

Full of run

Geelong trio Scott Rantall, Colin Thornton and Kristen Wyatt are all in hot form ahead of Sunday's Melbourne Marathon.

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Photo: REG RYAN



Locals feeling full of run

BRADLEY GREEN

THREE Geelong runners are out to end outstanding seasons on a high note in Sunday's Melbourne Marathon.

After pounding the pavement for thousands of kilometres in training and competitions, the finish line for 2010 is in sight for Scott Rantall, Colin Thornton and Kristen Wyatt.

The trio's strong performances for the Geelong region in this year's Athletics Victoria Winter Premiership season earned them the chance to represent the Victorian team in the Australian Marathon Championship, which also doubles as the Melbourne event.

Six runners will represent

each state in the men's and women's race.

Rantall and Thornton were members of Geelong's state premiership-winning division one men's side while Wyatt helped the region's open women's team score its first ever podium finish. Wyatt and Rantall both finished runner up in their respective 45km races at the Great Ocean Road Marathon while Thornton ran fourth in June's Christchurch marathon.

All three runners are looking for a top 10 finish in the elite category on Sunday.

Rantall finished fifth back in 2007 - behind a former Geelong runner Rowan Walker - and said he was looking forward to tackling the 42km course.

"Only the Gold Coast marathon is a better course in

Australia than Melbourne," Rantall said.

"I really want to finish in the top three of the Aussie runners."

Ethiopian Asnake Fekadu is returning to Melbourne to defend his crown and looking to make it a hat-trick of wins while Walker - who won the 2007 race - is also competing.

Wyatt has not contested the marathon since she finished in the top 10 back in 2005.

The school teacher said while she was unsure of the quality of this year's field, she was confident of repeating that performance.

"I'm feeling good because I've had a good season," Wyatt said. "I'll just go out and try and run my own race and it would be great to finish in the top 10."



RUNNING RIOT: Geelong runners Scott Rantall, Colin Thornton and Kristen Wyatt.

Photo: REG RYAN