

The 32nd Three Peaks Mountain Race

Sunday 12 April 2015

Note: distances are approximate only

26km Event

Defending champion Stafford Thompson won his third consecutive Three Peaks on Sunday, holding off a strong challenge from Jonah Smith. Looking ahead to the 32km Routeburn Classic in two weeks time, Thompson could not resist defending the Three Peaks Open Men's title in one of his favourite races. "This is a really good event," he said at the finish. Most of the 26km race was held in light rain, but Thompson said track conditions, although muddy in certain sections, were not as bad as they were in the previous two years. Thompson's time of 2hrs 5mins 37secs was a bit slower than in the previous two years, but he was pleased as he didn't feel as fit as he was previously. "I was hoping to run this a bit easier, but Jonah really pushed me," he said. Thompson and Smith separated themselves from the field of 112 runners from the start in Woodhaugh, to hold a constant and comfortable lead over the three peaks of Flagstaff, Swampy and Cargill. When the two reached the run up to Mt Cargill, it was then that Thompson was able to pull away. Smith's legs were cramping, which slowed his run on the descent to Bethunes Gully. Such was the state of Smith's legs that they went from under him on the run across the bridge heading into Bethunes Gully. Despite blood running down his leg, he was able to hold on for second place, crossing in 2hrs 7mins 11secs.

There was a great three-way tussle for third between Rob Creasy, Shaun Barlow and Peninsula Challenge champion Neale McLanachan. The three only separated on the run across Chingford Park to the finish, with Creasy finishing third in 2hrs 18mins 51secs, ahead of Barlow (2hrs 18mins 54sec) and McLanachan (2hrs 19mins 4secs).

Sarah Chisnall successfully defended her open women's title in 2hr 25min 39sec. It was a sixth title in 10 years for Chisnall, placing her amongst the elite group in the event's 30 year history. "This is a fantastic event," she said at the finish yesterday. "It has everything off road imaginable, and the weather will always play a part, which makes it more of a challenge.

Teams Event (full 26km event)

The team of Andrew Lonie and Oliver O'Sullivan were first to finish the two person team section in 2hr 26min 35sec. Second team to finish was Marco Kleinlangvelsloo (1:15:19) and Brian Adams (1:14:29) for a combined time of 2:29:48, Third was the first mixed team of Ollie Yeoman (1:07:28) and Monica Yeoman (1:31:03) in a combined time of 2:38:31. In fourth place was the first Open Women's team of Josie Hare (1:30:52) and Georgy Pakeho (1:49:28) in 3:20:20.

Race the Summit (Woodhaugh Gardens, Flagstaff, Swampy) 11km

Open Men's runner Brandon de Graaf was the first Race the Summit runner to get to the top of Swampy Summit. His time was 1hr 11mins 25secs. Second was Open Men's runner Jelte Budding in 1:23:06. The third runner to get to the top was Open Women's runner Jordan Bone who finished in 1:25:51. Although this race only has two official grades to count – Open Men and Open Women, there were some sterling efforts from the Master's grades runners too. Men's 35-49 runner Tom McKinlay finished fifth overall in 1:27:47 whilst Masters Men's 50+ runner Steve Martin finished seventh in 1:37:57.

Recreational Walk (Woodhaugh Gardens, Flagstaff, Swampy) 11km

The first three walkers to finish the tough 11km walk were Blair Robinson (MM35) in 1:44:21, second was Rosemary Connolly (Open Women) in 1:45:25 and then third was Martin Watt (Open Men) in 1:46:24.