



IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TWO WINNING CHAMPIONS UNITE TO SMASH THE THIRD EDITION OF THE NORTH FACE 100 IN AN ASTONISHING RECORD BREAKING TIME OF 9 HOURS, 54 MINUTES AND 19 SECONDS!



An impressive crowd of 699 participants including 46 pairs and 553 solo ultra-runners met in Leura on Saturday morning at seven am under a bright sun, with fresh and stimulating conditions.

Geared up with their thermals, trail running shoes, hydration packs, headlamps, compasses, gels and nutrition bars, but most importantly with strong determination, competitors were set to undertake one of the most difficult 100km ultra-trail marathon events in the Southern Hemisphere: The North Face 100.

It is with an amazing display of camaraderie that returning champion Andrew Lee, and newcomer Stu Gibson decided to cross the line together to win the 2010 The North Face 100 – shaving 26 minutes off Andrew’s 2009 record!

Eager to break the 10-hour barrier, both incredible athletes ran together in a fight for the best record time ever and achieved their mission hand in hand, pleasing all spectators with a completely unexpected performance.

Given his success at the previous race, it was no surprise that Andrew Lee took the lead early, but to see 33 year-old Stu Gibson passing Andrew around the 50th kilometre was unexpected. Out-running each other for a number of kilometres, it became even more surprising to see both men joining forces to run beside one another, overcoming the remaining distance as a team.

Whilst Andrew Lee, 40, from Warrimoo in the Blue Mountains, had never run further than 45km prior to his 2009 revelation, he came prepared with exhaustive hours of specific endurance training along with the wisdom he gained through running last year's event.

Andrew commented:

"I felt very good from the start, we couldn't hope for better conditions. The run was fantastic, it was unbelievable. Stu and I found such a good rhythm, we helped each other on the way, and I don't think I could have made it under 10 hours without him."

"The AROC team, the volunteers and the support of The North Face were unbelievable."

As to Stu Gibson, 33, living in Melbourne, he had never been or run in the Blue Mountains before. New to The North Face 100, Stu however showed his amazing potential a month ago when claiming 11th place in the infamous Marathon Des Sables in Morocco.

"I had been training hard for the 243km endurance race across the Sahara Desert in Morocco, hence I was feeling so good here on the trail."

"Andrew and I really gave it our best shot during the second half of the race, we were running at the fastest pace we could to complete the distance before Andrew's 2009 record of 10 hours, 20 minutes and 51 seconds", said Stu Gibson, with a strong Scottish accent.



At the sharp end of the field, runners were joined by veteran ultra-distance athlete Diane Van Deren from Colorado. This exceptional and inspiring woman, who completed The North Face 100 in Beijing a few days ago, was totally thrilled by the warmth that Australian racing competitors shared with her. Amazed by the good organization of the race, and the beauty of the scenery, she ran through the Blue Mountains with a good humor and a spark in her eye.

Diane rated the race as one of the most difficult trail-runs she has ever completed.

"The amount of steps and the difficulty of the terrain made it very hard. You always had to be alert, aware of what you are and where you put your feet. You can never let it go."

Competitors kept running through the night with a few courageous runners crossing the line 26 hours after departing.

Endurance comes in all distances. Find yours in The North Face 100.
The North Face "Never Stop Exploring"

About The North Face 100®:

The North Face 100 has become one of the most talked about endurance events in the Southern hemisphere. The North Face 100 Asia series is continuing to promote the true spirit of exploration in 2010. You are invited to take on the challenge in our races staged in China, Australia, Philippines, Japan and Singapore.

For any media enquiries, please contact Anik Labreigne-Wallace:

M +61 (0) 406 467 457

anik.labreigne-wallace@truealliance.com.au