

Date: 10/06/2019

Schools competition points

Points for the Hawke's Bay schools competition after the individual sprint and long, and Sunday's team relays were as follows:

Secondary School Boys

Havelock North High (325) 1st, Napier Boys' High (158) 2nd, Lindisfarne College (112) 3rd.

Secondary School Girls

Havelock North High (249) 1st, Napier Girls' High (194) 2nd, Taradale High (168) 3rd.

Year 7/8 Boys

Havelock North Int (99) 1st, Hereworth School (47) 2nd, Napier Int (40) 3rd.

Year 7/8 Girls

Eskdale School (109) 1st, Havelock North Int (89) 2nd, Taradale Int (73) 3rd.

Primary Boys

Te Mata School (92) 1st, Haumoana School (91) 2nd, Havelock North Primary (58) 3rd.

Primary Girls

Te Mata School (108) 1st, Haumoana School (73) 2nd, Eskdale School (69) 3rd.

Thanks everyone

No doubt Cryn and Sue will be thanking all those who helped make this year's school competition, and particularly yesterday's relays, such great events.

So as not to let this pair get away with doing all the thanking, I'll give my own thanks on behalf of you all to these two wonderful women whose work to organise it all made the school competition a slick professional show and such a tremendous advertisement for our sport.

Many thanks, Sue and Cryn.

Cross training pays off

Orienteers featured well in results for the East Coast secondary schools' cross country championships held at the Gisborne Showgrounds last Wednesday.

Year 9 Girls: Zoe Elliott (2nd), Sofia Lumbreras (3rd) and Emma Bryant (9th)

Junior Girls: Nikita Wain (1st)

Junior Boys: Karsen Vesty (1st), Lorcan Rabbitte (6th)

Senior Girls: Tessa Burns (3rd)

Senior Boys: Ronan Lee (2nd), Cameron Potts (7th), Braeden Kommeren (8th)

Worksafe release is good news

It's not often that an outbreak of common sense becomes a news story.

But the story in Friday's Dominion Post under the picture of a rock climber is very good news for us. The headline says: Thrillseekers carry own risk.

As orienteers we are some of the headline writer's thrillseekers: people who use other people's land for outdoor recreation.

The story explains that a recent release by Worksafe (worksafe.govt.nz) makes clear that when areas such as schools, parks, forests and farms are used for recreation the liability for any accident rests with the individual person. Or with the organisation/club running the recreation. This applies so long as the area in which an accident occurred was not an active workplace at the time.

The controller of each of our events needs to talk to the landowner/manager to establish any special hazards we need to be aware of and agree what action needs to be taken. So we may make areas out of bounds or tape them off. Or it may be sufficient just to make our runners aware of the hazard.

But if the farmer, say, had tree-felling going on or was crop-spraying while we were there, and had not warned us not to go near those areas, then liability for any harm to a runner as a result could rest with the farmer.

The Health and Safety at Work Act was passed in 2015. It was introduced as a protection for workers in the workplace. But one unintended consequence has been that many landowners and managers have denied access from a concern that they carried liability for any injury suffered by recreational users.

Worksafe has now provided the commonsense clarification that the situation needed.

The club is currently talking to a forestry company and to a school, each of which has denied us access for events. We are hopeful we can resolve these situations and last week's Worksafe release and media coverage of it may prove very helpful.