

## BELL HILL CHALLENGE 2012 - RACE REPORT

With 350 entries in the second year of this new event, the Bell Hill Challenge Mountain Running Race, starting and finishing at Baldoon Farm at the foot of the Bell Hill Forestry Block, has now already established itself as being a very popular event.

Entries this year were one-third greater than last year and the competition amongst all sections of the race shows that mountain running is establishing itself as being a sport that appeals to many people who are looking for fitness and an opportunity to compete, or just take part in an event staged in a stunning and challenging environment.

Competitors lined up in very good weather, although there was a nor-westerly storm brewing in the Southern Alps. Like most nor'westers in Canterbury, we didn't feel the effects of the rain and wind at the start/finish line - it was still calm and very warm.

Apart from the heat, it was ideal conditions for this race and everyone was looking forward to the views they would be getting from the top of Bell Hill.

With two-thirds of the field starting at the mass start being runners, we were very pleased with the entry and support we were getting from the number of walkers who made up the other third of the field.

At the start, pre-race favourite and winner of the 2012 Avalanche Peak Challenge, Tane Cambridge, led the line of runners across the paddock at Baldoon Farm toward the marked route up the face of Bell Hill. He was closely followed by Vajin Armstrong.

Cambridge maintained his lead to the summit, followed by Armstrong, with other notable mountain runners making up the top 10, including Baldoon Farm's Tom Ferguson who trains regularly in the area.

A clear leader in the women's race and first to cross the summit was Ashburton's Julia Grant, recently returned home following a season on the American triathlon circuit.

Cambridge and Armstrong maintained 1st and 2nd to the finish, with Greymouth's Ben Aynsley moving through the field from being 9th to the summit, to finish 3rd. Cambridge finished in 1:23:49, which while one minute slower than last year's winning time was still a very credible performance. He has now proven to himself to be one of Canterbury's top mountain runners and is looking forward to defending his Avalanche Peak Challenge title in 2013.

Julia Grant maintained her lead to the finish, crossing the line in 1:44:49, 3 minutes 20 seconds ahead of Nicola Handley who was followed by last year's champion and previous Coast-to-Coast winner Fleur Pawsey, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in a time of 1:49:30.

The Walk Section held on a shorter 11.5km loop, which still included the Bell Hill climb, was won overall by the winner of the Women's section, by Christchurch's Alex Gerrard, finishing in 1:59:03. David Jarvis from Prebbleton finished 1st in the Men's section in a time of 2:01:21.

The second half of the field finished to trying conditions as a nor-westerly gales hit the start/finish area, bringing tents down and making the area very unsafe. We were able to continue with the event and all competitors finished safely. But the prize giving had to be cancelled, although all finishers were still given a finish time and result.

All in all, it was a great day which had its challenges towards the end. Although it was disappointing the prize-giving could not be held on site due to deteriorating conditions, we are thankful that the conditions did not cause cancellation of the whole event.

Thank you to you all for your support, understanding, and assistance particularly when the weather hit us. To our sponsors headed by Shaun Farrell and his team at the Shoe Clinic, again thank you very much for your support and contribution. Please support them. The Shoe Clinic is a great shop to go to for running gear and advice and, in my view, the best retail outlet in Canterbury for serious runners and walkers.

Congratulations to our champions and we look forward to seeing you all at Avalanche Peak Challenge in Arthur's Pass on Saturday, 16 February 2013 and, of course, next year same place, same time, at Bell Hill.

Good luck with your running and walking.

Chris Cox  
Race Director

Bell Hill Challenge

Congratulations to all the spot prize winners as following:

We will get these in the mail to you.

Bib#	Category	Name	city	Prize
213	Run	Rose Macadam	CHRISTCHURCH	Asics Shoes Voucher to the value of \$250
109	Run	Dave Candy	CHRISTCHURCH	Asics Performance Tees valued at \$60.00
28	Run	Rob Gordon	CHRISTCHURCH	Camelbak Hydration Pack valued at \$100.00
219	Run	Nikki Flanagan	CHRISTCHURCH	Feet In Motion Consultation including orthotics if needed Vouchers valued at \$210.00
443	Walk	Sarah Prain	RANGIORA	Camelbak Hydration Pack valued at \$100.00
507	Walk	David Jarvis	PREBBLETON	Asics Performance Tees valued at \$60.00
245	Run	Joanne Stevenson	CHRISTCHURCH	Feet In Motion Consultation including orthotics if needed Vouchers valued at \$210.00
272	Run	Tania Leslie	KAIAPOI	Asics Performance Tees valued at \$60.00
448	Walk	Danelle Asher	RANGIORA	Feet In Motion Consultation including orthotics if needed Vouchers valued at \$210.00

Full finishing results will be posted on the website soon.

Prize winners results follow.

### Run - Open Race - Men

Place	Bib#	Category	Division	Name	RaceTime
1st	123	Run	M12-39	Tane Cambridge	1:23:49
2nd	3	Run	M12-39	Vajin Armstrong	1:26:40
3rd	5	Run	M12-39	Ben Aynsley	1:33:03

### Run - Open Race -Women

Place	Bib#	Category	Division	Name	RaceTime
1st	133	Run	F12-39	Julia Grant	1:44:49
2nd	218	Run	F12-39	Nicola Handley	1:48:10
3rd	119	Run	F12-39	Fleur Pawsey	1:49:33

### Run - Men40-49

Place	Bib#	Category	Division	Name	RaceTime
1st	115	Run	M40-49	John Fitch	1:41:09
2nd	112	Run	M40-49	Tom Ferguson	1:47:13
3rd	127	Run	M40-49	Will Parker	1:47:44

### Run - Women40-49

Place	Bib#	Category	Division	Name	RaceTime
1st	253	Run	F40-49	Karen Muller	1:53:38
2nd	272	Run	F40-49	Tania Leslie	2:17:44
3rd	259	Run	F40-49	Rochelle Kingi	2:20:38

### Run - Men50+

Place	Bib#	Category	Division	Name	RaceTime
1st	80	Run	M50-99	Nick Braithwaite	1:52:17
2nd	99	Run	M50-99	Peter Richardson	1:56:57
3rd	110	Run	M50-99	Gary Burgess	1:57:07

### Run - Women50+

Place	Bib#	Category	Division	Name	RaceTime
1st	279	Run	F50-99	Teresa Mcconchie	2:18:21
2nd	275	Run	F50-99	Louise Wynn	2:40:26
3rd	278	Run	F50-99	Polly Taylor	2:47:30

### Walk - Open Race - Men

Place	Bib#	Category	Division	Name	RaceTime
1st	507	Walk	M40-49	David Jarvis	2:01:21
2nd	497	Walk	M50-99	Pete Shannan	2:02:30
3rd	511	Walk	M50-99	Keith Hughes	2:12:24

### Walk Open Race - Women

Place	Bib#	Category	Division	Name	RaceTime
1st	424	Walk	F12-39	Alex Gerrard	1:59:03
2nd	431	Walk	F12-39	Friederika Kircher	2:00:29
3rd	403	Walk	F12-39	Lydia Rupasinghe	2:02:22

### Walk - Men40-49

Place	Bib#	Category	Division	Name	RaceTime
1st	507	Walk	M40-49	David Jarvis	2:01:21

### Walk - Women40-49

Place	Bib#	Category	Division	Name	RaceTime
1st	433	Walk	F40-49	Marianne Benson	2:03:19

### Walk - Men50+

Place	Bib#	Category	Division	Name	RaceTime
1st	497	Walk	M50-99	Pete Shannan	2:02:30

### Walk - Women50+

Place	Bib#	Category	Division	Name	RaceTime
1st	478	Walk	F50-99	Jeanette King	2:03:19