

How the Fanatics started in 1981

These clippings tell the story of how the Christmas Day Fanatics event came to be, way back in 1981. Perhaps Gil McIntosh could remember who the mystery girl at Adelaide Harriers was!

Fanatics join in the joke

By PETER HAYNES

Christmas Day celebrations tend to be a marathon for most people.

But for a small group of Adelaide athletes the marathon will take on a more literal meaning.

At 6.30 a.m., as most people are being woken by their children, a small group will start on a 42.2-kilometre run over the West Lakes marathon course.

The "Fanatics Marathon" has been organised by Gil McIntosh, a veteran of 10 marathons and the first Adelaide-to-Victoria Harbor run this year.

McIntosh said yesterday the idea of running a marathon on Christmas Day had come from a joke.

"About two weeks ago one of the girls at the Adelaide Harriers Athletics Club asked me what I was doing on Christmas Day," he said.

"As a joke I said I was

running a marathon at midday, but word got around and before I knew it people were asking me if there really was a run and if I was going to organise it."

McIntosh said the early start was to ensure the run would be in the coolest part of the day and finish before lunch.

He said there would also be a half-marathon starting at 8 a.m. and he was expecting others to join in for varying distances as part of their regular morning runs.

He knew of at least six runners who would run the full marathon but was expecting other "fanatics" to join them at the start, on Brebner Drive, West Lakes, opposite Football Park.

The runners will include the winner of the Adelaide-Victoria Harbor run, Peter Schultz, who is expected to finish in less than 2 hr. 40 min, which would qualify him for the Commonwealth Games trials.

ADVERTISER THURS DEC 24 1981

The Advertiser, Saturday, December 26, 1981—19

Eight Christmas Day 'fanatics'

By PETER HAYNES

Eight runners in Adelaide were fanatical enough to run a marathon on Christmas Day.

They lined up at West Lakes yesterday to compete in the first "Fanatics marathon" over the regulation 42.2 km before going home to Christmas dinner.

The eight fanatics were joined by another 14 who ran a half marathon and a further 10 or so who joined the others for a few kilometres.

Winner of the marathon was Peter Schultz, who improved his best time by 18 minutes to finish in 2 hours, 32 mins 39 secs, a time good enough to earn him a place in the Commonwealth Games trial.

First woman across the line was Anne Mann, who's time of 3:10.57 makes her the fourth fastest SA women to run a marathon.

Results — Marathon: P. Schultz 2:32.39; G. McIntosh and J. Carlton 2:52.51; R. Sutcliffe 3:01.01; D. Mallett 3:10.34; A. Mann 3:10.51; R. Martin 3:45.16; T. Ashwell 3:58.47; half marathon winner — J. Perry 1:19.59, first woman D. Letherby 1:27.12.

To my knowledge the event has continued every year since, reducing to a handful of runners in later years and then making a comeback. It appears people stopped running the marathon after 1987.

The West Lakes course was first used in 1979 for the State Marathon Championships. In 1980 it was used for three events; the Olympic Trials, the State Marathon and the National Marathon. The fastest lap was run by Gerard Barrett, winner of the Olympic Trial with a 65 minute second half to record 2:11:42 for the marathon. Robert de Castella was second in 2:12:24, Chris Wardlaw third in 2:12:47 and Garry Henry fourth in 2:13:11.

It continued to be used for the State Marathon until 1990.

2018 results

These results are compiled from interpretation of people's own handwriting on results sheets and in some cases results entered on Strava. Every effort has been made to spell names correctly. For sorting purposes times written down as minutes only are assumed to end in 59 seconds. Some people have no time recorded.

8.5 KM

Jed Stanford	30:55
Fearon Velly	40:01
Louise Nickson	41:40
Damien Hussey	43:13

Thomas Ronay	43:20
Mark Nagel	43:30
Hamish Burnett-Read	47:36
Karen Ross	48:05
Carly	48:05
Ann Collins	50:28
Graeme Shore	50:36
Mary Tan	50:36
Jessica Gramp	51:20
Beck	51
Doug Smart	54:00
John Norris	54:45
Jacynta Dachs	54
Leigh Norris	55:10
Kim Welcome	57
Michelle Brigham	60:21
Greg Schultz	64
Piet Crosby	

13.5 KM

Charmaine Symons	1:03:14	
Alexis Gillham	1:04:11	
Riesje Al	1:04:30	
Dean Elliott	1:05:52	
Brenton M	1:06	
Stuart Elshaw	1:08:54	
David Gilbert	1:09:04	
Andreas Nutyacte	1:09:38	
Patricia Laird	1:11:32	
Dylan Beinke	1:12:58	
Lawrence Menz	1:12	
Mel McGie	1:15:06	
Har	1:19:53	
John W Anderson	1:29:34	
Mark Dixon	1:29:34	
Candyn Modra	1:29:34	
Toni Fotheringham	1:33:52	
Marg Howard	1:33	
Trish Berry	1:34	
David Billett	2:12:56	walking slowly
Holly Ninea		
Cristina Rocca		
Amanda Chea		
Trish Deluca	1:06	10 km

Half Marathon

Tyler Burrowes	1:21:20	
Mitchell Sharkie	1:24:34	
Scott Schubert	1:25:38	
Reece Wright	1:25:54	
Howard Norton	1:28:10	
Gordon Knight	1:29:35	
Simon Schubert	1:30:37	
Ben Woycow	1:32:50	
Alex Smith	1:33:31	
Randall Taylor	1:34:15	
Jim Docking	1:37:16	
Rock Wallaby	1:38:22	
Rob Nelson	1:38:40	
Michael Slagter	1:39:14	
Marni Nicholls	1:41:06	
Michael Tagell	1:41:07	
Peter Fiebig	1:41:52	
Graham Tottey	1:41:54	
Amber Heaft	1:42:49	
Aaron Buchan	1:44:20	
Eloise Lutz	1:44:58	
Claire Tallent	1:44:59	
Ian Balcombe	1:46:46	
Stan Trzepacz	1:50:05	
Colin Brooks	1:50:52	
Mark Dallman	1:50:58	
Kay Nakamura	1:51:28	
Monika Klus	1:52:22	
Donna Alessio	1:54	slight course variation
Wayne A.	1:56:15	
Julianne Schliebs	1:56:15	
Ian Hill	1:58:51	
Robert Myer	2:00:00	
Ninja KK	2:02:01	
Atsushi Ogai	2:02:09	
Peter Franklyn	2:03:24	
Claire Minge	2:04:46	
Nic Formichella	2:04	
David Kuhne	2:05:55	
David Qu	2:08:05	
Guy Schubert	2:10:27	
David Close	2:10:37	
Michelle Simper	2:13:55	
Brendan Jones		