

The 2nd Three Peaks Mountain Race

Autumn of 1985

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26km Mountain Race *(distance approximate)*

Route: Woodhaugh St, Flagstaff, Swampy Summit, Mt Cargill, Chingford Park

Forward

Saraha and Peter Haines along with John McMecking and the Otago Hill Runners Association, once again organised the Three Peaks Mountain Race, the 1984 version having been so very successful.

This year there were a number of top athletes taking part: Euan Robertson, who finished sixth in the 3km steeplechase at the Montreal Olympics in 1976; John Campbell, who was to finish 12th in the marathon in Seoul in 1988 and who reportedly ran the Three Peaks in his spikes; Pat Meffan; David Gardner; Kevin Hallberg; Stuart Melville and of course the great Derek Turnbull who would go on to set 25 Masters Athletics World Records in distances ranging from the mile to the marathon in the years to come. These athletes were all vying for a piece of the pie.

The 1985 Race

Again the race was eagerly looked forward to by many runners in Dunedin and beyond. It was again a very keenly contested affair. Unfortunately, we do not have from our sourced archives many time records or records of any runners apart from the podium finishers in various age and gender categories. These and other details such as weather conditions may become available as we research further.

Defending Open Men's champion Chip Dunkley, ran an even faster time becoming the first runner to break two hours for the course. His time was 1 hour 58 minutes 40 seconds. Second across the line was Open Men's runner Pat Meffan and third was Open Men's runner David Gardiner.

Fiona Green won the Open Women's race with Debbie Miles second.

Bob Clarkson who had finished third in the Veteran Men's grade in the inaugural run in 1984 this time won the grade with an excellent run. Well-known Dunedin artist Ron Esplin finished second with legendary runner and well-known Southland farmer Derek Turnbull back in third place.

Alison Jones took out the Veteran Women's title. Clare Jordon finished second. Ellen Hight finished third.

Last updated 5 September 2020 – Marc Boullé