

Ballarat DuO Report

In near perfect conditions on Australia Day, more than 90 competitors took on the challenge of the second Ballarat Silva DuO. The run, ride, run concept of this adventure race was held again in the Black Hill, Nerrina area with the start/finish and transition area being placed on the Chisholm St Reserve.

This year saw a number of newcomers to the event and the race welcomed entrants from all parts of Melbourne, Albury, Broken Hill, Torquay, Bendigo and of course a contingent of locals hoping to snare some of the prizes on offer.

Eureka Orienteers were the organizing club for the race and introduced competitors to their electronic timing system, which not only gave the spectators an immediate record of each person's time as they went through transition, it also gave each competitor a print out of their time splits between each of the control points on the total course. This proved to be a great talking point at the conclusion as discussions about the best route could be compared against an accurate time.

The race began with a scatter run leg, which gave all runners the option of collecting any 8 of 9 marked control points on the long course or 7 of the 9 on the short course. This was followed by a mountain bike leg which had the long course riders doing 15km through Ballarat North, Little Bendigo and Brown Hill, and the short course 9km. And the climax was the run around Black Hill, which included a "King of the Mountain" stage from the Yarrowee Ck footbridge at Princes St to a point high on the side of Black Hill near the end of Napier St.

All up the long course traversed approximately 23km and the short course approximately 18km.

The fastest competitor on the day and winner of the Open Mens Long Course was Steven Cusworth from Hawthorn. Other Long Course winners were Tim Hatley in the Senior Mens and Vanessa Round in the Open Womens.

On the Short Course options, Shayne Hill from Barkers Ck blitzed the field in the Open Mens, Denise Pike from Ringwood won the Senior Womens and Ian Mack the Senior Men. Edward Dean who made the long trip from Albury won the Junior Men's section while locals Annabel Brennan and Heath McLennan took out the pairs.

A full result list can be found at www.silvaduo.com

The City of Ballarat through its Events Office has supported the Ballarat DuO in its first two years as it established itself on the Adventure Race circuit and on the Ballarat Australia Day activity list. Eureka Orienteers hope that this association will continue into the future as the Ballarat DuO moves into newer areas of the urban fringe and parklands in 2012.