

## 2008 Tan Ultra Run – Race Report

### Details: -

Place – The Tan Melbourne

Date 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2008

Start Time 7am – 100k & 9am – 53.5k

Race Field – 35 (16 starters in 100k, 16 starters in Fun run 53.5k & 3 DNS)

### **100k (26 laps + 248m out & back)**

#### **Male**

1<sup>st</sup> - Jason Dunn - 8:51:26

2<sup>nd</sup> - Michael Lovric - 8:57:48

3<sup>rd</sup> -Tory Trehwitt 9:32:06

No Female finisher.

DNF's = 9 out of 16 runners. (56%)

### **53.5k (14 laps)**

#### **Male**

1<sup>st</sup> Lachlan Fraser - 4:21:18

2<sup>nd</sup> Greg Jamieson - 4:44:30

3<sup>rd</sup> David Stokie - 5:02:29

#### **Female**

1<sup>st</sup> – Anna Papji - 6:06:50

2<sup>nd</sup> – Janice Bartholomew - 6:33:37

3<sup>rd</sup> – Michelle Donnelly - 6:33:46

DNF's = 1 out of 16 runners (6.25%)

For an inaugural Ultra event it was a great success with 35 entrants for both runs, with brilliant performances by Jason Dunn in the 100k and Lachlan Fraser and Anna Papji in the 53.5 fun run.

The weather stayed fine and cool for the whole day, which was very welcome we also had the pleasure of seeing Buster back from Beijing running by (trying not to be noticed – on the Tan on a Sunday?) Congratulations also to Tory Trehwitt (3<sup>rd</sup> - 100k) who was running for the KIDS cancer charity (Challenge) and receiving support from the Olympic swimming legend Michael Klim who ran a few laps with him. I must also thank Gav & Ute from Knox Road Runners (KRR) for their support and particularly to Gav for giving my dog a few good laps of the Tan.

Magnus Michelsson also joined the run, a true legend in my view managing 12 laps in a dead 3 hrs, being able to stop fix a blister and have a drink or a chat, then fly off again for another lap. He looks in good form for the 100k championships later in the year and I wish him well for that.

Jason Dunn in the main 100k event managed to hold off a determined effort over the last few laps by Michael Lovric, who was gaining on him by around 1-2 mins per lap, it was a brave effort by Michael just falling short by a mere 6 mins in the end.

For the females Diane Edwards battled hard as the sole entrant but succumbed to cramps and had to stop around ½ way, a great effort though and I know the pre run training may not have been up to her high standard. As for the 53.5k a great performance by Anna Pajji winning by around a lap from the charismatic Pink ladies in joint 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> places. Other notable performances were by Melissa Chung who summed up the day for me with an intense look on her face and concentrating hard, but managing a big smile as she passed over the finish line – well done.

On the Male side I must mention Peter Bignell for posting a sub 10hr PB – great effort and I'm sure that's the start of more to come, having been troubled with nagging injuries lately. To Chavaporn who had only run 55k Portsea to Frankston before put in a gusty performance and looked in control all day managing to eat and drink well too. I managed a couple of laps with Kim Cook towards the end of day which was good, he told me he had done 12ft just two weeks ago and then this, but he still seemed to be going well and put in a good performance. Finally, to Brett Saxon who had some of the most severe cramps I've ever seen and tried so hard to finish, a truly heart felt run and unlucky this time, but knowing Brett I think we will see him again.

To all the other runners not mentioned above, you all deserve a big thank you from me firstly for how you all behaved and showed to others around the Tan just what a great sport Ultra running is, you all put in brave and brilliant runs yourselves – it was a pleasure to organize. I also handed out a few spot prizes of hats and fuel belts on the basis of either pure gusty effort or enthusiasm over and above the norm, but if I could you would all have deserved something similar.

It was nice too that the RAAF put on a fly past by the Roulettes – well may be not just for us, but it made the day even more special.

A big thank you to 2XU for their support of Ultra Running, It was great to see Nicola McDonald representing 2XU put on the running gear and run a few laps with Brett.

Also to the ever un-fatigueable Kevin Cassidy with camera and laptop in hand recording all for the history books and archives, thanks for your passionate support.

Finally, to the helpers, Sharon Scholz, Rob Boyce and my son Matt also Peter Bignell at the end for all your help and assistance during day. I have to, though separately thank Brett Saxon and his family without his practical help and boundless enthusiasm the Tan Ultra Run would not be.

Last but not least, I must also thank the Melbourne City Council and a Park Ranger who's friendly advice helped the day go well and to my wife Denise for putting up with me babbling on and on about this run.

All the best – see you next year?

Nick Thompson  
TUR – Race Director.  
Sunday, August 31, 2008