

Toowoomba Ridge to Ridge Half Marathon and 5km Fun Run

September 19th, 2010

Written by Roger Guard

Sunday, 19th September, saw the 31st year of running the Ridge to Ridge Half Marathon to coincide with the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers. Traditionally, this race has been known as the “Hilly Half” since it was designed in 1979 to pose a unique challenge by following the scenic tourist route along the top of the Toowoomba Range. In the early years of the race during the 1980s running boom some very competitive times were run, with the record held by a visiting French Olympian, Alain Lazare running 1.07.12 in 1986. The female record of 1.22.42 was run in 2003 by Welsh Cross Country runner, Samantha Bretherick. In 2007, the route for the race had to be changed because the Main Roads Department would not permit crossing the main range highway. An alternative, new course was designed south of the highway but continuing the “hilly” tradition.

This year, the weather was not particularly kind to us, with light rain. However, we attracted almost 100 runners, with 86 finishers in the half marathon and 54 in the 5K. Young local athlete, Ben MacCronin, 18, was well ahead of the rest of the field and came in at a creditable 1.17.24. Leading lady, Tressa Lindenberg, came in at 1.28.52 after recently returning from the world 50km championships. In the 5km, young local athlete, Mark Kenny, took out 1st place with 17.34 while Grace Wheeler was first female home in 21.19.

The organizers are especially grateful to Marlene Studios Day Spa for sponsoring the event and to Athletes Foot for their support. Approximately \$2000 was raised to support the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation.

21.1km

Men

1. Ben MacCronin	1.17.24
2. Nigel Peacock	1.24.55
3. Daniel McPherson	1.25.11
4. Craig Hudson	1.25.31
5. Gary Beutel	1.28.25
6. Michael Bray	1.30.10
7. Alan Cawthorn	1.32.17
8. Haydn Jervis	1.32.59
9. Corey Wolski	1.34.38
10. Mark Phillips	1.34.58

Women

1. Tressa Lindenberg	1.28.52
2. Milcah McKinnon	1.32.10
3. Suzanne Chatterton	1.36.58
4. Julie McCallum	1.42.09
5. Jan Clough	1.43.49
6. Rachel Brighton	1.44.13
7. Jessica Ferriday	1.45.09
8. Val Willett	1.48.58
9. Alana Mills	1.49.04
10. Emma Downing	1.49.59

5km

Men

1. Mark Kenny	17.34
2. David Tong	17.35
3. Daniel Gibson	17.57
4. Paul Cannington	18.03
5. Harley Logan	18.19
6. Adrian Pennisi	18.22
7. Jack Tiernan	18.41
8. Jack Barnsley	19.13
9. Jamie Heather	19.51
10. Sam Davis	20.18

Women

1. Grace Wheeler	21.19
2. Brielle Erbacher	23.23
3. Libertie Sendall	23.43
4. Sarah Cooper	23.44
5. Inga Savage	24.37
6. Yasmin Lindenberg	25.06
7. Jody Erbacher	25.12
8. Louise Brownlie	25.37
9. Rebecca Kenny	26.09
10. Brodie Bassingthwaighe	26.25



Winner of Toowoomba's 2010 Ridge to Ridge Half Marathon, Ben MacCronin (on the left with sponsor, Marlene Potgieter, of Marlene Studios Day Spa, Toowoomba. Image courtesy of Andries Potgieter).



Tressa Lindenberg, the female Half Marathon winner (with Luke Johnson, TRR Secretary).