

The 22nd Three Peaks Mountain Race Sunday 1 May 2005



After the snow and hail of the previous Sunday forced postponement, there couldn't have been more of a contrast with Dunedin putting on a glittering May Day for the final race of the mountain race series (Great Waipouri Foot Race, Pulpit Rock, Three Peaks).

26km Race

Open Men's runner Stafford Thompson had an excellent run cracking the 2 hour barrier in finishing in 1 hour 59 minutes 27 seconds followed closely by second the second placed Open Men's runner Bevan Stevens in 2 hours 1 minute 59 seconds. The third placed runner across the line and also in the Open Men's grade was Eddie Smith 2 hours 4 minutes 10 seconds.

Next across the line in fourth place overall and first in the Master Men's 40-49 grade was the tough as teak mountain trail runner Leith's Chris Sole in an excellent time of 2 hours 9 minutes 6 seconds. Not far behind him in fifth place overall and fourth in the Open Men's grade was 16yr old runner Angus "Gus" Taylor in 2 hours 10 minutes 45 seconds, a former Leith junior who arguably put in the performance of the day, despite slipping and falling on the bridge on the descent into Bethune's Gully from the summit of Mt Cargill, resulting in a nasty gash on his knee.

Filling the sixth spot was Open Women's winner Sarah Chisnall in 2:11:22, although not without a strong challenge from second Open Women runner and many time winner Shireen Crumpton who finished seventh overall in 2:14:17. In eighth place overall was second placed MM40-49 runner Brian Pascoe in 2:14:58 followed in ninth place overall by third placed M40-49 runner Steve Masson in 2:16:02.

Leith's Marc Boullé (12th overall) won the Master Men's M50+ grade with an excellent 2:17:28 breaking Gene Sanderson's MM50+ record of 2:19.00 set the previous year. He finished among a tide of Leith men that swept down Norwood St, including Brian Pascoe, Richard Hendry (4th MM40-49 and tenth overall in 2:16:24), Ian Thomas (5th Open Mens runner and eleventh overall in 2:17.00) and Andrew Perry (6th Open Men's runner and 13th overall in 2:19:15).

Second Master Men's 50+ runner and former record holder from the previous year, Gene Sanderson came through in 22nd place overall in 2:30:03 followed by third Master Men's 50+ runner Phil Napper in 2:34:14 in 25th place overall.

Third woman across the line and also third Open Women's runner was Fiona Lindsay in 2:36:57 who was placed 28th overall.

Fourth Open Women's runner Alice Baker in 2:40:34 and 29th overall and fourth woman overall and fifth placed Open Women's runner Madeleine Munro in 2:48:39 who was 33rd overall and fifth woman overall had particularly good runs.

For the third time in the series, Leith's Penny Mitchell (3:00:32, 42nd overall) and Jan Craig (3:03:11, 46th overall) won their respective MW35-44 and MW45+ grades.

Second MW35-44 runner Jennifer Bentley finished in 3:01:48 with the third place MW35-44 Rachel van Gorp finishing in 3:09:04.

Second placed MW45+ runner Sally Nicoll finished in 3:05:08 and third placed MW45+ runner Barbara Patrick finished in 3:10:16.

2-Person Teams Race 26km

*Woodhaugh Gardens, Flagstaff, Swampy Summit (team changeover), Mt Cargill, Chingford Park
First Leg approx 11km, Second Leg approx 15km*

The shorter first leg was tougher due to two long uphills and one long downhill, the second leg took in two long downhills and one long uphill

In the men's teams race and first team overall to cross the line was the University-Ariki pairing of Andrew Davidson (Start to Swampy Summit in 0:56:48) and Quentin Rew (Swampy Summit to finish in 1:04:40) for an excellent combined time of 2:01:28 who were too fast for the Leith team of Neale McLanachan (Start to Swampy Summit in 1:00:20) and Andrew Lonie (Swampy Summit to finish in 1:04:06). The Leith team nonetheless ended up with a very good combined time of 2:04:26. Third team to finish was the Men's team of Dougal Allan (1:03:40) and Ben McDowall (1:10:44) for a combined time of 2:14:24.

The first Women's team was the team of Anna Frost (1:01:11) and Rosie Christensen (1:27:04) for a combined time of 2:28:15.

The first Mixed team was the team of Annika Edmondson (1:22:38) and Jeremy Senior (1:20:58) for a combined time of 2:43:36.

The race was followed by an excellent and well-attended meal and prizegiving at the 'Leith local' Normanby Tavern. Thanks to the athletes, the spectators and supporters and all those organisers and helpers who combined to make this another memorable day of running, not forgetting those who had cleared the tracks of weeds and other obstacles in the weeks prior to the race. A special thanks also to our sponsors and the farm owners who gave permission for the contestants to tramp over their paddocks.