

N.S.W. COUNTRY MARATHON

COUNTRY: 1. Wallace 2. Ingram 3. Brown
 CITY: 1. Gribble 2. Foulkes 3. Hunt.

MARK WALLACE, 18 YEAR OLD RICHMOND-WINDSOR ATHLETE WON THE FIRST N.S.W. COUNTRY MARATHON AT MAYFIELD ON SATURDAY JULY 2. IT WAS HIS FIRST MARATHON.

Metropolitan runners competing in an Open Division took the first five places with Ron Gribble the first man home in 2:33:24.6. Rex Foulkes was second and Mal Hunt third.

The race was run over the Mayfield-Tarro-Ash Island course in good conditions with an over-cast sky. Organisation and Police control was excellent. Amenities for competitors could not have been better. It was a pity that more athletes, both country and city, did not enter for this race as it was one of the best conducted for a long time, and the course was a good one.

There were excellent trophies for place getters in both divisions.

Ron Gribble's win was a popular one and his first major success. He ran well, especially after half-way when he cleared away from Rex Foulkes who hung on as long as he could. The leading foursome of Gribble-Foulkes-Hunt-Sharpe were nearly "cleaned-up"

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by a fast moving truck early in the race. Brian Sharpe, after the race, said "It was a very close thing and if Ron hadn't shouted a warning we would have been hit for sure". This is, of course, a hazard which is always present in road races no matter how good the supervision by Police and officials is.

The Country boys, as expected, were left well behind from the outset, and all finishers came in after the 3 hours had elapsed, although Mark Wallace only missed out by 13 secs. Geoff Ingram from Muswellbrook clocked 3:14:41.6 in his steady run into second place.

It was disappointing but not surprising, that there were no starters from Canberra or Wollongong. It is appreciated, of course, that the distances to travel are great, but nothing can be done about this. The Country athlete simply Must travel if he is to get the competition and experience so necessary for success.

A bigger attendance from Sydney runners would have helped to make the race more of a spectacle.

Results

N.S.W. COUNTRY MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIP		OPEN DIVISION	
1. M. Wallace (Richmond-Windsor)	3:00:13	1. R. Gribble (St.G)	2:33:24.6
2. G. Ingram (Muswellbrook)	3:14:41	2. R. Foulkes (W.S.)	2:35:26.6
3. N. Brown (Denman)	3:15:20.8	3. M. Hunt (E.S.)	2:37:25.6
4. R. Wittig (New Uni)	3:16:17.6	4. F. McCaffrey (WS)	2:38:00.0
5. K. Reeves (New Uni)	3:28:20	5. B. Sharpe (W.S.)	2:47:59.2
		6. J. Scott (W.S.)	3:02:56.8

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