

57th Feilding Marathon

The 2011 Feilding Marathon was held on Saturday 5th November. The outwards half of the course from Feilding to Stanway via Makino Rd saw competitors do battle with a stiff headwind and several icy downpours.

Full results from the 57th Feilding Marathon, 5th November.

Walk: 1. Albie Jane 4:49:12, 2. Malcolm Gray 5:13:50, 3. Averil Sheehan 5:31:00; 4. Chris Leahy 5:32:41; 5. Dennis Jordan 5:56:59; 6. Mike Leahy 6:27:06; 7. Helen Tobin 6:46:27.

Run: 1. Bill Richardson 3:34:27; 2= Ingrid Frost, Kiri Price 3:48:45; 4. Pat Stichbury 3:55:37; 5. Debra Arnold 4:02:34; 6. Norman Chan 4:44:37; 7. Dave Penfold 4:58:00; 8. Charlotte Nasey 5:26:04; 9. Michael Stewart 5:41:07; 10. David Hamilton 5:49:48; 11. Steve Tubbs 6:35:10; 12. Mel Tuineau 6:48:06.

Team: Ashley Smith (2:03:06) and Anna Duncan Smith (1:55:09) 3:58:15.

The field was one of the smallest for a number of years, perhaps not helped by being just one week since the Auckland Marathon. That aside, about half the field ran their second marathon within 6 days.

Fastest runner was 59 year old Bill Richardson from Invercargill in 3 hours 34 minutes 27 seconds. This was Richardson's 197th marathon, and he is likely to edge closer to the 200 milestone with the Invercargill Marathon in two weeks time. Back in the field about 2 hours behind Richardson was another 59 year old, Michael Stewart of Upper Hutt, who notched up marathon number 490. He has a fond spot for the Feilding Marathon, having run his one hundredth marathon here in the 1980's.

Fastest woman was a deadheat, with Ingrid Frost and Kiri Price of the Auckland YMCA club running the whole distance together in 3:48:45. Best of the local runners was Pat Stichbury of Feilding Moa in 3:55:37, who should also have won the "consistency" award as she did the Auckland Marathon in 3:55:31.

Fastest of the walkers was Stratford dairy farmer Albie Jane in 4:49:11, followed by Malcolm Gray (Upper Hutt) 5:13:50, Averil Sheehan 5:31:0 and Chris Leahy in 5:32:41.

While a small field, and with trying conditions, all starters finished, including oldest competitor David Hamilton of Auckland in 5:49:48.

Actual times were adjusted for age using World Masters Athletics age graded tables and from this an age grade percentage established. This adjustment allows the relative performance of each male or female, runner or walker to be compared on an equal "running feild". A 100% mark would be equivalent to a world record performance. Highest age grade percentage went to walker Chris Leahy (W62) 81.8%, then Averil Sheehan (W55) 74.5%. Best of the runners was Pat Stichbury with 71.0%, while the overall race winner Bill Richardson (M59) achieving 70.5% with his adjusted performance of 2:56:37.