

Anzac Day Half Marathon 2019 - 5th edition - Rob Thomson

Six hardy Trotters congregated at Turramurra station for the 4:21am train into Wynyard. It wasn't as cold as previous years but it was still around 16°C when we hopped onto the second carriage to meet the Magnificent Seventh aka Michael Fortune (see starter list below).

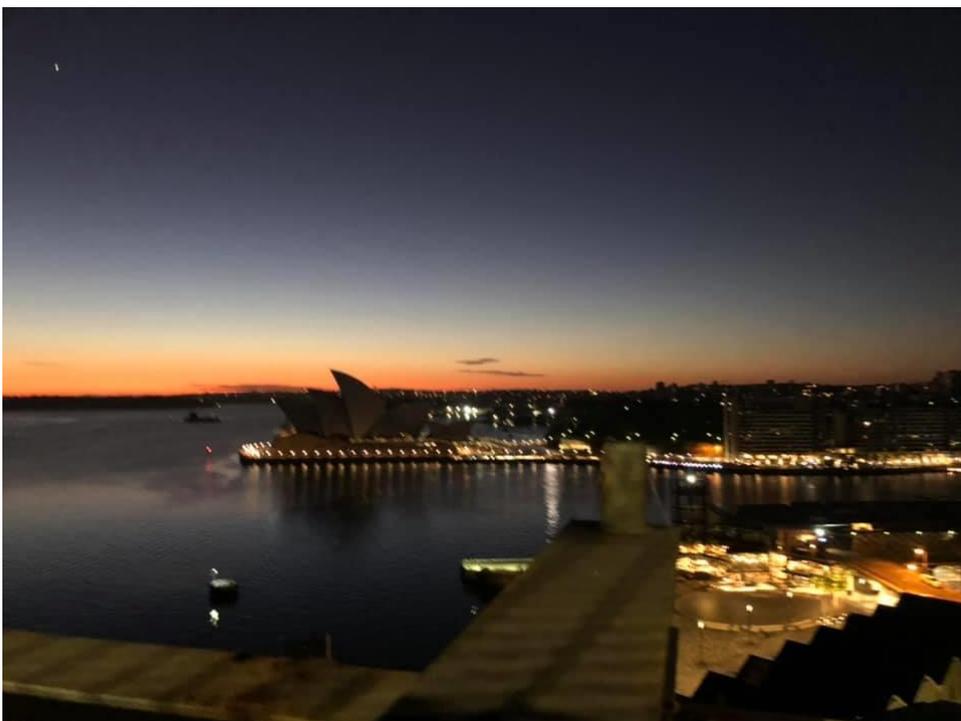
The group was quite chatty despite the lack of sleep and the trip into the city passed quickly. Richard (the only Trotter to have run in all 5 editions) tarried a little from the group, ensuring his free Wynyard tea was sufficiently steeped – one must have one's tea proper-like, especially at such an early hour. Finally we headed into George Street and up to the Cenotaph at around 5am - this year there was less scaffolding and plenty of space to stand in the crowd.

In the darkness we heard a couple of lovely choirs, national anthems and a benediction. It is a lovely service to experience and this year everybody except the very youngest stayed silent in thought. Lest We Forget.

At around 5:30am the service ended and we took a photo before setting off:



We then started trundling up the hill towards the Bridge and Michael took a special pre-dawn photo before the security fencing appeared into view:



Unlike previous years the dunnies at Milsons Point station were closed so we decided to head up to North Sydney station where Opal Cards were furiously used to gain entry and egress.

Finally we started up the Pacific Highway (there was some grumbling about the climb) and onto the flats of Naremburn where we blithely ran right down the centre of empty Willoughby Road (including a few lights that changed to green specially for us) and thence down through the lovely quiet cycleway known as Cordia Way that cuts through Willoughby.

At the halfway mark in Chatswood Jon found a charity bin into which he could finally jettison his burdensome & clingy jumper. Down the Fuller Road hill towards the Lane Cove NP we all bounded, free of surplus clothing and hilly inclines. At the gates we were again faced with closed loos but more experienced heads knew of another just around the corner.

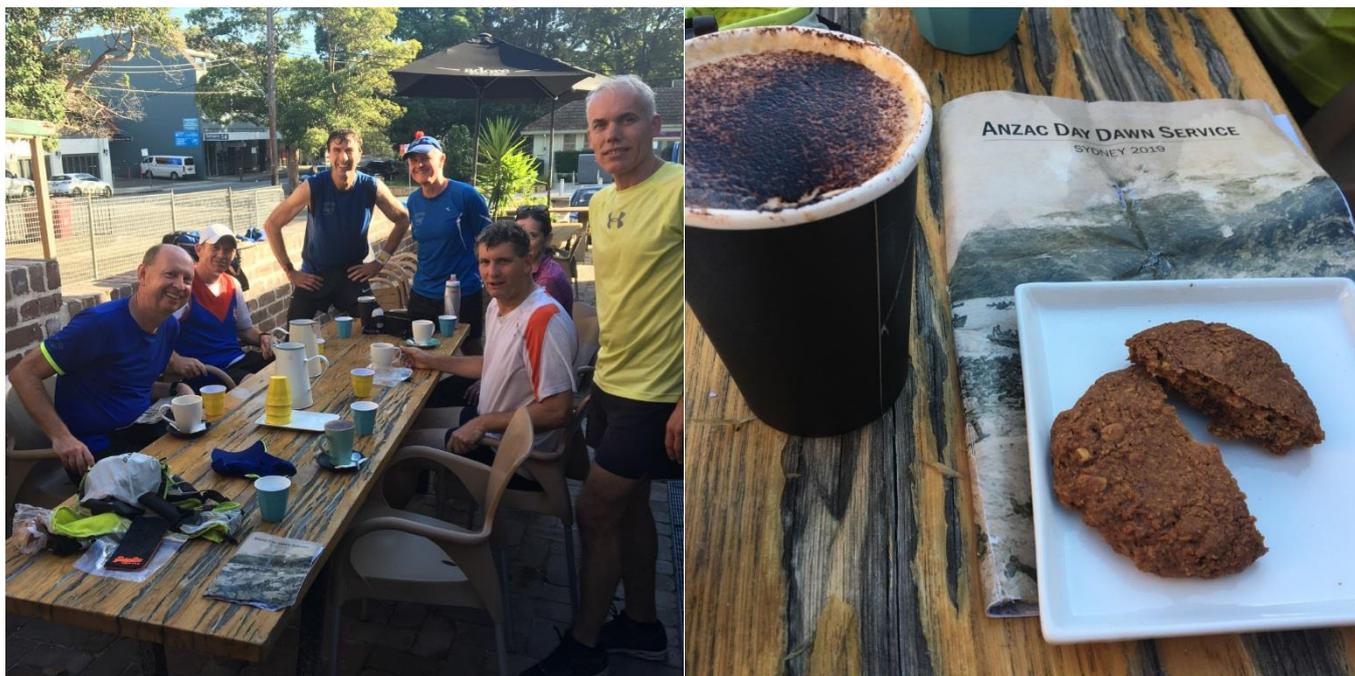
On the road up to Macquarie Park danger-seeking newbie Michael almost got totalled by an unthinkingly-selfish cyclist who was actually within his own lane and trying to avoid said silly jogger.

Finally onto Ryde Road and we headed north over De Burgh's Bridge and into the Ku-ring-gai Municipality with much cheering and self-congratulation. To be truthful, we were actually slowing down by this stage and stringing out as the road seemed to be more uphill than any car driver would realise.

Finally off the main drag, and once again regrouped, we headed up the Cultowa Road pitch and then over to the painful Livingstone Ave hill so unkindly and potentially libellously-termed "Rob's Hill". More efforts up the Pymble Hill and then we banged out the final 2km stretch up to Adam's Pies & Cakes that were not applying a public holiday surcharge!!

We hit Turramurra at around 8:45am. Well done to all and we'll see who reappears next year!

Notable runners were repeat offender Daina Lee (the only female to run more this than once), rookies Phil South and Michael Fortune (who might be back but might not) and Les Bryce who was an apology for the very first time.



Record of starters

2015 (4) - Richard Duggan, Matt Henshall, Hideko Sato-Fraser, Rob Thomson

2016 (11) - Les Bryce, Charles Chan, Bart Dekker, Richard Duggan, Jon Fowler, Matt Henshall, Rob Lloyd, Fred Sadie, Hideko Sato-Fraser, Nick Swan, Rob Thomson

2017 (9) - Sandra Cary-Jones, Fergus Dixon, Richard Duggan, Jon Fowler, Daina Lee, Cameron McKenzie, Geoff Russell, Martin Smith, Rob Thomson

2018 (8) - Richard Duggan, Jon Fowler, Matt Henshall, Daina Lee, Ralph Pain, Nick Swan, Martin Smith, Russell Watt

2019 (7) - Richard Duggan, Michael Fortune, Jon Fowler, Daina Lee, Martin Smith, Phil South, Rob Thomson