



NEWSLETTER 01/11

This is the first newsletter of the season and I welcome everyone who has participated so far. A special hello to anyone who has joined us for the first time.

Our numbers for our opening event, held at Bellerive Beach, was 31, down from 51 last year. A lot of interest had been shown pre-season so we hope the numbers will pick up. It was difficult to advertise earlier than we did this year as we wait for Athletics South to publish their program so we can match ours accordingly. Unfortunately for us, theirs was very late this year.

A bit of background;

This is our third full season. We started off using Athletics South to get us started, using their courses, equipment, expertise and assistance. We still try to hold as many events as we can with them. We have gained young athletes from them and they have gained older athletes from us. We cannot run our events at the same time as theirs because you can't run 6 year olds with 36 year olds for obvious safety reasons. What this means, is when we compete at the same locations we need to wait until they have finished before we start, or as we tried at Risdon Brook, to run before they started. We presently have enough equipment (even though most is borrowed from the Huon Valley Little Athletics Centre) to compete on our own if required.

We purposefully try to keep the costs down but try to make enough to eventually be totally self reliant. Little Athletics Australia determines the distance each age group can run, and it is the same Australia wide. Children are not little adults, they have a different physiology and need to run appropriate distances. Anything outside of this means we are not covered by the TLAA insurance cover.

We hold a southern championships which will be held at Dru Point Margate. There is also a State Cross Country Championships, which, is held at Campbell Town, in and around the football ground. This is a central location as the northern cross country have competitors from Scottsdale and Devonport. The State Championships is sponsored by IGA and a free BBQ is provided on the day.

We meet every second week as most parents are fairly worn out after the summer season, providing the opportunity to sleep in from time to time.

I have been selected as a coach for the TLAA State Team meaning the training sessions for the State Team clash with the start of the cross country season, this is why I had to leave early on Saturday. To try and reduce this clash of requirements we don't meet again until the 7th May.

You may be asked for help to set up or assist at the finish line. These requests will be spread evenly and are not difficult to perform. Thank you to everyone who has helped so far.

We had to move from our programmed location as Risdon Brook was washed out. I was speaking to a workman there on Friday afternoon who told me that part of the track was under a metre of water and the track was closed. A decision was made to relocate. We tried to notify everyone by email and text message and hope that no one attended Risdon Brook to find no one there.

I apologise for the late start on Saturday but as I was driving in in the morning the car in front of me ran over a steel dropper that was lying on the highway, kicking it up under my car and ripping out the automatic transmission lines of my car. This meant late in setting up and late getting started, a tow truck bill and a headache for my mechanic. I hope the buses are comfortable.

We are trialling a Centre challenge this year with points awarded per age group. A child will receive points even if they aren't able to finish.

I hope to include photos in the next newsletter. See you all at Risdon Brook on 7th May.

I can't think of any quip to finish on so I will just say bye.

Paul Mommers