

History of the King/Queen of the Range

The year 2010 saw the 29th running of this iconic Toowoomba event. The race started in 1982 as a range run, commencing at Withcott and finishing down Campbell St and into the old Toowoomba Showgrounds, with one lap of the main arena. For the first three years, the run was dominated by Albert Van der Wyk as the King of the Range and Jodie Curd as the Queen of the Range. 1985 saw a surprise when a young 15 year old novice from Toowong, Gordon Fletcher, came up and beat much older and more experienced runners, including Albert Van der Wyk and Peter Bourgaize, and in doing so, claimed a new record of 28m 30s, 13 seconds ahead of Albert's record of 28m 43s.

Results 1982 to 1985.

1982

Men: 1. Albert Van der Wyk 29m10s, 2. Mike Pullinger 29m56s, 3. Ron Peters 31m33s,
Women: 1. Tracey Fellows 40m57s, 2. Fiona Shervey 44m45s, 3. Sutton/ G. Denny 55m52s.

1983

Men: 1. Albert van der Wyk 29m04s, Women: 1. Jodie Curd

1984

Men: 1. Albert van der Wyk 28m43s 2. Ron Peters 29m34s, 3. Wayne Evans 30m05s.
Women: 1. Jodie Curd 37m41s, Louise Murrell 38m43s, Jane Bishop 38m 59s

1985

Men: 1. Gordon Fletcher 28m30s, Peter Bourgaize 28m 47s, Albert Van der Wyk 28m51s
Women: 1. Jodie Curd 37m55s, Jane Bishop 3. Fiona Shervey

In 1986, the course changed. It no longer finished at the showgrounds, but turned into Lindsay St and finished in Queen's park. 1986 also saw the arrival of a new star. This was the first year that Glenn Benecke won the event. Glenn would ultimately win this event 13 times. This is a record that no other runner has got anywhere near challenging. A new Queen of the Range would also emerge in the next few years: Lynette Stern. During these six years, Glenn held the male record at 28m35s and Lynette held the female record at 37m21s. Gordon Fletcher again returned to Toowoomba to win the event in 1987.

Results 1986 to 1991.

1986

Men: 1. Glenn Benecke 28m35s, 2. Nigel Sisson 28m58s, 3. Rob Crosato,
Women: 1. Myola Kronk 37m33s, 2. Tara Dines 38m00s

1987

Men: 1. Gordon Fletcher 30m09s, 2. Ron Peters 30m21s, 3. Albert Van der Wyk 30m48s,
Women: 1. Lyn Stern 38m55s, 2. Myola Kronk 42m08s, 3. Tara Dines 42m31s

1988

Men: 1. Glenn Benecke 29m43s, 2. Albert Van der Wyk 30m45s, 3. Tony Gillam 31m08s,
Women: 1. Lyn Stern 37m21s, 2. Tara Dines 38m40s, 3. Victoria Brazil 40m31s.

1989

Men: 1. Glenn Benecke 30m14s, 2. Brett Winter 30m25s, 3. Peter Sullivan 30m34s,
Women: 1. Kay Craig 40m51s, 2. Erin Van der Wyk 41m57s, 3. Gillian Denny 42m53s

1990

Men: 1. Glenn Benecke 31m20s, 2. Jeff Mitchell 32m29s, 3. Ron Peters 32m47s,
Women: 1. Erin Van der Wyk 43m16s, Amanda Peters 45m09s, 3. Terri Miles 48m04s

1991

Men: 1. Glenn Benecke 30m31s, 2. Ron Peters 32m09s, 3. Nigel Sisson 32m36s,
Women: 1. Lyn Stern 40m12s 2. Amanda Peters 40m36s, 3. Elizabeth Pagett 43m03s

In 1992, the course was again changed. This time, after ascending the range, runners would turn left into Tourist Drive and proceed along the top of the range to Long St and then up to Picnic Point to finish at the water tower. This course is longer and has an additional ascent to Picnic Point. It has a total of 440m ascent and a total distance of 8.5km. It didn't take Glenn very long to establish a new course record. In 1992 he did 32m55s and this has only been beaten once since, when he broke his own record in 1997, lowering the time to 32m43s (the current standing record). Each year the Club offers \$100 to any runner who can break the record. We have not yet paid up! Lynette Stern was the inaugural winner of the new course but within a few years she had to give way to a new up-and-coming Queen: Janine Reid. Janine was the Queen for five years and holds the current course record of 38m10s. However, Janine does not hold the privilege of the most race victories. This honour belongs to Tressa Lindenberg, who has won the race a total of six times, starting in 2002, with a best time of 40m43s. The closest challenge of Janine's record has come from Samantha Bretherick in 2003 with a time of 39m15s. Samantha is a Welsh cross country runner and loves running hills in her native Wales.

Glenn Benecke finally announced his retirement from competitive racing after 10 wins at the event. He would actually win it twice more in 2000 and 2005 in his "retirement". After Glenn retired, Graham Kelsey took over as King of the Range. He claimed the title four times with performances approaching but not beating Glenn's record.

Results 1992 to present:

1992

Men: Glenn Benecke 32m55s, 2. Jeff Mitchell 34m56s, 3. Albert van der Wyk 35m09s,
Women: 1. Lyn Stern 44m16s, 2. Mandy Ogilvie, 3. Elizabeth Page

1993

Men: 1. Glenn Benecke 33m25s, 2. Steve Allan 34m50s, 3. Nigel Sisson 35m05s,
Women: 1. Anita Maclean 43m07s, 2. Mandy Ogilvie 45m55s, 3. Peta Wirth 46m23s

1994

Men: 1. Glenn Benecke 33m50s, 2. Jeff Mitchell 34m30s, 3. Bruce Cook 34m55s,
Women: 1. Rachel Smith 42m27s, 2. Kerry Van der Wyk 45m11s, 3. Rebecca Rider 45m12s

1995

Men: 1. Glenn Benecke 33m11s 2. Graham Black 33m40s 3. Jeff Mitchell 33m50s,

Women: 1. Madeleine Minns 43m50s, 2. Kerry Van der Wyk 44m40s, 3. Kirsty Matheson 46m09s

1996

Men: 1. Glenn Benecke 32m50s, 2. Dennis Fitzgerald 33m39s, 3. Graham Black 34m34s,
Women: 1. Erin Hitton 47m29s, 2. Cathy James 49m33s, 3. Katie Whittle 49m53s

1997

Men: 1. Glenn Benecke 32m43s (record), 2. Jeff Mitchell 33m16s, 3. Graham Kelsey 33m56s,
Women: 1. Janine Reid 39m10s, 2. Tressa Lindenberg 42m55s, 3. Candice Ringuet 44m10s

1998

Men: 1. Graham Kelsey 33m30s, 2. Norman Hanna 35m08s 3. Dennis Kalinowski 35m50s,
Women: 1. Janine Reid 38m10s (record) 2. Carolyn Sola 40m42s, 3. Tressa Lindenberg 41m50s

1999

Men; 1. Graham Kelsey 34m24s, 2. Dennis Fitzgerald 35m06s 3. Albert van der Wyk 35m19s,
Women: 1. Janine Reid 40m56s, 2. Carolyn Sola 42m33s, 3. Tressa Lindenberg 42m45s

2000

Men: 1. Glenn Benecke 33m35s, 2. Graham Kelsey 34m17s, 3. Dennis Fitzgerald 34m40s,
Women: 1. Janine Reid 40m40s, 2. Tressa Lindenberg 44m55s, 3. Luana Kent 45m45s

2001

Men: 1. Dennis Kalinowski 37m05s, 2. M Blake 38m06s, 3. Dan McDonald 38m22s,
Women: 1. Janine Reid 42m13s, 2. Tressa Lindenberg 44m18s, 3. Katie Whittle 44m57s
(longer course this year using Curtis St , not repeated)

2002

Men: 1. Graham Kelsey 35m47s, 2. Dennis Kalinowski 36m24s, 3. Tony Gillam 36m31s,
Women: 1. Tressa Lindenberg 42m57s, 2. Kathryn Parkinson 43m49s, 3. Paula Bloomfield 46m13s.

2003

Men: 1. Graham Kelsey 33m55s, 2. Glenn Benecke 35m11s, 3. Dennis Kalinowski 35m22s,
Women: 1. Samantha Bretherick 39m15s, 2. Georgie Wilson 41m27s, 3. Tressa Lindenberg 41m51s

2004

Men: 1. Adam Fitzakerley 35m39s, 2. Glenn Benecke 36m29s, 3. Neil Labinsky 37m07s,
Women: 1. Tressa Lindenberg 42m02s, 2. Julie McCallum 46m18s, 3. Linda Ryan 49m19s

2005

Men: 1. Glenn Benecke 34m19s, 2. Hints Mebrahtu 34m55s, 3. Norm Hanna 35m45s,
Women: 1. Tressa Lindenberg 40m43s, 2. Julie McCallum 44m06s, 3. Nicole Hulme Peake 45m10s

2006

Men: 1. Dale Bickham 34m11s, 2. Brendan Deurloo 35m55s, 3. Craig Hudson 38m22s,
Women: 1. Tressa Lindenberg 41m33s, 2. Georgie Schroeder 42m33s, 3. Nelly Moenks 43m37s

2007

Men: 1. Dennis Fitzgerald 37m39s, 2. Brendan Deurloo 38m38s, 3. Craig Hudson 38m58s,
Women: 1. Rebecca Robb 42m51s, 2. Tressa Lindenberg 43m32s, 3. Jo Mass 45m35s

2008

Men: 1. Brendan Deurloo 36m39s, 2. Michael Bray 38m05s, 3. Dan O'Neill 38m26s,
Women 1. Tressa Lindenberg 43m05s, 2. Diana McPhee 45m26s, 3. Kerry West 47m49s

2009

Men: 1. Hints Mebrahtu 34m21s, 2. Ben MacCronin 35m26s, 3. Glenn Benecke 37m04s,
Women: 1. Tressa Lindenberg 42m46s, 2. Diana McPhee 46m57s, 3. Anthea Henderson 50m05s

Our current King of the Range is Hintsu Mebrahtu. Although Hintsu now lives and works in Brisbane, we still claim him as a Toowoomba runner, since he was an engineering student at USQ with us for a few years. He is now in the top ten category for state 10,000 metre runners and recently won the Twilight 10km in Brisbane in March.

He will be very hard to beat if he decides to come back and contest the event. Tressa Lindenberg is our current Queen of the Range. She is also in great form with many wins to her name in the last few years. Even though she has now turned 40, she will be hard to beat.

In discussing the history of the King/Queen of the Range we must not forget the walkers. Every year we have a group of hardy walkers who set off half an hour before the runners to ascend the range. This is a non-competitive event because the walking is not supervised. However, for the individual it is just as much a challenge. This year we said goodbye to our oldest stalwart walker, Bill Horsfall. Bill died of cancer at 90 but up until age 88 he walked the range every year.