

Latrobe Bundoora 15km Road Race

Sat June 1, 2008

Results & Report

Senior Men

For the small group that took to the road at Bundoora, perfect racing conditions were dished up with cool temperatures, plenty of cloud cover and no wind. Mission 1 was rapidly accomplished by the senior girls who managed to find the "sneaky loos" in no time to get us off to a great start! Unfortunately someone told the AV announcer and by the time some of the men headed there, you'd swear someone was giving away free powerbars!

The 15km course consisted of 3 x 5km loops that included 4 climbs per lap. The gradients were hardly earth shattering but certainly seemed to increase each lap. Of the Geelong runners, Andre LaGerche was the first to make a move, clearly feeling that the hills were nothing compared to those he endured in his recent Puffing Billy success, or the Great Ocean Rd half. Continuing with his recent dramatic improvements, Ryan Christian was clearly intent on proving that the longer distances are also well within his repertoire. Whilst I huffed and puffed like a steam train trying to hold onto Ryan during the 3rd lap, he had no problem conversing with a few of his Latrobe Uni mates on the sidelines. With 2kms to go he turned back to give me some encouragement ("oh sh&t it's you there, well done mate, keep it going" - or something like that!) before moving into next gear and clearing off after Andre. He almost managed to reel in his 100m+ lead too, finishing just 1 sec behind.

Overall the Div 1 team finished 3rd again behind the dominant Box Hill and a determined Ballarat YCW who added Mona and Shane Nankervis to their previously successful Sandown team. We certainly missed Troopy this round, who in stark contrast was in Jakarta racing over 10kms in conditions quite the opposite to those described above.

Senior Women

Our senior women were all under the pump to finish with only 4 runners on the start line meaning any DNF's would result in 0 points for the team. At least mission 1 accomplished as above wasn't going to cause any problems!

Kristen Wyatt was first in, continuing her good form from Sandown, to record another top 10 placing. Next in was Cathryn Hoare followed by Freyja Troop, who was in serious doubt only days before having been another Geelong Region victim of the dreaded chest bugs doing the rounds. Rounding up the team was Eliesha Byrt who's determination is outlined further below as the winner of the **Bush Inn Award**.

Junior Women

Latrobe saw the juniors line up over 1 lap of the 5km circuit. With no Geelong junior boys racing, it was left to the girls to represent the region. In the U'18's, Kate Sly ran strongly to finish just out of the placings behind a trio of Doncaster girls whilst Georgie Buckley made a welcome return to racing this winter finishing just behind Kate in 5th. In the U'16's, Clare Hodgson similarly had an impressive race to finish 4th, only 13 secs behind 2nd.

Special thanks again to Chris Sly for availing himself as the team bus driver and supplier. Also thanks to Athletics Victoria who this round, covered the entire cost of the bus trip for the team. Their efforts to support the regional teams in their long distance travel challenges, was certainly appreciated by all of those who took up the offer.

Bush Inn Award

For Eliesha Byrt, the Sandown 10k two weeks prior was her longest race. She certainly jumped in the deep end this week to race over a tough 15km course. In recognition of her commitment and determination, Eliesha is the very worthy and popular winner of the **Bush Inn Award** for this week. Well done Eliesha – only 96 sleeps to the half marathon!

Results:

Mens Open 15k

Andre LaGerche	22 nd	49.32
Ryan Christian	23 rd	49.33
Brett Coleman	26 th	49.46
Colin Thornton	38 th	50.59
Nick Wightman	40 th	51.15
Wes Benson	57 th	52.31
Andrew Chalmers	209 th	61.27

Women's Open 15k

Kristen Wyatt	9 th	57.11
Cathryn Hoare	45 th	66.13
Freyja Troop	79 th	72.42
Eliesha Byrt	95 th	86.52

Junior Girls 5k

U'18

Kate Sly	4 th	18.34
Georgie Buckley	5 th	18.46

U'16

Clare Hodgson	4 th	19.24
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Geelong Region Team Awards:

Latrobe Uni Road Race

Junior Women:

2 votes: Clare Hodgson

2 votes: Kate Sly

1 vote: Georgie Buckley

Senior Women

3 votes: Kristen Wyatt

2 votes: Cathryn Hoare

1 vote: Freyja Troop

Senior Men

3 votes: Andre LaGerche

2 votes: Ryan Christian

1 vote: Brett Coleman