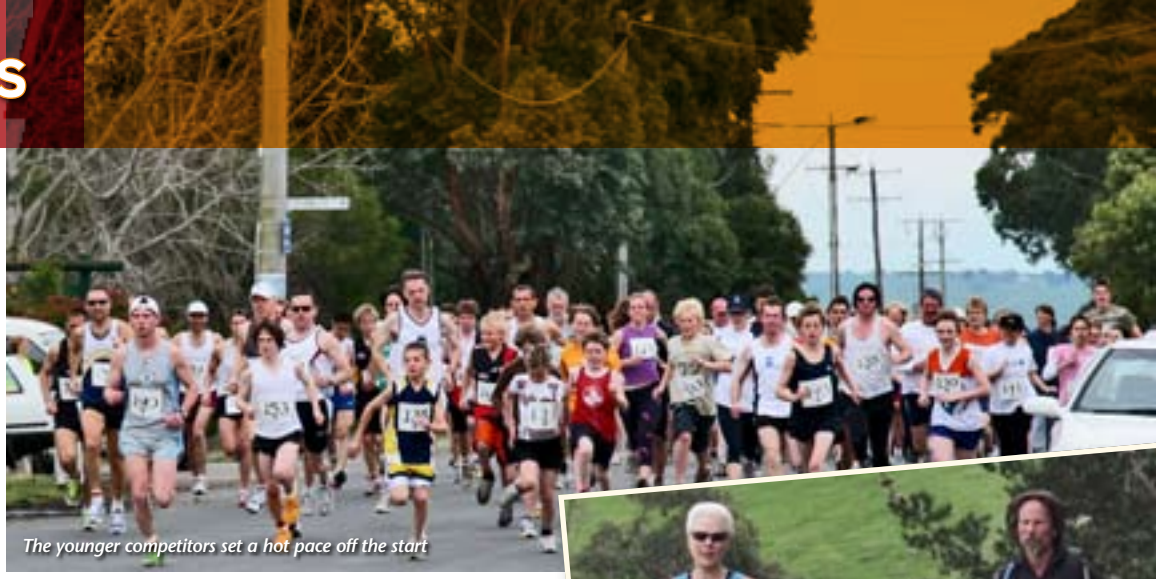
PROM COUNTRY CHALLENGE

AUGUST 27, 2006

by Angela Bonser,
Images by Keith Haycroft



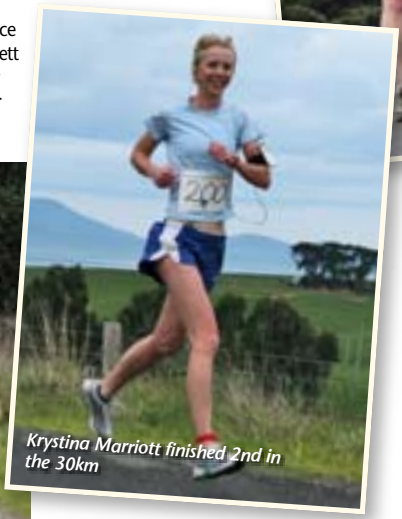
The younger competitors set a hot pace off the start

IT was another perfect day in August for the second running of the Prom Country Challenge, which attracted a total of 130 entrants at the starting line for a wide variety of events: a 6km walk for fun, 6km & 12km runs, a 4 x 6km team event and the big one, the 30km challenge. The Challenge is geared toward all levels of fitness and provides events for distance runners and the community alike in a general effort to encourage all to be more active. The South Gippsland Shire is a great supporter of the event, and a lot of local groups contribute by volunteering and fundraising.

As all races commence at the same time, the men's 6km & 12km had a fiercely contested start, with entrants pushing each other along in the lead pack. The 12km runners were quite relieved when the 6km winner, Chris Clarke, went for the finish line on the first lap. Bert Pelgrim then managed to bridge a small gap and go on to win by some 30 seconds, really putting in a strong effort to the finish. The 6km women's event saw some emerging talent: a young runner, Kate Ball, took the honours, while another junior runner, Lauren Isles, won the 12km.

The 30km event was missing some 15 runners from last year, as many were out due to injury or upcoming championship commitments. Last year's winner, Joseph Maina Ndirangu, was out with a tendon injury but promises to be back for 2007. The race proved extremely close, with Mal Grimmett and Jeremy Mannix being in nearly every photo together along the course. Neither was willing to give an inch. Jeremy was eventually able to kick clear and put 2 minutes into Mal. The Traralgon Harriers were back again in good numbers; some 22 entrants came in support of the event. The third and fourth placed males in the 30km, Ian Twite and John McKeown, both took about 5 minutes off last year's times.

Lynette Arnold and Robert McCaulay in the 30km



Krystina Marriott finished 2nd in the 30km

The women's 30km was won by Britta Wella, a local runner from Sandy Point, whose 2.13.38 finish surpasses that of last year's winner, Sandra Timmer-Arends. If all are back next year, this will surely make for a hotly contested event. Krystina Marriott, running a seemingly relaxed race, finished 2nd, with the evergreen veteran Lavinia Petrie stepping up from last year's second-place finish in the 10km to place 3rd in the 30km. After crossing the finish line, Lavinia went straight into an interview praising the event and the fantastic course. How's that for 60+? That bit of extra training sure paid off.

The PCC is now looking forward to 2007: the race is set for Sunday, 19th August, with all events starting at 9.00am. Check our website: www.promcountrychallenge.org.au. If you have not considered this event previously, the PCC would love to see you take the chance and try something different. The PCC is a non-profit organization, and we are keen to establish this event on the racing calendar as a great lead-up for the Melbourne Marathon. So go on and pencil in the Prom Country Challenge for 2007.

(L to R) Ian Cornthwaite, Bert Pelgrim, David Stones and Chris Clarke in the 12km

RESULTS

30KM	
MEN	
1. Jeremy Mannix	2.00.56
2. Mal Grimmett	2.02.57
3. Ian Twite	2.06.18
4. Keith Falconer	2.07.07
5. John McKeown	2.12.43
6. Shinichi Taniguchi	2.13.14
7. Laurent Rossignol	2.19.00
8. Richard Comber	2.20.55
9. Neil Griffiths	2.22.26
10. Robert Macaulay	2.56.29
WOMEN	
1. Britta Weller	2.13.38
2. Krystina Marriott	2.27.52
3. Lavinia Petrie	2.30.26
4. Karen Ann Tsebelis	2.48.04
5. Lynette Arnold	2.56.29
12KM	
MEN	
1. Bert Pelgrim	45.05
2. Tom Allison	45.40
3. Ian Cornthwaite	46.36
4. David Griffiths	51.39
5. Will Max	51.40
6. Aaron Buttigeig	52.16
7. Terry Stokes	56.28
8. Colin Young	1.01.54
9. Daryl Williams	1.05.53
10. John Hutchison	1.13.34
WOMEN	
1. Lauren Isles	53.21
2. June Petrie	55.27
3. Bianca Craddock	57.36
4. Zena Falkner	58.35
5. Susan Blacklow	58.44
6. Andrea Henderson	1.03.00
7. Erin Williams	1.04.53
8. Yani Cornthwaite	1.07.51
9. Deanne Kennedy	1.13.34
6KM	
MEN	
1. Chris Clarke	21.44
2. Richard Clavarino	23.02
3. Scott Argento	26.55
4. Samuel Whatley	28.15
5. Matt Brown	28.21
6. Mark Ball	30.09
7. Peter Mussared	30.17
8. Tim Brown	31.43
9. Daniel Luxford	31.49
10. Richard Rowe	32.57
WOMEN	
1. Kate Ball	30.09
2. Amika Jenkins	30.24
3. Kelly Laity	31.23
4. Janine Boag	31.54
5. Rachel Brown	34.35
6. Corrinna Chritsensen	34.41
7. Rhonda Scammell	36.56
8. Jessica Denehy	39.15
9. Leanne Young	40.03
10. Michelle Lush	40.33

Mal Grimmett (no. 9) and Jeremy Mannix in the 30km