

# The 2012 Three Peaks 1 April 2012

**Weather conditions:  
Gloriously sunny and calm conditions**

## **Dunedin's 29th Skyline Challenge**

Ariki's Dougal Thorburn, the 2010 winner, showed his complete domination of off-road/trail running in Dunedin by comfortably regaining his Three Peaks Mountain Run title on Sunday 1 April 2012. In perfect sunny and calm weather conditions he strode in over fifteen minutes ahead of Caversham's Peter Meffan, and 2011 open men's grade winner, who had taken an unscheduled twenty second detour at the finish.

Third placed Stewart Paul (Ariki) who was six minutes behind Meffan was also the first placed Master Men's 35-49 runner. The fourth runner home was open men's runner Nathan Bell. Fifth runner in was Master Men's 50 runner Tony McManus from Olympic/New Brighton club in Christchurch.

The first woman to finish was master's women 35-49 runner Leith's Louisa Andrew who held out Whitney Dagg. Andrew took the master women's title and Dagg won the open women's title.

The first team to finish was the men's team of Matthew Hooper and Richard Ford.

### ***Dougal Thorburn at top of Mt Cargill***



*"Coming off low training it was all a bit of the unknown really," Thorburn said. "But I'm pleased with that."*

Thorburn also won the King of the Mountain prize for being first to the Swampy Summit and still finishing the race.

### **Detailed race report**

**Dougal Thorburn** in claiming his Three Peaks title revealed that his effort came off a month of light training involving training runs just two or three times a week over no more than 12km and he decided on the morning of the race that the conditions and weather warranted another crack at regaining his title and perhaps breaking his own record on the new course. Thorburn eased into the lead early in the race and never relinquished it keeping to a steady conservative pace. He had a 1min 20sec lead on Peter Meffan and the 150 strong field at Flagstaff Summit and extended his lead in almost perfect underfoot conditions to the finish. He missed breaking his record of 1hr 55min 44sec set on the new course in 2010 but he was well content with his comfortable win and time of 1hr 57min 41sec. Peter Meffan wisely decided early on not to mix it with Thorburn, and settled into his own pace finishing second in 2hr 13min 17sec, even after near the finish missing the right turn off Norwood Road into Tannadice Street and adding some twenty seconds to his time. Meffan was in no danger at that stage of being overtaken by third placed

Stewart Paul from Ariki. Stewart Paul finished in 2hrs 19min 11sec winning the master men's 35-49 title. Richard Hendry finished second in the master men's grade in 2hr 29min 3sec with Christopher Holmes third in 2hr 31min 53sec. The fourth runner home overall and third open men's runner was Nathan Bell finishing in 2hr 23min 59sec.



Bell was followed closely in fifth place by Tony McManus (*in photo on left*) of Christchurch club Olympic/New Brighton. McManus won the master men's 50+ title in 2hr 24min 42sec. Former Leith Harriers runner McManus also holds the New Zealand 3000m MM60-64 track record set this year at the Caledonian ground in Dunedin. Second master men's 50+ runner to finish was Steve Masson in 2hr 39min 39sec with James Lang third in 2hr 46min 7sec.

***Louisa Andrew***  
*pictured in photo*

*“Andrew also won the Queen of the Mountain prize for being first woman to the top of Swampy Summit and still finishing the race.”*

Fresh from her victory in the Miners Trail event three weeks ago, Louisa Andrew held out a determined challenge from open women's grade runner Whitney Dagg to win the master women's title in 2hrs 37mins 44secs. Dagg finished in 2hrs 38mins 41secs winning the open women's title. Andrew took a slight lead from the start but had to contend with the consistent threat of Dagg over the summits of Flagstaff and Swampy. From thereon she managed to put some distance between herself and Dagg. But Dagg did not give up and came back into contention over Mt Cargill. Andrew again proved too strong on the downhill and cantered through Bethune's Gully to the finish at Chingford Park, crossing the finish line 57sec clear of Dagg. Third woman across the line was Anna Yeoman. Her excellent time of 2hrs 43mins 54secs earned her second place in the open women's grade.



Behind them Holly McKee and Alice Barach were battling it out for third place in the open women's grade and fourth place overall in the women's field. Neither could gain a significant advantage and only at the bridge crossing on to Chingford Park and the finishing stretch did McKee nudge ahead in an exciting finish, crossing for third in 3hr 4min 1sec with Barach 3sec adrift in fourth. Heidi Baillie was second in the master women's 35 grade in 3hr 23min 26sec. Helen Beattie was third in 3hr 24min 5sec. There was also some keen competition for the master women's 50 title with eventual winner Karen Ryan finishing in 3hr 30min 57sec to second placed Sally Nicoll's 3hr 33min 17sec and third placed Wendy Busby's 3hr 50min 47sec.

### **Teams Race**



Once again there was keen competition amongst the teams. The first team to finish was the men's team of Matthew Hooper and Richard Ford with a combined time of 2hr 25min 24sec. This team was comfortably ahead of the strong second placed mixed team of David Rush and Julie Wilson whose combined time was 2hr 33min 43sec. Rush and Wilson won the mixed team title by holding out the title contending mixed team of Paul Campbell and Sophie Wilkinson who finished not far behind in 2hr 36min 14sec. The team of Donna Young and Evelyn Armstrong won the women's teams title in 2hr 46min 34sec. Another good performance came from the second placed men's team of Fergus Stewart and Alex Brinded which finished in 2hr 39min 44sec.

**Richard Ford** *in photo*

### **Walkers**

Earlier on a group of recreational walkers had tackled the circular 10km road/track/paddock walk from Chingford Park up through Bethune's Gully and the Mt Cargill track and farm paddocks on Pine Hill to finish back at Chingford Park. Tom Cockerill set a fast pace emerging at the finish first after 1hr 02min 39sec of steady walking. Not far behind was David Scobie who finished in 1hr 03min 51sec. There was a battle to see who would finish third and fourth with a photo finish between Vicki Dewar and Sue Jopson who both had the same time of 1hr 09min 59sec.



### **View from top of Mt Cargill**

It appears that most enjoyed themselves immensely with so far only positive reports coming back from the competitors and spectators alike. There are places where improvements can be made “aren't there always” and these will be discussed and implemented where necessary. We welcome feedback from competitors, spectators and helpers to ensure that from now on each year will be even better than the year before. Lastly, we would like to thank the competitors, their families, the officials, the weather too, and all those who helped make this an event to remember. We look forward to the 30th running of the Three Peaks Mountain Race next year in 2013.