already demonstrated the hazardous nature of the course with a tumble just before turning round at Glenelg when a tree stuck out its root and tripped her. I happened to be there to take some photos although I did not see her fall. Her nose was looking rather swollen and I asked her if she wanted to look in my car's mirror. "Hell no" she replied. "Are you going to be OK?" I asked. "Sh#t yeah", she said! Tough as nails she is!

This week's featured runners are Bev Lucas and Joe Petkovic. Bev came to prominence in the 1990s and set many records in the veteran category at state and national level. This started with a win in the 1990 State Marathon at age 43 in a time of 2:53:23 and from there Bev ran her next 24 marathons at the rate of three or four a year until 1998 all under three hours. Her PB was 2:43:45 in the 1995 Canberra Marathon. She broke 2:50 thirteen times and won seven of her marathons, including the Hong Kong marathon in 1997 with a time of 2:52:07. Her final marathon was a 3:37:08 at age 61 in Melbourne in 2008. Sadly Bev passed away several years ago after a battle with cancer.

The major part of Joe Petkovic's marathon career was in the 1980s when he won the state title six consecutive times before being beaten by ten seconds in his seventh attempt. He bounced back to win the title another four times. In 1991 he famously won the State Marathon at Victor Harbor in a time of 2:35:30 and a week later won the Adelaide Marathon in 2:35:18. Joe was remarkably consistent, running eleven consecutive marathons with times between 2:25:14 and 2:29:02 from 1983-88. After failing to

finish his first marathon in 1978 Joe ran 24 of his 27 marathons under 2:40 and the other three were just over that mark. He won state selection many times and was a nominee for the SA Sportsman of the year during the 1980s.

### The Course

Measurement of the course by wheel has now been completed and the marathon distance of 42.195km is guaranteed. In fact the finish post is 35 metres past this mark but the wheel always measures a little short because of the uneven nature of the road and footpath surface. A detailed set of section maps and accompanying photos has been sent out.

### List of Participants

Now is the time to reveal who has registered their interest in this event and some basic information about their marathon running career, as much as can be ascertained from dedicated statistical sites such as ausrunning.net and the Australian 100 Marathon Club.

<u>Name</u>	<u># marathons</u>	<u>Personal Best</u>	<u>Year of PB</u>	<u>More recent PB</u>
Peter Allcroft	14	3:07:09	1999	3:54:20 in 2017
Neil Atkinson	1	3:14:22	2015	
Tony Ayris	6	4:38:48	1996	5:20:47 in 2004
David Billett	132	3:24:04	1998	3:33:26 in 2020
Jim Docking	10	3:38:03	2015	
Anthony Elder	1	4:37:03	2010	
Michael Fraser	10	2:39:39	1983	3:08:21 in 2016
Chris Glacken	243	4:04:07	2013	
Steve Guy	60+	2:27:58	1982	3:54:43 in 2011
Kirsty Gwynn-Jones	14	3:38:15	2015	
Ian Hill	74	2:28:15	1985	3:31:28 in 2015
Tim Horton	78	3:49:29	2014	
<del>Rick Jenkner</del>	<del>1</del>	<del>4:14:23</del>	<del>2018</del>	
<b>Rick Jenkner</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>3:00:36</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>3:53:47 in 2017</b>
Ted Jennings	7	3:38:20	2018	
Darren Linney	31	2:51:50	2019	
Carolyn Modra	5	4:50:23	2016	
David Qu	4	4:25:38	2017	
Rob Robinson	68	3:19:33	2015	
Peter Worley	47	2:53:38	1985	5:32:50 in 2011
Susan Worley	52	3:20:58	1984	5:16:22 in 2011

### **Updated 18 August 2020 – thanks Rick**

This is a preliminary list which is bound to have missed any PBs set overseas. Same applies for the total number of marathons finished. Please let me know of such cases or other errors and I will update it.

Note that some people have run mainly ultra marathons and therefore the number of marathons is not necessarily a reliable guide to their experience.

### Something old



This is what I will be wearing next Sunday. It's my first singlet from Adelaide Harriers after joining them in late 1981. The design dates from the early 1930s and was unchanged until 1984. The rather tatty number is from the 1983 season when I ran the State Marathon that year. That was one of only three marathons where I wore this AH singlet and the only State Marathon I finished in it, coming 14<sup>th</sup> in 2:48:25. I had dropped out the previous year and later in 1982 I wore it in the Festival City Marathon, on the hot day and just failed to run a PB.

I have several old cloth race numbers from the 1980s and I'm happy to lend them to anyone who wants to wear a number. Previous issues of "Notice" have other suggestions. Some people have already advised me what they intend to do.

At right are Sue and Peter Worley about to start their marathon in three stages on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August. Peter is wearing his race number and T-shirt from the first Festival City Marathon in 1979. His time in that marathon was 3:45:34.

### **History of the marathon in SA – 1990s**

#### **State Marathon (incorporated in the Adelaide Marathon from 1992)**

There was a slow decline in the number of finishers and times as follows:

1990	2:30:55	30	Joe Petkovic	2:53:23	5	Bev Lucas
1991	2:35:30	4*	Joe Petkovic			
1992	2:35:05	15	Joe Petkovic	2:53:31	1	Bev Lucas
1993	2:33:05	12	Joe Petkovic	2:58:59	3	Jeanette Mase
1994	2:35:56	8	Steve Guy	3:58:58	3	Barbara Hill
1995	2:32:05	15	Gary Zeuner	3:25:42	3	Jane Bennett
1996	2:37:57	3	Andrew Burns	3:41:49	2	Jane Bennett
1997	2:34:52	7	Andrew Burns	3:04:19	2	Jeanette Mase
1998	2:43:13	9	James Nicholson			
1999	3:21:12	3	John Bannon			

\* Number of finishers in 1991 is unknown. The times of four competitors are known.

At age 56 John Bannon was the oldest winner of the State Championship and was no doubt amused to have taken it out. However he was a clubman throughout his career with Enfield Harriers and later Adelaide Harriers and it was well deserved. Also he was the second last man standing in the race to be the last one to have “done them all” in reference to the Adelaide Marathon, a contest won by Peter Worley who finished the first 34.

#### **Whyalla Marathon**

The Whyalla Marathon had about a dozen participants each year during the 1990s until 1996 when there were only two. It was discontinued after that. It was not held in 1994 and was moved to a different location in 1995. As noted previously Glen Harvey won the last seven Whyalla Marathons in times varying from 2:35 to 2:55. In 1990 Candy Charles won the women’s event in 2:56:57 to break Anne Mann’s (or Sue Worley’s) record by 25 minutes. Sue won the marathon in 1984 but cannot remember her exact time, telling me it was “around 3:21” whereas Mann’s time in 1981 was 3:21:50.

In 1993 Margaret Grice won the marathon in 3:10:17 and was the last female competitor.

#### **Pichi Richi Marathon**

The Pichi Richi Marathon in the 1990s was dominated by Michael Slagter and Marilyn Bevan who each won it five times (Bevan also won it 1989). In 1994 at age 24 Slagter had the dubious distinction of being the first winner with a time of over three hours (3:01:16), which remained his best time for the event. In 1999 he was thwarted by a long freight train which held him up at the Stirling North crossing for about three minutes and he recorded 3:01:26. Winning times over three hours for the men were common in the next decade and no-one was capable of matching the 1980s times of around 2:40.

Marilyn Bevan’s best winning time was 3:40:04 at age 49 in 1996 while her slowest was 3:56:33 in 1992.

The event continued to be popular with an average of 30 finishers per year and was supported by a half marathon and 10km on the day.

### Jade Marathon

Founded in 1989, this event continued to be staged by the Cowell Apex Club until 1994. It never attracted large numbers, the most finishers being 16 in 1989. The course record of 2:38:52 was set by Doug Kewley in 1992 and in 1993 Margaret Grice set the women's record at 3:10:14. In 1995 and 1996 the event continued unofficially with a mini bus load of people from Adelaide travelling there and oddly enough, maintaining the same participation rate as before.

### Loxton Marathon

This was held for two years, 1990-91 after successful half marathons in previous years. It attracted fields of 27 and 14 respectively and was won by Gary Zeuner in 1990 (2:38:07) and Doug Kewley in 1991 (2:46:50). Neither year had any female entrants.

### Adelaide Marathon

Fields remained constant during the 1990s, averaging about 240 men and 30 women per year. Winning times were also fairly consistent around the 2:30 mark for men and 3:05 for women. Performance of the decade is arguably 2:53:03 by Linda Christison in shocking weather in 1996 while in 1990 Frank Shelvin won in a time of 2:22:49, the fastest for five years.

The Adelaide Marathon was fortunate to have continued at all as the SARRC nearly folded in 1990 but an appeal to members for donations ensured it remained afloat. The controversial course of the 1980s remained in use until 1994 when it was no longer financially viable. In 1995 it moved to a mainly linear park setting after starting out on roads leading to the western suburbs.

A half marathon added in 1990 formed the first marathon "festival" and a 10km was added in 1994. At the time of writing it is still uncertain whether the 2020 Adelaide Marathon Festival will go ahead.