

## 40 YEARS OF RUNNING in the BUNBURY MARATHON AND HALF MARATHON (Now the Bunbury 3 Waters Running Festival)

1994

The 13<sup>th</sup> Bunbury Marathon was the first time BRC hosted the Western Australian State Open and Country Marathon Titles. All previous state title and Bunbury Runners events winners were invited to compete on 15 May 1994.

Brian Kennedy was race director for this event and one of his initiatives was invite runners from Setagaya, sister-city in Japan. A lot of time and energy went into this and the event was all the more colourful and exciting as a result.

# Marathon dream piecing together

A PERSONAL dream for Bunbury's most influential running administrator will begin its final phase with the Medibank Private Bunbury Marathon and Half-Marathon this Sunday.

Race director Brian Kennedy has been a major factor in the growing profile of the race since it began back in 1982.

But with a Japanese team of Setagayan runners in this Sunday's field and the continued support of Medibank Private, Kennedy's dream is almost a reality.

For some time he has looked to building Bunbury's big race into an elite international event — and luring the Setagayans here has set the foundation.

"We've gone up the ladder another couple of steps and we are on our way to an international marathon with elite runners — and that will be the ultimate," an excited Kennedy said.

"I think that will come two years down the track. We're doing our apprenticeship this Sunday and if we do it with a minimum of fuss and disturbance to the public, we'll be on our way."

Kennedy said he envisaged top Australian marathoners such as Steve Monaggetti and Robert De Castella coming to Bunbury with international ultra-distance stars in the near future.

But until then, all eyes will be on Sunday's big event.

### Program

#### Saturday

- 3pm: 10km race at the Bunbury Recreation Ground.
- 6.15pm: 'Carbo-loading' meal at the Lighthouse Inn.

#### Sunday

- 7am: Medibank Private Marathon and Half-marathon starting at the Bunbury Recreation Ground.

### AMENDED FASTER COURSE

**HALF MARATHON COURSE**  
**2 LAPS FOR FULL MARATHON**

SOUTH WESTERN TIMES, Thursday, May 12, 1994 85

***This was the first time the run started and finished from our very own clubrooms, on Ocean Drive, Recreation ground.***

## SPORT

# Marathon gets a new flavour

BUNBURY will host its first international marathon this Sunday.

After years of building the profile of its most prestigious race, the Bunbury Runners Club will add another dimension to its Medibank Private Marathon and Half Marathon, with 10 competitors from Setagaya in the event.

Although the runners from Bunbury's Japanese sister city are not renowned for 'superfast' race times, their inclusion in the marathon field is yet another important link between the two cities.

"Several of the Setagayans will be running their first marathons and it's good for us that they have seen fit to do it in Bunbury instead of doing it at their own home," race director Brian Kennedy said.

By STEVE BUTLER

"It means our Setagaya committee are doing a good job and there are some really good vibes between us somewhere down the line."

Kennedy said the Setagayans were aged between 25 and 62 and were expected to arrive in Bunbury on Thursday.

But it is a Bunbury runner who is the local hope to win the 13th annual Medibank Private Marathon, which will incorporate the State Open and Open Country Marathon Championships.

Eaton runner David Dye is in sensational form and after a solid performance in last year's event despite stretching his achilles tendon, is expected to be right in

the finish on Sunday.

The marathon will be the culmination of a big weekend of running in Bunbury, which starts on Saturday with a 10km run at the Bunbury Runners Club.

Marathon competitors will then take part in a carbohydrates loading dinner at the Lighthouse Inn on Saturday night, with the big event starting at the BRC's premises at the Recreation Ground at 7am on Sunday morning.

The course is certified by Athletics Australia and runners will be eligible to qualify in the official national top 100.

Entries to compete can be lodged at the BRC between 4pm and 6pm on Saturday afternoon. Late entries will be accepted up until 6.40am on race day, but will incur a \$20 penalty.

The space provide the host the event was a huge step forward, and access to the oval which was safely fenced off from traffic.



First Start and Finish at our own Club Rooms





New Club Rooms "In from the Cold"

We had a lead vehicle with flashing lights and 'two brightly dressed cyclists' for the lead runners and a vehicle to follow the last runner. We weren't about to lose any body!

## Sport REPORTER

THE COMMUNITY TRAVEL GROUP  
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**BUNBURY'S MOST EXPERIENCED  
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# Hard-selling ties up WA marathon titles

**THE** Bunbury Runners Club has continued its rise to genuine prominence by securing the WA Open and Country Marathon titles for the first time.

Race director and Bunbury running guru Brian Kennedy confirmed the events on Monday and said major health insurers Medibank Private had again pledged their financial support.

After extensive meetings with the Athletic Association of WA and Medibank Private in Perth, Kennedy returned to Bunbury filled with optimism at the prospect of

**By STEVE BUTLER**

Bunbury's biggest athletic event on May 15.

Bunbury's Sister City Setagaya is also expected to be sending a strong team of runners to contest the event and further enhance its credibility.

The runners club will also invite all previous State title winners and Bunbury marathon winners to the event which should have its strongest field ever.

Kennedy said he was also hoping high-profile marathon man Robert de Castella could make the trip to

Bunbury to be a guest speaker at the event.

"It has finally happened and that is unbelievable excitement," he said.

"It is a huge satisfaction for me and it once again proves that we have built a wide, solid base which is getting steadier all the time, bit by bit. These are really exciting times for us."

Kennedy exposed his dream a couple of years ago to make Bunbury the running capital of Australia.

Now he has these two major events confirmed, he wants to make the annual marathon and half marathon

into an national and then international event.

The Medibank Private has boasted a number of stars over its 12 years including ultra-marathon identity Cliff Young, de Castella's father Rolet, local stars Karen Gobby and Henk Stoffers and world veteran record-holder John Gilmour.

Albany had hosted the country title in the past, but support had dropped off in recent years and the event was abandoned.

The WA title had also become somewhat of a dinosaur as it was held too close to the WA Marathon Club's annual People's Marathon event.

So with an enthusiastic executive and an ever-growing membership, the Bunbury Runners Club will reinstate the profile the big titles deserve.

Kennedy said Monday's confirmation of the events had been the culmination of plenty of hard work and believed it would further cement the club in the Bunbury community.

The marathon will be lucky number 13 for the club and will be held from the club's new home base at the Recreation Ground for the first time.



**RAY'S RECORD:** Ray Brown strode to a record three successive Medibank Private Bunbury Marathon wins, despite hitting 'The Wall' on Sunday. Picture: WARREN TURNER

## Brown pushes through pain barrier for 3rd title

**OVERBEARING** physical and mental fatigue could not stop hard-nosed Perth runner Ray Brown from taking his third successive Medibank Private Bunbury marathon on Sunday.

With just 500 metres to the finish line, Brown hit the marathoner's curse — The Wall — and was forced to walk after spending his all in search of victory.

But Brown soon caught sight of his destination and powered home to a sweet win in the time of two hours, 31 minutes and 50 seconds.

No other runner was in the hunt

before collapsing to the ground to recuperate.

Local hope David Dye struggled with leg soreness from about the 10km mark and was never a major threat to Brown, who ran on the pace with the two half-marathon leaders for the first 18km.

Dye still managed to finish second in 2:39.48 with Perth-based Setagayan Michihito Muroi (in his 105th marathon) almost four minutes further back.

Brown's victory earned him the title of the State Open Marathon Champion, while Dye became

Morgan hopes to slash up to 10 minutes from her time as she improves which would put her in the top 10 women performers of all time in Australia.

In Bunbury's first international marathon, the first visiting Setagayan to finish was Yoshitoko Fujimaki in 12th place.

Red Barnes made up for his second place in the half-marathon back in 1992 to win this year's event in the time of 1:12:01.

Keith Yardley was the first local runner home in the event, stopping the clock at a modest 1:45:01.

**John Pellier ran his 50<sup>th</sup> marathon and his 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive Bunbury marathon.**



*The Bunbury Runners Club welcomed John Pellier for his 50<sup>th</sup> Marathon*

Surveyors measured a straight line 1000 metre distance on Washington Ave to facilitate accurate measurement of running courses as required for certification.

Ray Brown won in Bunbury for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row in a time of 2:31.50, followed by in form local David Dye 2:39:48 and Mitchihito Muroi 2:43:27 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Both would feature in future events.



*David Dye 2<sup>nd</sup>*



*Mitchihito Muroi 3<sup>rd</sup>*

Mary Morgan 2:53:28 was 4<sup>th</sup> overall, winning the women's event from Jaqui Robinson 3:10:33 2<sup>nd</sup> , Nicole Durant 3:25:48 3<sup>rd</sup> .

Karen Gobby was again first home in the women's half in 1:23.59, Sally Vaughn 1:26:14, Jill Chambers 1:29:25..

Rod Barnes 1:12:01, Dave Scott 1:12:17 and Keith Yardley 1:13:03 were locked in one of the closest finishes in the half.

Nine runners from Setagaya competed and finished the event, which was the first step in many exchanges of Bunbury and Setagaya runners.

Several letters were received congratulating the club on the organisation of the event – one in particular came from a novice who appreciated the encouragement he received along the course.

Bunbury Mayor, Dr Ern Manea mentioned the event in his weekly column in the Bunbury Mail, congratulating the club on the successful running of the event.

Another was received from the Mayor of Setagaya.

There were 6 women in the full distance and 37 in the half, which was a goal for the club to widen participation.

An aside – 17 bags of litter were picked up by club members the week before the event and collected by Bunbury City Council during the week.  
Another community service and to provide a great spectacle of our city.



*Our Own Legend Henk Stoffers 8<sup>th</sup> Overall*





*The Half Marathon has many challenges but Ruth Johnson, a Bunbury running stalwart didn't count on this young fellow, however all was good no damage, Ruth was agile, however some anxious moments*



*Barry Spice 8<sup>th</sup> was building a string of very strong Marathons, Spic forever the joker*





**VIBRANT VETERAN:** Bunbury distance running guru Henk Stoffers will be a familiar figure in the Medbank Private Bunbury Marathon.

## Talented field for marathon

BUNBURY runners will be out to reshuffle the pecking order in the Medbank Private State Marathon Championship in Bunbury this Sunday.

But while the local running contingent will supply one of its strongest Bunbury Marathon and Half-Marathon challenges yet, the visiting stars still appear to hold the edge.

The Perth assault will be led by Atlanta Olympics marathon qualifying and multiple fun run winner Ray Boyd.

He will be joined by 1996 Bridges Fun Run

women's winner Glenda Moore, three-times Bunbury marathon winner Ray Brown, 1995 champ Clive Hicks and possibly Australian Olympic women's marathon hope Sue Malaxos.

Bunbury supermums Karen Gobby and Mary Francis will be the big local women hopes while Keith Yardley, David Dye, Mick Francis and legendary veteran Henk Stoffers will try to keep the metro marathoners at bay.

The big event is set to start at the Bunbury Recreation Ground at 7am.

## 1995

Setting the date for the Marathon has often been a contentious issue, especially when trying to consider other runs our members like to compete in. In June 1994 Ian Gibbs wrote to WAMC advising them our event would be held on 7 May 1995 and that BRC would like to retain the first Sunday in May for future events.

This event has always attracted a group of runners from the Veterans Athletic Club, this year there were also walkers.

The Vets routinely went to the Rose Hotel for lunch on the Saturday, some attend the BRC carbo-party in the evening, do the run and stay for the presentations. They make a full weekend of running and socialising and are very welcome participants.

The entry fee for 1995 was \$15 with a discount for members if they registered before 28<sup>th</sup> April. Carbo-loading meal was \$17 at the Prince of Wales Hotel and race singlets were \$5. Late entry fee was \$25.

Clive Hicks wins the Marathon 2:33:38 from Martin Van Voorthuizan 2:38:29 and Keith Yardley 2:43:30.



*Clive Hicks Wins*



*Mary Morgan in Full Flight*

Mary Morgan, 6<sup>th</sup> outright in 2:51:15 wins again, Jaqui Robinson 3:11:49, Tracy Hames was 3<sup>rd</sup> 3:26:15

Richard Shipway 1:12:20 James White 1:15:02, Alan Gower 1:15:28 in the half and Karen Gobby wins again in 1:22:05 from Sally Vaughn 1:27:55 and Su Prewett 1:28:28





*The Start of the 1995 Event*



*Ray Brown and Martin Van Voorthuizen*



*Ray Brown accepts 3 in a row*

# Marathon going from strength to strength



**FINAL BURST** Perth-based Setagayan Michihiro Muroi was third in the time of 2:43.27.

THE fourteenth annual Medibank Private Bunbury Marathon attracted international attention on Sunday.

Ten competitors from Bunbury's sister city in Japan, Setagaya, competed with about 250 competitors from around the State.

Bunbury Runners Club president Michael Jennings said the event went off without a hitch.

"The organisation was superb, we had good weather and the course was really to the liking of a lot of competitors," he said.

Perth runner Ray Brown won the open marathon for the third year in a row, earning the WA Open title at the same time.

Local man David Dye was second over the line and took the WA Country title.

Another local, Kevin Martin was third across the line and also the first

home in the 45-50 age group.

In the women's event, Pingaring's Mary Morgan was first across the line, taking both the WA Open and Country titles.

The half marathon saw Rod Barnes first over the line, followed by David Scott and local Keith Yandley.

Bunbury's Karen Gobby had an easy win in the women's half marathon.

The visiting Setagayan contingent were impressed with the marathon and are hoping to return for next year's event with 40 or 50 competitors, including a number of professional marathon runners.

"It's a friendly, welcoming marathon and that's what many of the competitors like," Jennings said.

The Bunbury Marathon was a special event for Perth runner John Peller, being his 50th marathon.



The Setagaya team was left with a lasting impression of Bunbury and the relationship is still strong





Dorothy Whittam and Barry Thomsett – first woman and first man in the half marathon walk at Bunbury – photo by Joan Hillis.

## The Bunbury Marathon and Half Marathon

ONCE again, a large number of Vets travelled to Bunbury in May for one of the best events of the running programme. Lunch was at the Rose where we just about took over the place. A few hearty eaters went to the carboloading in the evening at one of the hotels in the town. Race day dawned with perfect running conditions - cold, crisp with very light breeze. Congratulations to all the finishers.

Next year is the 15th Bunbury Marathon and the Bunbury Runners Club are planning to make it a special event in 1996. Medibank Private have guaranteed to be the major sponsor.

See you in 1996.

Joan Pellier

### Marathon Results

Clive Hicks	2:33:38
Evan McRae	3:08:40
David Muir	3:09:01
Gareth Brunt	3:12:30
Jim Barnes	3:37:20
John Pellier	3:50:57
Lyle James	4:21:48

### Half Marathon Results

Chris Maher	1:16:27
Darry Dahlstrom	1:26:48
Su Prewett	1:28:28
Don Caplin	1:28:50
Peter Hill	1:30:50
Janet Kelly	1:31:06

Brian Danby	1:34:45
Bob Harrison	1:37:20
Ray Attwell	1:37:21
Keith Atkinson	1:38:03
Gerry Prewett	1:38:56
Roger Walsh	1:45:45
Cecil Walkley	1:42:06
Rob West	1:44:55
Ron Hillis	1:46:21
Margery Forden	1:48:01
Bob Hayres	1:50:04
Merv Jones	1:50:53
Ann Turner	1:54:24
John Russell	1:54:43
Roma Bettles	1:54:48
Shorty Turner	1:56:01
Theresa Howe	2:00:17
Denise Lancaster	2:00:17
Phyllis Farrell	2:06:00
Arthur Leggett	2:08:04
Rosa Davis	2:09:24
Ruth Johnson	2:11:11
Bob Johnstone	2:14:00
Luella Jenkins	2:17:54
Barrie Thomsett	2:26:07 Walk
Robert Fergie	2:26:51 Walk
Lois West	2:33:25
Dorothy Whittam	2:34:47 Walk
Lorna Lauchlan	2:39:33 Walk
Judy Hill	3:10:30 Walk
Jan Kelly won the 10K on Saturday afternoon	
Brian Aldrich also ran (unfortunately did not get times)	

*The Vetrans*

*The fantastic support of the WA Veterans Athletic Club is recognised by the Bunbury Runners Club as the key success the Bunbury Marathons success.*

*We Thank You*

# Marathon triumph for 'comeback k

THE "comeback kids" of WA distance running dominated the 14th annual Medibank Private Bunbury Marathon and Half-Marathon on Sunday morning.

Showing complete contempt for recent injuries, former champions of the event Clive Hicks, Mary Morgan and Karen Gobby all strode to clear wins in their respective returns to running.

Following a two-year retirement, Hicks revelled at the scene of his 1987 triumph to blast his nearest men's marathon rival Martin Van Voonhuizen off the slick course by almost five minutes with a time of 2 hours, 33 minutes and 38 seconds.

Morgan, who suffered a crippling back injury in the recent Bunbury 12-hour ultra run, fought back bravely to tear the women's marathon field apart with the personal best time of 2:51.15.

She finished sixth overall and was more than 20 minutes ahead of the runner-up Jacqui Robinson, who was running her 35th marathon. Popular Bunbury debutante Tracey Haymes was a further 15 minutes back in third place.

Former marathon golden girl Karen Gobby proved she was well on the way back, winning the women's half-marathon for a record sixth time by almost six minutes from former winner Sally Vaughan.

Although her time of 1:22.05 was more than eight minutes outside her personal best time, Gobby ran well within herself in her first serious bout fol-

By STEVE BUTLER

lowing a foot operation last year.

Gobby was running with pins in her foot, but said the injury gave her so discomfort during the race and was excited about re-kindling the brilliant form which made her one of Australia's best marathon performers two years ago.

Visiting Englishman Richard Shigway capped the open glory box with a brilliant win in the men's half-marathon.

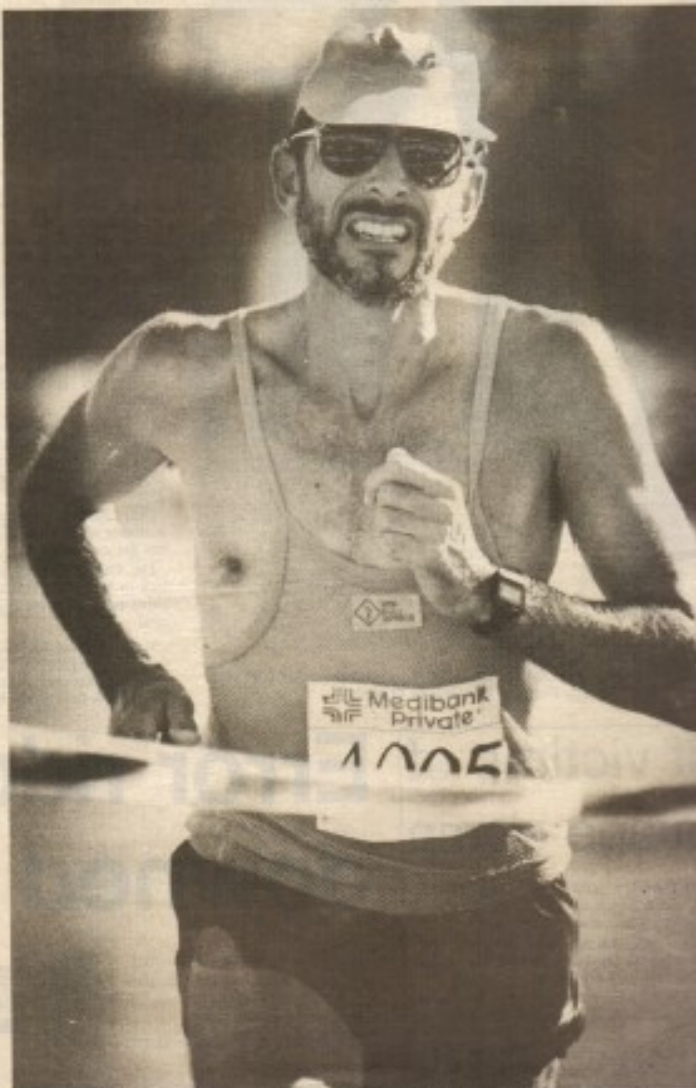
He said he would take his prize and impressive time of 1:12.20 back home with him as his fondest memories of his trip to Australia.

Others will savour the moment when Japanese runner Tomomi Kamata finally crossed the finishing line more than five hours and 18 minutes after she started her gruelling marathon trek.

Void of energy and inspiration, Kamata slumped to kerbside muttering "food, food", 14 kilometres from the finish and only the help of officials helped her struggle to an unlikely finish.

Bunbury running guru Brian Kennedy mustered a half-eaten muffin, four icecreams and a defizzed and diluted bottle of Coke and after walking five kilometres, managed to jog the last nine to the rapturous applause of supporters back at the Bunbury Recreation Ground finish.

Race director Michael Jennings said the whole event — which included State and Country titles — ran smoother than silk and would attract more than this year's 235 competitors in the future.



**STRIVING STRESS:** Perth runner Clive Hicks battles the pain and exhaustion of a tough marathon to score victory at the finish line on Sunday. Picture: WARREN TURNER



The Rock

Pingamig 6357

22<sup>nd</sup> July '94

Dear Ian,

Thanks for sending me  
a copy of the Marathon results  
and invitation to the 1995 Marathon.  
You'll have to break both my  
legs to keep me away next year.  
I'm looking forward to challenging  
you guys!

Ian, I don't think I  
thanked you for sending the  
photos via Wagon Argus. I  
appreciated that.

See you all soon  
Best Wishes  
Mammy.



- These local runners have plenty of energy to meet the challenge from their sister city opposition.

## Sister city runners to contest marathon

A CONTINGENT of Setagayan runners will compete in the Bunbury Marathon and Open Country Championships this weekend.

The sister-city's 15 visitors are expected to be competitive in the gruelling Medibank Private Bunbury Marathon and the championships.

The Setagayan novice and experienced runners will form part of the 350 competitors from throughout Western Australia to compete in the first marathon of the year.

A new fast course along the Ocean Drive area is challenging in places, but officially certified by Athletics Australia so times are recognised world-wide.

Local favourite David Dye has been shaping up well for the 42.195km full marathon by running some of the best times in the state.

Stiff competition will be provided from last year's winner Perth's Ray Brown.

Perth's John Pellier will be in Bunbury for the 12th time and will notch up his 50th marathon to receive a special award to acknowledge his efforts.

In the 21.1km half marathon well-known competitor Karen Gobby will be out to prove a point in the women's along with Rachel Moore who has been preparing well.

Last year's winner Keith Yardley will give the men a run for their money.

World class veteran Henk Stoffers, a previous winner, will contest the veterans' division while Perth's John Gilmour will receive an award although sickness means he will not try to beat the world record as planned.

On Saturday there will be a 10km fun run at 3pm before the full and half marathon on Sunday at 7am.

Both events start and finish from the Recreation Ground on Ocean Drive.

## Reporter

sport



# World record crashes in Bunbury marathon

JOBIN Gilmore smashed the over-70-years world record by almost 15 minutes in the Medibank Private Bunbury half-marathon last Sunday.

Gilmore's achievement was the highlight of the quarter, half and full marathons held by the Bunbury Runners Club.

Race director Brian Kennedy said it was the best weekend of running ever in Bunbury.

Gilmore, from Perth, crossed the line in the 100km race, his record will be officially recognised because the Bunbury course is sanctioned by Athletics Australia.

Perth's Ray Brown scored his second win in the Bunbury marathon after setting up a commanding lead in the first 25km.

No-one came close to the 40-year-old and he crossed the line at

By JAMIE TATHAM

2:30:39, with Martin van Veenhuizen second just under four minutes behind.

Bunbury's Basil Hantsch was an impressive third in 2:44:48. David Day, one of the race favourites, was on track for a fast time but had to withdraw from the race at the halfway mark because of a torn calf muscle.

WA's new distance running star, Mary Morgan, was the first woman home in 2:56:33, comfortably ahead of second-placed Jacqui Robinson who set a time of 3:08:32.

Candice Brandon was third in 3:36:38.

Keith Yardley and Gary Heatherington fought out a close battle in the half-marathon, but it was Yardley who won the intense duel in the last 2km with his strong running, finishing seven seconds

ahead of Heatherington in 1:12:02.

Third was Rod Barnes in 1:15:37.

Heatherington's effort was outstanding as he won the quarter-marathon the day before.

He made it a freshened and with victory with a medal a Heatherington the first woman home.

Bunbury's Paul Bendorn and Richard Ball filled the minor placings in the men's division while Jackie Lishman and Rosemary Johnson, also of Bunbury, were second and third in the women.

Kennedy said the ideal weather conditions enabled runners to set a fast pace for most of the race.

Sponsorship has been guaranteed for next year's event, which will take on a new look with the start and finish taking place at the club's new premises at the Recreation Ground.



• MARATHON MAN... Perth's Ray Brown crosses the line first in last Sunday's Medibank Private Bunbury Marathon. Picture: ANDY NIBLETT