

Geelong Region Cross Country



Report: XCR09 Rd 5 - Coliban Relays (Sat July 4)

The second regional road trip in a row for the Geelong Region Cross Country team saw a dedicated group of Geelong runners make the journey to Harcourt for the start of this linear, 42.9km relay into Bendigo. With numbers a bit scarce due to a clash with the Gold Coast marathon, it was only the Division 1 men who were able to field a complete team for this round.



Conditions on the start-line looked ominous with chilly winds and scattered showers but the team had travelled too far to turn around now! All the same, the weather-gods soon relented and the majority of the race was run in almost perfect weather for running (although maybe not for standing around waiting for runners!)



Nick Wightman kicked off Geelong's quest with a well-run 5.5km to change near the front of the field, before turning around and jogging back to the start for his warm-down. Nick passed over his silky black sash to Wes Benson for his 6km leg who was racing AV for the first time since the Burnley Half last September. Welcome back Wes – the timing of your return couldn't be better. Ryan Christian ran his 8.4km leg next and managed to make up 2-minutes on the leaders thanks largely to a change-over-malfunction on their part. This put Geelong into 3rd place overall at the beginning of Brett Coleman's 10K leg. In the early phases of Brett's run, he was in 2nd place overall, but sadly, it was all "down hill" from there for the Geelong team as a number of other teams were brought home by their 'big-guns'.



Colin Thornton commenced his 7.9km leg clear of other Div 1 teams and finished in 5th place with several teams close behind. The final leg of the day was run by U20 Tom White who stepped into the team at last minute and travelled from Warrnambool to make his Division 1 debut. Tom, who continues to make rapid progress, finished with an impressive 16:20 for his 5.1K leg.



Overall we finished in s 7th place which may not have been the finest hour of Geelong's 2009 campaign, but we got the team over the line and scored some valuable premiership points.



Special thanks to Eliesha Byrt for travelling all the way to Bendigo for the day to fill Geelong's officiating duties.



Awards



The **Steigen Team Player Award** goes to **Tom White** for being willing to step into the team at late notice and travel all the way from Warnambool to Harcourt, a lazy 3¾ trip according to Google Maps! Thanks very much Tom for helping out the team.



The **Barking Dog Award** for this round goes to **Eliesha Byrt** who put her hand up for officiating duties when she heard that we unfortunately didn't have the numbers for a women's team. Once again, thanks very much Eliesha for helping out the team and enjoy the hospitality of the Barking Dog.



Closest Time Predictions (each win Subway Vouchers)

1 st	Ryan Christian (+9 sec)
2 nd	Tom White (-11 sec)
3 rd	Nick Wightman (+11sec)

Next Race

- **XCR09 Rd 6** – Bundoora XC – Sat July 18.