

Mizuno Half Marathon – Taupo 2011

Two thousand six hundred brave and hardy competitors set off on the annual running of the bulls (oops, wrong event). Actually, it was the annual running of the Taupo Half Marathon and HMC had eight strong members competing. The runners were Michael, Max, Lex, Sharon, Jenny, Dana with walkers Carol and Helen. We were accompanied by Ross Wrenn and his cycle.

It pays to leave home for an event with plenty of time to spare as those travelling from Morrinsville, left the trip a little late only to run into the 'men in blue' and come out with rather a hefty fine before even getting to Taupo. Have you paid that speeding fine yet Jenny?

After a zumba warm up to some upbeat music, we headed for the start line and a place within the throng of competitors. The really keen ones were up the front and the ones dressed in costume were scattered among the runners and walkers. The course headed out round the lake's edge, there were no views of the mountain peaks today, although they would have been covered in snow had we been able to see them. At around the 8 klm mark, the rain started and it was a bitterly, cold sleety rain driven in from the lake. It didn't seem to ease off and after the turn round point, the rain beat in on the other side of the body, so basically the longer you were out, the wetter you got. You could actually hear the waves roaring along the lake edge.

There was complimentary hot soup and rolls available on completion of the event, which I am sure was most welcome by all finishers. We stayed for the prize giving but I don't think any prizes made their way back to Hamilton. There was a really good selection of prizes available, if you were lucky enough to receive one.

Well done to Michael for finishing his half marathon in 1hr 30 mins. He said it was the highlight of the day for him along with the nice views of Taupo. Sharon completed her first running half marathon and overall was pleased with her time and how well she went on the day. While we were out pounding the streets in the rain, Ross cycled 60 km to preview part of the course for an upcoming cycle event in November 2011. Go Ross!!!!

An event in Taupo is not complete without a good soak in the De Brett hot pools, to relieve those tired and aching muscles before the return trip to Hamilton. It was a good day, a well run event and great company.

See you there in 2012!

Helen