

Taranaki Race Walking Club*Points Awarded*

All participants – 2
points each

*The Year Rachel Took Over the Race Commentary*

It certainly takes a couple of days to recover from this event; not the walking but the laughter. It is not often I have writer's block, so excuse me while I think as I write. Do I write about the walking, or the laughter, or maybe I should start by saying what an amazing club we have. All our members gave 100% to their walking, to the spirit of the teams and the support for their team members. Maybe I should start with Harry's PB from the weekend – 9 minutes 44 seconds to demolish the big breakfast at Mothered Goose on Saturday. This maybe a New Zealand record (we are on tenterhooks waiting for this to be ratified) and one which will be very difficult to beat.

This year we managed 4 teams of 6 walkers – 2 teams in the A grade and 2 in the B grade. Brian also came down to judge and keep an eye on his ladies. Getting to Trentham was an event in itself – there was the two trailer trick with having to stop at Stratford to get a new van and trailer. The obligatory toilet stop at Patea (amazing we managed to pass Normanby); the absolutely essential stop at Mothered Goose for coffee and lunch.

The last stop was of course Otaki for retail therapy. Harry demonstrated the skilful art of truck and trailer reversing; I have always found you need lots of hand waving and smatterings of Anglo Saxon terminology to complete the manoeuvre but Harry didn't seem to need any of this. There are some dubious photos of people loitering around the toilets in Otaki, not sure what was happening there. Perhaps they were trying to have a talk to the imaginary man in the toilet? Or maybe these new fangled toilets are too much for some of us? I am sure this will be published so let me know what you think.



Teams



Phew it's Wednesday evening already and this report is still not finished – perhaps another red wine should help? It's okay I have called for help – Michelle and Mike have come up with some ideas which I will weave into this latest tale of the TRWC. It must be difficult for new members of the club to come away with our motley crew, they really don't know what to expect. Last year we had Sherryn rooming with Rachel and Sandra to learn the finer points of walk preparation. This year it was Julie's turn to be initiated. When you have been going away with people for many years you tend to relax. Everybody has to expel some air and I guess you become comfortable (am I really writing about this?) not worrying about others. In fact let's be honest it's quite funny at times. Julie decided that perhaps it was time we lifted our game a bit, we should perhaps have a better command of the English language and become more sophisticated (nah don't understand that either). So from now on we must refer to a necessary air expellation as bowel gas or flatulence – gosh guvnor I felt like a toff didn't I, and me just a Railway child at that. Then we had "Julie the games Mistress" – think she had her work cut out here but we did manage to play some games with her.

What was I thinking when I decided to get Peter to travel down with Rachel and Sandra; sometimes I have blonde moments (must be those silver highlights I have put in the hair). Will Peter ever be the same again; he reckons the journey was extremely quick (or felt like it). Not sure if there was ever a quiet moment in the car. I started to get text messages during their journey – various interpretations of a park and ride and what a clever Council to consider the needs of locals. Pete still seemed shell shocked the next morning and he still had the journey home!

Sunday morning was a very cold start – not one us New Plymouth people are used to. The ice was very thick on the windows of the vehicles. What an amazing day it turned out to be though. A beautiful autumnal one – sunny, no wind and a perfect temperature for walking.

Teams



Now we all know that the make or break in relays can be the change-over – and with the intricacies of the 'Naki change-over practice makes perfect. Julie being new to the teams was given much tuition before the walk started to ensure she this off pat – not sure I have ever seen such a worried look before. As Michelle says, you can't practice enough so she had Sherryn and Lorraine practising in the middle of the race. That's her story and she's sticking to it, there was no miscount of laps I am sure.

Let me talk about the teams – although when you go and judge you don't quite see everything. The A team consisting of Tanya, Helen, Anne, Serena, Marlene and Tony (how did he get in with the girls?) were outstanding. Their team name of "No time for the naughty chair" came true. No penalties at all, excellent walking from the whole team. I estimated 4:48 and they finished in a time of 4h43m32s – 11 minutes faster than last year. Tanya looked superb with her technique, when at her best she makes it look very easy. Helen and Anne probably walked their best 5K judged races with both of them going under 35 minutes. Serena looked the most relaxed I have seen her in a Judged race. Instead of worrying about the Judges she got on with walking and in doing so "presented herself" to the judges in a better manner. Marlene and Tony both walked their usual solid races. "No time for the naughty chair" were 5th team home in the A division.

The selection team seeded our 2 B teams so that we had the best possible team to beat Hawkes Bay. This was never going to be easy because like us they have some very solid walkers. It was difficult to juggle between having a top A team, a competitive second A team but then also a B team capable of retaining the trophy. In the end we went for Alan, Valda, Julie, Mike, Jeff and Wacky (notice nice split of 3 males and 3 females as was the top A team – which makes us an equal opportunity club). Mind you there are some in the club that don't seem to be able to tell the difference between the genders or possibly need glasses. As you know I always try to keep names out of it, I will just say he's from Hawera and has a beard. Part way through the first leg of the relay he asked "who is that guy in the lead?" – It was Lisa of Manawatu! Must do things differently south of the mountain I guess.

Taranaki to the Core all performed to their best. After an excellent tussle with Hawkes Bay they managed to retain the B division title in a time of 4h18m14s – 6 minutes faster than the previous year and 7 minutes better than estimate. Alan, Julie and Valda all walked at between 6m26s and 6m30s per K, which is fantastic consistency. Mike had his usual solid steam engine walk and Jeff had a sub 6m per K walk. Wacky sealed the victory with his exceptional 10K time. Valda looked superb with her technique yet again.

Our second B division team “Taranaki – in our hearts and soles” all walked very well. Michelle, Dave Barrett and Lorraine all had their best walks of the year and looked good doing it. Again Kathleen also walked at her best and this is never easy when you have to wait until the last leg of the relay. Sherryn did a very strong 10K leg despite having to stop to practise her change-over technique mid race. Ivor, well he is just a legend and turned in a very good 44 minutes for his 5K. The team finished in 5h7m2 seconds against my estimate of 5h10m.

Well done to our top team in the A division “Bona Fide Taranaki” who managed 2nd place in a time of 4h4m5s against my estimate of 4h2m. This team consisted of Rachel, Vanessa, Peter, Eric, Harry and Sandra – according to Michelle there was a 7th team member – Harric Tersey who very courageously took over from Harry with nearly 3 laps to go after a hamstring blew. Well done Eric, beyond the call of duty especially when you had man flu and courageously did your 10K in the first place (women just don’t understand this suffering). Well done to the whole team – no time spent in the sin bin. Vanessa is quite proud she not only did her fastest 5K for sometime but she got a red card for lifting – that is my dream as well! Rachel did the lead out leg and walked superbly – just a pleasure to watch, thought there might be fisticuffs at dawn though due to the antics of others. Peter walked strongly, he was a bit disappointed with his time, but considering what he went through on the journey down and then the banter in the motel I think he was tired from all the laughter. Eric walked very well for the 10K leg and also for his extra 3.5K. Harry looked extremely good for 3.5K until he got a puncture in the leg – he certainly looked deflated at that point. Sandra is deceptively quick, she had the worry and the honour of bringing the team home and walked a superb leg. As I said it’s never easy waiting around the whole day to do your leg, but Sandra handled it well.

We can’t leave this write up without mentioning the highlight of the day – Rachel found her vacation as an Announcer – who let her near it! That was the best entertainment I have had in a long time. According to Rachel we had famous walkers out there, such as Michael Jackson’s brother, Andrew, then we had David Bowie (not sure if many of you picked up on the fact that David Jones who was walking, was the real name of David Bowie). Michelle became Michelle ma belle. It just went on and on. Really did make the day and as a Judge trying to keep a straight face was impossible. Michelle reckons that Rachel could get a job as an Announcer at the Beep Beep C, because we can’t imagine the BBC employing her. I am sure though we all have to agree it was so much better than “you are witnessing history in the making” – beam me up Scottie!

Nearly there! Ivor says he is travelling down in the van next year, so hope everybody will join us on the 19th May 2013. The campers of Brian – “go the ‘ammers” (many thanks for Judging), Marlene, Anne, Wacky and Serena may not be able to join us – 4 out of the 5 won spot prizes – if they have the same luck with the lotto then they will probably be overseas on holiday.

The last word goes to Serena (you always have to let the females have the last word) – “our camper van rocked all night” – really hope it was the laughter!

Results

Team	Team Number	Name	Div	Lap 1	Lap 2	Lap 3	Lap 4	Lap 5	Lap 6	Lap 7	Lap 8	Total Time	Team Time	Time per K	Div Placing	K's Walked
Bona Fide Taranaki	8	Rachel Gilberd	A	05:10	06:50	06:44	06:46	07:00	06:54			39:24		05:29		7.195
Bona Fide Taranaki	8	Vanessa Lowl	A	07:06	07:17	07:30	07:21					29:14		05:51		5
Bona Fide Taranaki	8	Peter Fox	A	07:10	07:19	07:20	07:22	07:20	07:18			43:49		05:51		7.5
Bona Fide Taranaki	8	Eric Kemsley	A	06:31	06:51	06:57	07:06	07:10	07:22	07:27	07:33	56:57		05:42		10
Bona Fide Taranaki	8	Harry Terwiel	A	06:40	06:49	07:07	07:58	07:28	07:35			43:37		05:49		7.5
Bona Fide Taranaki	8	Sandra Moratti	A	07:47	07:46	07:46	07:45					31:04	4:04:05	06:13	2nd	5
No Time for the Naughty Chair	11	Tanya Campbell	A	06:14	08:25	08:36	08:43	08:44	08:41			49:23		06:52		7.195
No Time for the Naughty Chair	11	Anne Fraser	A	08:34	08:34	08:29	08:25					34:02		06:48		5
No Time for the Naughty Chair	11	Serena Coombes	A	08:27	08:28	08:19	08:21	08:14	08:04			49:53		06:39		7.5
No Time for the Naughty Chair	11	Tony Burrell	A	08:20	08:18	08:12	08:16	08:17	08:18	08:19	08:11	1:06:11		06:37		10
No Time for the Naughty Chair	11	Marlene White	A	08:06	08:04	08:20	08:26	08:17	08:16			49:29		06:36		7.5
No Time for the Naughty Chair	11	Helen Baverstock	A	08:37	08:49	08:45	08:23					34:34	4:43:32	06:55	5th	5
Taranaki to the Core	19	Alan Clarke	B	05:59	08:06	08:11	08:06	08:00	07:58			46:20		06:26		7.195
Taranaki to the Core	19	Julie Gardner	B	08:12	08:03	08:04	08:00					32:19		06:28		5
Taranaki to the Core	19	Jeff Wells	B	07:24	07:31	07:27	07:27	07:29	07:21			44:39		05:57		7.5
Taranaki to the Core	19	Dave Wackrow	B	06:43	06:38	06:41	07:02	07:21	07:33	07:41	07:42	57:21		05:44		10
Taranaki to the Core	19	Mike Nield	B	07:11	07:30	07:38	07:32	07:31	07:43			45:05		06:01		7.5
Taranaki to the Core	19	Valda Goodey	B	07:37	08:12	08:22	08:19					32:30	4:18:14	06:30	1st	5
Taranaki In our Hearts and Soles	13	Michelle Nicholson	B	06:47	09:05	09:06	09:13	09:16	09:15			52:42		07:19		7.195
Taranaki In our Hearts and Soles	13	Ivor Ellis	B	11:09	11:00	10:52	11:14					44:15		08:51		5
Taranaki In our Hearts and Soles	13	Dave Barrett	B	08:36	08:45	08:56	09:07	09:04	08:35			53:03		07:04		7.5
Taranaki In our Hearts and Soles	13	Sherryn Hardy	B	08:08	08:17	08:27	08:35	08:38	08:30	08:59	08:54	1:08:28		06:51		10
Taranaki In our Hearts and Soles	13	Lorraine Eldershaw	B	08:34	08:48	08:49	08:47	08:43	08:50			52:31		07:00		7.5
Taranaki In our Hearts and Soles	13	Kathleen Adamski	B	08:56	09:04	08:58	09:05					36:03	5:07:02	07:13	9th	5