

Points Awarded

Alan – 8 points
 Marlene – 7 points
 Tom – 6 points
 Serena – 5 points
 Lorraine – 5 points
 Jeff – 3 points

Points Trophy Standings

Tom – 26 points
 Serena – 25 points
 Ivor – 24 points
 Jeff – 23 points
 Mike – 22 points
 Helen – 21 points
 Alan – 20 points

*Alan Proves He's The Top Odd Ball*

It's difficult to avoid some of the holiday weekends; this year we seem to have such a tight schedule that we have clashed with Easter, Mother's Day and now Queen's birthday weekend. We still managed 18 odd balls on the start line, but perhaps we need to take note for next year's programme that Queen's birthday is the weekend people head away.

This event has always traditionally attracted bad weather (very unusual for Taranaki). The date has changed many times but it just seems the weather wants to play its part in the odd ball theme. I headed out to Bell Block this time after some pretty heavy showers, Pete reckoned the sun was shining in Stratford (come on, sounds like a Tui advert to me). We had a bit of a shower just before the start, but it cleared for us and other than the last four walkers everybody stayed dry.

We got Marion to once again keep all the estimated times secret. It becomes a much more interesting race when you have no idea what times others are trying to do. I think though that Marion seems to enjoy this job a little too much! After Jeff's win at the Norm Read I stuck to the plan of putting in a time that made me work hard to achieve.

I like this sort of event because I get no comments about handicap times, you handicap yourselves people – and I get pay back because the majority of walkers today weren't that good at it! I didn't see too many of you who qualified for the Handicappers job – except maybe the dark horse who every estimated time event is in the Points – how do you do it Tom? Where is that watch hidden? Do you perhaps sing to a specific pre-ordained beat, or is it that embedded GPS that I have always suspected. Just as the IAAF do sex and drug testing we must be able to get somebody time tested!

Results

Name	Grade	Est Time	Actual	Difference	Points
Alan Clarke	10.8K	1:11:12	1:11:25	0:00:13	8
Marlene White	10.8K	1:12:15	1:12:29	0:00:14	7
Tom Hastie	6.2K	0:47:30	0:47:08	0:00:22	6
Serena Coombes	10.8K	1:12:02	1:12:29	0:00:27	5
Lorraine Eldershaw	10.8K	1:17:50	1:18:29	0:00:39	4
Jeff Wells	10.8K	1:07:12	1:06:19	0:00:53	3
Eric Kemsley	10.8K	0:59:59	1:00:53	0:00:54	2
Kathleen Adamski	10.8K	1:22:28	1:21:27	0:01:01	2
Peter Fox	10.8K	1:04:30	1:03:23	0:01:07	2
Helen Baverstock	10.8K	1:17:23	1:16:15	0:01:08	2
Harry Terwiel	10.8K	1:04:00	1:02:29	0:01:31	2
Arthur Lester	6.2K	0:50:49	0:49:10	0:01:39	2
Michelle Nicholson	10.8K	1:22:33	1:20:42	0:01:51	2
Mike Nield	10.8K	1:07:40	1:04:58	0:02:42	2
Sue Park	6.2K	0:55:00	0:50:52	0:04:08	2
Gaylene Phillips	10.8K	1:15:20	1:19:37	0:04:17	2
Dave Wackrow	10.8K	1:09:21	1:13:48	0:04:27	2
Ivor Ellis	4.6K	0:36:00	0:41:10	0:05:10	2

Helpers

Trevor, Brian, Dave B, Marion	2
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There are only a few events that we have a mass start, and even though it is an estimated time we tend to know the pecking order. So it was today with Eric getting best time of 60m53s for the 10.8K, over 90 seconds ahead of Harry followed by Pete another minute back. Jeff thought he would try to upset the pecking order and shot away from Mike in the first few laps. Mike though restored the order of things and caught Jeff and beat him by over a minute. Jeff had the last laugh though as he managed 6th position in the real race – yes it's an estimated time event.

Marlene and Serena started together and went at a steady, "we can still talk" pace. I decided to be Tony today and tucked in behind them in the hope they would pull me through. Tony wouldn't have got a word in though the way these two talked. I puffed away and they still talked. For a couple of laps they got ahead of me and I thought I had gone deaf. With 3 laps to go they seemed to have slowed so I shot past them and gradually opened the gap. I didn't know what their estimate was and they didn't know mine. Mine was a challenging time for me, whereas theirs turned out to be a reasonably soft time (handicapper please note that Alan was at his fastest today, whereas Marlene and Serena were sand bagging).

In the end I managed to go 13 seconds over my estimate and take 1st place. As you know, I normally ensure I don't win on handicap or else I would have to buy too many red wines for myself. Second on estimate was Marlene who was 14 seconds over, with her walky talky mate Serena in 4th with 27 seconds difference.

What was that did I forget about 3rd place? No I didn't, it was the dark horse Tom who was 22 seconds under his estimate, which also moved him into first place in the Points table. He is only 1 point ahead of Serena and then a further point back to Ivor. This year the Points Trophy is going to be close. Do we though have a new handicapper in waiting – Serena was 2nd in both the wind wand walk and the Norm Read and now 4th today. That's pretty good estimating.

Points Trophy

Name	Total	Wind Wand	Ivor's Oakura	Serena Sprint	Helen's Special	Norm Read	Ekiden	Odd Ball
Tom Hastie	26	6	8	2	2	2		6
Serena Coombes	25	7	2	2		7	2	5
Ivor Ellis	24	3	5	2	8	2	2	2
Jeff Wells	23	2	2	4	2	8	2	3
Mike Nield	22	2	6	2	2	6	2	2
Helen Baverstock	21	8	2	2	2	3	2	2
Alan Clarke	20	2	2	2	2	2	2	8
Dave Wackrow	19	2	7	4	2		2	2
Marlene White	19	2	2	2	2	2	2	7
Michelle Nicholson	19	4	2	2	5	2	2	2
Gaylene Phillips	18	2	2	8	2	2		2
Dave Barrett	17	2	2	2	2	5	2	2
Peter Fox	17	2		2	7	2	2	2
Kathleen Adamski	16	2	4	2	2	2	2	2
Lorraine Eldershaw	15	2		3	2	2	2	4
Sherryn Hardy	15	5	2	2	2	2	2	
Brian O'Shea	14	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Eric Kemsley	14	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Vanessa Lowl	13	2			4	5	2	
Arthur Lester	12	2	2	2	2	2		2
Harry Terwiel	12	2	2		2	2	2	2
Trevor Suthon	12	2	2	2	2	2		2
Julie Gardner	11	2	2		3	2	2	
Rachel Gilberd	11			7		2	2	
Sue Park	11		3	2	2	2		2
Marion Dent	10	2	2		2	2		2
Neil Fagan	10	2	2	2	2	2		
Sandra Moratti	10			6		2	2	
Tanya Campbell	10	2			6		2	
Tony Burrell	10	2		2	2	2	2	
Anne Fraser	8	2		2		2	2	
Frances Kemsley	8	2		2	2	2		
Mary Hastie	8	2	2	2	2			
Denise Clark	6	2			2	2		
Valda Goodey	2						2	
Juniors								
Hannah Gilberd	6			3		3		

Some of you though are still pretty bad at this estimating lark aren't you? I think Sue, because of last year, put a fall factor into her time; she didn't fall over this time and so walked 4 minutes quicker than estimate. Wacky – well what were you thinking (you probably weren't). Gaylene was obviously thinking about golf (relaxing at the 19th with a red wine I reckon) and so walked more than 4 minutes over estimate. As for Ivor, it is no good putting down times that you dream about in the night; they are not real; 5 minutes over estimate – what can you say!

Many thanks to Kaye and Jeff for morning tea and the helpers Trevor, Dave, Peter and Brian. I'll thank Marion as well, but she probably thanks us for the enjoyment she gets from her job as the Secret Squirrel.