

# Taranaki Race Walking Club

Serena's Sprint

9 July 2017

It never rains in Inglewood!!!!

Today was not for the faint hearted but 11 brave souls walked and five were helpers, Eric & Trevor were the timekeepers, Marlene was a temporary pole and dog chaser, and Wacky the overseer. Arthur was surplus to requirements today as nobody wanted a drink of cold water, you just had to open your mouth at the start and drink in all the fluoride & chlorine free water you wanted. So, he became a spectator in his warm car; you have to have some perks when you are the club's senior walker.

Much to everyone's amazement, we saw Rachel walking up the drive in the pouring rain wearing her big smile and laughing; not much gets that girl down does it? There was a hurried consultation as we all cowed in Serena's garage with her on the phone to Eric, who was down below at the start after putting out the cones with Wacky. It became a unanimous decision that it should be a mass start with everyone just doing 5km.

We started in the teeming rain which amazing enough had basically stopped by the time everyone reached the 500m mark and they all, except for Dave and myself, discarded their waterproofs at the 1km mark. Dave dropped his off before starting his last lap. Being a softie, I kept mine on the whole race.

We had to turn at the 500m cone and go back to the start line, turn again and go back down towards the 1km cone and then back to the start line, doing this longer distance twice. We all started from underneath the awning which was rigged up from the open doors of Eric's van and except for Peter, Rachel and Sue, everyone else wore waterproof coats.

Serena led Peter, Rachel & Ross to the 500m cone but on the way back had dropped to third as Peter led from Rachel with Ross still hanging on to fourth place; Tony was in no man's land in 5th place.



The next group of four to the 500m mark was led by Dave in his flapping red Weet Bix poncho closely followed by Michelle, Gaylene and Anne. After turning, Michelle took the lead of this group a position she held until about the last 100m when Gaylene took off in a sprint Michelle couldn't match. The last time they passed the tail enders, Sue and I, Anne had closed up and Dave was 50m or so back.

After they had rounded the 1km mark for the first time, Rachel and Peter were well in the lead with Ross in third place and Serena way, way back. I thought she may have picked up an injury but we found out later it was because she thought she had handicapped herself too lightly, so did an extra distance by going way passed the 1km mark. That sort of backfired on her as she was never a threat again and ended up walking the rest of the race in no man's land. I did hear tell, she blamed it on trying to catch a dog. The poor mutt was having a great time roaring back and forth, why spoil all his/her fun?

The only race within the race I thought, was Tony & Ross. During the race Tony was getting closer and closer to Ross and on their way down to the final 1km mark Tony would have been only 50m behind. By the time he was heading for the finish line he was about 50m ahead of Ross. Until I see the results I won't know if this was because Ross had a bad walk, or Tony a very good one.

Us tail enders finished as tail enders, although I did get galvanised at the end when Sue did her famous 50m sprint for the line and I had to get out of my comfort zone. As you get older you don't win many races and have to get your successes in small doses, so to beat a woman by a couple of steps, who has two iron hips and only a few years younger than yourself I'm not proud, I'll take it!

Back in a snug warm farmhouse (fire lit especially for us soft townies) Eric commented that despite the bad weather most were faster than their handicapped times, the tail enders being the exception. When Sue was told she was about 1.5mins slower than handicap, she immediately blamed it on my talking that slowed her down, so how hurtful was that, everyone knows I'm one of the quietest in the club?

So, congratulations to all those who were able to turn up today, either to race or help, you did yourself and the club proud.

VIEW FROM THE BACK

Today's Points

Michelle 8 pts  
Ross 7 pts  
Gaylene 5 pts  
Tony 5 pts  
Anne 4 pts  
Rachel 3pts

Points Trophy Standing

Michelle 39 pts  
Sue 31 pts  
Serena 29 pts  
Anne 26 pts  
Eric 25 pts  
Ross 24 pts  
Brian 23 pts  
Arthur 23 pts  
Tony 23 pts

Style Trophy Standings

Serena 74.00  
Sherryn 71.50  
Michelle 71.00  
Alan 69.50  
Tony 65.00  
Ross 65.00  
Hannah 56.50  
Rachel 56.00  
Anne 56.00  
Sue 51.00  
Marlene 40.50  
Peter F 40.50  
Eric 36.00  
Dave B 30.00  
Gaylene 38.00  
Daniel 16.00

## Today's Results

Member	Grade	Distance	Estimated Time	Actual Time	Difference	Points
<b>Senior Women</b>						
Rachel Gilberd	W	5	0:30:15	0:29:49	0:00:26	3
Serena Coombes	W	5	0:33:00	0:33:52	0:00:52	2
Gaylene Phillips	W	5	0:37:30	0:36:52	0:00:38	5
Michelle Nicholson	W	5	0:38:10	0:37:04	0:01:06	8
Anne Fraser	W	5	0:37:55	0:37:23	0:00:32	4
<b>Vets</b>						
Sue Park	V	5	0:43:00	0:44:52	0:01:52	2
Brian O'Shea	V	5	0:43:47	0:44:53	0:01:06	2
<b>Senior Men</b>						
Peter Fox	M	5	0:28:30	0:29:49	0:01:19	2
Tony Burrell	M	5	0:32:40	0:32:02	0:00:38	5
Ross Allen	M	5	0:32:55	0:32:11	0:00:44	7
Dave Barrett	M	5	0:37:32	0:39:16	0:01:43	2
<b>Helpers</b> Eric, Trevor, Dave W, Arthur, Marlene						2

