Onlookers gathered at the start line, adjacent to the beautiful Brisbane City Botanic Gardens. Looks of determination, anxiety and excitement were painted on the faces of those ready to embark on their marathon journey.

As the siren sounded a record marathon field flooded the usually bustling streets of Queensland’s capital city, as the sound of ten thousand footsteps replaced the roar of cars, with runners embracing the marathon challenge ahead.

Runners enjoyed the calm glow of the city at first light while winding through Brisbane’s most famous streets, known for their vibrant shopping atmosphere. The first challenge on the course is a short but tough climb up the heritage-listed Story Bridge, opened in 1940, where participants catch the first of many breathtaking glimpses of the Brisbane River and city skyline.

Continued on page 21

Over 4500 participants from 30 countries came to take part in the 23rd edition of the race. They were presented with ideal running conditions on a cool, calm and clear winter morning.

Running River City

By Ricky Swindale
17th EDITION

100 KM DEL SAHARA
25th APRIL - 2nd MAY 2015

The extreme starts from here

Ideazione e coordinamento generale:
www.zitoway.com - info@zitoway.com
tel. 059 359613 - Modena (Italy)

www.100kmdelasahara.com
The Bridge connects Fortitude Valley, the centre of Brisbane’s nightlife, to South Brisbane’s riverbank at Kangaroo Point. The gradual descent of the bridge provides welcome relief and some beautiful panoramic views of the city. Kangaroo Point Cliffs are the home of Brisbane’s avid rock climbing community where the adventurous ascend vertical rock faces. As participants wind underneath the Story Bridge towards the riverfront, the flat scenic course follows along the riverbanks.

As the sun ascends above the high-rise buildings of the central business district, the city appears to come alive. A magnificent hue of light engulfs the riverfront, contributing a beautiful sparkle to the shores. Blue skies can be seen as far as the eye can see with a calm breeze cooling the effects of exertion on runners’ backs. Brisbane slowly awakes as the City Ferries start the day’s service, with passengers boarding to enjoy a tour of the ‘River City’ sites.

Following the footsteps ahead, a cacophony of cheering can be heard well before the source of it can be seen. The energetic and entertaining high school water station cheer squads give weary participants high-fives and some welcome encouragement, sure to put a spring into any step. The water station cheer squads have something to cheer for other than the sweat-soaked runners – they are competing for a $1000 prize and the honour of becoming champions for 2014.

Brisbane is drawn together by no less than five bridges which connect all corners of the city over the winding river. Each bridge is used by the courses of the five distances available within the Running Festival, providing runners with a perfect opportunity to explore the city en route to the finish line.

Tackling the newly established Go-between Bridge, participants again cross the river and in the process are offered a different perspective of the city, with the sun now well and truly risen. Footsteps continue to pound the pavement as the sound of the crowd and finish line attracts runners like a swarm of bees to a hive. The final kilometre along the well-used Bicentennial Bikeway, neatly situated at the water’s edge, allows runners to see thousands of their fellow participants.

Nearing the finish line the Brisbane Riverstage, a stadium designed within the stunning Brisbane City Botanic Gardens, welcomes finishers to a grand atmosphere of music, entertainment and the cheers of family and friends after completing one of the most scenic and spectacular courses in Australia.

The Brisbane Marathon Festival is held on the first Sunday in August. The next edition will be on Sunday 2 August 2015, and will attract marathon travellers from across the globe for an unforgettable marathon experience.

### Result

#### MEN:

1. Clay DAWSON AUS 2:30:43
2. Moritz Auf Der HEIDE AUS 2:37:30
3. Scott BRITTAIN AUS 2:43:48
4. Wayne SPIES AUS 2:49:48
5. Warwick BIBLE AUS 2:49:57
6. Kieran CHUTE AUS 2:52:17
7. George SCHINARD AUS 2:52:50
8. Peter BRACKEN AUS 2:54:15
9. Henry COOMBS AUS 2:54:35
10. Alan MULLEN AUS 2:55:12

#### WOMEN:

1. Roxie FRASER AUS 2:54:35
2. Hannah FOTHERGILL AUS 3:05:26
3. Trish RUSSELL AUS 3:11:56
4. Jody OBORNE AUS 3:17:08
5. Deanna FULLER AUS 3:22:11
7. Lisa LUKASSEN AUS 3:24:52
8. Anna OTTAWAY AUS 3:25:48
10. Alex RALPH AUS 3:26:42

#### Half marathon

**MEN:**

1. Hintsa MEBRAHTU AUS 1:13:06
2. Joseph LAMPE AUS 1:14:55
3. Tim TONER AUS 1:16:18

**WOMEN:**

1. Lou ABRAM AUS 1:24:22
2. Riine RINGI AUS 1:24:56
3. Madi ROBERTS AUS 1:24:57

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**Brisbane Marathon Festival**

- The next event is on 2 August 2015.
- For event information visit [www.brisbanemarathon.com](http://www.brisbanemarathon.com)
YOU CAN'T STOP TILL YOU ARRIVE IN SAN SEBASTIAN

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