The 40th 3 Peaks Mountain Race
Sunday, 26 March 2023

Race Director: Steve Tripp
Race Site Manager: Mark O'Neill
Leith Harrier & Athletic Club Inc. Dunedin
Report compiled by Marc Boulle
Note: This report is not yet complete, we will inform you once it is

Weather: Mostly sunny day with light easterly winds. High of 19 Celsius, low of 11 Celsius.

Congratulations to all those who participated and assisted in this iconic event which has taken place uninterrupted since 1984. There were almost 500 finishers across all three events – 11km, 26km & 55km

The Shoe Clinic 26km 3 Peaks Mountain Run

Harry Wager takes the title

Harry Wager had a fine win in the iconic 26km event. He finished in 2 hours 8 minutes 46 seconds and was first in the Male 20-34 grade. Second across the line and finishing with a fantastic flourish was Caversham's Leon Miyahara in 2 hours 22 minutes 19 seconds. He was second in the Male 20-34 grade. He managed to stave off the challenge posed by the third placed Male 20-34 runner Lars Winther Christensen of Leith who finished in 2 hours 24 minutes 40 seconds

Junior runner Alex Braun joins the record breakers

There was an exciting tussle for Male Under 20 honours between Alex Braun and Dan Hayman, with Alex winning out in the end by just 9 seconds finishing in 2 hours 25 minutes 13 seconds for overall fourth place in the Male grade. In the process both went under the old record set in 2021 by Lachie White. Dan finished in 2 hours 25 minutes 22 seconds to finish fifth overall. Boudewijn Keenan finish third in this grade in 2 hours 44 minutes 20 seconds

Martin Gaffuri takes the Master Male title this time around

First in the Masters Male 35-49 grade and determined to improve from his second place finish from last year was Martin Gaffuri who finished eighth overall 2 hours 28 minutes 36 seconds to take this grade title this time around. First Male Veteran and 13th overall was Male 50-59 runner from Leith, Simon Leaning in 2 hours 38 minutes 54 seconds.

Wayne Porteous defends his Guru Title

Defending Guru champion Wayne Porteous was the first Guru to finish. He was first in the Male 60+ grade in 3 hours 5 minutes 25 seconds, only a remarkable 20 seconds slower than last year

The originals from 1984 and 1985

Peter "Transport" Hughes had finished second in the 1985 race and returned 39 years later to run this event again. He was second in the Guru Male 60+ grade in 4 hours 5 minutes 50 seconds, a tad slower than during his glory days. Guru Male 60+ runner Garry Preston ran in the first ever 3 Peaks Mountain Race in 1984 and had run a few times in the 80s and 90s and then retired, but today he returned in the 40th Anniversary of this great race finishing in 5 hours 13 minutes 54 seconds with some facial wounds to show for his brave effort too. Of course we cannot leave out former Leith President and runner and 3 Peaks Mountain Race organiser Steve Smith who finished in a classy 3 hours 34 minutes 1 second in the Guru Male 60+ grade

Ruth Croft and Kristy Eyles prove their class

Senior Female 20-34 runner Ruth Croft won the 55km last year, but this year she tackled the shorter 26km distance and her decision and class earned her another win. She was tenth overall in 2 hours 35 minutes 17 seconds and led the female contenders all the way in a dominant win.

Second overall in the Female grade and first in the Masters Female 35-49 grade was last year's overall female winner Kristy Eyles. Her time of 2 hours 49 minutes 51 seconds was a bit slower than last year, but this was to be expected with the more demanding muddier sections. Third overall in the female grade and 2nd in the Senior Female 20-34 grade was Rebecca Allnutt in 2 hours 51 minutes 14 seconds. Fourth female overall and second in the Masters Female 35-49 grade was Agnetha Korevaar in 2 hours 54 minutes 9 seconds. Fifth overall and third in the Senior Female 20-34 grade was Penny Mouat in 2 hours 55 minutes 27 seconds.

Emily Waters won the Female Under 20 grade in style

Emily Waters won the Female Under 20 grade in 3 hours 2 minutes 36 seconds. Second was Neve Darlington in 3 hours 30 minutes 27 seconds. Third was Monique Graham in 3 hours 50 minutes 11 seconds

Caversham's Evelyn Armstrong won the Veteran Female grade

First Veteran Female was Evelyn Armstrong of Caversham who won the Female 50-59 grade in 3 hours 15 minutes 59 seconds. Second was Natasha Prior in 3 hours 27 minutes 58 seconds. Third was Simone Faulkner in 3 hours 37 minutes 38 seconds

Cilla Dickinson breaks Guru Record

First Guru was Cilla Dickinson who won the Female 60+ grade in 3 hours 22 minutes 35 seconds which broke the old record set by Carolyn Smith in 2023 by just under a minute.

Ruth Croft takes the Back in Motion Queen of the Mountain Title

Ruth Croft won the **Back in Motion** Queen of the Mountain Title for being the first female to crest Swampy Summit (1 hour 11 minutes 00 seconds) and then also going on to finish the race.

Harry Wager takes the Back in Motion King of the Mountain Title

Harry Wager won the **Back in Motion** King of the Mountain Title for being the first male to crest Swampy Summit (57 minutes 54 seconds) and then also going on to finish the race

The Emersons 55km 3 Peaks Plus 1

New Zealand Short Course Trail Running Championships 2023

This was the fourth running of this event which includes nearly all the iconic 26km Three Peaks route with a big detour. The field was 83 strong this year. The extra 29km adds in an another mountain with a brutally steep climb, some beautiful single track through native forest, a river crossing, a tunnel and a wee bit of mud. This year the event included the prestigious New Zealand Short Course Trail Championships over the full 55km. This resulted in some of the top ultra trail runners from New Zealand and beyond fronting up to compete for the title

Weston Hill breaks Gavin Dales 2022 record in winning this tough event

Male 20-34 runner Weston Hill broke the Male Open (18-34) race record set by Gavin Dale last year winning the 2023 NZ Short Course Trail Champs. His time was 4 hours 54 minutes 58 seconds. Second was the pre-race favourite Male 20-34 runner Daniel Jones in 5 hours 15 minutes 42 seconds. Third was Male 20-34 runner Oak Jones in 5 hours 19 minutes 40 seconds. All three podium finishers were under the previous record of 5 hours 22.02.

Power finish for Katie Morgan

Katie Morgan powered away after a tentative start to win the Female grade in 5 hours 48 minutes 29 seconds to win the Open Women NZ Short Course Trail Champs. Second place Female 35-49 runner Margie Campbell put in a brave effort to finish not too far behind in 5 hours 54 minutes 53 seconds finishing first in the Masters Female 35-49 grade and second in the Open Women NZ Trail Running Champs. Senior Female 20-34 runner Naomi Brand completed the Open Women's Championships podium in 5 hours 59 minutes 49 seconds.

The podium finishers for the NZ Short Course Trail Champs

Open Men: 1 Weston Hill 4:54:58, 2 Daniel Jones 5:15:42, 3 Dwight Grieve 5:36:47

Men 20-34: 1 Weston Hill 4:54:58, 2 Daniel Jones 5:15:42, 3 Ben Pigou 6:11:07

Masters Men 40-44: 1 Chris Bisley 5:38:25, 2 Kelvin Meade 6:13:02, 3 Glen Chisholm 6:14:05

Masters Men 45-49: 1 Dwight Grieve 5:36:47, 2 Louis Schindler 5:49:22

Masters Men 50-54: 1 Wayne Botha 7:24:46

Masters Men 55-59: 1 John Bayne 6:30:18, 2 Steve Stewart 9:36:18

Masters Men 65-69: 1 Dave McLean 10:06:00

Open Women: 1 Katie Morgan 5:48:29, 2 Margie Campbell 5:54:53, 3 Naomi Brand 5:59:49

Women 20-34: 1 Katie Morgan 5:48:29, 2 Naomi Brand 5:59:49, 3 Lucy Allen 6:49:33

Masters Women 35-39:
1 Margie Campbell 5:54:53, 2 Jessica Campbell 6:13:12, 3 Anna O'byrne 6:49:38

Masters Women 40-44: 1 Shannon-Leigh Litt 7:30:15

Masters Women 55-59: 1 Donna Tumaru 10:03:14

Margie Campbell breaks the Masters Female record

Hill City-University's Margie Campbell won the Masters Female 35-49 grade in dominating fashion. Her time of 5 hours 54 minutes 53 seconds took more than an hour off the existing record set by Anna O'Byne in 2022. Second was Jessica Campbell in 6 hours 13 minutes 12 seconds. Last year winner in this grade Anna O'Byrne finished third in 6 hours 49 minutes 38 seconds

Dwight Grieve wins the Masters Male title

First in the Master Male 35-49 grade was Dwight Grieve who finished fourth overall in 5 hours 36 minutes 47 seconds. Former Open record holder Chris Bisley came back to finish second in the Master Male 35-49 title in 5 hours 38 minutes 25 seconds finishing 5th overall. Third in this grade and seventh overall was Louis Schindler in 5 hours 49 minutes 22 seconds

Prue Orchiston breaks record in the Veteran grade

Prue Orchiston won the Veteran Female 50-59 grade in a record 8 hours 2 minutes 33 seconds shaving about 14 minutes off the previous record held by Paullette Birchfield (2021). Last year's winner in this grade Ruth Jeffery had to be content with second place in 9 hours 14 minutes 31 seconds. Second last year, Katherine Boomer finished third in 10 hours 1 minute 36 seconds.

John Bayne breaks own Veteran Male record

Leith's John Bayne had a fantastic run, breaking his own Veteran Male 50-59 record by almost 30 minutes. His time and new record for this grade is 6 hours 30 minutes 18 seconds. Matthew Cosgrove also had a great run finishing second in 6 hours 57 minutes55 seconds. Wayne Botha finished fourth in 7 hours 24 minutes 40 seconds

Guru Ian McDonald joins the list of record breakers

Caversham's Ian McDonald won the Guru Men's title in a record breaking 8 hours 22 minutes 51 seconds. Second was Ian Morrison in 8 hours 31 minutes 6 seconds. Third was Leith's Mower Man Dave McLean in 10 hours 6 minutes 00 seconds – running over many of the tracks that he himself helped clear with his trusty mower

DK Architecture 11km Trail Run/Walk

Smash the Summit

This new course started at 10am on Leith Valley Rd State Highway overbridge and followed the classic 26km course from there up to Mt Cargill, down to Bethune's Gully and to the finish along Norwood Road to the finish at Chingford Park

Danny Baillie wins this new 11km race

Leith's Danny Baillie was a late entry but it proved worthwhile for the Veteran Leith runner. He finished first across the line in 54 minutes 40 seconds. This is the time to beat if we have this course again next year. Second was Shannon Rhodes in 56 minutes 7 seconds. Third was Neale McLanachan in 56 minute 49 seconds. The first female across the line was Female Under 20 runner Becky De La Harpe who was not too far behind in 57 minutes 22 seconds

A massive thank you to our magnificent volunteers & sponsors. Gaya Gnanalingam and Siobhan McKinlay did a magnificent job in organising all the volunteers and marshals around the course. Heaps of congratulations to them. Thanks to all you competitors out there. You should all be proud of your achievments

Report not yet finished – last updated Wed 29 March 2023 at 18:30hrs