

# TAN RELAYS SAT SEP 20, 2008

## REPORT & RESULTS

Saturday morning, September 20, brought the final race of the 2008 winter cross country season. Geelong had 3.67 teams that seems to fit in well with a 3.83km lap of the Tan! For the Div 1 Men, 2<sup>nd</sup> overall for the season was guaranteed behind the ever consistent Box Hill regardless of what happened on the day. But there was still a point to prove. We had never won this event with Box Hill beating us in each outing since the relay was first held in 2005. This fact was not lost upon young Ryan Christian who spent the entire bus trip analysing the likely outcome. By the time we arrived he was still debating the likely time Troopy would run in the final leg and I thought certain he'd be a spent force and mental mess come actual race time!

As with all good relays, the teams changed countless times in the week prior with the standard 6am Saturday morning call spelling the final amendment courtesy of a good going gastro. Disappointing for those affected but it provided me with yet another bowel affliction to include in my report! Chris Sly had once again fired up the Oberon Secondary College minibus that was up for the trip despite having had a late night out with the Oberon staff at the 'G' the night before.

At 9am the gun (actually the whistle) commenced proceedings. The gun sounded about 5 secs later which caused some confusion at the start as you can see on the [YouTube](#) coverage. In the Div 1 men, Nick Wightman led us off. I don't use this term loosely (ok, I've used it a few times recently) but it would again be an understatement to say that Nick ran an absolute blinder! He handed over to Matt McDonough with a group of 3 in equal 3<sup>rd</sup> place



**Nick Wightman flying towards the finish**

in a time of 11.18. This time would subsequently prove to be the fastest of any of the Geelong runners and the 7<sup>th</sup> fastest of the day. Matt took off after the 2 ahead and now can confidently say that you should not aim to close 20 sec deficits in the first 500m, especially when Anderson St hill lies literally just round the corner! Matt spent the last 2/3rds of his run trying to retrieve his car doors that had been blown off and to his credit, still managed to record a fantastic time of 11.24. The 2 ahead (Athletics Essendon & Ballarat City), however, managed to stay ahead. The plus side for us was that the 2 ahead were unlikely to have the depth to keep ahead and we now had almost 90 secs on Box Hill!

Michael McNaughton and Ryan Christian were to follow. When Michael handed over, the 2 above teams were still leading and had a number of teams wondering if they truly would come back. Leg 4 would see this happen with Ryan passing both and in the process being passed by Toby Rayner from Glenhuntly who ran one of the fastest legs of the day. Box Hill were starting to make a charge but were still a fair distance back.

Leg 5 was my leg and I took off after Glenhuntly and with the hope that I would see nothing of Box Hill prior to handing over to Troopy. This would be the case but again the lead changed as Knox ran past me in the last km at the same time as I managed to edge past Glenhuntly. Troopy was pumped for a win but would the marathon of 3 weeks prior, the holiday with little training in the US or the beers the night before conspire to slow him down. Yes and no. He hit the lead up Anderson St and after that, there was no way he was going to let anyone past. Troopy crossed the line first amidst a very excited Geelong team to finish 20 secs ahead of Box Hill, followed by Glenhuntly then Knox. Having won the first relay of the season and now the last, this was a very satisfying result!

Meanwhile, the Div 1 women were having their own battles. Freyja Troop led us off also fresh from the US trip. Whether she had also indulged the night before, I'm not sure... Next up was Julie McNamara. After knocking out another very solid run, she handed over to the 2 Geelong stalwarts - Kristen Wyatt then Eliesha Byrt. Kristen & Eliesha were both about to become the only 2 Geelong athletes to compete in EVERY AV race for the season! Overall the women finished 12<sup>th</sup> and their consistency during the season was responsible for keeping the women's team in the Division 1 competition for 2009 after finishing 10<sup>th</sup> in the series. Well done.

Our junior teams were similarly out to prove a point. The U'16 boys opted to make a last minute change to the running order. The fact that they were sitting next to Ryan on the bus I'm sure played a large part in such tactics. They may well have paid dividends as the team of Lewis Clark, Jesse Shields & Jackson Hamill-Beach finished 2<sup>nd</sup> just over 40 secs behind Frankston. The 0.67 U'14 girls team lacked numbers but not enthusiasm. Both Wendy Parish & Shantelle Maurer aimed high with their pre-race predictions and whilst falling slightly short, both ran well and looked like they had a great time.

Finally, a big thanks to our officials: Chris Sly, Lyn Taylor & Dave Wynn. Thanks again to Chris Sly for driving the minibus and to Athletics Victoria for again covering these travel costs.

## RESULTS

### Division One Men - Overall 1st

1. Nick Wightman	11.18
2. Matt McDonough	11.24
3. Michael McNaughton	12.06
4. Ryan Christian	11.45
5. Brett Coleman	12.08
6. Lee Troop	11.26

### Division One Women - Overall 12th

1. Freyja Troop	17.47
2. Julie McNamara	15.39
3. Kristen Wyatt	14.34
4. Eliesha Byrt	18.40

### U'16 Boys - Overall 2nd

1. Lewis Clark	13.44
2. Jesse Shields	13.48
3. Jackson Hamill-Beach	13.05

### U'14 Girls

1. Wendy Parish	17.02
2. Shantelle Maurer	17.55

## OFFICIALS

1. Chris Sly
2. Lyn Taylor
3. Dave Wynn

## **Geelong Region Team Awards:**

### **Open Women:**

3 votes: Kristen Wyatt

2 votes: Julie McNamara

1 vote: Freyja Troop

### **Open Men**

3 votes: Nick Wightman

2 votes: Matt McDonough

1 vote: Lee Troop

### **Junior Women:**

3 votes: Wendy Parish

2 votes: Shantelle Maurer

### **Junior Men**

3 votes: Jackson Hamill-Beach

2 votes: Lewis Clark

2 votes: Jesse Shields

## **BUSH INN AWARD**

The Bush Inn Award for the final round was gratefully accepted by myself. Chris Sly opted to make this decision so rest assured I am not attempting to profiteer from my managerial position! That said, I will certainly enjoy the hospitality of the **BUSH INN!**