PUFFING BILLY RUNNING FESTIVAL

OCT 26 & 27 2024



PARTICIPANT EVENT GUIDE

CAN YOU BEAT THE TRAIN?

The Puffing Billy Running Festival is more than a fun run. It's an iconic running challenge against the power and speed of the famous Puffing Billy steam locomotive from Belgrave to Emerald in the beautiful Dandenong Ranges.

2024 RUNNING FESTIVAL SPONSORS

MAJOR PARTNERS







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LOCAL GOVERNMENT







SUPPORTING SPONSORS





PRIZE PARTNERS











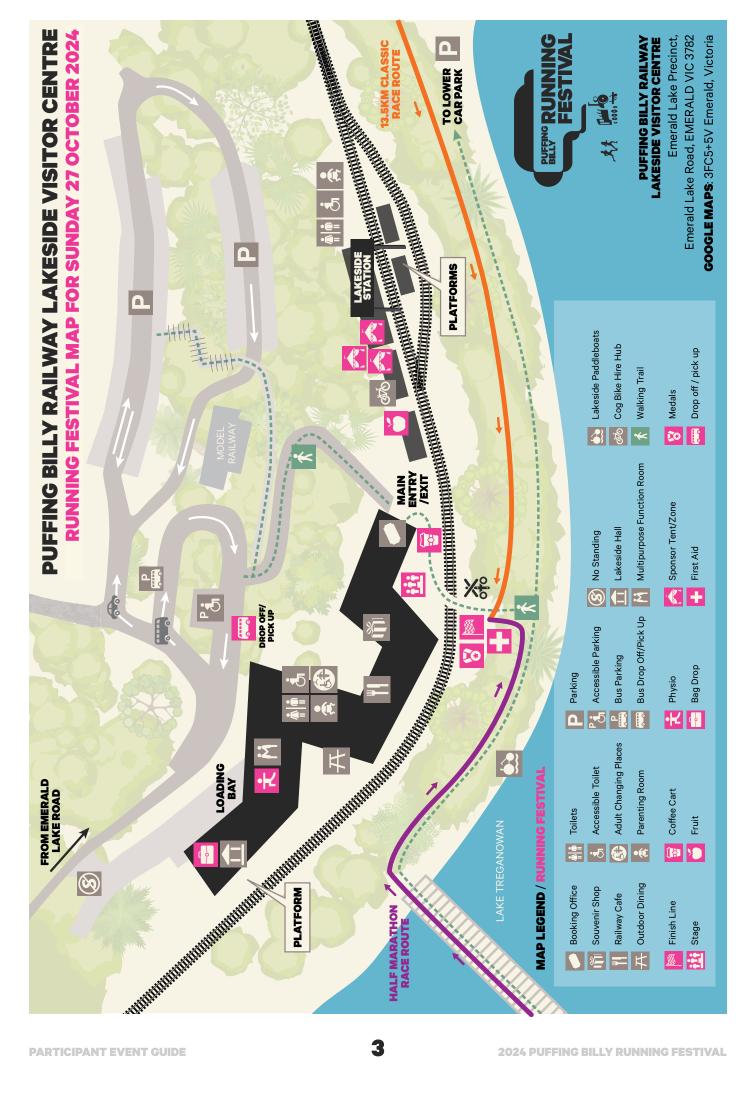














EVENT SCHEDULE

SATURDAY OCT 26 SCHEDULE

8:30am Bib Collection open (Lakeside Visitor Centre)

8.30am Special Train departs Belgrave
 9.30am Special Train arrives at Lakeside
 9:55am Race Briefing: 1.2km Junior Dash

10:00amRACE START: 1.2km Junior Dash10:55amRace Briefing: 5km Family Fun Run

11:00am RACE START: 5km Family Fun Run

11:00am Race Train: Lakeside to Packing Shed Return departs ~11:25am Train from Lakeside to Packing Shed Return returns*

11:45am 5km Presentations

12:00pm Course Closed / Event concludes12.30pm Special Train departs Lakeside1.30pm Special Train arrives at Belgrave*

SUNDAY OCT 27 SCHEDULE

6:30 am Bib Collection open (Belgrave CFA)

7:45 am Rolling road closures begin

8:20am Baggage Drop service closed (Belgrave CFA)

8:30 am Race Briefing

8:40 am RACE START: 13.5km Classic and 21.1km Half Marathon

8:40 am Race Train #1 Departs 9:00 am Race Train #2 Departs

9:20 am First 13.5km finisher expected9:35 am First Race Train expected*

10:00 am Second Race Train expected* (first arrival to Lakeside)

9:55 am First 21.1km finisher expected

10:00 am Return Bus Shuttle Service from ELP to Belgrave begins
 10:30 am Presentations: 13.5km Classic & 21.1km Half Marathon

10:40 am Second Race Train expected* (second arrival to Lakeside)

10:40 am Course Cut-off for 13.5km Classic participants

11:30 am Course Closed11:30 am Day 2 Concludes

^{*} Train times are estimates only.

^{*} As with all 120-year-old steam locomotives, the Race Trains' race times varies based on a number of factors, including track conditions, weather, and food (coal) intake leading into the race.





EVENT DETAILS - SATURDAY

Day one of the Festival will feature a 1.2km Kids Dash and a 5km Family Fun Run / Walk on Saturday 26 October at Emerald Lake Park, with the echoing toots and puffs of Puffing Billy propelling all participants forward.

1.2KM JUNIOR DASH

Date: Saturday 26th October 2024

Bib Collection Opens: 8:30am

Race Briefing: 9:55am Start time: 10:00am Start type: Mass start.

Course: Starts and finishes inside Emerald Lake Park from the Lakeside Visitor Centre.

Address: Emerald Lake Park, Emerald Lake Rd, Emerald VIC 3782

Rail Crossings: None

Age requirements: Participants must be 15 years or younger on event day. Parents can accompany for free (but sorry mums and dads, no finisher medals for you!). We request that all participants be accompanied on course.

Course Cut Off: 30 minutes (10:30am)

Railway crossings: There are no railway crossings on this course.

While you won't be racing against the train, you will still have the chance to see it in action and hear its unmistakable whistle, which will signal the start of the race!

5KM FAMILY FUN RUN

Date: Saturday 26th October 2024

Bib Collection Opens: 8:30am

Race Briefing: 10:55am Start time: 11:00am Start type: Mass start.

Course: Starts and finishes inside Emerald Lake Park from the Lakeside Visitor Centre.

Address: Emerald Lake Park, Emerald Lake Rd, Emerald VIC 3782

Rail Crossings: None.

Age requirements: Participants must be 8 years or older on event day. Participants 15 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult on course.

Course Cut Off: 60 minutes (12noon)

Railway crossings: There are no railway crossings on this course.

COURSE MAP - SATURDAY







EVENT DETAILS - SUNDAY

13.5KM CLASSIC

Date: Sunday 27th October 2024

Bib Collection opens: 6:30am at Belgrave CFA near start line

Start time: 8:40am

Race start: Intersection of Bayview Rd and Belgave-Gembrook Road, Belgrave VIC 3160.

Race finish location: Emerald Lake Park, Emerald Lake Rd, Emerald VIC 3782.

Rail Crossings: SIX (Athletes MUST stop for trains). All participants ignoring race officials or marshals at road or rail crossings will be immediately disqualified.

Age requirements: Participants must be 13 years or older on event day. Participants under the age of 15 MUST be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Course Cut Off: 2 hours (10:40am)

Based on an average of 8:50 min/km pace.

0km - Belgrave Start Line: 8:40am

6.7km - Menzies Creek CFA Station: 9:40am (1 hour)

10.1km - Emerald Station: 10:10am (1.5 hours)
13.5km - Finish Line: 10:40am (2 hours)

ABOUT THE 13.5KM CLASSIC RACE

Steeped in history, the 13.5km Classic route is THE iconic running challenge against the power and speed of TWO steam locomotives from Belgrave to Emerald Lake Park.

The rolling hills will challenge you throughout the beautiful Dandenong Ranges with the course now comprising a mix of sealed asphalt roads and gravel walking tracks.

There are a total of six rail crossings along the route and competitors MUST give way to Puffing Billy under instruction from race officials.

These courses - combined with the sounds and steam of the two competing race trains and the railway crossings - provide one of the most challenging spectacular fun run locations in Australia.



EVENT DETAILS - SUNDAY

21.1KM HALF-MARATHON

Date: Sunday 27th October 2024

Bib Collection opens: 6:30am at Belgrave CFA near start line

Start time: 8:40am

Course: Starts in Belgrave and finishes at Emerald Lake Park, incorporating a loop through Wright Forest.

Race start: Intersection of Bayview Rd and Belgave-Gembrook Road, Belgrave VIC 3160.

Race finish location: Emerald Lake Park, Emerald Lake Rd, Emerald VIC 3782.

Rail Crossings: SEVEN (Athletes MUST stop for trains). All participants ignoring race officials or marshals at road or rail crossings will be immediately disqualified.

Age requirements: Participants must be 16 years or older on event day.

Course Cut Off: 2 hours and 40 minutes (11:20am)

Based on an average of 7:45 min/km pace.

0km - Belgrave Start Line: 8:40am

6.7km - Menzies Creek CFA Station: 9:30am (50 mins) 10.1km - Emerald Station: 10:00am (1 hour and 20 mins)

13.5km - Emerald Lake Park - first pass: 10:25 am (1 hour and 45 mins) 21.1km - Emerald Lake Park - Finish: 11:20 am (2 hours and 40 mins)

ABOUT THE 21.1KM HALF MARATHON

The 21.1km Half Marathon is for those seeking to stretch their fitness with a new challenge. The Half Marathon competitors will follow the 13.5km Classic route all the way to Emerald Lake Park before going beyond the finish zone.

After traversing a section of the Emerald-Cockatoo Walking Trail, you'll embark on a loop of the picturesque Wright Forest.

Within Wright Forest you'll be confronted with a series of challenging descents and climbs on dirt fire trails. If you're lucky (or have been running at just the right pace!), you'll be able to spot a Puffing Billy steam locomotive at the stunning 'No. 8 Wright Trestle Bridge'.

After completing the forest loop, you'll return to Emerald Lake Park to the cheers of your family and friends by crossing the footbridge over Lake Treganowan.

The course is a mixture of sealed asphalt roads, gravel walking tracks and dirt fire roads.

COURSE MAP - SUNDAY



CAPRA MAPS

Puffing Billy Running Festival have partnered up with friends of trail CAPRA to equip you with the cleanest, easiest to follow maps you'll ever come across.

Scan the QR Code to get started or view the maps on Capra >





CUT OFF TIMES

Designated course timing / cut-off points have been implemented to minimise the disruption to local traffic. Runners will be required to reach these points within the time limit to continue in the race.

13.5KM RACE DISTANCE CUT-OFF TIMES Based on an average of 8:50min/km pace	Time
Okm - Belgrave Start Line	8:40am
6.7km - Menzies Creek CFA Station	9:40am (1 hour)
10.1km - Emerald Station	10:10am (1.5 hours)
13.5km - Finish Line	10:40am (2 hours)
21.1KM RACE DISTANCE CUT-OFF TIMES Based on an average of 7:45min/km pace	Time
Okm - Belgrave Start Line	8:40am
6.7km - Menzies Creek CFA Station	9:30am (50 mins)
10.1km - Emerald Station	10:00am (1 hour and 20 mins)
13.5km - Emerald Lake Park	10:25 am (1 hour and 45 mins)
21.1km - Emerald Lake Park	11:20 am (2 hours and 40 mins)



DRINK STATIONS

Drinks stations will be located along the route to ensure you keep hydrated throughout your race. Hosted by our friendly volunteers, you'll be all set to keep running with confidence!

Race	Distance	Location
5km Family Fun Run	2.5km	Packing Sheds (Turn around)
13.5km & 21.1km Half Marathon	4km	Near 12 Selby-Aura Rd, Selby
13.5km & 21.1km Half Marathon	6.7km	Menzies Creek CFA Station
13.5km & 21.1km Half Marathon	10.1km	Emerald Station
21.1km Half Marathon	13km	Emerald Lake Park (First Passing)
21.1km Half Marathon	15.2km & 20.4km	Wrights Forest (Entry & Exit)
All Races	Finish Line	Lakeside Visitor Centre, Emerald Lake Park



TRAIN - SATURDAY

5KM FUN RUN RACE TRAIN – LAKESIDE TO PACKING SHED RETURN

The Saturday scheduled 5km Race Train is as follows:

- Saturday 5km Race Train starts at 11:00am and is scheduled to complete the course within 23 30 minutes.
- The train will depart from Lakeside Station, right next to the race start / finish area. It will chug up the climb to the Nobelius Packing Shed at the top of the course before racing back down to the race start / finish area again.
- Train tickets must be booked prior to the event for \$10 per person.
- Passengers are required to follow all instructions of Puffing Billy Railway staff and volunteers.
- Children under the age of four can travel for free, however, they must book a seat. Please note, they
 must be sitting on their guardians lap.
- Passengers must adhere to all Puffing Billy Railway conditions of travel.
- Passengers will be emailed ticket confirmation 24 48 hours prior to their travel.



TRAIN - SUNDAY

RACE TRAINS - BELGRAVE TO LAKESIDE

The Sunday scheduled Race Train times are as follows:

- Race Train #1 starts at 8:40am and is scheduled to complete the course within 50 60 minutes.
- Race Train #2 starts at 9:00am and is scheduled to complete the course within 65 75 minutes.
- Passengers must check-in 30 minutes prior to departure.
- · Passengers are required to follow all instructions of Puffing Billy Railway staff and volunteers.
- Children under the age of four can travel for free, however, they must book a seat. Please note, they
 must be sitting on their guardians lap.
- Passengers must adhere to all Puffing Billy Railway conditions of travel.
- Passengers will be emailed ticket confirmation 24 48 hours prior to their travel.

RETURN TRIP – LAKESIDE (EMERALD LAKE PARK) TO BELGRAVE

Shuttle buses: Shuttle bus service will commence at 10:30am and will take participants back to the start line in Belgrave. Tickets can be booked through the registration system for \$15 per person.

Participants-only early train: For the return trip to Belgrave, this early service will depart Emerald Lake Park (Finish line) at 10:25am and arrive at Belgrave (Start line) at 11:35am.

Race Train #1: For the return trip to Belgrave, Race Train #1 will depart Emerald Lake Park (Finish line) at 10:55am and arrive at Belgrave (Start line) at 12:00pm.

Race Train #2: For the return trip to Belgrave, Race Train #2 will depart Emerald Lake Park (Finish line) at 12:05am and arrive at Belgrave (Start line) at 1:10pm.

- Passengers are required to follow all instructions of Puffing Billy Railway staff and volunteers.
- Children under the age of four can travel for free, however, they must book a seat. Please note, they
 must be sitting on their guardians lap.
- Passengers must adhere to all Puffing Billy Railway conditions of travel.



Shuttle buses: Shuttle bus service will commence at 10:00am and will take participants back to the start line in Belgrave. Tickets can be booked through the registration system for \$15 per person.



Parking is EXTREMELY limited near Emerald Lake Park and, well, everywhere in the Emerald area.

So, we urge you to find a buddy (or four) and car pool to and from the event. There is not enough car parking spaces for everyone to travel solo. It's cheaper in petrol, better for the environment and you can share the pre-race nerves and the post-race 'runner's high', too.

SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER

On Sunday 27th October 2024, traffic management safety controls including road closures will occur on roads associated with the Puffing Billy Running Festival.

This will occur between 6:00 am and 1:30 pm and includes the race route and surrounding roads.

Please note the race will start at 8:40 am in Belgrave.

Areas most affected are between Belgrave and Emerald Lake Park, Emerald. Motorists are required to obey directions from Police and Traffic Controllers and be aware of runners on the roads.

Puffing Billy Railway apologises for any inconvenience caused to residents and motorists during this period.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPTIONS:

- Catch public transport to Belgrave Station.
- See http://www.PTV.vic.gov.au to plan your journey.
- To ensure you have plenty of time pre-race, please note the following departures are scheduled on the Belgrave Line on the day:
- From Flinders Street Station, depart at 5:43am and arrives at Belgrave 6:48am
 - From Ringwood Station, departs at 6:24am and arrives at Belgrave at 6:48am.
 - Public transport services are limited and you need to ensure you are at the start line at least 30 minutes prior to the race start (i.e. 7:30am arrival for an 8:00am start).
- Please notethat to travel on public transport in Melbourne you will need a myki card.

PARK AND RIDE:

Park at a metro car park along the Belgrave line and then car pool with friends from there OR catch public transport to Belgrave Station. Please check the PTV Journey Planner before you travel.

Parking is available at the following stations on the Belgrave line:

- Boronia 394 car spaces
- Mitcham 790 car spaces
- Camberwell 75 car spaces
- Nunawading 207 car spaces
- Ferntree Gully 278 car spaces
- Ringwood 260 car spaces
- Heatherdale 515 car spaces
- Upper Ferntree Gully 308 car spaces
- Heathmont 112 car spaces

OUR TRAVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

IF TRAVELLING FROM THE SOUTH OR WEST:

- A "Drop Off Zone" at the roundabout of Belgrave-Hallam Rd and Belgrave-Gembrook Rd. This will be available until 7:30am ONLY. This will be managed by volunteers.
- LIMITED car parks (~50) available at Mater Christi School car park on Bayview Rd prior to 7:00am (used with kind permission of Mater Christi). First come first served. Entry to Mater Christi is via Belgrave-Gembrook Rd only.
- LIMITED car parks (~80) available at Belgrave Recreation Reserve at 1A Reserve Rd, Belgrave.

IF TRAVELLING FROM THE NORTH OR EAST:

- A "Drop Off Zone" near St Thomas More Primary School on Reynolds Lane in Belgrave and walk. This will be managed by volunteers.
- Park at a metro car park along the Belgrave line and then catch public transport to Belgrave Station. (see list above)
- LIMITED (~80) car parks available at Alexanders car park in Belgrave. First come first served.
- LIMITED (~80) car parks available at Belgrave Town off the Burwood Highway in Hillside Court, Belgrave. (Next to Australia Post). First come first served.





CAR PARKING AT EMERALD LAKE PARK (FINISH ZONE)

Parking: There are two carpark options in the Emerald Lake Park precinct and one nearby at Emerald Secondary College.

- Lakeside Visitor Centre carpark (~200 spots) to access, turn left at the fork on Emerald Lake Road, cross over Lake Treganowan and past the railway level crossing. Follow this road around and past the bus drop-off and accessible parking zone. General parking is to your right. Council-operated ticketed machines apply \$6 flat fee/day.
- **Lakeside carpark (~100 spots)** to access, continue straight and past the fork on Emerald Lake Road where you will find a cul de sac of car park spaces. Council-operated ticketed machines apply \$6 flat fee/day.

1 MINUTE RING AND RIDE ZONE

With strictly limited parking in Emerald Lake Park at the finish area, we recommend you ring a friend or family member to come and collect you from the lower Emerald Lake Car Park. There will be a designated 1-minute waiting spot for drivers to collect their runners and depart, managed by our volunteer car parking team. Any drivers waiting for more than 1 minute at this point will be directed to complete a circuit out to Emerald and come back when their passenger is ready.







BAGGAGE DROP SERVICE

A free of charge Baggage Drop service is provided to participants of the 13.5km Classic and 21.1km Half Marathon events. These items will be transferred from the start line in Belgrave to the finish line in Emerald.

All participants must bring their own bag and attach the bag tag (available from the perforated edge on the provided Race Bib) to their belongings. We recommend zippable Woolworth's style bags.

To ensure your bag will find you at the Finish Line, please place it in the Baggage Van near Bib Collection near the Belgrave CFA by 8:20am. This allows the Baggage Van to travel ahead of the race to reach the start line in time.

Important notes:

- Organisers will not be held responsible for the contents of runners' bags.
- It is suggested runners pack lightly with essential items.
- We recommend zippable Woolworth's style bags.
- Please turn off your mobile before placing it in your bag.
- At the Finish Line, Bags will be available for collection in the FUNCTION ROOM inside the Lakeside Visitor Centre.
 This is PAST the cafe near 'Lakeside Hall'



FINISHER MEDALS

Are there FINISHER medals?? YES - you bet! Every finisher will receive a medal when they cross that finish line.



FIRST AID & MEDICAL

A professional event first aid service – MedX Medical – will be engaged, and will be based along the route during each event and at the Water / Aid Stations on course.

An Ambulance Victoria crew will also be on-site for the Sunday events. Regardless of this support, everyone should help a runner in serious trouble.



RACE PHOTOS

Everyone LOVES a great fun run photo, right? We've teamed up with the marvellous folk at RaceAtlas to provide our official race photography. After the event these images will be available to buy through their website. These photos will be available via the Photos page:

https://puffingbillyrunningfestival.com.au/events/gallery/



RACE RULES

- · No dogs, cyclists, prams, roller or in-line skaters will be permitted to take part or accompany in any of the races.
- Participants must obey the direction of race officials, marshals or volunteers: on and off the course.
- Participants ignoring race officials or marshals at road or rail crossings will be immediately disqualified.
- Be courteous to all you encounter during the event. This includes staff, volunteers, traffic controllers and other
 users of the course.
- Dogs are NOT permitted inside Wrights Forest. Assistance dogs permitted.
- Participants under the age of 15 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
- Participants must help fellow runners in distress.
- Failure to wear your own registered race bib will result in disqualification.
- · Anyone found not using the correct toilet facilities will be disqualified.
- Runners returning along the race route before 10:30am will be disqualified.

RESULTS

Race results will be uploaded in real time throughout the Puffing Billy Running Festival.

These results will be available via the Results page:

https://puffingbillyrunningfestival.com.au/events/results/

START PROCESS

Please be early and dressed ready to run, with your Race Bib affixed to the front of your clothing.

On Saturday, there are no seeded starts.

On Sunday, seeding groups will begin forming from 7:45am onwards, look for the signs!

Seeded starts will ensure a safer event by having the faster runners at the front.

START AREAS

1km and 5km events:

No start waves will be implemented.

13.5km Classic and 21.1km Half Marathon events:

13.5km Start and 21.1km Start will begin rolling from 8:40am onwards.

Please note there will no longer be breaks between waves, but we ask runners to find the 'Wave' starting area that suits them best.

This now means that everyone will be on course by 8:45am and have a better chance to beat the train!

Group A

Men: Your 10km race time is less than 40 minutes. Women: Your 10km race time is less than 45 minutes.

Group B

Men: Your flat 10km race time is between 40 - 50 minutes. Women: Your flat 10km race time is between 45 - 55 minutes.

Group C

Men: Your flat 10km race time is between 50 - 60 minutes. Women: Your flat 10km race time is between 55 - 65 minutes.

Group D

Men: Your flat 10km race time is between 60+ minutes. Women: Your flat 10km race time is between 65+ minutes.

WITHDRAWING DURING THE EVENT

If you wish to withdraw at any stage during the event, you need to do so at a water or aid station and notify the attendants of your intention to withdraw. We will then do what we can to get you away from the water aid station as soon as we can, but given the length of the event, seeking a lift from a friend or family may be your best method of transport.

If you do not start - you will be listed as a Did Not Start (DNS).



PRIZE LIST 2024

13.5 KM CLASSIC

1ST PLACE - FEMALE & MALE WINNERS VALUE: \$683 + NEW BALANCE SHOES

- 2 night stay for 2 people at The Chen Hotel Art Series Melbourne
- Set Menu for 2 including 4 matching beverages at The Independent Gembrook
- Entry for 2 adults to Zoos Victoria
- \$20 shopping voucher at Chadstone Shopping Centre
- 1x Pair of New Balance shoes

2ND PLACE - FEMALE & MALE WINNERS VALUE: \$717

- 1 Night's Stay at Yering Gorge Cottages
- 1 x Peninsula Hot Springs Tour to the Mornington Peninsula

3RD PLACE - FEMALE & MALE WINNERS VALUE: \$248

- Set Menu for 2 including 4 matching beverages at The Independent Gembrook
- \$20 shopping voucher at Chadstone Shopping Centre

21.1 KM HALF MARATHON

1ST PLACE - FEMALE & MALE WINNERS VALUE: \$1,200 + SHOES

- Luxury 1-night's stay at The Dorsett Melbourne, including dinner and breakfast.
- 1x Pair of New Balance shoes

2ND PLACE - FEMALE & MALE WINNERS VALUE: \$639

- Entry for 2 adults to Zoos Victoria
- 1 x return Searoad Ferries car, driver and one passenger ticket
- 1 x adult midweek Yarra Valley Balloon Flight

3RD PLACE - FEMALE & MALE WINNERS VALUE: \$300

• 1 x Wilsons Promontory Wilderness Tour

PRIZE LIST 2024

5 KM FAMILY FUN RUN

1ST PLACE - FEMALE & MALE WINNERS VALUE: \$538

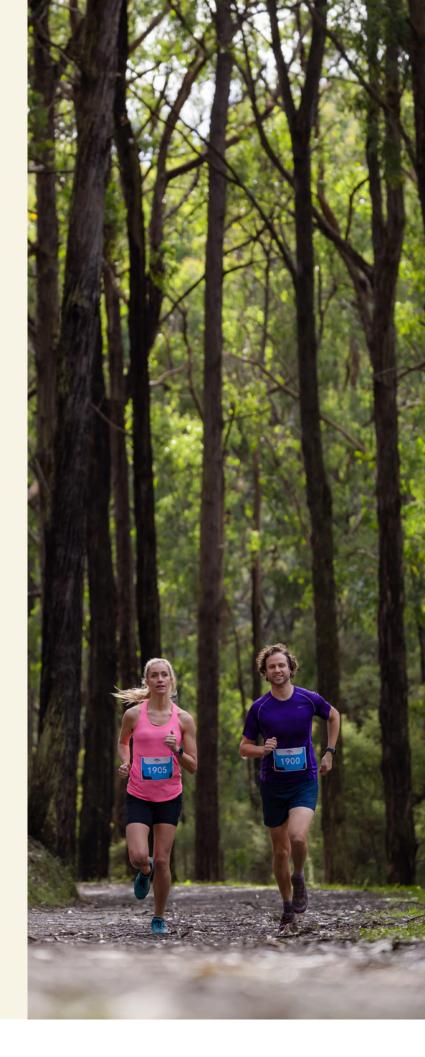
- 4 x Ultimate Experince passes to Melbourne Skydeck
- \$50 Dining Voucher from Bam Bam Italian
- \$200 voucher from Running Company Lilydale

2ND PLACE - FEMALE & MALE WINNERS VALUE: \$254

- 2 x Ultimate Experince passes to Melbourne Skydeck
- 1 x return Searoad Ferries Family Foot Passenger Ticket

3RD PLACE - FEMALE & MALE WINNERS VALUE: \$178

- Entry for 4 people Penguin Parade General Viewing
- \$50 Dining Voucher from Bam Bam Italian



2023 WINNERS

13.5KM CLASSIC

Male - Craig Appleby - 44:11

Female - Sarah Klein - 48:51

5KM FAMILY FUN RUN

Male - Ollie Dean - 19:51

Female - Holly Makaay - 21:45

21.1KM HALF MARATHON

Male - John Dutton - 01:15:54

Female - Clara Kiefel-Johnson - 01:44:09

1.2KM JUNIOR DASH

Male - Chase Makaay - 04:15

Female - Anni Clarke - 04:45

RACE RECORDS

13.5KM CLASSIC					
GENDER	NAME	TIME	YEAR		
Male	Steve Kelly	42:27	2015		
Female	Melissa Duncan	48:27	2018		
21.1KM HALF MARATHON					
GENDER	NAME	TIME	YEAR		
Male	John Dutton	01:15:54	2023		
Female	Clara Kiefel-Johnson	01:44:09	2023		
5KM FAMILY FUN RUN					
GENDER	NAME	TIME	YEAR		
Male	Ollie Dean	19:51	2023		
Female	Holly Makaay	21:45	2023		
1.2KM JUNIOR DASH					
GENDER	NAME	TIME	YEAR		
Male	Chase Makaay	04:15	2023		
Female	Anni Clarke	04:45	2023		



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