

Saturday August 15th

LONG RELAYS

Anglesea

It was a fair step from town, but the new venue and format for the Ekiden Relays proved to be a success, despite a major hiccup early in the event. Of course the more than agreeable weather played its part in the success of the day, but a number of clubs were down on numbers, thus leading to some very small fields in some divisions. Collingwood was much affected by our absences, but still managed to pick up four medals on the day.

Our Under 14 girls finished second in their event, despite a last minute withdrawal. Luckily the Club had a spare and **Amber Louw** jumped into the vacancy and managed to pick up a medal for her troubles. **Lucy Leutchford** and **Zoe Cornell** were the other members of the team. In the Under 16 girls **Amy Cornell**, **Emily Noonan** and **Emma Newton** grabbed a bronze with their efforts, a feat matched by **Dale Carroll**, **Tom Hall** and **Ben White** in the Under 18 boys.

The Club's top woman's team led Divvy 1 for much of the race but had to be content with a third place. All of our ladies did a great job! **Virginia Moloney** and **Erchana Murray Bartlett** got us off to a great start in the longer legs. **Kara Landells** had a couple of very good runners sneak past her on the third leg, before **Susan Michelsson** turned back the clock with a great effort to again get the Magpies to the lead. **Rebecca Webb**, perhaps the season's biggest improver, had a red hot go on the last leg, but couldn't hold off the Knox and Glenhantly runners. There was no doubt however that Rebecca was tickled pink with her bronze medal – probably still wearing it to bed – well deserved for all her hard work this season!

The aforementioned hiccup occurred when a stack of runners forgot all the pre race instructions involving following the coloured arrows on the course and followed the incorrect instructions of a marshal, thus taking a wrong turn. There was some havoc at the changeover when runners started appearing five to six minutes earlier than expected. Many clubs, as to be expected, did not have their second runners ready to go! Fortunately the Collingwood runners realised that something was amiss and stuck to the prescribed 'colour code' later finding themselves to be the only Divvy 2 team to complete the entire course. AV was at a bit of a loss deciding what to do with the results, but in the end did the only thing they could do and award the race to the Collingwood team. About half the fields in Division 3 and 4 also took the wrong path – Collingwood, thankfully again took the correct track in both events.

It was great to have **Rachel Barnes** back on deck for her first run of the season. Although filling in a spot in a men's team, it was terrific to have Rachel back in harness - it meant another team scored!

Magnus Michelsson again did the team thing, limping around to complete a team.

The selectors had a 'great' time picking the teams for these events. The different distances of each leg added another dimension to team selection! A cursory glance at our results certainly won't excite readers, however considering just how many people were missing, the Club did very well indeed!

RESULTS

JUNIOR

Under 14 Girls

Lucy Leutchford 30:49
Zoe Cornall 23:32
Amber Louw 20:44

6.0k*
5.2k
4.6k

Finished 2nd out of 3 75:05
Winner: Essendon 67:48

Under 16 Girls

Amy Cornall 29:09
Emily Noonan 24:10
Emma Newton 21:25

Finished 3rd out of 5 74:42
Winner: Western Aths 73:50

Under 18 Boys

7.9k Dale Carroll 28:25
6.0k* Tom Hall 25:02
4.6k Ben White 16:29

Finished 3rd out of 5 69:56
Winner: Diamond Valley 68:00

SENIOR

Division 1

9.8k Virginia Moloney 36:36
8.8k Erchana Murray Bartlett 34:51
6.0k* Kara Landells 28:06
5.2k Susan Michelsson 20:31
4.6k Rebecca Webb 19:55

Finished 3rd out of 9 2:19:59
Winner: Knox 2:18:04

Division 3

9.8k Francesca Black 48:38
7.9k Carly Black 42:16
6.0k* Ali Burns 31:59
4.6k Francesca Black 23:03

Finished 9th out of 10 2:26:56
Winner: Frankston 2:06:46

Division 4

8.8k Rhiannon Riches 45:51
7.9k Kim White 43:26
5.2k Jessica Newton 36:41

Finished 7th out of 7 2:05:55
Winner: Yarra Ranges 1:33:34

Division 2, 3 and 4 in the men's events were badly affected by many runners 'taking' the wrong course. Collingwood certainly benefitted by ignoring the confused marshal.

Division 1

Liam Delany	33:23	9.8k
Mark Knowles	32:31	8.8k
Matthew Newton	28:46	7.9k
Trent McCormick	23:53	6.0k*
Danny Reddan	19:03	5.2k
Julian Harris	17:59	4.6k

Finished 9th out of 10 2:37:47
Winner: Geelong 2:20:10

Division 2

Paul Rothin	40:31
Nick Kenyon	37:54
Anthony Mithen	32:04
Eric Louw	30:15
David Diviny	22:13
Peter Gaunt	20:03

Finished 1st out of 14 3:02:55
All other teams ran short!

Division 3

Tony Hally	39:12	9.8k
Scott Bent	36:09	8.8k
Leo Arantes	31:42	7.9k
Daryl Standfield	31:55	6.0k*
Steve Simmons	19:49	5.2k

Finished 3rd out of 14 2:38:27
Winner: Sth Melb 2:33:43
* seven teams ran short

Division 4

Paul Wallace	45:57
Jacob Barnes	43:44
Jim Sayer	39:27
John Crameri	31:38
Magnus Michelsson	25:05

Finished 6th out of 12 3:05:51
Winner: Sth Melb 2:39:14
* four teams ran short

Division 5

9.8k	Scott Lovell	50:56
8.8k	Jim Hopkins	68:12
7.9k	Robert Barnes	52:47
5.2k	Rachel Barnes	28:15

Finished 11th out of 11 3:00:05
Winner: Mornington Pen 2:03:43

The **6.0*** leg was thought by many runners to be at least **6.5k**

Officials: Tony Williams and Gary McBroom worked for AV as is the norm and **Annette Van Rooyen** jumped in when the 'powers that be' demanded that all clubs supply extras for the day. Thanks to the parents who agreed to hold a clipboard to help get our results.

Vaughan Newton, Geoff Carroll, Alison Leutchford and Pennie Hayes all lent a hand while many runners did their bit before and/or after their actual leg. Thanks one and all.

Thanks again to Barnes catering for the goodies supplied for the hordes.

There was also plenty of help packing up the tent, probably because a lot of people did not have to rush off. Many had chosen to stay overnight at the caravan park and make a weekend of it!

We were to find out a couple of days later, that our hard working official, **Tony Williams** and his wife **Irene**, were involved in a car accident on the ring road when returning from Anglesea on Saturday evening. Both were taken to hospital and although Rocket was later allowed to go home, Irene was kept in for a few days. Irene suffered a broken collarbone and three broken ribs, while Rocket only scored one rib but did manage to break his sternum. Sure to be slowed down for a while, we hope that all is well real soon!