

The 43rd 3 Peaks Mountain Race

Sunday, 15 March 2026

Race Director: Lydia Pattillo

Race Site Manager: Mark O'Neill

Leith Harrier & Athletic Club Inc. Dunedin

Report compiled by Leith Websites Admin

Weather: Partly cloudy day with rain midday clearing in the afternoon. High of 14 degrees Celsius

Nerves and uncontrollable variables

New Race Director – Lydia Pattillo

Sometimes I lie awake at night before a big race; the nerves and uncontrollable variables racing through my mind in worry of how my race will go. This weekend I lay awake, not for how my race would go but for how 600 other people's race would go! I threw myself in the deep end of Race Directorship for one of New Zealand's premier trail running events. I'd ran 3 Peaks six times before and volunteered just as many, I knew the training involved and what each runner would be facing out there. This year I "ran" 3 Peaks again, but it was different; it was about execution, management, box ticking, safety, service with a smile and conquering mountains of admin rather than terrain. Training comprised of weather warnings, numerous major tree fall, flooding and trail damage, dangerous wild animal encounters, road works on course, a broken arm and we cannot forget how the event almost became 2.9 Peaks.

Thanks to all those behind me in delivering the event. Our 3 Peaks management team and previous director Steve Tripp, the volunteers, the Leith club and community, our sponsors, the numerous supporting groups and organisations, and of course, the runners!

Aroha nui for now and see you again in 2027

Three New Records were set

(note that distances are approximate and may differ slightly from year to year)

26km

Male Gurus 60+ (New Record) Robert Downs 2026 02:43:03

Male Gurus 60+ (Previous Record) Andrew Sutherland 2021 02:46:58

56km

Female Veterans 50-59 (New Record) Bridget Douglas 2026 07:02:57

Female Veterans 50-59 (Previous Record) Prue Orchiston 2023 08:02:33

11km

Female Open (New Record) Maia Poutawera 2026 00:55:58

Female Open (Previous Record) Aly Craigie 2025 00:56:10



The 56km 3 Peaks Plus 1

Included the 2026 New Zealand & Otago Short Course Trail Running Championships

This was the 7th running of this event which included nearly all the iconic 26km Three Peaks route with a big detour. The number of finishers was 99. The extra 30km adds in another mountain with a brutally steep climb, some beautiful single tracks through native forest, a river crossing, a tunnel and a wee bit of mud. This year the event again included the prestigious New Zealand Short Course Trail Championships and the Otago Championship over the full 56km. See the championship podium results immediately below:

Male 20-34 Podium:

1	LOGAN GRIFFIN	05:23:22	First Overall
2	JOEL CARMAN	05:29:42	Second Overall
3	MATTHEW ADAMS	05:37:32	Third Overall

Female 20-34 Podium:

1	FRANCES REDMOND	06:05:09	First Female Overall
2	ODETTE JENNINGS	06:12:42	Second Female Overall
3	JULIA CHAMBERLAIN	06:18:38	Third Female Overall

Male 35-49 Podium:

5	HYWEL DINNICK	05:52:09	35-49 (1) Male (5)
13	STEVE ANDERSON	06:32:30	35-49 (2) Male (8)

Female 35-49 Podium:

17	ANGELA BISHOP	07:07:43	35-49 (1) Female (8)
20	ANNA O'BYRNE	07:33:31	35-49 (2) Female (11)

Female 50-59 Podium:

16	BRIDGET DOUGLAS	07:02:57	50-59 (1) Female (7)
23	SUE HENDRY	08:36:46	50-59 (2) Female (12)

Male 50-59 Podium:

22	CHRISTOPHER HOLMES	08:28:19	50-59 (1) Male (11)
24	BOGDAN NITA	08:43:01	50-59 (2) Male (12)
26	GRANT EDMONDSON	10:01:38	50-59 (3) Male (14)

Male 60-69 Podium:

25	ERIC SCHARPF	09:30:49	60-69 (1) Male (13)
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The 56km 3 Peaks Plus 1 Overall Podium Results

Championship and Non-Championship

Open Male

1	LOGAN GRIFFIN	05:23:22	20-34 (1)	Male (1)
2	JOEL CARMAN	05:29:42	20-34 (2)	Male (2)
3	MATTHEW ADAMS	05:37:32	20-34 (3)	Male (3)

Open Female

10	FRANCES REDMOND	06:05:09	20-34 (1)	Female (1)
12	ODETTE JENNINGS	06:12:42	20-34 (2)	Female (2)
13	JULIA CHAMBERLAIN	06:18:38	20-34 (3)	Female (3)

Male 35-49

6	HYWEL DINNICK	05:52:09	35-49 (1)	Male (6)
9	SEAN LATIMER	06:03:24	35-49 (2)	Male (9)
17	STEVE ANDERSON	06:32:30	35-49 (3)	Male (12)

Male 50-59

21	MATT COSGROVE	06:57:52	50-59 (1)	Male (15)
41	CRAIG PELVIN	08:02:33	50-59 (2)	Male (26)

Female 35-49

23	ANGELA BISHOP	07:07:43	35-49 (1)	Female (8)
29	ANNA O'BYRNE	07:33:31	35-49 (2)	Female (12)
39	CAMILLE BULOT	08:01:38	35-49 (3)	Female (15)

Male Under 20

37	KIERAN ROBINSON	07:56:59	Under 20 (1)	Male (23)
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Classic 26km 3 Peaks Mountain Run

The iconic 3 Peaks began in 1984 as a point to point race and has been run every year since. There have been a few tweaks to the course over the years as landowners have changed and permission has been granted or withdrawn. The current route was established in 2020 and runs entirely on public property using trails that are open all year round. The total distance is more than 26km, but less than 27km

Podium Results

Male Overall:

1	TIMOTHY JORGENSEN	02:05:58	20-34 (1) Male (1)
2	SIMON CROMARTY	02:08:27	35-49 (1) Male (2)
3	JAKE OWEN	02:12:18	20-34 (2) Male (3)

Female Overall:

6	KATIE MORGAN	02:29:13	35-49 (1) Female (1)
19	STEPHANIE WILSON	02:41:31	20-34 (1) Female (2)
26	JULIET DOWNS	02:44:58	20-34 (2) Female (3)

Male Under 20:

7	LEWIS BLAY	02:30:01	Under 20 (1) Male (6)
9	DAVID WAYNE	02:33:13	Under 20 (2) Male (8)
15	WILLIAM HARREX	02:40:40	Under 20 (3) Male (14)

Female Under 20:

52	ANNIE STOKES	03:00:39	Under 20 (1) Female (14)
81	AVA HINDRUP	03:12:06	Under 20 (2) Female (26)
113	KIMBERLEY IVERSEN	03:21:05	Under 20 (3) Female (42)

Male 35-49:

2	SIMON CROMARTY	02:08:27	35-49 (1) Male (2)
13	MATTHEW COLLINS	02:38:47	35-49 (2) Male (12)
16	NEIL SMITH	02:40:46	35-49 (3) Male (15)

Female 35-49:

6	KATIE MORGAN	02:29:13	35-49 (1) Female (1)
29	KRISTY EYLES	02:46:02	35-49 (2) Female (5)
30	KATIE WRIGHT	02:46:10	35-49 (3) Female (6)

Male 50-59:

10	ANDREW LONIE	02:33:56	50-59 (1) Male (9)
12	CRAIG IVERSEN	02:37:39	50-59 (2) Male (11)
88	WILL RAYMENT	03:14:48	50-59 (3) Male (57)

Female 50-59:

89	EVELYN ARMSTRONG	03:15:18	50-59 (1) Female (32)
116	NATASHA PRIOR	03:21:44	50-59 (2) Female (44)
133	CARLI RICHTER	03:27:30	50-59 (3) Female (50)

Male 60-69:

22	ROBERT DOWNS	02:43:03	60-69 (1) Male (20)
40	DAVID CORMACK	02:53:06	60-69 (2) Male (31)
63	WAYNE PORTEOUS	03:03:18	60-69 (3) Male (47)

Female 60-69:

252	KATE HOBSEY	04:09:50	60-69 (1) Female (105)
265	WENDY FALLON	04:18:42	60-69 (2) Female (112)
281	SANDY WELTAN	04:26:23	60-69 (3) Female (122)

Male 70+

284	PETER NORRISH	04:27:52	70+ (1) Male (161)
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11km Trail “Over the Summit” Run/Walk

The race started on Leith Valley Rd. After a short sprint (400m) along Leith Valley Rd the runners and walkers took a turn into a beautiful single track that lead through some native bush, meadow and forestry up on to Cowan Road. Then it was a left turn on up to the summit of Mount Cargill and a 4km descent down a single track to Bethune’s Gully. Then the participants followed the road out onto Norwood Street and down Norwood Street for about 1km and to the finish at Chingford Park

Male (all ages)

1	THEO NICHOLSON	00:50:06
2	GRAHAM FISHER	00:50:43
3	GEOFF WILLIAMSON	00:51:13

Female (all ages)

1	MAIA POUTAWERA	00:55:58
2	ALICE CUTHBERT	00:57:11
3	BRI JOL	00:58:26

***An awesome review by Chris Sole,
President of Leith Harriers and Athletics Club***

Wow, where does one start? Five hundred finishers, from all over the world, across all 3 Peaks Mountain Races plus 130 children on the 1km Chingford Trail run, all are to be saluted. Intense racing rivalry up front, only seconds separating leaders across the age groups, dedication, desire, determination to finish whatever it cost, at the rear. We at the Leith Valley Motorway Bridge were mere spectators, watching a few seconds, of the drama unfolding within each competitors' minds, the deteriorating condition of their physical bodies, and the camaraderie that had developed over the challenging climbs, descents, undulations, the energy-sapping mud encased bodies, hands, legs and shoes, bruises and cuts, the Morrison wasp stings and terrain difficulties overcome. Believe it or not, I did not take a single photograph, to share with you today. The images and stories were shared in real time. Family supporters, anxiously awaiting the arrival of their loved ones, happiness of seeing them pass through, cheering, providing sustenance, encouraging despite the obvious hardship experienced, children, hugs and kisses, brief, special moments remembered. This is our Gold, our positive hope for the future as Community, our belief in and care for one another, overcoming hardship and adversity, delving deeply into both external competitive and internal complex mind dimensions. This is our Leith Vision in action. Doing what we love and inviting you to join, in whatever way you feel you can contribute. Each of you becomes a Leader wherever you find yourself. Within the race or as the Volunteer on the sidelines. Some powerful, some weak, yet together, a moment of beauty, calm, peace, sharing of resources, for many, transcending our differences in the tumultuous world of war. The results and lists of Volunteers acknowledge and recognise the vast number of Leith and wider Community Tuesday/Thursday Group Regulars who contributed and participated. The race between father, Robert (MM60-69 1st, all the way from the UK) and daughter, Juliet Downes (3rd F, our local outstanding UK Dr import) crystallises the essences of 3 Peaks. Guess who was leading at the Motorway Bridge! Thank you one and all and well done.



Photo: Chris Sole - The infamous Morrisons, the Exit on to the 4WD

The Volunteers, well over 100, a vast network of knowledgeable individuals, pieces of a difficult jigsaw, perfectly put together before and on the pinnacle, Race Day. You cleared and marked Tracks, fed and watered, directed and delivered the 43rd 3 Peaks on a perfect Dunedin Day. Congratulations and thank you for sharing your valuable time, enabling this Community Local Event to happen, and I hope you feel proud of your involvement.

Thank you, Race Director, Lydia Pattillo, and Leadership Team, Mark O'Neill, James Pemberton, Siobhan McKinlay, Gaya Gnanalingam.

Thank you: Mark, Gaya, Margaret Knox, Siobhan, Ben Pigou, James, Pete Hughes, Archie & Frankie McKinlay, Darryl & Kirsty Sutton (Registration of runners and marshals)

Richard & Margie Campbell (all Volunteer Gear), Orlaith Heron, Marc Boulle, Croydon Paton, Andrew Wilson (Gear Checks),

Course Clearing: Green Hut Track Group, Dave McLean, Wayne Porteous, Gavin Chin, Phil Page, Judith Bateup and many others, including DCC contractors.

Course marking: Lydia Pattillo plus many helpers (I am sorry but do not have all your names)

St John's paramedics for the event and First aiders.

56km Start: Lydia, Margaret, Rocky Allan, James

Tail end: Nick Wooliscroft and Ian Morison

Pete Murray (reservoir dam), Jo Gibson (Craigieburn turn), Kleff Tan (Tanner Track),

Orlaith Heron Leon Miyahara (Craigieburn track), Bella Bloomfield, Roger Caton, Ruby Lee, Matt Dent (Wakari Rd/Tanner Rd, Pineapple Track), Bivouac Volunteers + Floriane Herbillon, Sophie Hoexum (Bullring- Aid Station), Wendy Tripp, Warren

Payne, Trevor Grant (Bottom of Longridge Rd on Whare Flat Rd. Aid station), Vicki Long & son (Start of Tunnel Track, Count+Radio 2 [56K Timing Check

Point]), Steve Stewart + Eleanor Crabill (Tunnel on Tunnel Track), Hayden Scorringe (McRaes Stream crossing), Ruth Jeffery; Maria Mikhisor (Intersection of Racemans to Powder Creek detour), Colin Tocher (Silverstream crossing), Ralph Miller (Bottom of Powder Ridge – Radio 3), Grant Koedyk, Aaron Eyles, Henry Eyles (Powder Ridge/Long Ridge intersection (Bacon Knob) Aid station. Radio 4 [56K Timing Check Point]. Provide Food and water, record numbers), Chris Taylor and Steve Tripp (Pulpit Rock Radio 5. Place and remove Markings from Hightop to Pulpit Rock), Otago Tramping Club (High Top intersection Aid station Radio 6)

26km/11km

Mark O'Neill, Lydia Pattillo, Gaya Gnanalingam, Margaret Knox, Pete Hughes, Marc Boulle (Start line- Chingford)

Traffic marshals Woodhaugh St and road crossings

Tail end - Gavin Chin; Hamish McKinlay

Transport - Big bus and Monarch with driver to drive to Sullivan's Dam Ben (open gate for bus and lock gate after bus leaves), Lydia and James (Start line briefing)

Linda van der Kroef (At the reservoir dam), Martin Jones, Danny Baillie, Nathan Shanks, Leon Miyahara (Craigieburn steps and tracks to Tanner Rd), Nicky & Flossie Bisley (Wakari Rd/Tanner Rd, TMC manage cars), Pete Hughes (Bottom of Pineapple track), Matt Dent (Pineapple track T intersection), Mark O'Donnell, Lisa O'Donnell, Leanne Hill, Tiana Kyte, Christine Montgomery (Flagstaff summit, turns), Graeme Fotheringham, Craig Walters (Flagstaff Aid station), Dan Pettigrew (Flagstaff track to Swampy), Charlotte Cotter, Rocky Allan, Jenni Topliss (Swampy Summit – Aid station, record, food and drink, [26/56K Timing Check Point] – 4WD Club), Andy Smith, Hilary Lawrence (Leith Valley at bottom of water department track/Bottom of Morrisons, [26/56K Timing Check Point]), Sarina Anderson; Greer Gilmer (Leith valley road intersection with Thompson Rd), Alan Somerville & Ruth Barnett; Bruce & Judy Norrish (Dryden Rd/ Leith Valley), Chris, Gisela Sole, Steve Stewart (helped out) (Leith Valley Road at entrance to new track Aid station), Team 1: Paul Anderson, Alice Bennett, Hope van der Zouwe, Anna Clark; Kathy McKendry and Team 2 Aly Craigie, Hugo Swinson, Nola Kinaston, Luke Henderson (Mt Cargill aid and timing), Mel Orchard + Connor Marshall, Emily & Rich Harris (Bethunes carpark), Donna Tumaru, Vanessa Hunt; Janelle Wierenga & Claire Charleton (Norwoord St/Bethunes driveway), Pam McKinlay, Tom McKinlay (Cnr Norwood St/Tannadice St), James Bishop, Jenny Winter, Dave McLean (Cnr Tannadice St/Dryden St)

Finish line

Site Manager - Mark O'Neill

Assistant site manager - Ben Pigou

Safety Manager - James Pemberton

Admin Entries/Results/Prizes - Margaret Knox

Manual record: - Marc Boule, Greg Johnston

Hand out finish medals - Susan Craig, Kevin Blair, Daryl & Kirsty Sutton

Spot prize table - Jessica Kats

Provide food, sell merchandise - Frankie McKinlay, Annabelle Martin, Rata Jamieson, Georgie

Winneke, Richard, & Margie Campbell

Finish line photos:?

Extra help - Gaya, Robyn O'Neill, Orlaith Heron

Volunteer coordinator - Gaya Gnanalingam

MC - Rach McKinney, Steve Tripp

Finish line - kids race - David Liddell, Sandor Toth

Finish the clean up crew! - James Pemberton, Ben Pigou, Gaya Gnanalingam, Lydia

Pattillo, Mark O'Neill + athletes and all able-bodied individuals