

Burnley Half Marathon

Sun Sept 7, 2008

Step back 12 months. The Burnley Half, held over a flat, fast multi-lap course, proved to be one of our most successful ever. Our entire men's div 1 team finished in the top 7 places overall with Lee Troop victorious ahead of Rowan Walker. And so it was in 2008 that our team ventured down the highway to see if we could emulate another race victory for Geelong both individually and for the team.

The day began early given the 8am race start. Fortunately, the Honda Odyssey was again up for the job thanks to Phil Christian and was able to accommodate almost the entire Geelong team! The men's team consisted of many of our regulars but 2 new faces in Jason Woolhouse, competing with the cross country team for the first time ever, and Dave Wynn, competing for the first time this season. For those not familiar with Jason, he has a very impressive background with mid-13min 5000m times. He also boasts a marathon PB in Berlin only marginally over 3 hrs that consisted of 20kms in about 62mins as a pacer followed by a rest / walk / jog for 22kms waiting for the bus to pick him up that never materialised! The women's team consisted only of 3 but all with high hopes. Kristen Wyatt was hoping for a sub-80 min run, Cathryn Hoare a PB and Eliesha Byrt a finish in what would be her first half marathon.



Jason Woolhouse



Dave Wynn

Upon race start, it quickly became apparent that Jason Woolhouse was going to have a lonely run. He had cleared out by the first turnaround at 1.5kms and as the race progressed, simply got further and further ahead to eventually finish 2mins clear of 2nd in just over 66mins. Ryan Christian who has been in sparkling form of late, was hoping to break his 75min half PB with a sub-70min run. With less than 1.5kms to run, Ryan had to contend with more than just fatigue - a fellow competitor only metres ahead had literally "guts'd it out" and in so doing, formed a force field that Ryan could not bring himself to breach! In the end he crossed the line in 70.13 and exactly how much time he lost from "breathing difficulties" we will never know!



Ryan Christian

In uneventful style (so I will avoid blow by blow descriptions) the rest of our men's team piled in. First was Nick Wightman (who I must thank for stepping well beyond his usual distance to support the team) followed by myself, Michael McNaughton, Wes Benson & Dave Wynn. Most pleasingly, this secured us the team victory in Div 1 by almost 100 points.

The women meanwhile were having battles of their own. Kristen's dedication didn't match that of the runner above and she opted to take a pit-stop off the course. Consequently her goal of sub-80 was not to be. In contrast, Cathryn was having a cracker and soldiered on to a 2 min PB. Similarly, Eliesha was having the time of her life (she had been talking about this run for about 5 months) and did a great job to crack 2 hrs. Her only concern after the race was to determine when there was another half on! Overall we finished 10th in the women's div 1.



Kristen Wyatt

Results:

Mens Open 15k

Jason Woolhouse	1 st	66.15
Ryan Christian	10 th	70.13
Nick Wightman	17 th	71.46
Brett Coleman	22 nd	72.36
Michael McNaughton	36 th	74.55
Wes Benson	37 th	75.02
Dave Wynn	47 th	76.37

Women's Open 4k

Kristen Wyatt	26 th	89.16
Cathryn Hoare	35 th	94.24
Eliesha Byrt	71 st	119.28

Geelong Region Team Awards:

SANDOWN RELAYS

Open Women:

3 votes: Kristen Wyatt

2 votes: Cathryn Hoare

1 vote: Eliesha Byrt

Open Men

3 votes: Jason Woolhouse

2 votes: Ryan Christian

1 vote: Nick Wightman

BUSH INN AWARD

The worthy winner of the **Bush Inn Award** for this round is **Cathryn Hoare**. Cathryn is another of our runners who has consistently competed for the Geelong team and her commitment was well rewarded this week with a great 2 min PB. Well done Cathryn and we hope you enjoy the hospitality of the **Bush Inn**.