

It seems like the season has only just begun, yet we are well and truly half way through the cross country season with the start of the road season but a blink away. Some of our athletes have reversed their season with both Tim Hawks and Nick Willis heading off to the World Junior Games. And Jonathon Wyatt bound for Manchester to have a crack at the marathon. Jonathon will be staying offshore a little longer to conquer the World Mountain Running Champs. Nick is also set to stay offshore where he has secured a scholarship at Michigan State University. All of us at the club wish them well.

NZ Short Course Champs—Blenheim

Not many clubs can say they can hire the whole plane to travel to events, however Valleys has once again lead the way and done so!

On a fine gusty Saturday Morning a group of 12 assemble at the airport, with comments of “man did you see the size of that plane?” to be heard—no they weren’t talking about the 747 sitting on the tarmac, but the 12 seater Sounds Air Ceasna tucked away at the far end of the airport. To check in we head to a state of the art operation awaits as your bags are weighed on a set of scales that date back to whence time began.

We head to the plane at boarding time—wait there’s no room for carry on luggage and how do I turn this phone off? Hey it may be a tight squeeze so why don’t one of you lads jump up front, with Andrew Young at the helm and the safety procedures carried out in the blink of an eye lid we are off.

After a few bumps in take off, we have a smooth flight through to Koromiko, ah excuse me, the end of the run way is getting close and we don’t appear to be stopping..... Oh well lets just go on to the paddock then!

Of to Blenheim we head in three cars, with the only person knowing where our accommodation is driving the back car—boys will be boys. After some quick calls on the mobiles we manage to reigh them in and get them back to the bnb.

From the veranda of the house we look across the paddock to the course—what a shame we can’t walk across the paddock, so well need to take the cars for the 5 min drive around the block, in saying that everyone did go into town to raid the local cake shops.

At the course the racing has started for the NZ Secondary Schools Champs, with some good sized fields and some keen battles going on. The conditions did nothing to deter all the support that was being given from fellow students and adults alike. Some excellent runs by our Valleys Juniors representing their various schools.

In comparison the Men’s and Women’s fields were small to say the least. When it came to the Women’s race, the sun came out for a spell. I’m not sure what went on at the front end of the field, but 5 of us at the rear where having a good old battle. An awesome performance by all the ladies, with everyone doing PBs. Congratulations to Anna Robertson, Jacinda Swain and Brig Murdoch who finished second women’s team.

The open men’s race saw a slightly bigger field with Phil Costley and Rees Buck sprinting it out. Carl Jackson lead the Valleys Men home in 4th place to give the team a win (Carl, Jeremy Boyd, Andrew Young and Graham Stone). With the racing over, everyone headed in different directions with some going for a cool down run on the stop banks, others heading to the hills for an hour or so, with the other alternative being the most attractive—coffee at a local café, with the heater near by.

Back at the house some time later a trail to the spa begins, slowly more and more drift in until 9 in a 6 seater was a bit touchy feely so to say. Back up in the lads pad a video of the 92 CC Champs at Wanganui is playing. With a few beers and some fine reminiscing an enjoyable evening was had by all—that is until the next morning for some!

After an interesting cooked breakfast we were homeward bound with another smooth fright across the straight with a different co-pilot who cause d a couple of small bumps even though it wasn’t blowing (I know nuffing!), saw the end of our trip.

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Vosseller Shield

Yet again the lead up to Vosseller sees enough rain to effect the grueling course. Trying to do a warm up saw many covered in mud before they set off for the race.

The women started the days racing and getting the best of the pudgy conditions, although that didn't stop some from falling on the home straight. A slight change of the course saw a longer down hill section on the road, which was good for those who like that sort of thing. The junior races filled the program in the lead up to the final race of the day. The men set off on the 10km with great gusto. Many looked relatively fresh coming out of the veladrome for the first time, but that was set to change as the set of down the hill ready to start the lap again—some times being a woman has it's advantages.



North Islands - Taupo

The annual trek to Taupo take place on the weekend of 6 July with many traveling on Friday. Another contingent of Juniors and Seniors will be there to represent the club. Good luck to everyone who is competing

Up Coming Events

July 20 - Wgtn Cross Country Champs

Aug 10 - NZ Cross Country, Christchurch

Aug 17 sees the start of the road season with the Bays Relay

2003 NZ Secondary School Champs

Next year Valleys will be co-hosting the Secondary School Champs with St Patrick's, Silverstream.

The club is working in with St Pats and organisation is in the early stages at this point, however the committee will have to call on members for help, so please do your bit to help out as this is a huge event.

Program Change

Please note, the Host run that was scheduled for 3 August at Trentham has been amended to the Sanders Gough which will be hosted by Carterton.

More details will be forwarded to your club closer to the time.

Contributions

If anyone wishes to contribute any articles to the newsletter please feel free to do so. You can either e-mail contributions to me, or drop me a note on club/ race days.