

Geelong Region Cross Country



Report: XCR09 Rd 3 - Sandown Road Races (Sat May 30)

Summary:

A great day for the Geelong Region Team with 26 runners. Team victory in Men's Div 1 over Box Hill with Mark Tucker 1st overall & Jason Woolhouse 3rd. Team victory in Men's Div 4 by over 400 points & this team would also have won Div 3 & finished 2nd in Div 2! Our U16 women finished in 3rd place & our Div 1 women 6th.



The Details:

Athletics Victoria's most prestigious race of the XCR09 season, the SKINS Sandown Classic, was held on Sat May 30 with the Geelong Region team recording its best performances so far this season. With cool, challenging conditions and a solid head-wind up the home-straight, this was never going to be the PB-fest of the 2008 edition. However, there were some excellent performances all the same. Interestingly, not a single Geelong runner recorded a PB (except Leslie Elms racing in his first 10k event) which must be a first for a Sandown 10K event!



The juniors kicked off proceedings over a 3km course with all age groups starting at the same time. In the junior women, first across the line was the ever consistent Jmara Hockley-Samon (U16) in 10.47 to claim 5th. Close behind was Georgie Buckley in 11.06 to claim 4th in the U18's, followed by Holly Curtis 11.14 & Ricci Curtis 12.06 both U16 to complete the U16 team who finished a fantastic 3rd overall.



Of the junior men, Lewis Clark was first home in 10.02 to finish 9th in the U16's followed by our U14 duo of Isaac Hockey 10.16 for 6th place & Jack Hockley-Samon in 11.58.



The open 10km race provided plenty of prerace chatter given the presence of many of our best athletes and a realistic chance of recording a team win over the ever strong Box Hill team. The field was huge given the reputation of the event with men & women all competing in the one race.



In the men's race, Mark Tucker took a convincing win with a negative-split 29.25 and surely a good confidence boost ahead of the World Champs marathon in Berlin later in the year. Jason Woolhouse finished 3rd in 29.43 after being outkicked by Mark Tucker & NSW's Jeff Hunt in final stages of the race. Most pleasingly from a team point of view, this gave us 1 & 2 in the Victorian section of the race - brilliant running from both these guys! Also making it into the top-20 were Brenton Rowe (18th in 31.15) and Scott Rantall (20th in 31.19) only 2 weeks post his Great Ocean Road marathon success. Ryan Christian demonstrated that he is well and truly back in form with a convincing 31.47 negative split race with Brett Coleman completing the Div 1 team in 32.16. These great results gave us a Men's Div 1 victory by 44 points - a very satisfying result indeed!



