

BACKGROUND TO WARRIORS ARTICLES

by Ian Hill

In November 2020 I was invited by David Foskey, Webmaster for the Melbourne Marathon Spartans to write an article about the Adelaide Marathon Warriors for their newsletter *The Spartan*. The invitation originated from a suggestion to David by Michael Peters who operates the ausrunning.net site that other marathons in Australia had their own versions of the Spartans. On enquiry about how long it should be David replied “about 1200 words”.

That size is about three or four pages depending on the inclusion of photos and I didn't think I could adequately tell the full story of the Warriors but rather only a brief summary of the facts and figures and maybe a profile or two of the most prominent of them. I decided on the approach to write the full story first and then trim it as necessary later on.

I believed of particular interest would be the quest by those people who had completed every Adelaide Marathon to date to be the “last one standing” which is an extremely slow and at times excruciating matter of attrition over the lifetime of the marathon's history. Slow because changes only occur once a year and excruciating because, for all concerned they eventually have a year when the only reason they do the marathon is to maintain their position in the ever declining group of contenders. As one person said to me when I decided in 1993 after the first 15 Adelaide Marathons that I'd had enough, “congratulations on getting out of jail”! I was by far the youngest of the eight people left and the only one *starting* a family and I felt “I don't need this any more”. All the others had their own stories to tell and the pages of *Footnotes* are a rich source of some weird and wonderful tales.

Merely writing about this quest took eight pages and became Part 1 of what David and I decided would be a three-part article. He was happy to waive the 1200 word limit after reading the first draft which he kindly described as “great”. This has just been published in the February 2021 edition of *The Spartan* and can be downloaded from *SA Distance Event Statistics*.

Of course most of the 119 Warriors did not have the opportunity to be featured in Part 1 where by definition they had to have finished the first Adelaide Marathon in 1979. Part 2 will focus on those Warriors who went on to become a “Legend” on completion of their 25th Adelaide Marathon and will also include some facts and figures about all Warriors and a spot of trivia.

Part 3 will be a compilation of the fifteen or so people who are both Warriors and Spartans and a summary of their statistics and any stories which emerge from them.

A further article to be included in *SA Distance Event Statistics* only will provide for all other Warriors and include any photos and profiles which they may wish to submit. Therefore contributions are welcome and can be sent to me by email.

Note: David Foskey is one of five Spartans to have finished all 42 Melbourne Marathons to date!