

2010 Caboolture Historical Village National 48hr and State 24hr Run/walk Event.

This year has been a big year for the Historical Village with many changes in buildings and boundaries. The new entrance is very impressive with columns of architectural steel projecting skywards.

I arrived Thursday to set up for the event between a few heavy showers. The track was not its best needing attention from the local volunteers.

While Betty was preparing meals for the Pre –Dinner, I worked on staking the course and other duties during light conversations with competitors arriving to set up their trackside positions.

Come Friday morning the sky was clear with no wind. Excitement was high with the entry of all the competitors except Tony Collins who was still high in the sky due to heavy fog over Brisbane making landing unthinkable.

As 9am drew closer introductions were made to the President of the Historical Village Society Roger and the Deputy Mayor Greg who started the event with the traditional ringing of the cow bell.

Forgetting it was a 48hr event, we all peered southward down the track wondering if they got lost for the first lap seemed so slow. I must add here, a late addition to the 48hr event was Trevor Allen.

After listing in the 6hr, phoned early Thursday morning asking if he could set up to the 48hr stating he was feeling good & wanted to give it a go. So here he was leading the group on the first lap.

Tucked in behind was our two Japanese visitors Muneharu (nickname Harry) & Norio. Then followed in no set order were Sharon, Marie, Meredith, Allison, Ron, Peter, and Gerald. In the group of 11 entries, 4 were from overseas, 2 Japan, one England, one New Zealand, welcome.

It was 3hours into the event before Tony arrived. He said he wanted to give them a head start but once out there running realized he was suffering jetlag.

Muneharu (Harry) & Norio looking strong challenging with each other. Changing the lead at 2pm Norio held it for a short 2hours when Muneharu took it back till 3am Saturday. Norio still looking very strong pulled away from his mate increasing his distance on the whole field, while behind Sharon was dominant in the ladies and Peter was out walking Gerald. Meredith after clocking up 189laps decided she was not in the right frame of mind and headed off for an early shower withdrawing.

Friday night saw a drop in temperature favoring the field, while the lapscorers rugged up.

As daylight broke another dry warm day became obvious. Come 9am start time for the 24hr competitors, Norio was still showing a good strong set of heels leading the field from Shaz who had overtaken Muneharu in the early hours.

Yes now into the 2nd 24hours with 12 more competitors.

Malcolm, Nic, Kerrie, Michelle, Ken & Mark set a blistering pace in the first hour with 20 laps each. The first 4hours saw Malcolm & Nic cracking the pace but then in the 5th hour previous events started to show on Nic allowing Malcolm to increase his lead while Kerrie and Michelle closed lap after lap.

Poor Kate suffering an illness hardly completed 2 hours, as Mark from cold Warwick felt the affects of the days heat reducing him to an early shower followed with some home comforts before returning to the track hours later recovering, but still wanting to clock up laps.

A real battle continued between Kerrie & Michelle till midnight when Michelle stepped up pushing past Kerrie. The same for Nic at midnight, reducing to a walk accompanying his wife now in the 12 hour, was just one lap in front of seasoned ultra competitor 64years young Roger.

At this stage another 3 competitors had entered the track in the 12hour, and as of 5pm Saturday seeing Sharon & Norio on the same lap. Peter Bennett a strong power walker had overtaken Ron 13hours into the event with the possibility of walking himself into a fistful of records.

Sharon's strength was showing as she increased the distance between her and Norio.

Malcolm was running with real meaning and strength out front as Michelle was following Malcolm's lead by increasing the distance between her and Kerrie. Roger was comfortably holding 2nd from first timer Ken.

3am saw the start of another event with 5 competitors, followed at 6am with another 2 competitors and finally at 7.30am with another two.

Overall, the day weather was warm to hot, while the nights were cool.

All events concluded at 9am, the course was walked with the wheel, added the part laps and printed the result sheets, while competitors showered and attempted refreshing them self. Presentations were held thanking everyone for their support and distances traveled. Well wishes for a safe return home.

All formalities completed competitors packed their gear and started their return for home.

A couple of my memorable moments of this events were –

Seeing Justin running up & down, in & out the buildings through the 48hrs with supplies or messages for Shaz. Then returning to his tent & laptops where all the 48hr's info was recorded, pleasantly assisted by his mother-in-law.

The number of records broken & set by so many great athletes –

Sharon Scholz – New Australian Ladies record – 333.026kms

Peter Bennett (walker) – Australian Open Men 200klm track walk 30: 49:08 was 35:32:15

Australian Masters Men M50 200klm track walk 30:49:08 was 2days

Australian Open Men 48hour track walk 280.203km was 257.877km

Australian Masters Men M50 48hour track walk 280.203km was 230.307km

Gerald Manderson –230.250kms New Zealand Walking Record

Norio Ito – 323.089km New Japanese National Record over 60 years.

Congratulations everyone

A track of records

Final results follow.

Thanks go to supporting companies – Healthworld with Endura, CJ's Pastries Caboolture, Coca Cola, and Twisted Arm Hotel Caboolture

A big thanks to my wife Betty for all the hours cooking & serving of meals to competitors & lapscorers. To the small amount of lapscorers, a big "Thank you". Your hours are greatly appreciated

To the Society, thanks for allowing competitors & friends to come & go while using your track. In appreciation, a cheque for \$1688.24 was handed to the President.

Many thanks again to all competitors, supporters, business help, volunteers & officials.

Please tell your friends and hope to see you all in early August 2011

An exact date has yet to be arranged & confirmed with AURA.

Thank you
Geoff Williams
Race Director