

RACE REPORT

Asics Melbourne Marathon, Half Marathon and Marafun

Vic, 9th October

The 2005 Melbourne marathon and its 5,000 participants, equipped with the newest Windag timing devices, made a triumphant return to the original finish line outside of the Melbourne Arts Centre. This small modification from the recently used Albert Park finish contributed significantly in building an atmosphere of excitement around the picturesque finish area.

Three events were on the menu for the 2005 Asics Melbourne Marathon: the marathon itself; the half marathon; and the 7.5km Marafun run/walk. Conditions were initially wet and windy, but a beautiful temperature for running. After the races were underway the rain held off, but the wind continued to blow making it hard going for several portions of the 1562 marathon and 2823 half-marathon finishers.

Strong fields in both the men's and women's marathon ensured a thrilling morning of competition. The men's marathon contained three of Australia's marathon team that represented at the 2001 World Championships: Nick

Harrison; Magnus Michelsson; and Rod De Highden, all of whom were trying to make the best of their fitness following what they considered to be less than brilliant performances in the Berlin marathon two weeks prior (see the R4YL International Update for more information on Berlin).

Rod De Highden helped with some of the early work for the evergreen front-runner Magnus Michelsson, before withdrawing from the race. Magnus continued on his merry way building a lead of more than 90 seconds and passing through half way in 69 minutes, a conservative time for Magnus and an indication of the strength of the wind and the residual fatigue of running a marathon just two weeks prior. And indeed the fatigue did catch up with Magnus who faded in the second half of the race. The chase group who had consisted of Nick Harrison and Andrew Walters amongst others, closed down on Magnus and eventually he was caught and passed by both Harrison and Walters, Harrison getting up for a comfortable 3-minute victory.



Post race Harrison commented "In Berlin I went out at 2.10 pace and started to slow from the 25km point and then shut down after 30km as I knew that it was not there on that day. Today was probably a little slow to start with, but I wanted to be conservative early after running Berlin and I have never run another marathon this close to a previous one. Once the time started coming down between Magnus and myself, I thought I had a chance. I caught Magnus near the end of St Kilda Road and felt strong from there." Harrison who is coached by Chris Wardlaw, admitted that his coach was not yet aware that he had run in the Melbourne event and that he now plans to spend more time competing in local events rather than focusing on making national teams. Magnus Michelsson, who with wife Susan recently had their first child, admitted that it had been pretty tough. "Hopefully we get one run in a day where we don't have to push him, yeah it is pretty hard particularly on Tuesday Nights and Thursday nights when we try and do intervals, and on Sunday mornings I can't really run the hills anymore as Susan runs in the morning and I run long in the evening." On his efforts today: "It was pretty tough out there it was pretty windy and I was hoping it was belting the other guys out more than me but, you know. I

felt really good when the gun went. I am happy to run on my own, and when I do, I don't think about the pace of anyone else, although I was always a bit concerned about how far they were behind me, the whole way along the course no one could tell me what was going on behind. At Fitzroy St, Rob De Castella said 'you are going to have to tough it out now', and I thought oh no, what's going on? He said 'they're about 150-200m behind you', and I thought shit, you've only got a few km left and their coming in quick! Going into Berlin I felt really fit and thought I was going to run 2.13 or 2.14 there, but I had a shocker and it really hurt me, it really knocked my confidence about." In the women's event, Sherryn Rhodes claimed her third Melbourne Marathon victory from a fast starting Kylie Dick. Kylie admitted that "it was pretty tough the whole way due to the wind and being unable to get on the back of a pack, running on my own most of the way". Kylie, who had been training with Kate Seibold Crosbie leading into the event, had hoped to better the 2.51 she ran in Melbourne 2 years previously. After establishing a sizable margin early in the race, Kylie was not headed until close to the 30km mark. At this point Rhodes took control of the race and ran strongly to open up close to a 2 minute margin. "I found it tough, really tough, and windy, but I did feel strong most of the way." Rhodes marathon training was cut prematurely short (or the taper was increased), by a small injury, that did not hamper her performance on the day. Vanessa Smith, a member of Nike's Team Bowerman had a strong run to finish in third place, less than 2 minutes behind second. In the men's half marathon, eventual winner, Takashi Yamauchi and Kevin Laws opened up a gap of over 1 minute to a large chase group. Kevin Laws paid the price of the fast start, fading in the second half of the race, while Simon Hurt put the hurt on the members of the chase group, running into second place ahead of Andrew White. Takashi was never headed and finished a clear winner in 1.08.01. Lisa Dick made it an Australian victory in the women's half marathon with a comfortable 90 second victory from Tomoko Kawai and Anna Twaites in third. The 7.5km Marafun event saw Trent Harlow and Kate Seibold Crosbie notch up strong 2 minute victories in the men's and women's sections.

Marathon

Men

1. Nick Harrison	2.23.29
2. Andrew Walters	2.26.39
3. Magnus Michelsson	2.27.57
4. David Thomas	2.32.55
5. Ashley Searl	2.36.09
6. Paul Martinico	2.37.42
7. David Wynn	2.37.49
8. Grant Mclean	2.38.30
9. Mathew Skate	2.39.14
10. Clyde Rosanowski	2.39.29

Women

1. Sherryn Rhodes	2.50.32
2. Kylie Dick	2.52.16
3. Vanessa Smith	2.54.13
4. Sarah Mckinney	2.56.11
5. Eliza Mayger	2.57.33
6. Kristen Wyatt	2.58.04
7. Zoe Lawrie	3.00.11
8. Kate Weeks	3.04.45
9. Anna Smee	3.10.22
10. Sandy Allan	3.11.21

Half Marathon

Men

1. Takashi Yamauchi	1.08.01
2. Simon Hurt	1.09.51
3. Andrew White	1.10.40
4. Ben Stutterd	1.11.00
5. Jarrod Shaw	1.11.29
6. Kevin Laws	1.11.34
7. Marc Fischer	1.11.55
8. Andrew Selby Smith	1.13.17
9. Daniel Armstrong	1.13.35
10. Richard Polkinghorne	1.14.04

Women

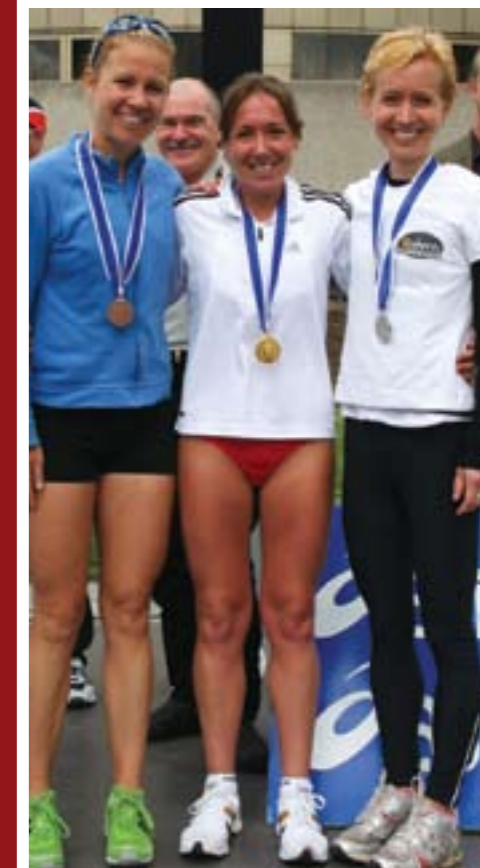
1. Lisa Dick	1.19.44
2. Tomoko Kawai	1.21.19
3. Anna Thwaites	1.21.32
4. Michelle Young	1.24.21
5. Flora Dickson	1.25.25
6. Heidi Tranberg	1.28.07
7. Sarah Klein	1.28.28
8. Stella Dohle	1.28.46
9. Nicky Turner	1.29.01
10. Jacinta Collier	1.29.23

Marafun

Men

1. Trent Harlow	23.14
2. Dean Gasson	25.15
3. Jonathan Bowles	27.00
4. Eero Keranen	27.14
5. Travis Tremayne	27.49
6. Ariel Lashansky	28.37
7. Scott Nadorp	28.50
8. Matthew Robertson	28.52
9. Ben Welsh	28.55
10. Max Little	29.06

Winners are grinners!



Women

1. Kate Seibold-Crosbie	26.01
2. Monica Haydock	28.05
3. Marissa Ferguson	28.16
4. Alison Sigmont	28.58
5. Stephanie Kondogonis	29.48
6. Melinda Missen	31.22
7. Maryanne Liddell	32.05
8. Rachel Smith	32.36
9. Jo Coombe	32.39
10. Belinda Dwyer	32.43

The field had to contend with windy conditions.



Harrison eventually took the lead and never looked back.



The back of the pack having fun!



Running strong to the line.



Trent Harlow



The finishing sprint.



R4YL'ers competed en masse!



The packed start is a site to behold!

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Behind the Scenes – Melbourne Marathon

Photographers on motorbikes. 18,000 photo frames shot under three hours. Images available on the internet within days. It's another day at the office for the official race photographer at the 2005 ASICS Melbourne Marathon. R4YL goes behind the scenes at Supersport Images Australia to find out what's involved.

Companies History

Operating in Australia and New Zealand since 1997, Supersport Images was aligned with a South African company for around 15 years and worked on such events as the London Marathon.

Digital revolution

Supersport Images went digital in late 2001. Prior to this, photographers worked in teams with two cameras and a 'loader' who changed rolls of film.

"When we were shooting with film we'd use between 300 and 400 rolls of 36 exposure film. Each photograph would be printed and sorted by hand, then embossed with the event logo, name and date.

"This process would take anywhere from four to six weeks which was deemed very efficient at the time and compared well with the length of time it took event organisers to post results out to competitors.

"To say the change to digital has had a dramatic impact on race photography is a huge understatement."

As technology continues its boom, its impact on businesses such as Supersport

Images is evident. Mr Levy believes that new software programs and the internet have revolutionised the industry.

"Where shots used to be sorted by hand, we now have software packages specifically designed for our needs. This takes the hard work out of the process, but we still rely on a certain amount of good old manual labour!"

The Process

"Supersport Images can now effectively process thousands of images per hour for any given event. We shot around 18,000 frames at the ASICS Melbourne Marathon; these were ready to be activated on our server within a few days of the event.

"The technology we have access to also enables us to offer stock shots to media outlets as well as a range of potential sporting and affiliated organisations within a very short space of time."

The images stored at Supersport Images are contained in the most secure environment possible. "Images must be protected, both for ourselves and our customers. As you can imagine, we run a stringent regimen of backup and keep multiple copies of images.

"We have some innovative software scripting which doesn't allow people to copy or print the images they view. The benefit of this is that athletes are able to view an image that isn't obscured by the watermarks you normally encounter as protective measures online."

Peak Hour Traffic!

The sheer number of photographs stored at www.supersportimages.com.au means their servers often have a large volume of traffic to contend with.

"22,000 competitors hit our site more or less at the same time following the Bridge to Brisbane run in August. It was a fair amount of traffic but our servers coped easily," says Mr Levy.

On the Day

According to Director, Mr Aubrey Levy, the organisation's photographers work hard to capture athletes individually. "This is our preference, although sometimes it can be difficult. We try to engage competitors as we're shooting, so they'll get the best out of the opportunity."

The number of photographers employed by Supersport Images varies with each event, but can be upwards of 50,000 images. "It's always an exciting occasion and we use motorbikes to get photographers around a course so they're able to shoot from various vantage points. Our photographer base is made up from a pool of regular contractors we deal with. Each has followed a tried and tested process in order to provide a superior and consistent product that enhances the experience of each event."

R4YL



Aubrey in action!