EVERY SARRC EVENT EVER HELD   **Compiled by Ian Hill**

Version 2: October 2016

Introduction

The South Australia Road Runners Club was formally established on 3 October 1980 and began membership recruitment in January 1981. The first annual general meeting was held on 22 February 1981.

The two main "people's" events of the previous two years, the Festival City Marathon and Greenbelt Half Marathon were conducted by the Distance Runners Club of SA (DRC). The SARRC concentrated on these events in 1981 and also held a couple of low key events to celebrate New Year's Eve. In 1982 the Great Adelaide Fun Run was introduced.

However there was no shortage of running events as new fun runs were springing up everywhere as well as the established program for registered athletes. Inaugural SARRC President Bruce Abrahams made the point in the first edition of *SA Running* that "the FCM is complemented by over 120 other fun runs and road races".

This document revises the first attempt to form a consistent structure of SARRC events for historical record keeping and statistical analysis, such as trends in participation and entry fees. In the early years of the SARRC overall participation in running as a sport in South Australia was much higher than shown by SARRC figures alone. As the running boom of the 1980s declined the number of events available followed this trend but the SARRC survived with a membership of several hundred people throughout the 1990s and 2000s. Interest in running has picked up again with membership now well over one thousand for many years.

The list in the accompanying spreadsheet "Every-SARRC-event-3.xls" comprises every running event ever held which is considered to be "SARRC". That needs to be defined more precisely because there are different circumstances by which the SARRC name can be attached to an event. For example, some events were run by two or more "partners" such as the DRC, the Amateur Athletics Association of SA (AAASA) and more recently Trail Running SA.

Also, there is consideration of what is an "event". Generally speaking, an event is an organised running race over a specified distance, or more rarely, a specified time, with acknowledged winners and results. An entry fee is usually charged and there is a Race Director in control of proceedings. Organised training runs are not considered events and neither are social functions which combine a run with a meal. Sometimes these are called SARRC events on calendars, but they are non competitive and have no prizes or results.

It can be a grey area however, and some runs have become "SARRC events" even though they are non-competitive, for example the International Women's Day Fun Run from 1994. The distinction is that they had an entry form and fee and were invariably run for charity rather than just socialising, although that certainly happened as well! Alternatively they have an organised structure, such as the Pioneer Women's Trail Run.

Occasionally events are planned and advertised but don't happen, or are assumed to not have happened because nothing further was written about them. Not all cancellations are made known.

Therefore, to describe to full range of what are loosely called "SARRC events", four separate categories have been developed:

1. SARRC events
2. Events supported by the SARRC
3. Events planned by SARRC but cancelled
4. Social events

1. SARRC Events

Spreadsheets and Worksheets - general

The spreadsheet "Every-SARRC-event-3.xls" contains 421 organised runs defined as "SARRC events" held between 1981 and 2016.

The worksheet "by date" lists them in chronological order, beginning with the "Round the Bay Fun Run" on 1st January 1981 which started just after midnight. The SARRC was in the final stages of being formed then and this run can be considered as one of its events.

The worksheet "by event" lists the same 421 runs sorted by their type, eg "Thirty Km" runs. This is a generic name for the category of all annual 30km events and they are grouped together. The 30km distance has had four different "labels" over the 32 years since 1985, beginning with Glenelg 15/30km, then Linear Park 15/30km, then River Run and now Hills to Henley.

This particular event had its roots going back to 1981 when the Sri Chinmoy people put on a 27km fun run from Glenelg to Seacliff and back (twice) and that went until 1984 when the SARRC took it over and extended the distance. The history of any event "taken over" by the SARRC (eg Barossa Half Marathon) is not included in this listing.

The other worksheets contain three graphs of interest; participation in SARRC events, participation in the five longest running SARRC races (main event) and participation in another six SARRC races (all events) which went for at least fifteen years.

A fourth graph is on the spreadsheet "Entryfeeschart-1.xls" and it shows how the entry fees of the five longest running events have increased over the history of the SARRC. This is the cheapest available adult entry fee for SARRC members using the early bird option. It is presented as a "candy stick" bar chart with the marathon on the bottom, then the Greenbelt Half marathon, then the 25 and 30km runs respectively and the Glenelg 10km classic on top. All five events have been held annually since 1986 and cost around $40 in total until 1990 when they jumped to between $50-60 in the 1990s. From 2000 they gradually rose to $90 by 2006 and then escalated rapidly to more than $260 by 2016.

Worksheets in detail

The worksheet "by date" in Every-SARRC-event-3.xls contains the following information:

Cols 1-2: Seq

This is the sequence of each record by date and event for sorting purposes. Events "taken over" by the SARRC (eg Adelaide Marathon) do not start at 1 but rather the number already held plus 1.

Col 3: Year

Col 4: Date

Col 5: Main event distance.

This is usually the distance of the longest event on the day, not necessarily the one with the most participants.

Col 6: Event, General Name.

This is the name the event was known by at the time, eg "Festival City Marathon".

Col 7: Generic Name.

This is the "home" of each annual event, where it can be compared with the corresponding event from previous years even if it was over a different course. There is a category "ad hoc" where one-of type events are placed, eg the Tunnel Run of 2000. Note there are many events which were SARRC "supported" which do not qualify as an "SARRC event". All those on the "ad hoc" list were administered by the SARRC in a significant way.

Col 8: Race Director.

In most cases this person was identified as such somewhere, either on the entry form, race instructions or in an SARRC publication or more recently eSARRC. They are usually, but not always, the author of the race report if there was one. Sometimes the race "contact" is assumed to be the race director, mainly in the low key events. A "?" next to the name indicates it is *probably* correct, but may not be. This list is subject to correction on receipt of more information. Or, would anyone like to *own up* to being a race director?

Col 9: # events.

This is the number of different distances offered on the day of the event and excludes relays with one exception, the 1985 Adelaide Festival of Running where the relay was a major feature. Some events had a "kid's 1km" and these are included where the number of participants is available.

Col 10: Entry fee.

The entry fee in dollars is the cheapest option available to adults, which is for members and early birds. Where this is unknown an estimate appears in pink italics.

Col 11: SARRC Reference.

This is the SARRC publication which has the most information about the event. This ranges from complete result books with a race report (marathon) to a listing on a calendar only with no further information available. Before the SARRC web sites started in 1998 events often had a results book or sheet and a race report, in which case the race report reference is given (marathon excepted). From 1998 there were usually reports both online and in *Footnotes* which continued publication until December 2007, as well as complete online results. The *Footnotes* reference is given if available, otherwise "SARRC web site" or prior to 2008 the "original SARRC website" so excellently maintained by George Bennett and *still* available if you know where to look.

Note: The numbering system of *Footnotes* left a lot to be desired. Consecutive issues during 1990-91 were numbered 49, 40, 50, 41, 55, 56, 65, 70, and 71. References in Column 11 to 40 and 41 of this sequence contain an asterisk. It didn't get any better later on. For the February 1999 edition they decided to call it Volume 1 Issue 1! Only *Australian Runner* magazine can match this performance!

Col 12: Type.

This is the type of reference and could be any of the following: report, what's on, flyer, results, placings, upcoming events, editorial comment, information, calendar, photos, column, article, letter to editor and in one case an open letter.

Cols 13-14: Results, with times:

If full results are available "yes" is shown in Col 13, otherwise "no". If part results are available, usually placings or winner's time only, "yes" is shown in Col 14, otherwise "no". If the event was non-competitive then "n/a" is shown.

Cols 15-21: # competitors

These display the number of competitors in the event or events. This is never a consistent figure unless full race results are available in which case it is the number of *finishers*. Often race reports use the number of *entrants* because that is invariably known and is always the highest number by definition. Sometimes this is called the number of *starters* instead, or more often the number of *participants*. Only rarely does a race director bother to obtain the true number of starters. This description of the number appears in column 15. It also can show "estimate" which is the race director's or report writer's figure obtained from somewhere, or "guess" which is my (educated) estimate based on other years in the absence of any other information. All guesses are shown in pink italics. Estimates are shown in black italics.

Any number in italics is subject to change on the receipt of further information and adds a degree of uncertainty in any analysis done. Nevertheless the estimates and guesses are better than nothing. Column 16 shows the quote of the number of participants from the race report.

Only one quotation of participation has not been used. The first Glenelg Classic 10km in 1986 was reported in *The Advertiser* to have about 2000 runners, yet it also noted that 457 runners were ahead of Robert de Castella in a time of 43:53 and this indicates around 1200 finishers when compared to other 10km events. The results for this event have not been located. Note that de Castella was appearing as a guest a week after his Boston Marathon victory (in a course record time of 2:07:51) and just jogged around the course.

Col 22: Winners of main event

This names the winners of the main event, with the outright winner named first. Occasionally a female runner will win outright and she is named first. In some events the "winner" is the runner whose time is closest to a predicted time. These are identified as such.

Col 23: Notes.

These are anything of interest relevant to the conduct of the event.

The worksheet "by event" in Every-SARRC-event-3.xls contains the same information and a summary of total participation and average participation overall and for the main event.

It also contains some instances of events which were *known* to be cancelled, eg 2002 Airport Fun Run or *assumed* to be cancelled, eg 2013 Race For Life which was on the revised 2013 calendar but not listed in upcoming events closer to the planned date.

Other points to note

In some generic groups the distance of the main event has changed. For example the Barossa Half Marathon was the main event until the marathon was introduced. This distorts the average participation in the main event calculation.

Three generic groups contain runs on more than one date as part of a "series" of events. For the purposes of being defined as an "SARRC Event" the series is considered to be one event only. These are the Cross Country, River Run and Twilight Run series.

The International Women's Day (IWD) Fun Run group is the only case where an earlier event was resurrected years later and conducted under slightly different conditions. For the purposes of this listing they are grouped together. The first round of events (1985-88) were competitive and for women only. The second round (1994-2006) were open to everyone and were non competitive. An article in SA Running #25, Oct 1988 notes that the Club had to cancel a series of runs planned for 1989 because of a poor financial situation. An attempt

was made by Brian Chapman of Flinders Athletics Club to continue the event in 1990 (SA Running #26, January 1990 Calendar of Events) but there is no evidence that the run happened and in any case it would not be on the list.

The Multi hour event started as a 6 hour event in 2009 and then proceeded as a 12 hour event in 2010, followed by being a 24 hour event in 2011-12. While it continued as 24 hours in 2013 it ceased to be an SARRC event. A reference to this appears in the Notes column 23. The 2014 6-Day Ultra Marathon is placed in this category.

Yurrebilla now remains the only SARRC trail event with the SA Trail Running Championship and Mt Misery now conducted by Trail Running SA which formed since Version 1 of the listing. The Pioneer Women's Trail Walk/Run is now organised by the National Trust and the Sea to Summit event was discontinued after 2014.

2. Events supported by SARRC

These events were supported by the SARRC in some fashion, usually with the Club's logo on the entry form or flyer, but were not administered by the SARRC.

Run With the Champions, March & September 1981
Kaiser Stuhl Vintage Run, 18 April 1982
Adelaide – Victor Harbor 56 Miles Ultra Marathon, 10 October 1982
Swim Centre Fun Run, 5 June 1988
Kangaroo Island Half Marathon, 1988-90
IPEC Family Fun Run, 16 April 1989 (SARRC was a benefitting sporting club!)
Australian Brain foundation Fun Run, 14 October 1989
Renmark Rose Run, 26 October 2003
Mitcham Hills 10000 Steps, 3 August 2008

3. Events planned by SARRC but cancelled

These events appeared in calendars or were mentioned in journals but ended up being cancelled or *probably* cancelled. Some were official SARRC Events and others may have become so.

Chiropractic Cup, 22 February 1987
K-Mart Fund Run, 19 March 1989
SA Sports Institute Fun Run, 26 July 1992
Devils Peak 25km Dingo Challenge, 18 September 1997
Rotary 10km, 3 February 2002
Airport Fun Run, 29 September 2002
Southern Classic, 30 September 2007 (and 2008)
Time Trial, 6 September 2009
Marion Coastal Run, 26 January 2010
Run For Life, 27 Oct 2013
Leafy Sea Dragon Ramble, 2 March 2014
Henley Classic, 22 November 2015

4. Social events

These events are generally "organised training runs" or low key fun runs with an emphasis on socialising afterwards (or before). Any entry forms and fees are more to do with a bus ride or organised meal. There may even be course markings and drink stations but there is minimal volunteer assistance along the way.

Another type is a more structured fun run organised by SARRC *members* and supported by the SARRC, eg Old Clarendon Fun Run, but they are not regarded as SARRC Events.

The Kid's Marathon was unique and is also placed here.

Note that dates on the following list may not be completely accurate.

Fanatics Marathon/Half Marathon (Christmas Day, 1981-2016, probably not every year)
Granite Island Race, associated with training camps in the early 1980s
Semaphore Old Customs House Fun Run (1985-89)
Old Clarendon Fun Run (1986-89)
Resolution Run (on 1 January, 1986-2007, not every year)
Whalers Inn Classic (1990-94)
Good Friday Bun Runs (1991-2016)
Waterfall Gully Run (1999-2011)
Belair Social Run (2002-10)
Kid's Marathon (2008-10) - in association with Christmas Frolic
Summit to Sea (2010-14)

TRENDS IN PARTICIPATION

The worksheet "graph1" shows participation in SARRC events each year since 1981, for both all events and main event. The quality of the data is very good from 1998 which coincides with the advent of the internet and the placement of nearly all results online. Before 1998 the quality is reasonable given that almost all results are available for the Adelaide Marathon and Greenbelt Half Marathon and many results are available for the other events.

However there are some gaps which have been filled with a combination of estimation and "educated" guesswork. The apparent decline in 1984 could just be the result of a poor guess of participants in the Great Adelaide Fun Run, for which there was no information in the two publications *SA Running* and *Footnotes*, just some photos. The guess of 1200 is less than half the participation of the previous year, but there is a reason why the event was discontinued and substituted with the "Adelaide Festival of Running" in 1985 which attracted only 500 and half of those were relay runners. The concept was discontinued after that.

Before 1990 nearly all participation was in the main event, usually the longest distance, as the marathon tended to be the focus of everyone's training.

However with the decline in marathon numbers and running in general after the peak in 1986 the emphasis moved to putting on more events over the shorter distances and the half marathon became popular. There were already 10 and 15km distances associated with the 25 and 30km main events respectively.

From 1991 participation in the *main* event comprises a little over half of the total participation. In 2003 it fell below 50% for the first time.

The overall number of participants declined from over 5000 in 1989 to a steady level of 3000 during most of the 1990s before dropping to 2000 in 2003. From there it tripled to 6000 by 2010 and peaked at nearly 11000 in 2013. It has since dropped off to around 8000. Much of this could be attributed to a flow on from the City-Bay Fun Run which achieved unprecedented levels of participation to more than 40,000 in 2013 before falling back to just over 25000 in 2016.

The worksheet "graph2" shows participation in the five longest running *main* events of the annual program, with all five being held every year since 1986 apart from the 25km not held in 2010. The boom of the mid 1980s is evident for the marathon and half marathon and these levels are unlikely to be reached again. One reason is that there are now many half marathons from which to choose and this was not the case in the 1980s. The Clare and Barossa half marathons are now about only four weeks each side of the Greenbelt Half.

The third graph shows participation in six other long running events, two of which are still on the program. Surprisingly the numbers in the Beach Bash took off in recent years while the Christmas Frolic has been in decline. The popular Airport Fun Run was abruptly halted in 2001 when the venue was declared a no-go zone for civilians in the wake of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington on 11 September that year. Organisers of the 14 October event had to quickly switch to a different course (Christmas Frolic) and advise everyone.

MORE INFORMATION REQUIRED

<u>Comment by Ian Hill</u>

This SARRC Events listing is subject to change. It is only my opinion as to what constitutes an SARRC event and events can be added or removed from the list.

Any information which will improve the list will be appreciated, in particular more race results and winners of the main events. There are still 23 events in which the winners are unknown. The Race Director is still unknown in 51 events. Many entry fees are also missing.

The main sources of the listing come from my own collection of SARRC journals and entry forms. I'm also indebted to the enormous amount of work done by George Bennett on the original SARRC web site in which he ensured that past results, race reports and entry forms were preserved for historical purposes. Doug Kewley has also ensured all past results of SARRC events have been maintained on the newer web sites.

Despite its funny numbering system the *Footnotes* newsletter has also been an invaluable resource until it was discontinued at the end of 2007. Its online replacement eSARRC is just not the same, mainly because links to race reports etc tend to have a short lifetime. While the online entry system is marvellous for event administration, the same cannot be said for the other end of the process. Many eSARRC race reports have a paragraph in the electronic newsletter and a link to the rest of it. The problem is the link soon leads to a "file not found" message, rendering the whole system useless.

The complete list of SARRC Board members, Life Members, magazine editors, membership numbers & fees and dates of significant meetings (AGMs etc) will be updated. This will assist anyone who wants to write a book about the history of the SARRC.

MISSING ITEMS

The following items are missing from my collection. I would like to hear from anyone who has any of them and will allow me to make a copy. This will enhance the quality of information in the listing. Thanks to David Padget, Michael Slagter and the SARRC office staff for race results, missing issues of Footnotes or entry forms provided to me since 2014.

Footnotes

Notes: the newsletter was not called *Footnotes* until issue #20; from 1992 it was issued six times a year.

Numbers 1-7, prior to July 1983
Number 11, October 1983
Number 15, March 1984
Number 16, April 1984
Number 23, December 1984
Number 25, March 1985
Number 77, January 1993 (may not exist, #76 was December 1992, #78 was February)

Entry Forms

This is a long shot but maybe I'm not the only one who collected entry forms, or rather, didn't throw them away! I would appreciate any of the following, even if they are missing the bit to be filled in.

Adelaide Marathon: 1979-80, 1991-92
Greenbelt Half Marathon: 1980, 1984, 1987, 1991-93, 1996-98
25km event: 1986-89, 1991-93, 1996-97
30km event: 1981-84 (Sri Chinmoy 27km), 1986-87, 1989-93, 1996
Glenelg Classic 10km: 1992-93, 1996-98
Barossa Half Marathon: 1981-84, 1986-93, 1996, 2001-03
Christmas Frolic: 1995-97, 2007
IWD Fun Run: 1988, 1995-98

Parklands 8km: 1992
K Mart Fund Run: 1989
Twilight Series: 1996-97
Great Adelaide Fun Run: 1984
Sea to Summit: 2009
Recovery Run: 1987, 1991-92, 1995-98, 2002, 2007-09
Airport Fun Run: 1989, 1991-92, 1995, 1997-98
Women's Classic: 1985, 1989-90, 1992, 1995-96, 1998

Results

The SARRC has made a big effort to obtain results from many of these events, but not all are on their list. Any of the following will be appreciated.

Greenbelt Half Marathon: 1994
Airport Fun Run: 1987, 1989-1997
Beach Bash: 2000, 2002
Christmas Frolic: 1994-96, 1999
Glenelg Classic: 1986, 1989, 1992, 1995-98
Grand Prix Classic: 1987, 1989 (probably not done)
IWD Fun Run: 1985-88
Parklands 8km: 1991-92
Race for Life: 2008-10
25km events: 1986-90, 1993-97
30km events: 1987, 1989-90, 1995-97
Twilight Runs: 1991, 1993-96
Women's 10km Classic: 1985, 1987-97