

Cairns Road Runners Black Snake Trail Race, 29 April 2012

Race director: Gareth Smith

Race report: Christine Bell

A cool, overcast morning brought perfect weather for the gruelling 34km Black Snake Race. This second race in the FNQ Trail Running Series was taken out in a record time of 3 hours 59 seconds by Ultra runner Oliver Zambon. At 8 am the 31 runners, including visitors from PNG and California, lined up to start the hardest of the four runs in the Series, some returning from the previous year and some brand new to trail running. The field had doubled since last year's race. Another 37 competitors set off an hour later to compete in the 21.1km; 10km and 5km races.

The race starts with a 2 km climb from Copperlode Dam along Clohesy River road marking the first (and easiest) of the hills in the race. The next 12 km is an easy run along the rolling hills and through the creeks along Clohesy River road. A few kilometres after the fig tree, the race turns off the road and follows an unused track. This marks the beginning of the terror hills with a climb and descent that rivals the Smith's track. After tackling this hill the Bridle Creek checkpoint is a welcome sight filled with food and drink. The run is fairly level from then on until about 24 km in when the next hill starts. This is an endless hill with many false peaks, giving the runners many disappointments until the gate climb (if you can at this point!) that marks the final 4 km return to the dam.

This year, records were broken for both the male and female winners with Oliver Zambon coming across the line first in 3:00:57 followed by Steve Cunningham - winner of the Barron Gorge 18km Trail Race (3:12:39) and Dave Wall (3:26:44) for the males. The female winners were Julie Sager (who also won the event in 2011) coming in first in a time of 4:03:15 followed by Ruth Bullen (4:17:29) and Andrea Collins (4:38:35). Credit goes to Anna Morgan who ran the race anti-clockwise, rather than clockwise!

The male winners for the 21.1 km race were Tim McGrath in 1:49:29, Stevo Francis (winner of the Barron Gorge 11km) in 1:49:53 and Alistair Spence in 1:59:57. The female winners Samantha Fifield (2:18:39), Sonya Miller (2:22:13) and Michelle Farkas (2:23:29). The male winners for the 10 km race were Todd Ruderford and Paul Ryan in joint first (51:23) and Adam Fraser (1:04:15) and the female winners Andrea Hargreaves (winner of the Barron Gorge 11km) got home in 57:47, beating daughter Ella Hargreaves (1:05:49) and Rachael White (1:10:08). Stevo and Andrea are travelling down to Brisbane to compete in the Queensland Mountain Running Championships on 29 July.

A big thank you to the Race Director, Gareth Smith and all of the volunteers. Without the help of the volunteers the races would not take place. Volunteers: Lorraine Lawson, Larry Lawson, Christine Bell, Marco Kiefer, Marius Werz, Marjo and Graham Simpson, Joel Little, Steve Bailey, Greg Eldridge, Colleen Harisson, Marnie Carrison, Alison Smith, Brenda O'Brien, Louise Gale and Rachael White.

Keith Fearon won the 5 trial issues from Runners World. (All other runners received two free trial issues). One lucky runner won a free entry into the Train Race, coming up in June.

For full race results please visit: www.roadrunners.org.au
and for photos check out our Facebook page www.facebook.com/cairns-runners

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Overall position	Full Name	RACE #	Time	Category	Category placing	Barron Gorge	Black Snake	Points to date:
	34km							
1	Oliver Zambon	400	03:00:57	M 19-29	1	n/a	25	25
2	Steve Cunningham	25	03:12:39	M 50-59	1	25	20	45
3	Dave Wall	322	03:26:44	M 40-49	1	1	16	17
4	Keith Fearon	169	03:33:08	M 40-49	2	16	13	29
5	Arnstein Prytz	403	03:34:19	M 50-59	2	n/a	11	11
6	Karl Gurnick	338	03:37:39	M 19-29	2	10	10	20
7	Ben Carter	130	03:39:33	M 30-39	1	13	9	22
8	Gareth Smith	81	03:44:04	M 30-39	2	9	8	17
9	Ronan O'Mahony	62	03:47:37	M 30-39	3	n/a	7	7
10	Bryan O'Mahony	61	03:47:41	M 30-39	4	n/a	6	6
12	David Von Senden	318	03:55:45	M 50-59	3	2	5	7
13	Larry Lawson	10	04:02:49	M 50-59	4	4	4	8
14	Julie Sager	406	04:03:15	F 40-49	1	n/a	25	25
15	Cameron Ford	358	04:04:54	M 30-39	5	1	3	4
16	David OBrien	240	04:05:55	M 50-59	5	5	2	7
17	Richard Gaunt	401	04:08:08	M 30-39	6	n/a	1	1
18	Rod Fearon	104	04:09:29	M 40-49	3	n/a	1	1
19	Matt Dewar	117	04:16:13	M 19-29	3	n/a	1	1
20	Mark StAmand	177	04:16:48	M 40-49	4	1	1	2
21	Ruth Bullen	372	04:17:29	F 50-59	1	20	20	40
22	Nick Bradt	119	04:26:20	M 30-39	7	n/a	1	1
23	Neil Harrison	272	04:36:14	M 30-39	8	1	1	2
24	Andrea Collins	40	04:38:35	F 40-49	2	n/a	16	16
25	Alan Courtney	39	04:38:38	M 50-59	6	n/a	1	1
26	John Vaughan	74	04:40:30	M 40-49	5	n/a	1	1
27	Lorraine Lawson	11	04:50:28	F 40-49	3	13	13	26
28	Rhys Griggs	402	05:20:21	M 30-39	9	n/a	1	1
29	Bob Adjemian	411	05:51:49	M 60-69	1	n/a	1	1
30	Scott Ratcliffe	89	05:54:14	M 40-49	6	n/a	1	1
Wrong way	Anna Morgan (went the wrong way)	147	04:23:13	F 50-59	n/a	16	11	27
	21.1km							0
1	Tim McGrath	143	01:49:29	M 30-39	1	n/a	1	1
2	Stevo Francis	99	01:49:53	M 19-29	1	1	1	2
3	Alistair Spence	409	01:59:57	M 30-39	2	n/a	1	1
4	Samantha Fifield	407	02:18:39	F 40-49	1	n/a	10	10
5	Don Elmer	312	02:19:49	M 50-59	1	n/a	1	1
6	Sonya Miller	404	02:22:13	F 30-39	1	n/a	9	9
7	Michelle Farkas	199	02:23:29	F 40-49	2	n/a	8	8
8	Alison Smith	70	02:23:45	F 30-39	2	25	7	32
9	Dave Cuming	412	02:28:50	M 50-59	2	n/a	1	1
10	Iou Cracknell	413	02:33:31	F 50-59	1	n/a	6	6
11	Michele Clark	131	02:45:20	F 50-59	2	n/a	5	5
12	Nami Matsuoka	271	02:47:04	F 30-39	3	n/a	4	4
13	Donna Lupson	269	03:12:46	F 40-49	3		3	3
14	Rhonda Zeylmans	217	03:20:47	F 40-49	4	n/a	2	2
15	Sandra Buckley	26	05:02:08	F 60-69	1	n/a	1	1
DNF	Christine Bell	82	DNF	F 19-29		3	DNF	3

	10km							0
1	Todd Rutherford	100	00:51:23	M 40-49	1	n/a	1	1
2	Paul Ryan	221	00:51:23	M 40-49	2	1	1	2
3	Andrea Hargreaves	56	00:57:47	F 40-49	1	4	1	5
4	Adam Fraser	410	01:04:15	M 19-29	1	n/a	1	1
5	Jamie Walker	320	01:05:42	M 40-49	3	n/a	1	1
6	Ella Hargreaves	58	01:05:49	F 12-15	1	n/a	1	1
7	Mark Fifield	408	01:06:54	M 40-49	4	n/a	1	1
8	Ben Taylor	416	01:07:09	M 19-29	2	n/a	1	1
9	Rachael White	264	01:10:08	F 30-39	1	n/a	1	1
10	Alex Farkas	200	01:15:13	M 40-49	5	n/a	1	1
11	Dozer Hargreaves	57	01:24:50	M 40-49	6	n/a	1	1
12	Katie Richards	359	01:25:57	F 30-39	2	n/a	1	1
13	Lou Gale	405	01:26:34	F 30-39	3	n/a	1	1
14	Linda Adams	142	01:34:29	F 40-49	2	n/a	1	1
15	shannon Leach	415	01:36:18	F 16-18	1	n/a	1	1
16	Whitney Sager	414	01:36:18	F 16-18	2	n/a	1	1
17	Emma Rooke	24	01:48:05	F 16-18	3	1	1	2