## Taranaki Race Walking Club

## Odd Ball Relay

## Racing the oddities

It was finger crossing day today, with dark threatening clouds coming our way. Dave W had set up the course earlier and Michelle had got there before him to do a few laps as a training session for her forthcoming half marathon. She also proved we are all sheep, by parking behind her where she'd left her car in the road, instead of where we usually park. So we had to sheepishly move the cars into the car park. Three teams of three were racing today;
Team 1- Marlene, Gaylene, Helen B
Team 2- MaryAnne, Michelle, Anne
Team 3-Sue, Helen C, Dave B
The above are the teams and in order of their given start times, plus the order of the laps each person was doing, I, 3, or 7 . We also welcomed Helen Chitty, a friend of Anne's who came along to try her luck and see what this race walking was all about.

Kim got the stop watch with Peter keeping an eye on her and Dave W was the starter and lap keeper. Arthur \& Trevor were on water duty whilst I kept times for each individual and Griffin was just there for the pats.

The starter made an executive decision and started everyone 1omins early, which turned out to be a great decision as it started raining just after we finished.

Throughout the whole of the race the teams stayed in the order they started. As they came around to finish their first lap there was around 150 m between teams $1 \& 2$ with team 3 the length of Hudson St behind team 2. Some blamed this on Dave for stopping to pick up cans for the Blind Foundation on lap 1, although he said he soon caught up with his team. Of course, Sue stopping to tie up her laces didn't help this team's cause either.

The start of lap 3 saw an increase of 1 over 2 by another 50 metres however despite all the hiccups 3 had, they hadn't dropped further behind. However, after that, the times between each team slowly started to widen with each lap. First it was 1 m 21 s between $1 \& 2$, then 1 m 32 s and finally 1 m 41 s . Between teams 1 \& 3 , the time gaps were $5 \mathrm{~m} 39 \mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{~m} 20 \mathrm{~s} \& 7 \mathrm{~m} 26 \mathrm{~s}$.

Nearing the finish, we thought Miss Perfect was going to bring team 1 home, after having a long lead all race but she just couldn't do it. Anne was next to hove into view and brought her team into second place. Then a long way back was Dave, weighed down with all the cans he'd stopped to pick up. "Didn't he know he was in a race?

Dave W was left to pick up the cones and signs and joined everyone to Gaylene's for nibbles. After he had his cup of tea he read out the results which caused a few screams and high fives from the winners. This I understand was due to Michelle, who in the cold light of day, had a rethink about their original time and modified it. Helen B's team were second with Dave's team third.

For everyone's info I have put individual times down in case they wish to work out how they personally did. I'm not positive they are exactly correct being as I took them from my wristwatch but they would only be a couple of seconds out.
Marlene: $11 \mathrm{~m} 55 \mathrm{~s} \quad$ MaryAnne: 12 m 46 s Sue:15m 42 s
Gaylene: $34 \mathrm{~m} 57 \mathrm{~s} \quad$ Michelle: $36 \mathrm{~m} 15 \mathrm{~s} \quad$ Helen C:39m 18s
Helen B: 1hr 1gm 32s Anne: 1h 21m 23s Dave: 1h 28m 03s
MaryAnne will be away for the next few weeks with family to celebrate her 6oth birthday (you look too young to be that old MaryAnne). Guess where they are going? You can't, well it's Big Island in Hawaii !!! At least she'll come back to us with a red face from lava exposure. Have a good time MaryAnne and take care over there and pack masks with your togs.

## VIEW FROM THE SIDE

PS Only a couple of weeks for the Open Walks, so please get your entries in ASAP. If you're not walking and are available to help out please let Brian know, he also needs numbers for the evening meal booking.

| Today's Points <br> Marlene Gaylene Helen 8 pts MaryAnne Michelle Anne 6 pts Sue Helen Dave B 4 pts | Points Trophy Standing <br> Anne 24 pts <br> MaryAnne 24 pts <br> Eric 23 pts <br> Helen 18 pts <br> Gaylene 17 pts <br> Ross 16 pts | Style Trophy Standings <br> Alan Clark 11.00 <br> Anne Fraser 6.00 <br> Dave Barrett 9.50 <br> Eric Kemsley 12.00 <br> Daniel Gilberd 10.50 <br> Gaylene Phillips 11.00 <br> Hannah Gilberd 6.00 <br> Helen Bavistock 10.75 <br> Michelle Nicholson 11.75 <br> Peter Fox 11.75 <br> Rachel Gilberd 11.50 <br> Ross Alan 10.50 <br> Serena Coombes 5.75 <br> Sherryn Hardy 5.75 <br> Sue Park 10.00 <br> Tony Burrell 5.00 |
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| Member | Today's Results |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Marlene Gaylene Helen | Start Time | Finish Time | Difference |
| MaryAnne Michelle Anne | $9: 28: 48$ | $10: 48: 22$ | $0: 01: 38$ |
| Sue Helen Dave B | $9: 29: 36$ | $10: 50: 13$ | $0: 00: 13$ |


|  | Total | Wind <br> Wand | Serena <br> Sprint | First <br> Day | Norm <br> Read | Odd <br> Ball | Ekiden |
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