

New Life Member

Wilf Johnston has been a member of the Hamilton Marathon Clinic for more than 25 years, arriving as a prospective marathon runner in the days when the clinic met just once a week at the Te Rapa Pools.

Wilf was enculturated in the group running approach that the clinic pioneered in Hamilton, and has been a consistent supporter of this sort of activity throughout his time with the clinic. The benefits of group running were obvious in his own case, and Wilf's best performances (well under 40 minutes for the 10km, and an hour and a half for the half marathon) would make him one of the clinic's fastest ever. Wilf completed quite a few respectable marathons as well.

When the clinic moved to our current premises in Grantham Street, and to two meetings a week, Wilf continued as a keen member. His commitment to group running became a commitment to group walking when wisdom replaced youthful dash and the prospect of further injury made a running future less certain.

Wilf served on the Hamilton Marathon Clinic committee, and was a supporter of many of our activities. The Cambridge to Hamilton run benefited from his input, notably in the event we organised for the first time under the new traffic regulations in 2002. Wilf has a common sense approach to event management and the clinic has had call on his input and expertise in this area for much more than a decade.

One of the unacknowledged contributions Wilf makes is his service work in the interests of the clinic. There would be virtually no one who has swept out the clubrooms, emptied the rubbish, squeegeed the floors and turned out the lights more often than Wilf. It is appropriate that we award Wilf Johnston a life membership at these 30 year celebrations. His contribution as a runner and walker, his advice as a 'coach' and his service to the membership have been exemplary.