

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

1996

The weather for the 15<sup>th</sup> marathon, held in 1996, was atrocious on the Saturday afternoon when only a few brave (?) runners competed in the 10k race.

The carbo-loading party was again held at the Prince of Wales Hotel.

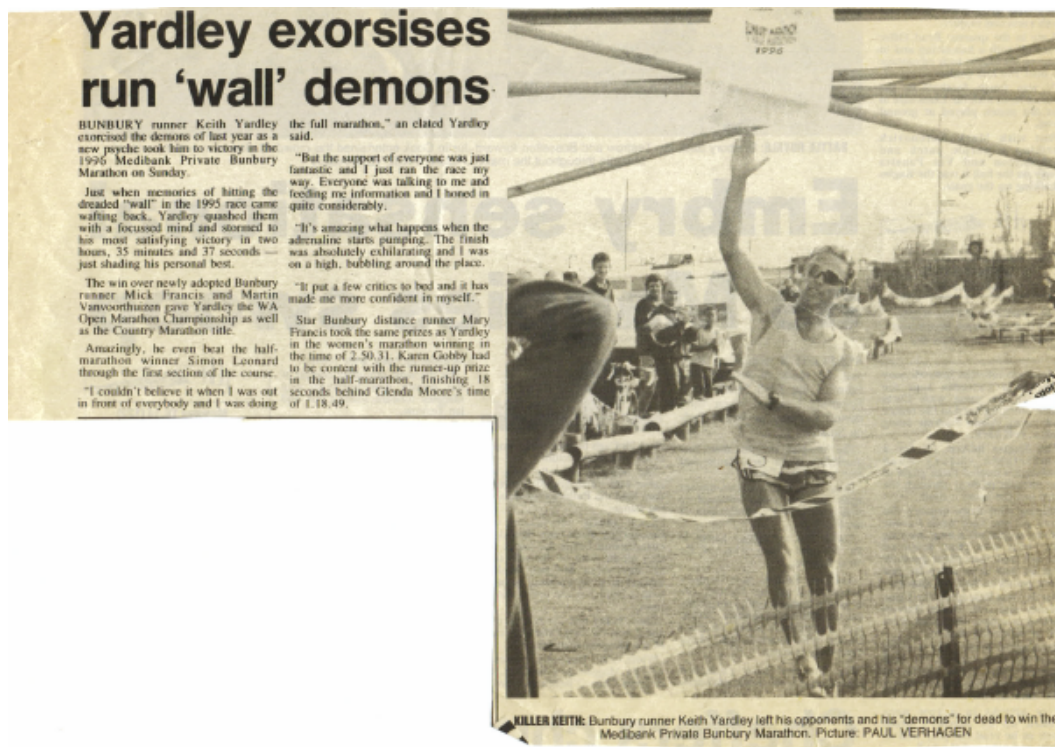
Sunday morning the wind had dropped, the rain had stopped and it was VERY COLD.

The weather improved and many runners achieved PBs.  
Steve Jones ran his **30<sup>th</sup> marathon**.

A large crowd stayed for the presentation of trophies and spot prizes and many were pleased to witness **Marg and Henk Stoffers being awarded Life Membership from club President, Michael Jennings**.

Keith Yardley broke through and was the winner in 2:35:37, followed by Mick Francis 2:40:37 and Martin Van Voorthuizen 2:44:17 3<sup>rd</sup> Martin his 5<sup>th</sup> Top three position, which was no doubt incredibly frustrating.

Mary Francis (Morgan) won again the women's marathon and was 4<sup>th</sup> outright in 2:50:31, from Nicole Durant 3:06:09 and Su Prewett 3:21:16





❑ Mick Francis comforts his wife, Mary, after a great win in the women's section of the Medibank Private Bunbury Marathon.

## Francis has big win

BUNBURY ultra-marathon legend Mary Francis broke through the pain barrier to win the women's section of the 1996 Medibank Private Bunbury Marathon last weekend.

A clearly hurting Francis showed a lot of guts and determination to cross the line fourth overall in the time of 2:50.09 hours.

She defeated rival Nicole Durrant by about 16 minutes with Sue Prewett third.

Bunbury champion Keith Yardley showed no signs of slowing after a

fast start, crossing the line 2:35:37 to finish overall first.

Mick Francis was second in 2:40:37, followed by Martin Vanvoorthuizen 2:44:17.

Men's half marathon winner was Simon Leonard 1:16:56 from Mark Wilson 1:17:35 and David Dye 1:18:05.

Glenda Moore 1:18:49 upset Karen Gobby 1:19:09 to win the women's half marathon event.

Nathalie Goffroy finished third in 1:27:05.



*Mary Francis (Morgan) WINS again  
4<sup>th</sup> Outright*



*Mick Francis 2<sup>nd</sup>*

Keith and Mary both became State Title holders, as a result of their excellent runs this year.

The half was won by Simon Leonard 1:16:56, Mark Wilson 1:17:35 and David Dye 3<sup>rd</sup> 1:18:05

Glenda Moore 1:18:49 broke through from Karen Gobby 1:19:07 and Nathalie Goffroy 1:27:05

## **1997**

Organising the 1997 Marathon began in September 1996 but even such an early start cannot ensure ideal weather. Again, conditions were described as atrocious.

Keith Yardley backed up his previous year's efforts winning in 2:39:38, from David Dye 2:41:17 making a local double and Mitchihito Muroi 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2:47:23

Mary Francis 6<sup>th</sup> Outright also repeated her performance, in a time of 2:54.08 from Janet Kelly 3:15:31 and Su Prewett 3:15:47, 16 second apart.

Phil Morgan won the half marathon in 1:17.43, from C Schmit 1:18:16 and Chris Maher 1:18:24 , now a regular at Bunbury.



John Pellier keeps on keeping on, 3:34:40 for his 15<sup>th</sup> Marathon in Bunbury.

Steven Chilcott won the 5k race on Saturday afternoon in 19.51 and Jackie Lishman won her section in 21.58.



**MARKING YARDS:** Bunbury runner Keith Yardley is banking on a happier end to this year's Medibank Private Bunbury Marathon.  
Picture: JEFF HENDERSON

## Yardley to challenge race 'wall'

**CHAMPION** Bunbury runner Keith Yardley braved the distance runner's greatest fear in last year's Medibank Private Bunbury Marathon.

The cursed "wall" has no favourites and Yardley ran straight into it, despite hours of preparation for the grueling distance.

The bricks built up from the seven-kilometre mark when he was forced to spend energy fighting off a cold shiver.

From then on, Yardley's personal assault on the Bunbury course became a draining battle with the bitumen beneath his feet.

Yardley fought on to finish third in the race and earn himself a WA Country Title, but it was far from one of his fondest running memories.

He will be back at the scene of the struggle again this Sunday when a quality field will contest the Medibank Private State Marathon Championships over the marathon and half-marathon tracks.

Yardley well remembers that day a year ago when his sugar levels fell through the basement, but he is hoping to see a far clearer finish line this Sunday.

"I'm keyed up but I'm keeping a

**By STEVE BUTLER**

pretty low key on it," Yardley said.

"I've taken a different outlook towards this race. I've had to cut back instead of hammering myself and I hope that it's helped a little bit.

"It was disappointing to do all the work last year and fall in a heap like that."

The marathon and half-marathon will both start at 7am at the Bunbury Recreation Ground and organisers are still anxious to finalise the fields.

The men's and women's half marathons are likely to get an immediate boost with the inclusion of star Perth fun run winners Ray Boyd and Glenda Moore.

Moore's clash with Bunbury supremum Karen Gobby, who is chasing her seventh half-marathon crown, could be one of the highlights of the event and could get an extra spark if Atlanta Olympic team member Sue Maloney makes an appearance.

Popular Bunbury runners David Dye and Henk Stoffers will be interesting starters in the respective half and marathon distances, while local ranger Steve Jones will be running the full distance for the 30th time.

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