

Taranaki Race Walking Club

Normanby Foxtrot

30 July 2017

Glorious racing

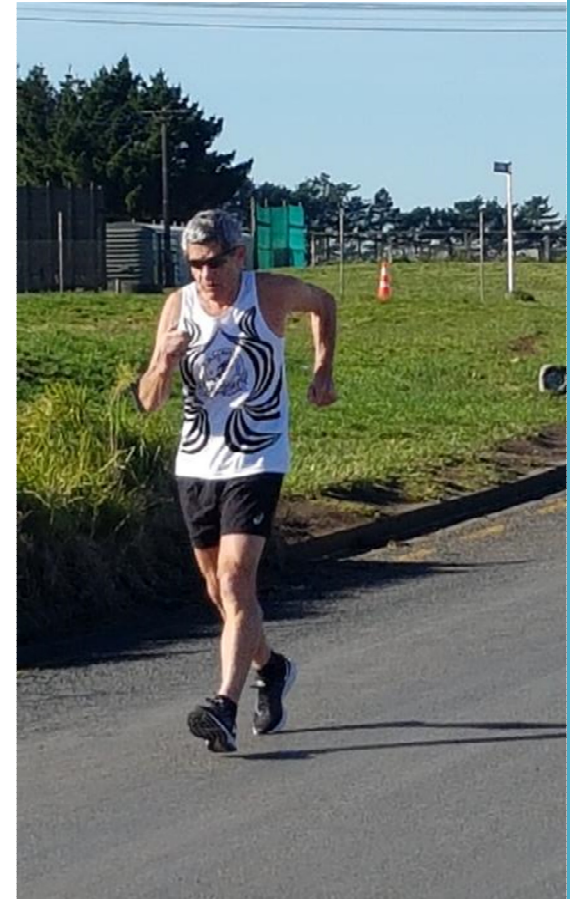
Well what a glorious weekend we had, one would start to think it was summer, except for the snow on the mountain and the cold snap in the air and an icy cold wind which suddenly sprung up around the last lap. Graeme and Rosemary came along today to ensure everybody was kept in line. We all enjoy your company and its great for club members to see you outside judged events so we remember to mind our Ps and Qs while walking.

With the absence of Peter and Dave W, Serena drew the short straw and volunteered to help Trevor with the time keeping to allow Eric to have a walk. Gee, don't you just love these volunteers?

Thirteen of us were walking today so hope no one was superstitious? First out of the blocks today was Anne. Dave who was supposed to start with her and although he was the first to arrive at the venue, suddenly found the boot of his car most interesting at a most crucial time and ended up giving Anne a 20 pace lead which she never surrendered.

Guess who was last to start, 39 mins behind the rest, I was beginning to think everyone would be finished before I even started; I should never have run down farmers before the season started.

Anyway, I started at long last and had Marlene & Arthur as rabbits in front of me. Half way down the leg in Indian file were Anne, Dave, Carol & Michelle with about 20m between each person. Jeff, Ross & Sherryn walked the majority of the race on their own quite spaced apart with only Alan seeing someone ahead of him to chase, this is hard when you have no one to zero in on. Due to his lack of racing Eric went off before Peter and I thought to myself, he hasn't got a show of catching Eric. How wrong can one be?



As I came up the leg to the start/finish line, so there they were, still in Indian file about the same distance apart. Everyone else seemed to be in their same position. Bells started ringing, as I thought "I'm in with a chance here".

With renewed vigour I pressed on and managed to overtake Arthur about the 500m cone; great achievement beating an 88yr old. As I rounded the cone for the last time, to my horror I saw that Anne had really closed the gap behind me, with Dave & Carol still in the same order but also closing up, Michelle had now dropped back somewhat but still looked good. Jeff had obviously put on the after burners and wasn't too far behind them and Alan had passed Sherryn and Peter had passed Eric.

I closed in on Marlene and caught her with about half a km to go and she wanted to hold hands. Not often I spurn a ladies advances (I don't get many nowadays anyway) but I was after 8 points. Suddenly just as I was telling Marlene to dig it in so we could get first and second, Jeff flashed by. I then re-evaluated for second & third places when blow me down my protégée started to overtake me at the bottom of the hill. I stayed with her until the top but the tank was empty by then and she pulled away, how cruel.

Very closed behind her was Dave who I thought was going to do one of those quick spurts he is famous for and leave her for dead. Much to my surprise although only a step behind, he couldn't muster that little bit extra to pass and Anne strode in for second behind Jeff. So I had to content with being 4th with Marlene 5th.

Looking back I couldn't believe that from nowhere Ross had somehow closed up and overtook Michelle. He couldn't catch Carol at the line, she beating him by 1sec. I can't make up my mind whether it was a case of "She was too good on the day" or he was looking ahead to the benefits of what winning or losing to her would deliver.

Peter won the battle vs Eric and Alan had stretched his lead over Sherryn who on the day took my usual place as tail end Charlie, so obviously 13 isn't her favourite number, however many of us (especially me) would still like to walk as fast as her.

At the end it was all around to Peter's place for the after match function. I say we but Dave decided to have one of his 'away' showers. For the length of time it took, he must have lowered the NZ lake levels by at least 10cm I was sure there would be nothing to eat by the time we got there but the table was still groaning under the weight of delicious food.

I was ecstatic with my finishing time, "Look out people I'm back" when Eric dashed my hopes by saying the course was too short by a pole. Was he talking about one of Marlene's ancestors laying on the road; or even further, I didn't dare ask?
Great weather, great racing and very great company. Thanks guys.

VIEW FROM THE BACK

Today's Points

Jeff 8 pts
Anne 7 pts
Dave B 6 pts
Brian 5 pts
Marlene 4 pts
Carol 3 pts

Points Trophy Standing

Michelle 49 pts
Serena 37 pts
Anne 35 pts
Ross 34 pts
Sue 33 pts
Arthur 31 pts
Brian 30 pts
Eric 29 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	Handicap	Race Time	Actual Time	Difference	Points
Open Men							
Peter Fox	M	10	0:20:10	1:14:26	0:54:16	0:03:04	2
Eric Kemsley	M	10	0:20:00	1:15:48	0:55:48	0:01:42	2
Alan Clarke	M	10	0:15:50	1:15:16	0:59:26	0:02:14	2
Jeff Wells	M	10	0:12:10	1:12:34	1:00:24	0:04:56	8
Ross Allen	M	10	0:12:10	1:14:10	1:02:00	0:03:20	2
Dave Barrett	M	10	0:02:15	1:13:30	1:11:15	0:04:00	6
Vets							
Brian O'Shea	V	5	0:33:45	1:13:43	0:39:58	0:03:47	5
Marlene White	V	5	0:31:35	1:14:03	0:42:28	0:03:27	4
Arthur Lester	V	5	0:29:50	1:16:27	0:46:37	0:01:03	2
Open Women							
Sherryn Hardy	W	10	0:12:40	1:17:19	1:04:39	0:00:11	2
Anne Fraser	W	10	0:01:50	1:13:24	1:11:34	0:04:16	7
Carol Allen	W	10	0:02:15	1:14:09	1:11:54	0:03:21	3
Michelle Nicholson	W	10	0:02:00	1:14:34	1:12:34	0:02:56	2
Helpers	Trevor, Serena & Frances						2

