

## **History of the “Hilly Half” (or Carnival Half Marathon) at Toowoomba (3<sup>rd</sup> Weekend of September)**

Sunday, September 18th, 2011, will see the thirty-second running of the Carnival Half Marathon. This year it will be called the Marlene Studios Half Marathon. Also this year, we intend to add a 10 km race to accompany the 5 km supporting event that we held last year. The new 10 km event will be two laps of the block, Stenner, MacKenzie, Spring and Hume Streets and back to the start/finish on Stenner Street. This addition is aimed at giving runners a wider selection of distances to choose from and hopefully this will increase the numbers participating.

The history of this race stretches back to the very beginning of the running boom in 1979, the year which saw the start of the Toowoomba Road Runners. Several of the runners, including local GP, Jock Lambie, and USQ lecturer, Graham Allan, decided that Toowoomba needed a unique event at the time of the Carnival of Flowers so they purposefully chose a very demanding hilly course to include all of the Tourist route along the range top. The race would begin at Webb Park and go around Prince Henry Heights, returning to the park at 6km. Then it would go along the range top, including “the big dipper” in Curtis Street and up to Picnic Point at 10km. It would continue along the range edge along Rowbotham Street up the Nelson Street hill and all the way down Ramsay Street to finish in East Creek Park opposite Queen’s Park.

The times in the early years of the race were very impressive because competition was hot in the running boom. Our highest number of competitors was actually in 1985 when over 300 runners participated in the race. The first winner was the club president, Les Irvine, with a creditable 1:15. Les would later tragically die and the perpetual trophy for this race has been named The Les Irvine Perpetual Trophy. Local world champion Masters athlete, Alan Bradford, would take out the second year in an amazing 1:11 which is today a very creditable time for a flat half marathon. Mike Pullinger (3 wins), Albert Van der Wyk (3 wins) and Peter Bourgaise (1 win) were the winners between 1981 and 1987. 1986 saw the record for the race (previously held by Peter Bourgaise at 1.10.05) shattered by a visiting French Olympian, Alain Lazaro, preparing for the Olympics. He did an astounding 1:07:12 and when presented with his winner’s trophy, gave it to the youngest competitor in the race. His record has never been challenged. The \$100 we offer for breaking this record is, I think, very safe in the bank.

During the 1980s the female winners were more widely spread around, with only 2 girls taking out multiple wins, namely, Kerry Whannell (1979 and 1981) and Lyn Stern (1986 and 1987). The 1990s saw a new group of winners emerge, Glenn Benecke winning in 1988 and 1992, Albert Van der Wyk in 1987 and 1989, Ron Peters in 1991, 1993 and 1997 and Graham Black in 1995 and 1996. In later years, Graham Kelsey was to win twice in 2001 and 2003, while Dennis Fitzgerald would be the only runner with four wins (1999, 2002, 2004 and 2009) to his name. The female race would see Janine Reid with three wins (1997, 1998, and 1999) and Tressa Lindenberg with five wins (2001, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2008). The female records, however, go to two single winners, Julie Rose in 1994 did 1:23:35 which stood until 2003 when the Welsh Cross Country runner, Samantha Bretherick achieved 1:22:42. This is the current standing record.

The race suffered a severe blow in 2007 when, with only one week's notice, the race had to be cancelled because the Main Roads Department refused permission for us to cross the Warrego Highway at the top of the range and at James Street. In earlier years, we had only needed Council and Police permits and with police monitoring the crossing we had a twenty-seven year incident-free record.

These circumstances led to a complete rethink of the race. A new course was worked out using Middle Ridge Park as the start/finish of the event. The original concept of a hilly, challenging course was retained. The new course wound its way up to Picnic Point and then had a notoriously steep section down and up Tobruk Drive followed by the original Collier Street, Rowbotham Street and up Nelson Street hill to Hume Street. The course then proceeded East on Spring Street to the Golf Course and finally west on Stenner Street, finishing with a lap of Middle Ridge Park. Most runners feel it is just as hard as the original course and some even feel it is harder. Most runners like the variety that the course offers. Our current winners are Ben MacCronin and Tressa Lindenberg.

In 2009, it was decided to have a 5 km fun run for walkers and runners while the half marathon was being run. 2011 will see the addition of a 10 km event. The Half Marathon starts at 7am and the 5km and 10 km will start at 8am. The 5/10 km course goes around the block Stenner/MacKenzie/Hume/Spring (once for the 5 km and twice for the 10 km). The concept here was to increase the participation to include non serious runners and walkers for a community event to raise money for the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation. This concept will be continued in 2012 and into the coming years. We want as many people as possible to get out and enjoy Toowoomba's wonderful Spring Carnival weather, no matter what their level of training. Such events are aimed at improving community health and fitness as well as supporting our local Hospital.

**Original Course**

1979 male	1. Les Irvine	1:15:34
female	1. Kerry Whannel	1:40:57
1980 male	1. Alan Bradford	1:11:55
female	1. Chris Canning	1:32:30
1981 male	1. Mike Pullinger	1:12:04
female	1. Kerry Whannel	1:27:40
1982 male	1. Albert Van der Wyk	1:12:37
female	1. Shane Barrett	1:24:38
1983 male	1. Mike Pullinger	1:10:07
female	1. Alison McVie	1:38:15
1984 male	1. Mike Pullinger	1:10:33
female	1. Sabine Niemela	1:24:58
1985 male	1. Peter Bourgaize	1:10:05
female	1. Janet McAfee	1:33:37
1986 male	1. Alan Lazare	1:07:12
female	1. Lyn Stern	1:28:49
1987 male	1. Albert Van der Wyk	1:10:47
female	1. Lyn Stern	1:29:23
1988 male	1. Glenn Benecke	1:11:20
female	1. Tara Dines	1:31:36
1989 male	1. Albert Van der Wyk	1:12:12
female	1. Liz Hepple	1:28:19
1990 male	1. Ian Kent	1:12:29
female	1. Kerry Jukes	1:26:34
1991 male	1. Ron Peters	1:12:27
female	1. Sabine Niemela	1:30:06
1992 male	1. Glenn Benecke	1:11:37
female	1. Christine Ware	1:27:54
1993 male	1. Ron Peters	1:12:57
female	1. Christine Ware	1:38:09
1994 male	1. Bruce Cook	1:12:59
female	1. Janine Rose	1:23:35
1995 male	1. Graham Black	1:13:40
female	1. Margot Manning	1:33:04
1996 male	1. Graham Black	1:13:03
female	1. Christine Ware	1:28:34
1997 male	1. Ron Peters	1:13:47
female	1. Janine Reid	1:30:25
1998 male	1. Chris Mead	1:10:00
female	1. Janine Reid	1:26:24
1999 male	1. Dennis Fitzgerald	1:14:32
female	1. Janine Reid	1:29:34
2000 male	1. Brent Mottram	1:16:53
female	1. Katie Whittle	1:35:01
2001 male	1. Graham Kelsey	1:14:47
female	1. Tressa Lindenberg	1:35:41
2002 male	1. Dennis Fitzgerald	1:15:24
female	1. Rowena Wilson	1:35:58
2003 male	1. Graham Kelsey	1:14:28
female	1. Samantha Bretherick	1:22:42
2004 male	1. Dennis Fitzgerald	1:17:09
female	1. Tressa Lindenberg	1:30:16
2005 male	1. Norman Hanna	1:16:38
female	1. Tressa Lindenberg	1:27:28
2006 male	1. Dale Bickham	1:17:16
	2. Tressa Lindenberg	1:29:52
2007	Race Cancelled	

**New Course**

2008 male	1. Craig Hudson	1:25:54
female	1. Tressa Lindenberg	1:30:50
2009 male	1. Dennis Fitzgerald	1:18:41
female	1. Julie McCallum	1:42:24
2010 male	1. Ben MacCronin	1:17:24
female	1. Tressa Lindenberg	1:28:52

**Carnival Half Marathon**

2. Rod Kahl	1:18:13	3. Albert Van der Wyk	1:22:42
2. Heather Kucks	1:59:30		
2. Bray Miller	1:14:53	3. Albert Van der Wyk	1:18:00
2. Alison Coleman		3. Kerry Whannel	
2. Bray Miller	1:13:57	3. Albert Van der Wyk	1:14:55
2. Alan Bradford	1:13:28	3. Rod Kahl	1:13:46
2. Kerry Whannel	1:26:00	3. Angela O'Connor	1:33:20
2. Bob Wright	1:10:27	3. Dan Ringuet	1:12:46
2. Lea Agostini	1:41:36	3. Debbie Gould	1:41:45
2. Albert Van der Wyk	1:11:18	3. Rob Crosato	1:12:44
2. Liz Hepple	1:28:34	3. Alison Mc Vie	1:31:34
2. Rob Crosato	1:11:21	3. Nigel Sisson	1:11:38
2. Fiona Shervey	1:35:20	3. Alison Mc Vie	1:36:05
2. Rob Crosato	1:11:05	3. Albert Van der Wyk	1:11:22
2. Cathy Gillette		3. Tara Dines	
2. Ron Peters	1:12:08	3. Ian Kent	1:15:21
2. Tara Dines	1:30:03	3. Janet McAfee	1:31:19
2. Ron Peters	1:12:40	3. Nigel Sisson	1:13:19
2. Chris Masters	1:34:44	3. Tracy Baguley	1:35:21
2. Rob Crosato	1:13:28	3. Glenn Benecke	1:15:26
2. Angie O'Connor	1:32:12	3. Glenda Banaghan	1:33:30
2. Don Wallace	1:12:54	3. Glenn Benecke	1:13:12
2. Jenny Stevenson	1:27:46	3. Christine Ware	1:32:02
2. Glenn Benecke	1:12:29	3. Bryan Hull	1:13:21
2. Lyn Stern	1:30:34	3. Ruth Besgrove	1:31:55
2. Graham Black	1:12:33	3. Ian Kent	1:12:52
2. Lyn Stern	1:30:24	3. Amanda Peters	1:33:45
2. Graham Black	1:13:21	3. Steve Allan	1:13:35
2. Madonna Evans	1:39:36	3. Maureen Mackay	1:40:02
2. Graham Black	1:13:14	3. Glenn Benecke	1:14:34
2. Lyn Gordon	1:34:43	3. Helen Tolhurst	1:35:39
2. Glenn Benecke	1:16:11	3. Jeff Mitchell	1:18:25
2. Kerry Van der Wyk	1:38:40	3. Madelaine Minns	1:42:16
2. Glenn Benecke	1:13:50	3. Dennis Fitzgerald	1:14:39
2. A Richards-Dusza	1:36:07	3. Frances Frawley	1:37:38
2. Dennis Fitzgerald	1:14:47	3. Jeff Mitchell	1:17:44
2. Amanda Richards	1:33:23	3. Tressa Lindenberg	1:34:41
2. Dennis Fitzgerald	1:12:19	3. Glenn Benecke	1:15:50
2. Tressa Lindenberg	1:33:39	3. P Moore	1:35:00
2. Brad Bartsch	1:17:58	3. Albert van der Wyk	1:17:58
2. Tressa Lindenberg	1:33:28	3. Amanda Richards	1:33:58
2. Dennis Kalinowski	1:19:04	3. Glenn Benecke	1:20:29
2. Tressa Lindenberg	1:35:50	3. Heidi Sowerby	1:47:31
2. Dennis Fitzgerald	1:16:39	3. Brendan Deurloo	1:18:39
2. Charlotte Gainsford	1:36:34	3. Katie Whittle	1:37:19
2. Dennis Kalinowski	1:19:44	3. Brendan Deurloo	1:21:24
2. Julie McCallum	1:43:24	3. Michelle Broadfoot	1:43:40
2. Brad Smith	1:16:46	3. Allan Mullen	1:21:36
2. Julie McCallum	1:44:37	3. Carol Coburn	1:51:01
2. Dennis Kalinowski	1:22:43	3. Tony Gillam	1:23:55
2. Rebecca Coulter	1:35:21	3. Julie McCallum	1:42:00
2. Dennis Fitzgerald	1:17:18	3. Brendan Deurloo	1:20:45
2. Rebecca Coulter	1:33:44	3. Kim Grylls	1:39:21
2. Brendan Deurloo	1:21:45	3. Richard Bonner	1:23:30
2. Rebecca Coulter	1:33:13	3. Julie McCallum	1:37:46

**Ridge to Ridge 1/2 Marathon**

2. Ben MacCronan	1:26:03	3. Hamish MacDonald	1:29:06
2. Michelle Broadfoot	1:38:14	3. Margaret Maloney	1:46:51
2. Jackson Haigh	1:22:38	3. Ben MacCronan	1:23:36
2. Sheridan Herrmann	1:53:45	3. Louise MacDonald	1:57:58
2. Nigel Peacock	1:24:55	3. Daniel McPherson	1:25:11
2. Milcah McKinnon	1:32:10	3. Suzanne Chatterton	1:36:58