

ACT Half Marathon Weekend Events – 21-22nd May 2011

A big thank you and congratulations to everyone involved in the ACT Half Marathon Weekend Events. A forecast of rain on the Sunday did not eventuate until well after the event and we had two glorious days of racing and weather.

The highlight was Rowan Walker's great run in not only winning the event but also breaking Tony Murray's 1986 race record for a M40 by a whopping 2 minutes 16 seconds. Kent Williams in the M65 category broke Peter Kallio's 2005 M65's race record by 37 seconds and Anne Young in her 60th half marathon established course record for the W75 category.

Saturday 21st

The weekend events got off to a great start on the Saturday with a field of 30 in the 1.6k Mini Jog for children 12 years and under. At this young age it was no surprise to see that the first two runners across the line were young girls Olivia Fogarty in 6.17, followed very closely by Keely Small in 6.18. First boy was Henry Illingworth in 6.38 followed by Jack Daintith in 7.07. Following these and to round out the top three boys and girls were Eloise De Ruyter in 7.11 and Spencer Burns 7.15.

In the 5k Fun Run Kale Symons showed a clean pair of heels to the rest of the field and ran an excellent time of 15.05. Second male was Woden Harriers under 16 Jarrett Anthoney in 16.26 followed by perennial place getter in this race James Barker in 16.40. An outstanding run came from 12-year-old Joshua Torley who finished 4th in 16.57.

First female was Woden Harriers under 16 athlete Natalie Archer 18.56 with Jessamy Hosking 19.00 second and Sarah Lonsdale 19.21 third.

Sunday 22nd

The weather forecast for Sunday had looked bleak for over a week with 10 to 20mm of rain forecasted. For those interested this would have been the first rain in Canberra since Sunday 12th April, Canberra Marathon day for the Australian Running Festival. Luckily for all, the weather stayed fine and sunny. It was about 4C at the start and climber to 20C just after lunch so ideal conditions for a half marathon.

The half marathon got underway at 9am sharp. It was not long before eventual winner Rowan Walker and former winner Erwin McRae had completed the first 4k loop. In the remaining 17k Rowan broke away from Erwin to win in 66.34 with Erwin second in 67.18.

Rowan's run was remarkable in that not only did he win the event; he was also the first runner in the Veterans/Masters M40 category and broke the 25-year-old race record for this category by an amazing 2 minutes 16 seconds. Tony Murray's 1986 Race Record for M40 was 68.50, with many locals feeling that this time would never be bettered.

James Minto continued his rise in local running with his first placing in a major event coming third in 74.35. Alistair Rogers and Brad Hetharia took fourth and fifth places in 75.35 and 75.55 respectively.

The women's field was very open this year and Tiffany Bonasera and Hannah Flannery battle hard to finish a mere 6 seconds apart with times of 83.48 and 83.54 respectively. Angela Bateup came third in 84.59 with Elizabeth Humphries 85.12 for fourth and Jodie Barker 86.31 for fifth place.

There were 387 entrants and 327 finishers in the half marathon. Kent Williams who ran 87.18 to win the M65 Veterans (Masters) Category and break Peter Kallio's 2005 Race Record by some 37 seconds. Not to be out done Anne Young who holds the race record in the W65 category and at some time has held the race record in just about all our female categories established a W75 record in her 60th Half Marathon with a remarkable 162.17.

42 years after competing in the First Memorial Rex Foulkes Half Marathon 69 year old Alan Wilson a friend of Rex Foulkes competed after a few years absence from races over this distance. Alan also teamed up with soon to be 70-year-old Graeme Small who ran the second half as a relay team. Graeme had been a starter and finisher along with 19 others some 42 years earlier. Geoff Moore also in his 60's and the baby in the originals ran a very good 92.04 for second place in the M60's, which was our most competitive age group.

Rex Foulkes 80 year old plus sister Maureen Stanton lives in the UK and takes a keen interest in our event. It is only in the last few years that Maureen has obtained computing skills and she is now able to communicate with my wife via email. She does offer her congratulations to both Rowan and Tiffany.

To all the runners who made a donation to the race charity ACT Eden Monaro Cancer Support Group a very big thank you. Your support is appreciated and the CSG will be issuing receipts shortly.

I hope to see you all at our event in 2012..

Cheers and many thanks,

Ken Eynon
Race Director

Males

1. Rowan Walker 66.34
2. Erwin McRae 67.18
3. James Minto 74.35
4. Alistair Rogers 75.35
5. Brad Hetharia 75.55

Veterans/Masters

- M40 Rowan Walker 66.34*
M45 Greg Regester 82.56
M50 Simon Claring-Bold 84.03
M55 Victor Platen 96.10
M60 Peter Clarke 89.27
M65 Kent Williams 87.18*
M70 Lachlan Lewis 155.00
M80 Rad Leovic 144.15

Females

- Tiffany Bonasera 83.48
Hannah Flannery 83.54
Angela Bateup 84.58
Elizabeth Humphries 85.12
Jodie Barker 86.31

- W40 Angela Bateup 84.58
W45 Narelle Patrick 93.59
W50 Cathy Crompton 94.50
W55 Maria O'Reilly 99.27
W60 Ruth Baussmann 118.52
W65 Caroline Campbell 117.16
W75 Anne Young 162.16*

*** Race Record**