



Melbourne University White Train runs express to Geelong

22 July 2008

A combination of youth and experience proved successful for Melbourne University Athletics Club's cross country team in Geelong for the Athletics Victoria 10 mile and 4 km Cross Country Championships on Saturday, the 12th of July. The White Train, as the cross country team is known, produced some fine individual and team performances in races featuring Beijing Olympians to maintain a fine record for the 2008 cross country season.

Grant Morgan ran superbly to finish 10th in the Open Men's 10 mile race, proving the benefit of hours of hill training in Eltham and Hurstbridge. Sophie Barker, in a race full of Olympic and national representatives, flew around the Open Women's 4km course into 14th and looks set to push further up the national rankings for steeplechase once track season arrives.

The Women's Division One team continued their sparkling season at the elite level garnering a fifth place and consolidating their position near the top of the premiership ladder.

The Men's Division Two team had one of their strongest combinations out and comprehensively won their division for the sixth race in a row, with a performance that would have given them fourth place in the elite Division One (where the White Train aims to be to next winter).

The White Train was bolstered by runners from MUAC's sprint squad who came down to race and support the team. They were lured by promises of sumptuous afternoon tea after the races and fish and chips on the way home but still have some tricks to learn from their distance running colleagues on post race repast.

The White Train utilised all of club stalwart Paul Kennedy's experience of the 10 mile race in deciding tactics. The championship was first contested in 1892, and Paul conceded that he while hadn't been at that inaugural race, he had raced many times since and was delighted to be racing it once more. The race honour role is filled with the greats of distance running - Les Perry, Ron Clarke, Murray Halberg, Derek Clayton, Chris Wardlaw, Rob de Castella, Steve Moneghetti and Lee Troop have all claimed the championship.

John Landy, Melbourne University alumnus, Athletics Blue and former Governor of Victoria, was on hand to present trophies to all the winners.

Melbourne University Athletics Club is one of Victoria's oldest, most active and vibrant clubs, with a strong distance running group. New members of all abilities and ages are always welcome. It is not necessary to be a student to be a member.

More information is available on the club website at

www.athletics.musa.net.au.

Full club results below.

Team	Place	Premiership	Points	Score
Women's Division	1	5 th	8	140
Women's Division	3	4 th	9	263
Men's Division	2	1 st	13	233
Men's Division	3	4 th	9	738
Men's Division	5	3 rd	10	904

Overall Position	Category Position	Name	Performance
Division 2 Men			
10	10	MORGAN, GRANT	0:53:22
26	26	DELANY, LIAM	0:55:14
34	34	PAROISSIEN, DAVID	0:56:07
42	42	BEAUMONT, HAMISH	0:56:38
47	47	SELBY SMITH, ANDREW	0:57:13
74	74	HARLAN, TYLER	0:59:48
Division 3 Men			
115	113	GORMAN, THOMAS	1:02:28
143	140	THOMAS, TIMOTHY	1:04:00
147	144	HENSEY, KIERAN	1:04:13
152	149	BRAIN, TONY	1:04:29
196	192	KENNEDY, PAUL	1:07:38
Division 1 Women			
23	14	BARKER, SOPHIE	14:47
62	35	CURNOW, CHARLOTTE	15:49
81	45	CLARKE, KATHERINE	16:19
82	46	BRYANT SMITH, ALISON	16:21
Division 3 Women			
113	63	BAXTER, CLAIRE	16:56
149	84	GORMAN, JULIA	17:51
203	116	MCGOUGAN, TRACY	21:23