

## **CLUB KIWIFRUIT FUND RAISING PICK**

*As reported in Ramblings newsletter, 6<sup>th</sup> June, 1992.*

The annual Shallcross kiwifruit pick was once again offered to Tauranga Ramblers to give our funds a much needed boost so that we can subsidise club days, Bar-B-Q's, Pinto, buses, newsletters and travel to major events. All in all club members receive more than their subscriptions cover, therefore we need full support from all participants for our fund-raising efforts.

The club is very appreciative of the chances to earn this money and a special thanks go to Bill and Marge Shallcross for this fruit picking opportunity. It certainly beats selling raffle tickets and gives us the chance to do something other than one's usual job or studies.

It is quite an education especially the way different people see the hairy berries – their shapes and sizes I'll leave to your imagination. Colin Clifton commented that it was a change from working alone. Teresa Coston was certainly the noisiest and Kristin McLoughlin one of the quietest, but it was good to see everyone turn out.

Some brought their spouses, or sons and daughters. Robyn Bint did a great job removing all the kiwifruit stalks. Marge did a great job of keeping the team fed, while Nigel Hines had done an absolutely fantastic job chasing along all members he could find. Over the two days we picked 162 bins compared to 166 last year. Unfortunately we couldn't quite finish but Ramblers received \$1400.00 for the two day's work. Once again special thanks to Bill, Marge, Debbie, Russell, Rob Shallcross and his in-laws and to Nigel and Sheryl Hines for their organisation. We had a team of 73 pickers.

## **RAMBLERS GIRLS DOMINATE AT NAPIER**

Nicola Powell and Teresa Coston led the Waikato domination of the Women's U18/U20 5 kilometre New Zealand Road Championships at Napier. (**October, 1991**). Powell and Coston along with club teammate Lia Bacon were part of a six strong team representing the Waikato.

Waikato soon made their presence felt with Coston and Powell in the leading bunch and with two kilometres to go, on an individual basis they looked safe to take the first two medals between them. Meanwhile Bacon was running strongly mid-field to ensure she would be one of the four in the team.

Powell finished in determined fashion to take her first N.Z. title in 18m 03s, an improvement of 51 seconds on her previous best. Coston, fourth overall, claimed her first N.Z. title too by taking the U18 section in 18m 17s. With Bacon 17<sup>th</sup> overall and 6<sup>th</sup> in U18, the Rambler's runners had backed up the Waikato team of four well, and ensured them of a national team's title.

**CLUB CROSS COUNTRY  
WINNERS  
2001**

**Club Cross Country Champs.**

**Senior Men:** Daniel Smith

**Veteran Men:** Malcolm Taylor

**Junior Men:** Kyle MacDonald

**Junior Boys U14:** Shane MacClure

**Veteran Women:** Fay Smith

**Junior Women:** Andrea Smith

**Junior Girls:** Stephanie Tutt

**Willacy Memorial H/cap C.C.**

**Senior Men:** Trevor Lock

**Veteran Men:** Colin Clifton

**Veteran Women:** Robyn Winter

**Jnr. Men U20,U18,U16:** Kyle MacDonald

**Boys U14,U12:** Nathan Leaming

**Race Course Time Trial H/cap.**

Bruce Grant

**Marathon Championship.**

Gavin Smith

**Vicky Furlan Trophy.** (For most outstanding Secondary School race.)  
Andrea Smith

**Most Improved Runner.**

Kyle MacDonald

**Nelson Memorial Road Race H/cap.**

**Men 16km:** Stu. Smith

**Women 8km:** Fay Smith

**Clifton Cup.** (Junior 4km H/cap.)

Stephanie Tutt

**Points Trophies.**

**Senior Men:** Trevor Lock

**Veteran Men:** Stu. Smith

**Men U20:** Iain MacDonald

**Boys U14:** Nathan Leaming

**Veteran Women:** Robyn Winter and Fay  
Riley (tied)

**Girls U16:** Andrea Smith

**Girls U14:** Stephanie Tutt

**MOST IMPROVED RUNNER**

**Malyon Family Trophy**

**1967** Wayne Smith

**1968** Malcolm Taylor

**1969** R. Simmonds

**1970** Rodney Kennedy

**1971** K. Abraham

**1972** Rod Taylor

**1973** Ken Smith/A. Abraham

**1974** M. Abraham

**1975** K. Hall

**1976** Terry Wynyard

**1977** John Killeen

**1978** Gordon Taylor/Rod Taylor

**1979** Athol Williamson

**1980** Talbot Munro

**1981** Trevor Fulcher

**1982** Rod Taylor

**1983** Mike Powell

**1984** Raewyn O'Donnell

**1985** N. Faull

**1986** Mark Furlan

**1987** Mathew Smith/Iris Hansen

**1988** Mathew Smith/Iris Hansen

**1989** Iain Heaver

**1990** Benjamin Tallon

**1991** Dean Willacy

**1992** Mike Toner

**1993** Daniel Smith

**1994** Nathan Smith

**1995** Daniel Smith

**1996** Bradley Smith

**1997** Mike Powell

**1998** Glen Hughes/ Gavin Smith

**1999** Kyle MacDonald

**2000** Glen Hughes

**2001** Kyle MacDonald

**2002** Tony Chudley

**2003** Murray Clarkson/Sid Pavett

**2004** Alex Whimster

**2005** Fay Smith

**2006**

*"Every race is totally different."*

BILL RODGERS

## **GOLD COAST MARATHON TOUR**

Back in 1981 a group of Rambler's runners and supporters travelled to Surfers Paradise to participate in the annual **Superfast** marathon. The tour was arranged by Murray Watts and Bob Holloway and out of the party of 50 there were 28 who took part in the marathon. In all, the group were away for eleven days and it was highly successful.

In his report, Mike Powell commented on how the group were, "excellent ambassadors for the club and for harriers in general." There were opportunities to make local sight-seeing tours, dine out at exotic restaurants, and take in shows and other entertainment. The haka group provided entertainment in their own right at many functions during the visit.

The race day conditions were ideal and the run of the day had to go to Ray Edwards who stormed home in second place in 2h 27m 21s. The race was aptly named as ten Ramblers had personal best times. The Women's team, comprising Diane Christiansen, Sue McGregor and Nicky Evans, ran well to take first place in their team's event.



1981 Ramblers Touring Group to the Gold Coast.

### **DENNY AND NAN ENRIGHT**

Denny was a very much involved and enthusiastic Rambler in the 1980s. A former prominent New Zealand boxer and 1970 N.Z. Welter Weight champion he took up harrier running on his retirement. Transferring from Invercargill in 1980 Denny joined Ramblers and soon proved to be a dedicated runner and valued club and team member. His best marathon time being 2h 39m 48s in Hamilton, 1981.

Nan and the three children, Vicki, Maria and Lyndon became keen runners too and it was very much a family activity for the Enrights. Nan ran her first marathon at Rotorua in 1981 and also participated in the local Tauranga Complan.



## HONOLULU MARATHON TRIP

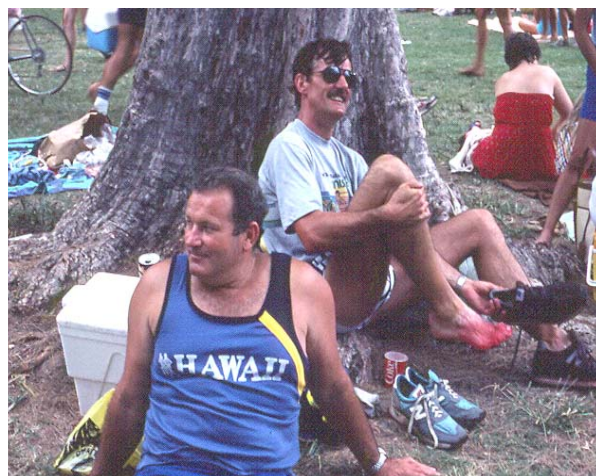
At the end of 1983 an enthusiastic group of Tauranga runners left Auckland for 16 days of sun, surf and sand, and yes, to also run the Honolulu Marathon. Thanks were again due to “Watway Tours,” (Murray Watts and Bob Holloway), for getting the tour under way but when Murray had to withdraw, Ray Young stepped in to help with the organisation.

The group totalled 32 and 13 of those had shown extra stamina and staying power by attending various working bees to help defray their costs. A small number from the Tauranga Marathon Clinic were also members of the party.

Conditions were tough for this the 11<sup>th</sup> running of the event and temperatures reached well in to the 30s but it is pleasing to note that all 17 Tauranga competitors saw out the distance, some only just. First Rambler finisher was Mike Powell in 2h 42m 53s, followed by Terry Wynyard, Rob McGregor, Euan Ross, John Joyce and Ray Young.

Eighth woman to finish was Carol Raven of Wellsford who had won the trip to compete by earlier coming third in the Complan Women's Marathon in Tauranga. Sue McGregor battled on gamely to record 3h 56m 42s with Sue Holloway following in 4h 10m 19s.

Swimming and sun bathing on Waikiki Beach was a popular pastime as were the sight-seeing trips and shopping at the huge Ala Moana shopping mall, and there were many Christmas gifts in amongst the return luggage.



**“You have to forget your last marathon before you try another. Your mind can't know what's coming.”**

***Frank Shorter.***

## RAMBLERS GO THE EXTRA MILE

**“If you start to feel good during an ultra, don't worry, you will get over it.”      *Gene Thibeault***

A small group of Rambler's members have become involved in long distance events and have had considerable success at it. They are a tight knit group, very supportive of each other and have become known as, “The 24 Hour Nutters.”



They first became involved in ultra running when the 24 Hour Charity relay was an annual fixture in Tauranga. From here they went on to other fields and distances, mostly in the upper North Island and a considerable amount of success ensued. They are always there for each other whether they are competing or in a supportive role.

Fay and Gavin Smith, Keith Still, Colin Clifton, Ian Curtis

**IAN CURTIS** started out into serious training around 1990 clocking up hundreds of kilometres including a 200km effort in a weekend. Has been inspired by Sandy Barwick and being a part of the 24 Hour Charity Relay. Ian broke the N.Z. 24 Hour Road record in 1994 with an incredible solo run of 264.58 km. He has won the Colac 6 day event in Australia covering 836km. In Auckland in 1997 in the Sri Chinmoy he set a N.Z. track event record of 224,8km plus age group records.

**COLIN CLIFTON** competed in every one of the local 24 Hour Charity relays as a solo runner. With his age no barrier he would run/walk throughout the night. He has competed in twenty-two 24 hour events around the country and set many new N.Z. age group records. His P.B. 100km time of 10h 53m was recorded at Pukekohe at age 59. He has competed in several of the ‘Tree To Sea’ from Putaruru to Tauranga events and the Rotorua 100km and 50km ultras.

**KEITH STILL** has competed in all but one 24 Hour Charity race keeping up a cracking walking pace throughout. His 24 hour P.B. is 151km. With goals set at the elusive Centurians mark of walking 100 miles in 24 hours, Keith has competed regularly at the Auckland Sri Chinmoy 24 hour championships.

**GAVIN SMITH** caught the ultra bug after watching soloists in the local Charity relay. He covered 158km in his first attempt in 1997. With coaching and heaps more mileage training he followed this up with a win at the N.Z. 24 Hour Champs. His ultra running really took off and he has had incredible success in a wide range of long distance events and N.Z. championships. In

2000 he earned a World ranking with a 220.75km win at the N.Z. 24 hour track champs. He set a course record in the 2001 around Lake Taupo relay in a solo effort, and ran over 308km in the 3 day Fit-For-Life Relay in 2000. A truly remarkable ultra athlete.

**FAY SMITH** got in to Ultra distance running in 1999 when husband Gavin was having a lay off. With having done only a few half marathons and 24 Hour team efforts Fay and Gavin entered a 24 Hour two person team event. Running one hour on and one hour off the pair covered 234km to break the previous course record. With this encouragement Fay really got in to ultras and won titles and placings on numerous occasions over the next few years. These included winning the 24 Hour relay Women's solo titles and 3<sup>rd</sup> placings in the N.Z. 24 Hour track champs in 2002, and again in 2005.

### **TRAINING WITH ASHLEY**

All of us have memories of simple fun times with Ramblers' personalities. I was fortunate to live near to one – Ashley Dustow – in Greerton, and we covered many happy Sunday mornings on the roads or at the golf course. He had a wonderful sense of humour and we would laugh from go to whoa.

Apart from his quality running and his intense competitiveness, two points come to mind. Firstly, his failure to understand that scoffing moro bars before a three hour run, would inevitably force him to dive into the bushes for a comfort stop. This happened almost every Sunday. But secondly I admired his stamina. Apart from the regular Poripori or Ohauiti circuits, on at least one occasion he ran ten circuits around the golf course – this was no mean feat as many of you will know. He was a great training companion.

Where is he now? **Anonymous.**

### **BOSTON MARATHON**

It is recorded that Gordon Taylor and Richard Hall travelled overseas to run the Boston marathon in 1980. No doubt other Ramblers have run it too but in 1996 there was a huge celebration as the 100<sup>th</sup> running of this, the first and oldest marathon was staged. Two Ramblers, Iris Hansen and Euan Ross were among the 38,000 starters as part of a group from New Zealand. With so many runners there was congestion almost the whole way but for the record Euan finished in 13,358<sup>th</sup> place and Iris in 33,735<sup>th</sup>.

### **ATHLETICS NEW ZEALAND SERVICE AWARDS**

These awards are for any person who has rendered significant service to the sport at either club, centre or national level for a period of not less than 20 years. Eight people nominated by the club were presented with these awards in 1992. They went to-

**Graham Bennett, Lloyd Christie, Ross Fletcher, Ray Young, Dave Corrigan, Tom Manley, Vic Furlan, Gordon Taylor, and Malcolm Taylor.**



## WONDERFUL WAIPUNA

*How one of New Zealand's foremost cross country courses came about.*

**“On Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1997, Ramblers had their last run on the Oropi Cross Country course, and this marked the end of an era.”** *Colin Clifton*

When Lloyd Christie sold his Oropi farm we were given a short span of time to find a new home for Cross Country running in Tauranga. There was frantic searching and assessing of various venues with the focus mainly being on similar farm sights out in the country.

Then a few hints from various people suggested there was a new park at Welcome Bay that might be suitable. Barry Ellis, a New Zealand harrier selector expressed positive views and following this, two club officials, Stu Smith and Malcolm Taylor set about investigating its possibilities. Many scenarios were looked at before one morning a young club junior named Daniel Smith did a trial run around the original 3km course in front of Marie Gordon, Tauranga City Council's Reserves Officer. Favourably approval was given and the rest is history. The first major event to be held at Waipuna was the annual Tauranga Cross Country Open on May 24, 1997. The feedback was all positive.

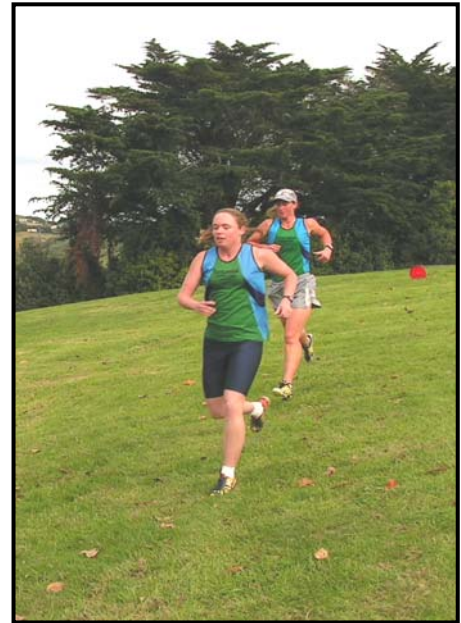
The original aim was to keep off all playing fields but in 2003 when applying to hold the N.Z. Cross Country Championships the current 2km course was developed to make the event more spectator friendly. There was much debate with Tony Rogers, Athletics N.Z. Competitions manager, before “The Stopper” and a more friendly hill were eliminated. Wayne Smith procured the hurdles.

Officially named the **Graham Bennett Memorial Cross Country Course** in 2003, it has become widely known for its toughness by modern day standards and is popular because of its hills which are often underestimated. Hence many of us believe the final results are not decided until the Walnut Grove is reached approaching the finish.

The course is widely used now. The groups include Primary Schools, Intermediate Schools, the Intermediate AIMS Games, Secondary Schools, Masters Events, Club, Interclub, Waikato/Bay of Plenty Championships, and now New Zealand Championships. By far the biggest event held at Waipuna was the 2006 N.Z. Secondary Schools' Championships which had 1100 entries over six races. (750 electric fence standards and 9000 metres of tape are available for setting up the courses for the various events). Ramblers have an excellent team of members who have had much practice at setting up the course and taking it down.

*Malcolm Taylor*

# *RAMBLERS ON THEIR HOME COURSE WAIPUNA PARK*





## A TRIBUTE TO OUR COACHES

*"There is no substitute for hard work. What you put in you get out."*

Tauranga Ramblers has been fortunate in having people interested enough to devote their time and energy to coaching and encouraging our youngsters. It was not always like this as one person commented back in the mid 1980s that, "There was no coaching or support for young runners in Tauranga." This got senior members motivated and through Malcolm Taylor, a coaching programme was set up and has continued successfully through to the present day.

It takes time, interest, commitment and enthusiasm to be a coach and we have had several who have been prepared to do this over the years. Some who come to mind are: Gordon Prosser, Derek Wilson, Trevor and Rosemary Wright, Pat Sale, Ray Young, Bob Mangan, Gary Coston, Karen Smith, Val Bromley, April Taylor, Mike Powell and Malcolm Taylor. Members have attended Arthur Lydiard and Arch Jelley coaching schools and the pay-off has been when you are, "On the sideline and watching your pupils perform well and exceeding your expectations." The athletes being coached are always most appreciative of their coaches and often acknowledge this in their comments and 'Newsletter' articles.

Malcolm Taylor realised back in the 1980s that the overall junior ranks were thin in most clubs and put this down to the focus being on marathon running at the expense of encouraging younger runners. Wanting to improve the situation he turned to locals with coaching knowledge for assistance and began scouting around and spotting potential talent. These chosen youngsters were given instruction and fitness guidance and placed under a personal coach who directed all their training schedules. From small beginnings the group soon rose rapidly to reach twenty-five athletes. The aim and hope was that these runners would remain with their clubs and go on to compete in the senior ranks, and this has been largely achieved. There are increased attendances of participants at club and secondary school meetings and many talented runners now have the opportunity to come to the fore and show their potential.

Malcolm now believes that this training of young people has definitely made a difference in New Zealand with a better balance throughout the age groups. His involvement has not come without personal sacrifice as his own running has been seriously curtailed through the time required to plan, organize, oversee schedules, spot talent, arrange fixtures and follow up on all those things required of a Coaching Co-ordinator. He has made a big difference to the standard of athletics in our area and most importantly at the Intermediate and Secondary school levels.

When the N.Z. Secondary Schools' C.C. Championships were held at Waipuna Park earlier this year there were close on 1200 competitors in six divisions representing 133 schools throughout the country. This annual event continues to grow and increase in popularity.

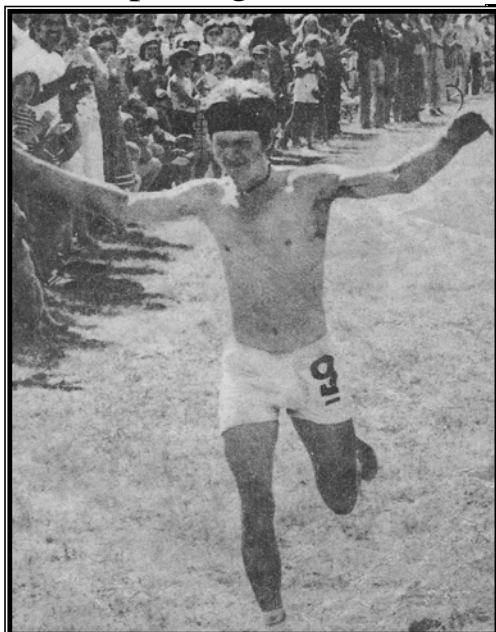
## RAMBLER'S MOUNTAIN RUNNERS

Over the years Ramblers have had some outstanding Mountain runners. With several daunting peaks to climb in the Bay of Plenty and Coromandel it was inevitable that the challenge would be taken up. Most of the races take place over the Christmas holiday period and within a short interval of time.

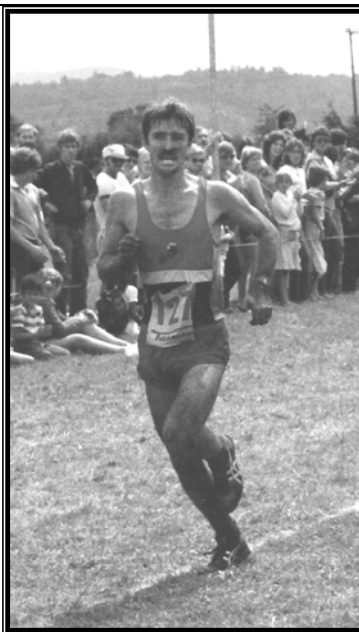
Club members to stand out in this field have been **Ian Walker, Chris Rae, Roy MacGregor, Wayne Smith, Malcolm Taylor, Leo Malyon** and latterly **Iain MacDonald**.

**Ian** has a most impressive record with several wins up Mount Maunganui and he held the record before Barry Prosser came on the scene. **Roy** and **Wayne** have had success in wining the prestigious Mt Edgecumbe climb at Kawerau. **Malcolm** was always right up there in mountain racing and had wins in several locations. His victories include Ngongotaha, Karangahake, Tairua, Whitianga and Pauanui with the last three all being won in the space of one week. In addition he has performed with credit at Kawerau with several high placings and has made 38 consecutive climbs of Mt Maunganui on Boxing Days. **Leo** competed eleven times at Kawerau for one win. **Iain** has been setting the pace at home with two successive wins up Mauao in the past two years.

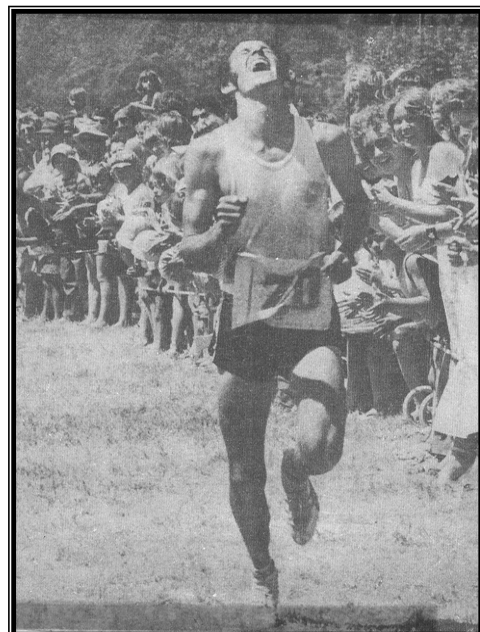
In a magnificent Kawerau Mountain race in 1977, Wayne Smith ran an incredible time of 1h 02m 31s to take first place and create a new race record. He beat the previous record by 2 minutes 33 seconds which was held by the second place getter, Chris Rae.



Chris Rae



Malcolm Taylor



Wayne Smith

## **TREVOR WRIGHT**

On January 4, 1982 Trevor Wright along with his family migrated from England to New Zealand to “give his children a better place to grow up in.” New Zealand wasn’t new to Trevor or his wife, Rosemary, as Trevor had made two previous trips to contest the Auckland Choysa Marathon. Rosemary was born in Timaru and spent much of her childhood in Whakatane, so she was really just a kiwi coming home. For Ramblers it was a bonanza to welcome in to our ranks two such highly talented and prominent world athletes and it wasn’t long before they were making their mark on the local scene.

Trevor began running as a schoolboy and joined his first harrier club at the age of 14. At 18 he began performing well as a Junior and this lead to international competition and success in World Cross Country events. He put on good performances on the track with fine wins in 10,000m events. In 1969 he placed 14<sup>th</sup> in the World Cross Country Champs and followed this with third in 1970 and 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1971. From there he took a second placing in 1971 in Helsinki in the European Marathon Championships, and went on to further successes and representation for England in Olympic and Commonwealth Games and other World fixtures.

Once resident in Tauranga Trevor showed his liking for road running and also for cross country. He soon became recognised for his fast training pace of around six minutes per mile or faster and for his encouragement and support of Ramblers who joined him. His training session most members would see was his run home from work at Mt Maunganui, via Matapihi, to his home in Greerton. His bright personality and perkiness soon became apparent and he always had a cheerful greeting for club members whenever their paths crossed while out training.

His successes and achievements for Ramblers are too numerous to mention but he certainly put us on the running map. Monday paper headlines would often state: “Wright Leads Field Home” or something similar. Trevor was extremely versatile over a wide range of distances and gained numerous titles from Club, through to Waikato, North Island and New Zealand. We were of the opinion he was worthy of further New Zealand representation on more than one occasion.

As a marathon performer he really stood out, gaining a New Zealand title in Whangarei, winning the Fletcher and at various other venues, not to mention his 1983 London marathon P.B. of 2h 12m 28s for a 9<sup>th</sup> place finish. He was a member of the N.Z. marathon team to the World Cup in Helsinki in 1983.

His input to the club has been immeasurable not only for the prestige it has brought us but for the contribution he has made in coaching and for providing training programmes and encouragement for any member, no matter their ability, age or ambitions.



## ROSEMARY WRIGHT

On her return to New Zealand in 1981 after a lengthy period overseas, Rose took little time getting back in to the local running scene and flying the flag for Ramblers. A gifted runner on road, track and cross country her opponents were often left in her wake and race records were broken.

The tough Oropi course saw some of her outstanding performances. One recalled was the 1983 Taylor Open Cross Country women's race where in setting a new course record, she completely outclassed some of the country's leading athletes to win convincingly. Her time for the 5000m was 17m 59s. New Zealand Olympic and Commonwealth Games representative, Diane Rodger came second with a young up and coming Rambler, Vicki Furlan in fifth.

An unusual achievement occurred in 1982 when Rosemary was the sole woman entrant in the senior and veteran men's Nelson Memorial race. She finished third and in doing so ran faster in actual time than many of the other competitors.

The 1984 Fletcher Rotorua marathon saw an unusual achievement with both husband and wife attaining a unique double. Rosemary filled second spot in the Women's section with a time of 2h 48m 29s while husband Trevor was overall winner in a time of 2h 19m 48s.

Rose came to us with an impressive international record. A trained school teacher she lived in Scotland for 20 years where she represented Scotland in athletics and competed at three consecutive Commonwealth Games - at Kingston, Edinburgh and Christchurch. An 800m specialist, she won the gold medal at Edinburgh in 1970 in record time and this stood until 2002. At the 1972 Munich Olympic Games she finished seventh in the 800m final. Rose was invited back to the 1998 Edinburgh Games, this time to carry the baton holding the Queen's message, over the final stage.

The participation of children Emma and Jessica completed the family involvement in Ramblers. They came through the ranks as midgets and showed running talent and potential in their own right with wins and high placings.

The 1990 newsletter headlines the success of our juniors over 2km at the Tokoroa cross country races with a string of victories. Jessica led the way being first midget girl home in 9m 01s. and Emma placed first in the U14 girls with a time of 8m 09s. From that early beginning the two have gone on to feature prominently in athletics in N.Z. and overseas.



Rosemary at Oropi.

## RAY YOUNG

An Australian import who has been a tremendous asset to the club for close on 30 years, is Ray Young. Being inspired in to running at the age of 14 by the exploits of Herb Elliot and the Melbourne Olympic Games, Ray soon showed fine running talent which was further developed through being coached by Sandor Rosznyoi, a Hungarian living in Sydney. In 1963 he was the NSW Junior Steeplechase Champion.

After spells in Wellington and Auckland, Ray came on to Tauranga and joined Ramblers in 1979 and has been a stalwart of the club ever since. There would be few positions in the club that he has not held, such is his versatility. He is always there for Ramblers.

As an official Ray has been a committee member for over 20 years, spending a total of six years as President and for one of those years he also held the position of Treasurer. Over a period of 6 years he was our Winter Club Captain, and also our Newsletter editor for a similar period. He has been club selector for varying terms and has also been our handicapper. For a time he coached Mount Maunganui College students and many of these runners went on to join Ramblers.

He has served on several committees of organising events being held locally. These include the Complan Women's marathon, Tauranga Open Cross Country, Tauranga Half Marathon, and the 2003 NZ Cross Country Championships that were held at Waipuna Park. Ray also chaired the joint committee which saw the merger of the winter and summer sides of the club.

Ray has always enjoyed running and was a force to be reckoned with in his earlier years with the club. He has personal best times of 31m 15s for 10km and 2h 31m 43s for the marathon. A notable achievement and surprise for him was winning the Kawerau Forest Half Marathon in 1983 when the leaders ahead of him went off course.

His athletics interests extend further afield than with just Ramblers as he has been a past President of Athletics Waikato and a committee member of the Athletics N.Z. Officials Association. In 1995 he was Waikato Official of the year and Athletics N.Z. Technical Official of the year in 2004.

He holds Level A, N.Z. judge qualifications for Throws, Jumps, Track, Walk Judging, and for Non-Stadia events. He is regularly called upon to fill some position at organised events whether it be as referee or to make the announcements. A valued and long respected member of Ramblers.



Ray Young

## GORDON TAYLOR

Gordon Taylor first joined the Tauranga Ramblers Harrier Club in 1966 and gave outstanding service in many ways right through to the 1990s. He was always to the forefront in the club's operations, and guided it through the years when it was growing in strength and he saw it gain wide respect and much success during the athletics boom of the 1980s.

Gordon was elected to the committee in 1967 and the following year he was made club captain. He held this position continuously until 1982. He made it his duty to know all club members personally by name, their running past and their potential. At the 1981 Jubilee he introduced from memory, each current member present, together with a brief resume of their club involvement and achievements.

Gordon's support for the club went far beyond that of an average member. His generous sponsorship as G.W. Taylor Industries saw events such as The Tauranga Cross Country Open at Oropi, and the Complan Women's Marathon go ahead and thrive.

Gordon enjoyed his running and had a special affection for the Ramblers club and wore its colours with pride around the world. He saw the marathon as a testing challenge and entered most that were going and ended up finishing over 50. He felt that each was an achievement to finish and that they could be cruel even when you were fit. Gordon completed the London and Boston marathons but achieved his personal best at Wiri in 1980 – 2h 41.32s. An extremely fast starter he would lead the runners out and it is unlikely that anyone has bettered his first one kilometre time in the Mountain to Surf marathon at New Plymouth.

Gordon recalls the boom in athletics in the 1980s which saw increased numbers joining Ramblers and creating so many friendships. We had families taking part, from 5 year olds up to well in to the 70s. As Club Captain he gave leadership and encouragement to all.

His special involvement and participation in relays saw him competing in a lot of places but the 'hack' team which travelled for the Club's first Wairoa to Gisborne event with no show of winning and "almost won" gave him much satisfaction. He has fond memories of the visits with the Hawera Harrier club and the friendships made. A great contributor to Ramblers and what it has become today.



Gordon Taylor



# MALCOLM TAYLOR

*President of Athletics Waikato-Bay of Plenty 2006 – 2007.*

Malcolm first joined Ramblers at the age of 14 years and became part of a squad of keen young runners under the care of coach Gordon Prosser. Malcolm perhaps did not have the same ability as some of the others in the group, but through hard work, miles and more miles, time trials and more time trials, track work and lots more track work, he came up with the results, as his long list of outstanding times and titles prove.

He has held practically every administrative position over his years with Ramblers and it would be easier to name the ones he hasn't held. In fact some people think Malcolm is Ramblers and that would not be far off the mark. His organisation of events and having everything ready on the day can always be depended upon. He attends all meetings and functions and has proved a capable President with the promotion of Ramblers and with running always foremost in his mind. Performing these duties has been at the expense of his own training and performances, but he still fronts up on the starting line whenever he can. He is fully involved in administration in the wider Waikato/BOP region and with schools' programmes and these require much travelling and commitment of time.

He was a dedicated mountain runner in his earlier days and has won the Ngongotaha, Karangahake, Tairua, Whitianga and Pauanui events. In addition he has had several placings at Kawerau (Mt Edgecumbe) and has performed 38 consecutive climbs of Mt Maunganui on Boxing Days. His performances over all distances from 400m to the marathon make impressive reading and he has now continued this in to walking events. Of his 20 plus marathons his personal best time of 2h 26m 31s was achieved around Rotorua in 1984. Of late he has made his mark at race walking and how successfully, can be seen by his winning the New Zealand age group Road title in Christchurch in 2006. He sometimes fronts up on the starting line even though he is in the middle of organising that day's events.

Malcolm always seems to have everything under control and is a mine of information being able to readily recall facts and figures, runners and personalities and such things going back through all the years he has been associated with the club. He knows where equipment is and his car will always be well loaded down when Waipuna has a fixture on. He is able to rally support when needed as witnessed by the 72 officials required to run the 2006 N.Z. Secondary Schools' Cross Country races.

A large debt is owed for his support of coaching and for putting programmes in place for our younger members. He travels widely to 'spot' talent and bring future champions in to the fold. This gives Malcolm a great deal of pleasure as does seeing the whole of **Ramblers Club** performing well in all areas of running and keeping its place firmly on the map.

## WAYNE SMITH FAMILY

*Giving loyal and dedicated service over many years.*

No one would have given more to the club than Wayne. In 1967 at the age of 16 he joined Ramblers and immediately showed his potential as a cross country runner and this later evolved in to some spectacular mountain race runs which were major events on the calendar at the time. As a Tauranga Boys College pupil he held steeplechase titles and these successes were carried over as a colts runner when representing Ramblers. He was described as a “strong runner with grim determination and always hard to defeat”. His all round running achievements stand out over the years as Wayne would always front up for his club with his special interest being in cross country.

Not being content to carry the flag in races, Wayne has given tremendous service to the club in many other ways. A great organizer he has put a lot of fun and interest in to our running. We have had Easter egg hunts, orienteering relays, mystery bus trips, quiz questions, and many other interesting variations. He has held the position of winter club captain several times, newsletter editor, and as a committee member holding the position of secretary for a period. If something has needed to be done Wayne will be there even though this has meant a lot of travel, and sacrifice of time on his part. He is currently on the Jubilee committee for the 50<sup>th</sup> year celebrations.

Some outstanding performances have been winning the Mt Edgecumbe, Ngongotaha, Tairua and Pauanui mountain races, as well as several Waikato representative running honours as a Junior and a Senior. He has always been a competitive and successful runner in club and inter-centre events.

In winning the 1977 Mount Edgecumbe race he classes this as one of his most satisfying performances. “The race was so intense and the finish so close, I ran myself to the limit more than in any other race, and was totally exhausted for the next 24 hours.” His 2h 36m 00s Rotorua marathon time was a good measure of his class.

The whole Smith family have played a major part in Ramblers over the years with Lea also being a member, and the children, Mathew, Nathan and Brad, growing up and progressing right through the ranks to adulthood. Their love of running continues and the skills they have gained are now being applied in other areas such as triathlons, multi sport and wilderness challenges. It must be satisfying for the parents to see how the grounding that Ramblers have given their children has been well learnt and has been successfully carried over into other fields of endeavour.

**I love to run. It is my life. As long as I can run, I shall do it.**

*Paavo Nurmi.*

# THE ULTIMATE ULTRA RUNNER

## *“Simply the Best”*

One runner who took running to new heights and certainly put Ramblers in the limelight overseas, was Ian Curtis. A very loyal and dedicated member for many years, Ian ventured in to the field of ultra running in the 1990s. Not content with marathons and 100km events, Ian took distance running even further, and after whetting his teeth on the Community Sports 24 hour event, he set himself the target of breaking the New Zealand 24 hour record for distance covered.

After painstaking research and careful checking he set about achieving his target. On registering with the N.Z. Ultra Runners Association he found the record was held by Richard Tout who had covered a distance of 262km. Not one to take short cuts, Ian set about his preparation with a very thoughtful and extremely demanding training schedule. This included participating in the Kaimai relay as an individual. He started in Morrinsville with the New Lynn nine person team and finished the 80.5km distance four and a half minutes ahead of them in 5h 51m 45s.

The 24 hour New Zealand record attempt took place over a certified one kilometre course at Memorial Park on 14-15 October, 1994. It was the culmination of a lot of personal preparation in organising the logistics of the event, the course, the officials and other important and necessary requirements. The day dawned fine and clear but during the night, wintry, wet and windy conditions set in, but such was Ian's focus and determination that he was able to maintain his schedule. After 24 hours and before a large gathering of Ramblers, family, friends and well wishers he crossed the finish line with the new record in his grasp. He had covered 264.58km and beat the previous record by over 2km.



Ian and daughter, Alison, nearing the end of Ian's 80.5km solo Kaimai run.

Two years later Ian crossed the Tasman to take part in the Colac six day race in Victoria. His multi-day preparation saw him running from Hamilton to Waihi to Tauranga to Whakatane to Tauranga to Hamilton over five days, (460km), and also having to combat injuries right up to the start of the race.

Eighteen starters lined up at Colac at 3.00pm on 17 November, 1996. It was a 400m grassed and tree lined circular track around Memorial Square.

Ian ran his usual well thought out race and although some of the other runners showed unsportsmanlike tactics as he passed, he maintained concentration and kept to his race plan and on target. He took a 45km lead in to the third day and held it through to the finish and at the end he had completed 836.0km. This was 15 km better than the best set the year before. It is recalled that he was very generous, modest and accommodating in his achievement and as he had not taken a N. Z. flag with him he thought it appropriate to complete his victory lap holding up the Australian one.



## MURRAY CLARKSON

The arrival on the scene of Murray Clarkson in 1992 was a windfall for running in the area and in particular Ramblers. Murray arrived from Christchurch and had had a twenty year break from competitive running but almost immediately he was back to his old form and leading the way in races. When looking back through past copies of 'Ramblings' the tributes to his ability come thick and fast. There would not have been another Rambler who has been awarded "Athlete of the Month" so often. Some of the descriptions of him are: "ever talented", "led the chase", "was out in front disputing the pace", "was again too quick-footed for the veteran men", and "duly responded with the fastest time of the day".

Prior to his coming to Tauranga, Murray held the Canterbury 800/1500m titles with best times of 1m 51.6s and 3m 51s. In his second year with Ramblers he gained four National titles in the VM45 grade in the 200, 400, 800 and 1500 metres. He has continued to compete with much success in cross country, road and track events.

Murray was recruited on to the Committee at an early stage and has held positions of Vice President, Race Entry Secretary and is presently our Summer Club Captain. His contribution and service to the club has been outstanding and he is always fully involved in event organisation, team selection, fund raising and preparing the courses for events.

With the current focus now on the establishment of an All Weather Track at the Tauranga Domain, Murray has taken on the role of secretary of the Tauranga Millenium Track Trust, who are committed towards its construction. With all this involvement, it is a real commitment to give the time these positions require, but he enjoys being a participating Rambler and competing alongside fellow members and being a part of our relay teams.

Since arriving as an "anonymous newcomer" his running prowess has spread widely throughout the North Island and he regularly participates in Master's events in this country and overseas. He has always set himself very high standards and with the passing years he is finding it more difficult to meet them, but you can be sure he will finish well up in any field. Murray subscribes to an old adage that goes: "*....the older I get, the faster I was....*" How true this is! Murray is looking forward to meeting Rambler's runners of previous years and hearing their stories.

## RAEWYN RUNNING OVERSEAS

**Newsletter Report 1983.** "Derek Wilson's protégé – Raewyn O'Donnell has made the N.Z. Women's team to compete in Japan. We wish Raewyn a successful debut for N.Z. and hope her good form stays with her all season and that Raewyn's inclusion in the N.Z. team may inspire members of our club on to greater things."

## **PAUL HERLIHY - Mr Mauao**

### **Athlete of the Month**

August 1999



**Paul Herlihy**

With his smooth and effortless style Paul has left many a runner in his wake. First coming on the scene for Ramblers in 1990 he soon set the bar level for our leading and up and coming runners to emulate. That had been no easy task and possibly only Mark Furlan was seriously able to take up the challenge.

His performances over a wide range of distances stand out but it is probably in the marathon and half marathon that he has achieved most highly.

One of the highlights of Paul's career would have been winning the 1989 Commonwealth Games marathon trial. While the marathon at the actual Games did not go to plan on that hot, humid Auckland day he went with the pace reaching the

half-way point in 65m 30s but from there on he fell away to end up in 16<sup>th</sup> place.

His name features at the forefront of numerous events over the years and it would be most difficult to find one which Paul hasn't won at some time. To list a few headlines they read: "As expected, Paul Herlihy proved too strong in the SM race." and "None of the veterans in the field could match Paul's pace".

It was at the N.Z. Mountain Running Championships hosted by Ramblers in 1999 and held up Mt Maunganui where Paul gained the title of Mr Mauao. With stiff opposition including Phil Costley and Philip Starr in his field, Paul held on well to finish 6<sup>th</sup> and being named as first reserve for the coming World Champs.

An amazing record was made in the New Plymouth marathon in 1991 when Paul set the mark of 2h 13m 34s which stood for 15 years - only being beaten by Matt Dravitzki in 2006 with a time of 2h 13m 02s. Paul has represented N.Z. at World events and received invitations to compete in marathons at several locations overseas.

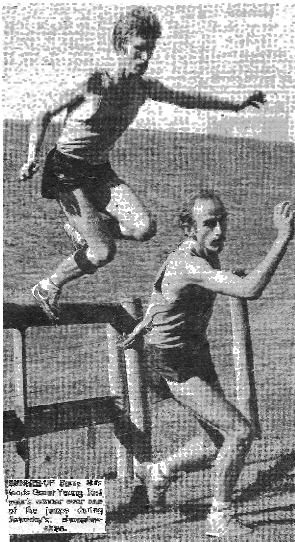
## **JASON CRESSWELL**

In 1999 Jason took part in the World Mountain Running Championships in Sabah, Malaysia. The race was run in very hot conditions and he achieved 26<sup>th</sup> position in the Junior Men's race. A keen and prominent BMX cyclist he has achieved wide success in several sports not to mention running. In 1996 he won the N.Z. Secondary Schools' Junior Cross Country title by a margin of 23 seconds representing Tauranga Boys' College. As a Rambler he was always well to the forefront in club, inter-centre and Waikato/BOP championships. He is a top performer on the track with his specialist events being in the 800m and 1500m.

## BARRY ELLIS

Barry didn't bother taking his passport to the National Cross Country Trials in Wellington in 1981. He was 25 at the time and did not hold high aspirations of making the team to travel to the World Cross Country Championships in Madrid, Spain the following month but his reaction when selected was, "No one was more surprised than myself." With a magnificent performance he finished third across the line and cemented a place in the nine man N.Z. team. It was a great honour for his club and even more so to have former member, Gary Palmer in the team as well.

Barry's time for the 12,000m was a personal best by an extraordinary six minutes and was the first time he had gone under 40 minutes. He had moved to Tauranga and joined Ramblers in the early 1980s and put down his improvement to the hilly terrain and that there was no shortage of good runners to train with; like Nick Helms, Steve Pearse-Adams and Grant Young. In the World Championships Barry placed 137<sup>th</sup> and was one of the six counting towards the N.Z. team – another goal achieved.



Barry Ellis leads Grant Young at Oropi.

Barry went on to compete with much success representing Ramblers in the senior ranks, on the road, as well as cross country and in relay teams. He had some great runs at Oropi, a course which would bring him back good memories.

In later years he has been a Waikato selector and team manager, from where he has gone on to become a New Zealand harrier selector and team manager. He has only this month been in Bursa, Turkey as team manager for the New Zealand contingent at the World Mountain Running Trophy event. As a national selector/manager for the whole country a lot of travel and time is involved to attend fixtures and be at meetings, but Barry is still able to remain a Rambler.

## COLIN BOOCKOCK

Another long time Rambler, Colin first joined the club in 1976. His main aim was to keep up his rugby fitness but he went on to become a fast and talented runner and could more than hold his own over a wide range of distances and terrain. He became a regular member of Waikato cross country and road teams at Senior and Veteran levels. After doing the work in marathon training he would gain satisfaction knowing he had performed up to expectation. His best marathon time has been 2h 26m 30s. A great competitor in the Paeroa to Thames Road race he returned a time of 1h 53m 45s in 1984 for the 32 km event.



## **THE STU SMITH FAMILY**

This highly talented and adaptable family are all staunch supporters of the club. Besides Stu there is Karen, and the boys, Glen and Daniel. Daniel was first to join the club for the 1992 harrier season and brother Glen, and Stu soon followed. Karen has since joined and has also been very much involved in the Club's administration. Stu has been our winter club captain and along with Karen they have both been on the committee for varying periods. Karen has held a large number of sub-committee positions where the club has been up-graded and re-vamped in various areas. She was Co-Manager of the National C. C. Championships 2003, held at Waipuna and is currently on the Trust preparing for the establishment of an All Weather Track.

Glen has performed well on the track and been a good team member for Ramblers. Daniel has had considerable success over a wide area but two events stand out. In 1996 he won the Men's U18 New Zealand Cross Country title and in the same year he represented N.Z. at the Australian Cross Country championships finishing in 8<sup>th</sup> position overall and 1<sup>st</sup> New Zealander. Stu fronts up for everything that is going and has a half marathon time of 1h 22m, but performs well over cross country and is 'kept honest' by a group of very competitive Rambler's veteran men. Karen and Stu always front up for the tough and challenging Rocky Cutting event from Te Puke to Welcome Bay each year.

## **THE POWELL FAMILY**

Mike became involved in athletics at the age of five in Te Aroha and progressed through the age groups until he was 18. Back then track and field meetings attracted large crowd support. Peter Snell had attended Mike's school and he managed to break his school records and as you will know this was no mean achievement. After playing other sports he was enticed back in to running at the age of 29, and 28 years later he is still doing it. He has had numerous titles and placings over the years in all distances from 800m to the marathon at Club, Provincial and N. Z. level. He has a time of 1m 56.5 for 800m, 1h 09m 10s for the Huntly half marathon and 2h 26m 03s for the Hamilton marathon. As well Mike has been very much involved in the running of the club and has held a wide range of positions. Wife Dianne has been involved too and is always there for the club when needed.

The three children have been members of Ramblers and shown the family's ability in the running field. Nicola achieved well in Cross Country and Road and was known for her determination. An outstanding performance was her win in the U20 N.Z. Road Championships in Napier in 1991 and earning New Zealand Junior Women representation in Australia the following year. Richard showed very good early success and went on to compete well for Ramblers while Matthew was always to the fore in cross country, featuring right up front in the field and earning wins and high placings.

## BEV AND KERRY SMITH FAMILY

Bev became involved with Ramblers in 1990 after her two sons, Malcolm and Graeme, had become members the year before. From there she has gone on to become very much involved in its organisation and still holds an important place in club administration. Graeme and Malcolm entered everything they could and always competed well. Kerry joined in 2000 and coming from a cycling background he had good basic fitness and was soon making his mark in his running age group.



Bev has held various positions and apart from serving on the committee she is a regular recorder on the finish line and has been our race entry secretary for the past ten years. She also oversees our large trophy cabinet and prepares them for presentation after the cross country and road seasons.

Kerry soon became a regular member of our club relay teams and has participated at several venues around New Zealand. As well, he has had success at the Waikato Road and Cross Country Championships, and his most recent accomplishments were winning second place at the 2006 N.Z. Cross Country championships at Inglewood, and third in the 2006 N. Z. Road Championships in Christchurch. He was competing in the 60-64 age group.

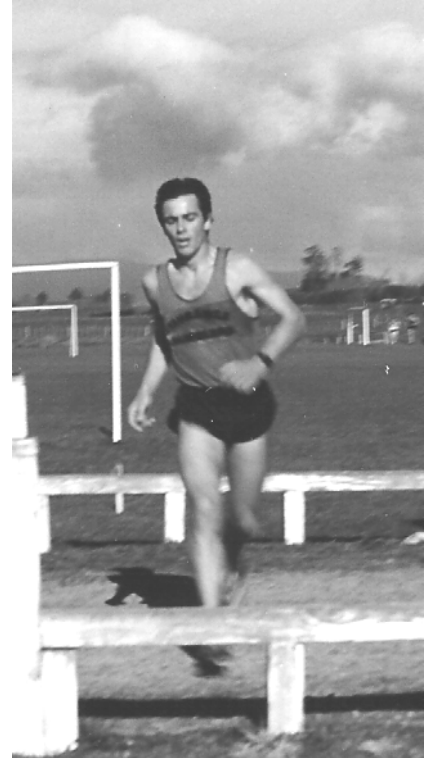
## KEN KNOTT

Ken has been on the running scene in Tauranga since the 1970s and has had the fitness and stamina to undertake marathons for many years, then if that wasn't enough to later venture in to the triathlon arena and complete several Iron man events. A regular competitor in the Lake Rotorua marathons his times have always been consistently good and he would often get T.V. coverage through being right up there with the leading women. His first Fletcher was done in a little over three hours but his best in 1982 was a very creditable 2h 39m 39s. Ken has competed around the world and his wife, Ursula, supports his love for running and is a talented participant in her own right. Running is a very big part of Ken's life and he loves training and competing and having to knuckle down and focus hard on the event in hand. He has competed in the famous Hawaii Ironman triathlon and can complete this very demanding course in around eleven hours.

## VICKI and MARK FURLAN



Tauranga Ramblers lost two of their most talented and gifted runners through road accidents when they had so much left to give in their athletic careers. They were out there leading the way in every race they entered and were much respected and admired not only for their running ability but for their modest and friendly participation in all club affairs. These sudden losses were sad and tragic and took the Club quite some time to recover from.



The Furlan family moved to Tauranga from Gisborne in 1980. Parents Vic and Helen took a keen interest in their children's development and it was obvious on their arrival here that we had two extremely talented athletes in our midst. They first made us sit up and notice with fine performances in the Geoff Willacy Memorial of that year. Vic competed as a veteran, with Mark in Junior Men, and Vicki, U16 Girls. From that day on Mark and Vicki were running and representing the Club in almost every event and with much success, and not only here in New Zealand. Helen did not actively participate but was at every event either as a supporter or helper.

Vicki was 22 at the time of the accident and had so much potential and promise to fulfil. Just 11 days previously she had taken out the Ramblers Club Cross Country championship, this not being unusual as we were used to seeing her lithe form right up at the front of any field. Her strength over cross country stood out and some convincing wins can be recalled on her Oropi home course, Tauwhare and at Waikato championships. She was just coming in to her own and would have gone on to New Zealand representation at the senior level.

Mark participated in the 5000m at the 1990 Commonwealth Games in Auckland and was a force to be reckoned with over any distance. His titles and successes were wide and numerous. Mark's passing at the age of 39 left not only a huge gap with Ramblers but with the country as a whole. Over later years he extended in to Triathlons and was preparing for participation at the World Championships at the time of the accident. "He was dedicated to his fitness and his health, a running thoroughbred – all sinew, muscle and heart." He was a triple N.Z. sporting representative - as a track athlete, in cross country and also in triathlon. Very modest and unassuming, one of the nicest guys you could wish to meet.



## MARK McKEOWN



Mark first came to Ramblers in 1988 at the age of 15. As an Otumoetai College pupil he featured in track and cross country events and showed enormous potential. He had heaps of natural ability and also the determination and dedication to train hard and improve himself further. With coaching under Vic Furlan and Malcolm Taylor he went on to much success and earned a scholarship to study and further expand his running horizons in U.S.A. In his first season with Ramblers Mark gained high placings in all Waikato inter-centre events but the following season (1989) he convincingly won the U16 sections at the North Island and Waikato C.C. Champs,

and the Waikato Road Champs. He continued on this path up to National level but unfortunately we lost him overseas for a lengthy period, but Mark is now back in Tauranga and has participated for Ramblers again. He has featured in a Waikato Road Championship win and his strong running ability still remains.

## DEREK WILSON

Derek has enjoyed being an athletics coach for well over 40 years and helping athletes of all ages and abilities to achieve their goals and get the most out of their sport. "Lots of special memories and great friendships have developed from starting people off at 16 or younger, and watching them improve over the years, not only in running but in other areas of their lives." Derek was a Rambler back in the 1970s before moving to Rotorua and being involved with coaching there as well as the organising of the Fletcher marathon, Statecraft Forest relay and Ngongotaha Half Marathon. He has memories of Rambler's great Club spirit, his rivalry with Gordon Taylor on the track and seeing our Women's Relay team at the Nationals finishing with a place. They took three fastest laps and had a veteran in the team.

## RAMBLERS MIDGETS SHINE AT TOKOROA

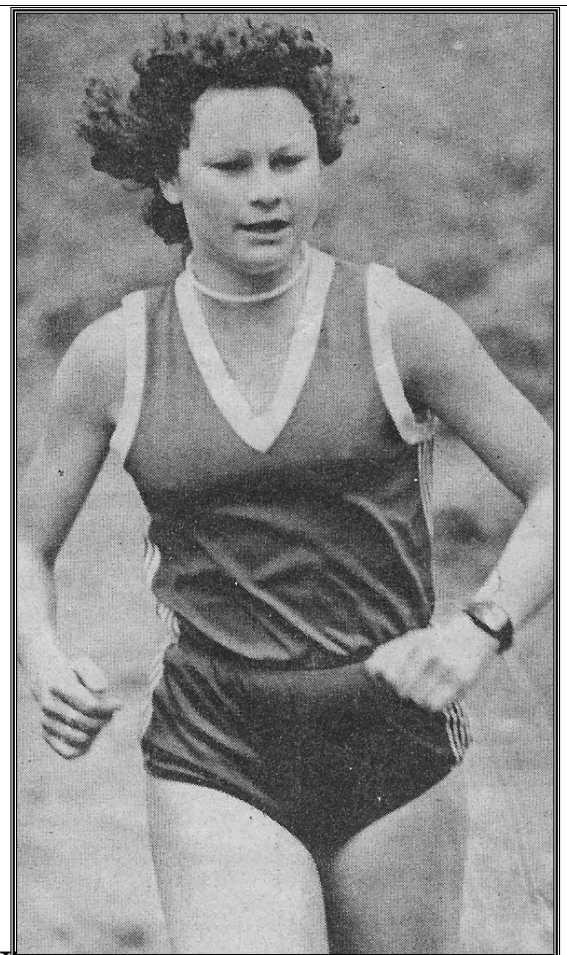
Tauranga Ramblers Midgets led the way for a string of victories at the Tokoroa Cross Country races 19 May, 1990. In the first five races a Tauranga green singlet stole first place on each occasion but we scored a total of six victories altogether.

**RESULTS WERE:** Midget Boys 2km, Mathew Smith 1<sup>st</sup>, Bradley Smith 4<sup>th</sup>. Midget Girls 2km, Jessica Wright 1<sup>st</sup>. U14 Boys, Dean Wise 1<sup>st</sup>. Under 14 Girls, Emma Wright 1<sup>st</sup>. U16 Boys, Benjamin Tallon 1<sup>st</sup>, Matthew Powell 2<sup>nd</sup>. U16 Girls, Lia Bacon 1<sup>st</sup>.

## GLEND A ROWLANDS

Glenda was our foremost woman runner in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Running for Ramblers as a Girl U16 and Junior Woman she won most everything in her wake and was featured in the BOP Time's headlines on a number of occasions. When competing in School C.C. events she nearly always scooped the pool with Nicki Evans in close pursuit.

In the 1980 Waikato Cross Country championships Glenda's win was described as the 'most impressive' as she led from start to finish. This followed on from her JW win in the Hamilton Round the bridges 4400m race by 14s the week before. At the National Road Championships in Whakatane that same year Glenda runners and ran 'really well' to gain 14<sup>th</sup> place.



## ERIC de LAUTOUR



Eric de Lautour

"I've run all my life for fun and enjoyment but didn't have my first serious race until the age of 63. After World War II I went farming in Hawkes Bay and chased sheep, cattle and turkeys around for 40 years or so." says Eric. His first serious race was the Rotorua marathon and since then he has left his mark in the record books of Masters' athletics. Now aged 86 he just continues to conquer all, both in N.Z. and on the World scene. He continues to compete in Pacific and World Championships and his achievements are too many to list but here are his winning results from the 2005 World Masters Games held in Spain, participating in the M85 grade. **Gold medals** in the 10,000m (58m 59s), and 800m (3m 39s). In the 2006 Oceania Masters Games in Christchurch, M85. **Gold medals** in 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, and 5000m. All games records. His best Rotorua marathon time is 3h 23m 05s. He would like to see more Ramblers in his age group.

"I may have been an inspiration for people beginning to run, but I've learned just as much from all those people who have run with me."

*Grete Waitz*



## ROD TAYLOR

With father Gordon, and an uncle, Malcolm, it would come as no surprise that at the age of 6 Rod Taylor would be encouraged in to running. As a youngster he was coached by Gordon Prosser and was soon showing out and performing well. A later coach was Trevor Wright and a lot of this training was at pace and up to 130km or more per week. Rod has represented Waikato at road and cross country.



He performed well over distances from 800m to the marathon. Some of his best times have been 69m 49s for the half marathon with his fine win at Cambridge, and 2h 29m 02s in the Fletcher which gained him 8<sup>th</sup> place in a field of 3500.

Rod has been fully involved in the running of the club and his contribution towards bringing us in to the computer age with the compiling of results really stands out. Runners can be thankful for the prize-giving ceremonies being earlier after half marathons and such, through the early adoption of his computer results system. It has been through people like Rod who are prepared to forego competing and act as officials that the club has been able to run events smoothly and flourish.

## SID PAVETT

A running machine who has come back after being hit by a car while out training in 1995 and being badly injured. Sid, 72, originally from England has lived in Taranaki and came to us from Christchurch. An Arthur Lydiard disciple his training is mostly stamina based and he can certainly perform on road, cross country and at half and full marathons.

Sid is the holder of a host of New Zealand Master's titles and his times would be a difficult target for those much younger than he is to achieve. Of much note is his performance in the 2003 Rotorua marathon when at the age of 69 he broke the 20 year old course record for the 65 – 69 age group by over two minutes. His time in gaining 66<sup>th</sup> place overall was a remarkable 3h 08m 23s.

At the 2006 Oceania Masters Games in Christchurch, Sid won the 70 – 74 5000m, 8km cross country, and half marathon. He set a Games best time in the latter of 1h 36m 36s, lowering the previous best time by 10m 20s. He also picked up gold medals in the cross country and half marathon teams' event.

A measure of his class is his 10km road times. They are not far off the 40 minute mark as witnessed by his M65 – 69 N. Z. Road Championships win in Wellington in 2003 of 41m 10s.



## LLOYD CHRISTIE

Lloyd started athletics at primary school where he enjoyed running and this has led to a lifetime of involvement as a participant and as an official. Later as a middle distance runner he used to run to school and one of his memories of back then is battling in to the teeth of a howling easterly gale.

After a period in Auckland and farming at Matamata Lloyd moved to Tauranga in 1960 and to a 'special' farm at Oropi. He recalls passing a group on their Sunday pack run in 1965 in Oropi Road. Ramblers kept being shut out of their cross country courses by new sub-divisions and when it became known that his farm adjacent to the Oropi Hall was available the course was soon developed. Being a runner he had difficulty just watching the club racing and with the adrenalin flowing he was soon back in to running. After a ten year lay-off it took him a full year's training to get himself race fit again but he went on to hold several club cross country and road titles. Injury put paid to his running but the Tauranga Ramblers stayed at Oropi for 32 years and during that time he kept in close contact and was given the honour of being made Club Patron.



Lloyd has been a committee member over the years, a selector and is still patron of the club. He pays tribute to the, "brilliant job that Graham Bennett (President) and Gordon Taylor (Club Captain) did during the sixties and seventies in building the harrier club up and for developing a great team spirit and warm family atmosphere."

We are very much indebted to Lloyd for his generous donation of \$100,000 towards the establishment of an all weather running track in Tauranga.

### SCENES FROM OROPI EARLY 70s



### NEW ZEALAND RUNNERS TO COMPETE AT OROPI

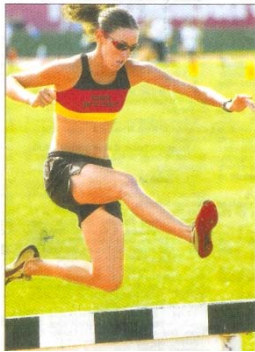
"Three current N.Z. Athletic representatives will be lining up at Oropi for the Waikato Cross Country Championships tomorrow. (1969). They are Mike Ryan (Tokoroa), Jack Foster (Rotorua) and Mrs Val Robinson." *BOP Times Report.*

## BRENT NEWDICK



Brent would often participate during our harrier season during his younger days but such has been his talent and prominence in Track and Field that he has seen fit to concentrate his ability in to this area of athletics. After being N.Z. Athlete of the Year in 1996 at the age of ten and making New Zealand representative trips overseas, he has won countless championship medals and awards. We were all honoured with his 2006 Commonwealth Games selection in the Decathlon at Melbourne. With the whole country viewing on T.V. and encouraging him on, he can be well satisfied with his 4<sup>th</sup> placing and personal best of 7566 points in this demanding event.

## ANDREA SMITH

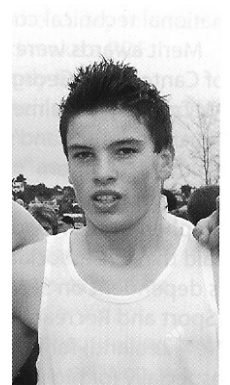


Andrea comes from a sporting family who have played a long and very much involved part on the Ramblers scene. She grew up through the ranks and developed and gained in strength and ability along the way until today she is a foremost athlete in the country. A scholarship for study in the United States next year will allow her to progress further in her chosen field. She had early success in the Inter Primary Schools' Cross Country races and carried this forward in to Secondary School athletics, doing particularly well in Track and Field. In 2005 she had a good year following serious injury and a particularly commendable effort was winning the N.Z. Half Marathon U20 title at Huntly in 1h 35m 32s.

## SECONDARY SCHOOLS' CROSS COUNTRY



This area of running has made tremendous strides in recent years with a field of over 1100 competing in six grades at this year's N.Z. Championships at Waipuna. This was the 33<sup>rd</sup> running of the event and the numbers and interest just keep growing each year. In the local area there is much encouragement and good coaching available in the schools with Rosemary Wright of Tauranga Girls' College leading the way. This involvement by the schools has a spin off which benefits



Ramblers when they join our club and continue their interest and often their successes. This year we had Jacob Martin winning the Year 9 Boys race and Regan Bones second in the Junior Boys at the N. Z. Secondary Schools' Cross Country championships. A fine effort on their home course.

## MARATHON RECORD TO WILSON

Rex Wilson of Tauranga set a men's course record of 2h 12m 27s in winning the Long Beach, California marathon in 1989. The 28 year old broke the 1986 record on a flat course that takes contestants around several Los Angeles tourist attractions. It was Wilson's third marathon and he logged a personal best. In the Women's division the previous record held by New Zealander, Dianne Rodger was also broken. The winners took home \$NZ13,000 in prize money each.

## BILL SHALLCROSS

*Bill finally worked out that the best way to get a good handicap is to be Secretary.*

Here was a good solid member who apart from his running ability made his contribution to the club in so many ways. Bill held various positions within the club during his membership and always gave considered and valuable service. With his business contacts he was able to pursue events in our interest and gain many benefits for the club. It was as our publicity officer that his talents stood out and he saw that our welfare and achievements were put to the forefront in the community. Bill did a fine job of handicapper, and those of us who were there can recall the happy times and comradeship of the kiwifruit picks on his property. His service on the Ramblers committee was of much value and a lot of his personal time was spent furthering the interests of the club. Wife Marge also participated fully in the life of the club and held positions of responsibility.

## ASHLEY DUSTOW

*With acknowledgements to a 1988 Newsletter article by Brian Dey.*

"Ashley developed a keen interest in trophies as his ability to win races increased and he became aware of the availability of prizes. At one stage he was considering calling the T.V. repair crew in because of its poor reception until someone correctly pointed out that the silverware on top of the set was creating the interference."

Ashley was a very prominent runner for the club who trained hard and long and did especially well over longer distances. He put in some outstanding Paeroa to Thames performances and finished 5<sup>th</sup> in 2h 22m 09s in the 1988 Vancouver marathon.

*Ashley brought Brian back the Gull Hat from Vancouver and this went on to become the trophy which was awarded on bus trips to the MOST MERITORIOUS RUNNER at that day's event. Commonly called the Duck Hat the first winner was Martin Collis at the Tokoroa relays and at Tauwhare, Craig Holmes gained the honour of having to wear the "Hat" home.*

Brian Dey was a fine runner in his own right and was always right up there in every Veteran event he participated in. His name features on the Derek Wilson Veteran Cross Country Cup for two consecutive years as winner in 1986 and 1987.



## A LOOK AT THE HUNTLY HALF MARATHON

The Huntly Half Marathon commenced in 1981 as an event to attract a few local runners. Today it is one of the main races on the national calendar and attracts some of the biggest fields for a half marathon. It has become a people's event where participation is the key.

Over the years it has attracted runners wearing the green singlet and their success has been considerable. Outlined here are the names of Ramblers who have finished in top places in the Men's and Women's fields but it must be remembered that there is always a sprinkling of club members right throughout the field. (For some years **all** the top ten placings were not listed on the website).

<b>1981</b> No Rambler placings	<b>1982</b> No Rambler placings
<b>1983</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Trevor Wright 65m 00s	2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>SW</b> Rosemary Wright
<b>1984</b> No Rambler placings	<b>1985</b> No Rambler placings
<b>1986</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Rex Wilson 62m 43s (Record and National best time)	
<b>1987</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Trevor Wright 67m 57s	6 <sup>th</sup> John Caie 71m 25s
<b>1988</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Richard Hall 69m 23s	5 <sup>th</sup> <b>SW</b> Raewyn O'Donnell 78m 14s
<b>1989</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Paul Herlihy 65m 26s	3 <sup>rd</sup> Murray Fleming 65m 52s
4 <sup>th</sup> Mark Furlan 69m 03s	6 <sup>th</sup> Trevor Wright 69m 28s
<b>1990</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Mark Furlan 64m 59s	<b>1991</b> No Rambler placings
<b>1992</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Paul Herlihy 64m 54s	9 <sup>th</sup> Murray Fleming 69m 07s
<b>1993</b> <b>SM</b> No Rambler placings	6 <sup>th</sup> <b>SW</b> Debbie Shallcross
<b>1994</b> No Rambler placings	<b>1995</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Paul Herlihy 66m 51s
<b>1996</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Paul Herlihy 67m 48s	<b>1997</b> No Rambler placings
<b>1998</b> No Rambler placings	<b>1999</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Paul Herlihy 68m 33s
<b>2000</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Paul Herlihy 71m 53s	<b>2001</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Tony Chudley 71m 56s
<b>2002</b> No Rambler placings	<b>2003</b> <b>W20</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Andrea Smith 1h47m 00s
	<b>M50</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Gavin Smith 1h20m 07s
<b>2004</b> <b>W20</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Andrea Smith 1h47m	<b>2005</b>

In **2005** the **Huntly Half** was the venue for the **N. Z. Half Marathon Champs.**

**Ramblers Placings:** **MM50** 3<sup>rd</sup> Gavin Smith. 1h 23m 41s

**M20** 1<sup>st</sup> Braden Neal 1h 21m 51s **W20** 1<sup>st</sup> Andrea Smith 1h 35m 32s

## **2006 RAMBLERS WINTER MEMBERSHIP**

### **SENIOR MEN**

Josh Dyer  
Iain MacDonald  
Kyle MacDonald  
Mark McKeown  
Matt Parsonage  
Ben Ruthe  
Mathew Smith  
Daniel Smith

### **MASTERS M35**

Kirk Brennan  
Clive Reynolds  
Mark Williams

### **MEN 19**

Bobby Dean  
Steven Langdon  
Bradley Maisey  
Braden Neal  
Ruchira Seneviratne

### **BOYS 15**

Reagan Bones  
Angus Curry  
Oscar Curry  
Brynmor Davies  
Declan Horan  
Maximo Mandl  
Jacob Martin  
Jamie Regan  
Braden Taylor

### **SENIOR WOMEN**

Philipa Durkin  
Celeste Labuschagn

### **MASTERS WOMEN**

Ethney Barnaby  
Anna Gould  
Gay Horan  
Raewyn Keyte  
Deidre Lack  
Ginger Mandl  
Fay Smith  
Lea Smith  
Cindy Taylor  
Robyn Winter

### **WOMEN 19**

Jessica Dean  
Emma Lambert  
Andrea Smith

### **GIRLS 15**

Gillian Dean  
Nikki Furmage  
Jodi Furmage  
Kelly Furmage  
Abby Furmage  
Shelby Goddard

### **MASTERS MEN**

Colin Boocock  
Tony Chudley  
Murray Clarkson  
Colin Clifton  
Eric de Lautour  
Bruce Dean  
Les Dobson  
Barry Ellis  
Terry Furmage  
Peter Kennedy  
Ken Keyte  
Brendon Magill  
Tim Masters  
Rob McGregor  
Robert McPherson  
Murray Nelson  
Sid Pavett  
Mike Powell  
Kerry Smith  
Gavin Smith  
Wayne Smith  
Stu Smith  
Malcolm Taylor  
Warren Taylor  
Alex Whimster  
Dave Whitehead  
Mark Williams  
Ray Young  
Iain Bibby

### **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

Sue Furmage  
Euan Ross  
Bev Smith

**REGULAR HARRIER SUPPORTERS:** Jan Barr, Val Bromley, Paul Chapman, Tanya and Gary Garner, Ross Hynds, Ken Kerewaro, Thelma Lindup, Dennis Madden, Dianne Powell, Bradley Smith, Karen Smith.

## OUR FAMOUS CHAMPIONS

Over our 50 years Tauranga Ramblers Harrier Club has had some very talented runners wear its colours, before or after they have reached their potential. Following is a list of runners who have either represented New Zealand or won New Zealand or provincial titles in various ages, or displayed tremendous talent during their careers.

For the **Men** I am suggesting you pick a 10 man team and for the **Women** a team of 6. These would be your Ramblers all-time **DREAM TEAMS**.

Men to note:

**Ross List, Murray Nelson, Martin Simmonds, Rodger Simmonds, Barry Nicholls, Alan Julian, Robin Horn, Ray Wakeford, Grant Young, Gary Palmer, Ian Walker, Trevor Sutherland, Mark Furlan, Murray Fleming, Mike Molloy, Barry Ellis, Rex Wilson, Nathan Healy, Trevor Wright, Murray Clarkson, Mark McKeown, Daniel Smith, Ben Ruthe, Kyle MacDonald, Iain MacDonald, Glen Hughes, and Jason Cresswell. ARE THERE OTHERS?**

Women to note:

**April Taylor, Denise Jones, Bernadette ver Muelen, Glenda Rowlands, Carol Kane, Lynley Hills, Ruth MacLoughlan, Elspeth Young, Vicki Furlan, Raewyn O'Donnell, Ursula Knott, Sylvia Prinsloo, Rosemary Wright, Leanne Sharp, Debbie Hill, Kim Griffiths, Robyn Winter, Josie Sinclair, Nicola Powell, Lia Bacon, Teresa Coston, Emma Wright, Jessica Ruthe, Jacqui Falconer. ARE THERE OTHERS?**

**THE FUTURE.** 2006 has seen a resurgence of Tauranga Ramblers in the Senior Men's ranks. Ben Ruthe leads the way and Mark McKeown, Iain MacDonald, Kyle MacDonald, Mark Williams, Matthew Parsonage, and Justin Carnaby follow close behind. The N.Z. Road Relay Championship effort was what will be the beginning of several years great racing at the top of harrier competition. This is expected to spread throughout the club including Women. Masters will continue to be competitive. The Club's Youth grades will be bolstered by local Secondary Schools and AIMS runners. Some 2006 age group medallists to note as they progress through the ranks will be Regan Bones, Jacob Martin and Julian Oakley.

**A GREAT EVENT.** One of our most outstanding races was the 1980 Taylor Open Cross Country Senior Men's race at Oropi with 136 finishers. **1<sup>st</sup> Paul Ballinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> Euan Robertson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dave Sirl. Women: 1<sup>st</sup> Raewyn O'Donnell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Diane Rodger, 3<sup>rd</sup> Debbie Elsmore.**

**ALSO** in 2003 Tauranga Ramblers won the Club N.Z. Cross Country Championship team titles in Senior Men, Master Men 35-49 and Masters Men 50 plus.

*Malcolm Taylor.*



## A JOG DOWN MEMORY LANE

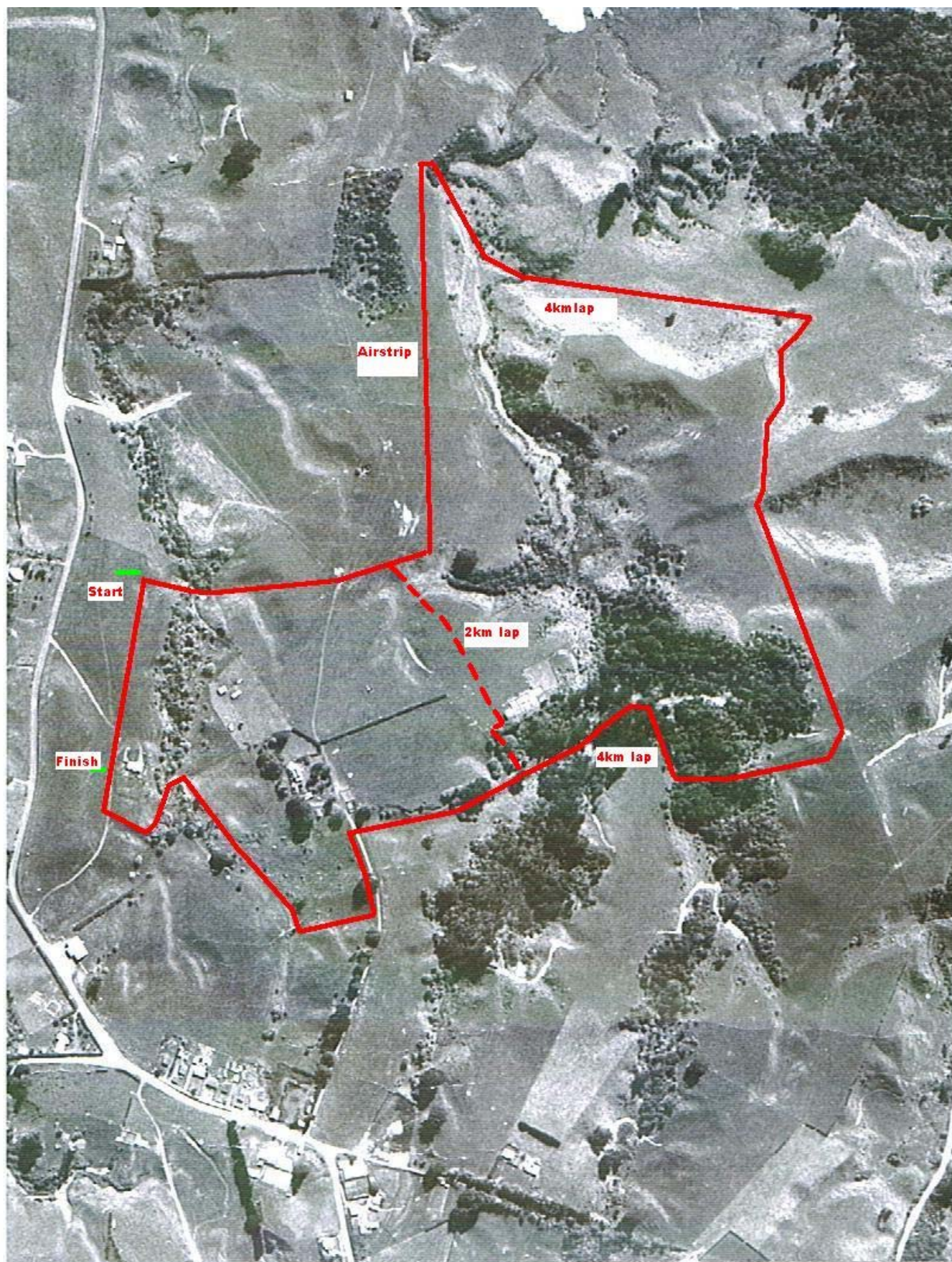
*Bits and Pieces Over the Years.*

1. **Bob Holloway and Murray Watts** set up a “wonderfully popular and highly successful” Travel Agency called ‘WATWAY TOURS UNLIMITED’ and organised two Ramblers marathon trips – to the Gold Coast in 1981 and Honolulu in 1983.
2. World long distance running specialist **Siegfried Bauer**, ran from Hamilton to Tauranga on April 4, 1981 to raise money for disabled athlete, **Maurice Toon**. Accompanying Bauer on the 100km journey, through various stages though none completed the whole distance were a team of Tauranga Ramblers.
3. From 19 April, 1980 Newsletter. “So what, if **Malcolm Taylor** runs a marathon with a broken arm! How many have I run with a broken heart?”
4. Who would believe it? The latest issue of the N.Z. Runner magazine has a full colour centrefold photo of **Stanley Taylor** – yes, THE Stanley Taylor, running in the Waikato C. C. Championships. They have even put up the price of the magazine. (1980).
5. “The **boom in athletics** in the late 70s early 80s created so many friendships. We had many families taking part, from 5 year olds to well over 70 year olds. The Club was like one big happy family, harriers and running were your life.”
6. April, 1996. **New runners**, keen and eager, will now have got the feel for cross country running – mud, hills, stiles and rain, not forgetting the cow pats (which were well covered with grass at Oropi this year.)
7. Would you believe that in 1988 we had to take **two buses** to the Tokoroa relay as there was an overload? A once only for the club.
8. April, 1996. “Why are you carrying that ladder?” I asked **Keith Still** on the starting line of the Rotorua marathon. “It’s to help me when I hit the wall.” was his reply.
9. **Racecourse Time Trial 1990**. Runners were required to use the inner circuit so as to save the main track for the less heavy hoofed horses.
10. Comments following first Tauranga Open Cross Country run to be held at **Waipuna Park**– “tougher than Oropi,” and “brilliant.” (1997)
11. The **men’s 50+ relay**. (2005 report). While these old stallions may be slowing down, within the club scene in N.Z. they are collectively amongst the top in the country. Last year in Nelson they were placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, the year before that 2<sup>nd</sup>, and prior to that they had **three wins in a row**.
12. Overheard from a Junior club member mid 1990s. “If our top senior runner had worn the **Club uniform** he would have won easily.

- 13. Tauwhare Cup Colts win 1967.** The most outstanding success was the way in which the A colts dominated all other Waikato clubs by filling five of the first six places. There were 40 starters. N. Prosser 20m 54s 1<sup>st</sup>, M. Simmonds 21m 09s 2<sup>nd</sup>, R. Nelson 22m 02s 4<sup>th</sup>, S. Pickering 22m 19s 5<sup>th</sup>, W. Smith 22m 37s 6<sup>th</sup>, M. Taylor 24m 05s 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 14.** On 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2002, at Feilding **Euan Ross** completed his **100<sup>th</sup> Marathon**. This represents a distance of 4219.5km or four times the length of New Zealand. His first race was the Fletcher in 1978 and an average of four marathons a year were needed to be run to achieve this landmark. At the time only 20 people in N.Z. had accomplished this feat.
- 15.** For Ramblers, 48 runners won the **Top Club - De Bretts Cup** at the North Island C. C. championships in Taupo in 1992. Not for the first time, but it was fabulous to see the “sea of green and black” doing so well in a wide range of events.
- 16. Lifestyle Sports 5km and 10km Series.** This popular Tuesday evening event was run fortnightly during winter from the Rowing Club. You picked your own distance and there was a handicap start. It was open to all Tauranga runners and would attract up to 60 competitors at its peak in the 90s.
- 17. Ray Young** was our **Sports Announcer** on Radio BOP on Saturday mornings for five years in the 1990s. We would receive interesting news, and comments on running and athletics.
- 18. Title winners** at the 1995 **Waikato C. C. Championships** at Putaruru were Glen Taylor, Midget Boys; Karen Donaldson, Girls U14; Jason Cresswell, Boys U16; David Taylor, Boys U14; and Agnes Acott, VW 65. David Harper came second in Men U18.
- 19.** On Saturday, May 1, 1999 the 35<sup>th</sup> running of the **Rotorua Fletcher Marathon** was **cancelled** due to very heavy and persistent rain.
- 20. Terry Hansen recalls:** “The years that **Ken Knott and I** spent as owners of **Athletic Attic** in Willow Street (1980s), were like having a second clubroom for Ramblers. We formed close associations with members and were fortunate to have people like Arthur Lydiard, Alison Roe, Rod Dixon and many overseas athletes visit us.”
- 21. Dave Corrigan (1999),** “is Ramblers Coaching Co-Ordinator and is a valuable resource for any member who wants to obtain information about training and technique. Dave is still associated with Ramblers and is involved in mainly coaching our summer track athletes. His column features in ‘Ramblings’ from time to time.

22. **“Duncan Reid**, a former member of Ramblers has been appointed as Olympic Team Physiotherapist for the coming 1988 Seoul Games.”
23. Twenty-two athletes representing Tauranga Ramblers were among the 90 athletes, coaches and parents who attended the **Lydiard Training Camp** at the Narrows Park, near Hamilton in 1990. “A very valuable learning experience from a very knowledgeable coach.”
24. **David Harper** and **Daniel Smith** were chosen to represent New Zealand at the Australian Cross Country Championships in 1996. David in M20 and Daniel in M18. David was also chosen later to run for N.Z. in the annual Sydney to Surf 14km run.
25. **Mark McKeown** was “a very impressive winner” at the N.Z. Sec. Schools’ C.C. champs in the Junior Boys 4000m at Kawerau in 1989. He had control with 1500m to run when he took the lead and was not to be headed again, even extending his lead. His winning time was 14m 13s.
26. **Bus Quiz Questions 1988. No. 6** What is **Mark Furlan’s** fastest one mile time? **Answer – 4 min 02 sec. No. 7** Which one of our members is the proud owner of a Commonwealth Games Gold Medal? **Answer - Rosemary Wright.**
27. **Lloyd Christie, Club Patron**, has very generously donated \$100,000 towards the establishment of an All Weather running track **in Tauranga.**
28. **Discontinued event.** The B.O.P. Cross Country championships which had been well supported by the Club, were discontinued in 1987. Ramblers were the only club keen to see the event continue.
29. In 2005 the term **Veteran** was removed as the name when referring to runners **W35** and **M40 plus** and replaced with **MASTERS**. It applies to both men **and** women and the qualifying age for men to become **Masters** is now 35 as well.
30. **Daniel Smith** competed in the Australian C. C. champs in Bendigo in 1996. He placed 8<sup>th</sup> but was a member of the N.Z. U18 team that won a Bronze medal. Barry Ellis was manager of the 16 person team.
31. An important fund raising activity for Ramblers over the years has been the **Quiz Evenings**. A master at organising these is **Ray Young**. He has a tremendous memory recall for sporting facts and data with a particular interest in things Australian. Teams of eight compete against each other in various categories and accumulate points throughout the evening with the winners receiving a large hamper of Sponsors’ products. A very entertaining night out.
32. In 1988 the Tauranga Ramblers Harrier Club and the Tauranga Athletic and Cycling Clubs merged to become just one club, to be affectionately known as the **TAURANGA RAMBLERS HARRIER CLUB.**

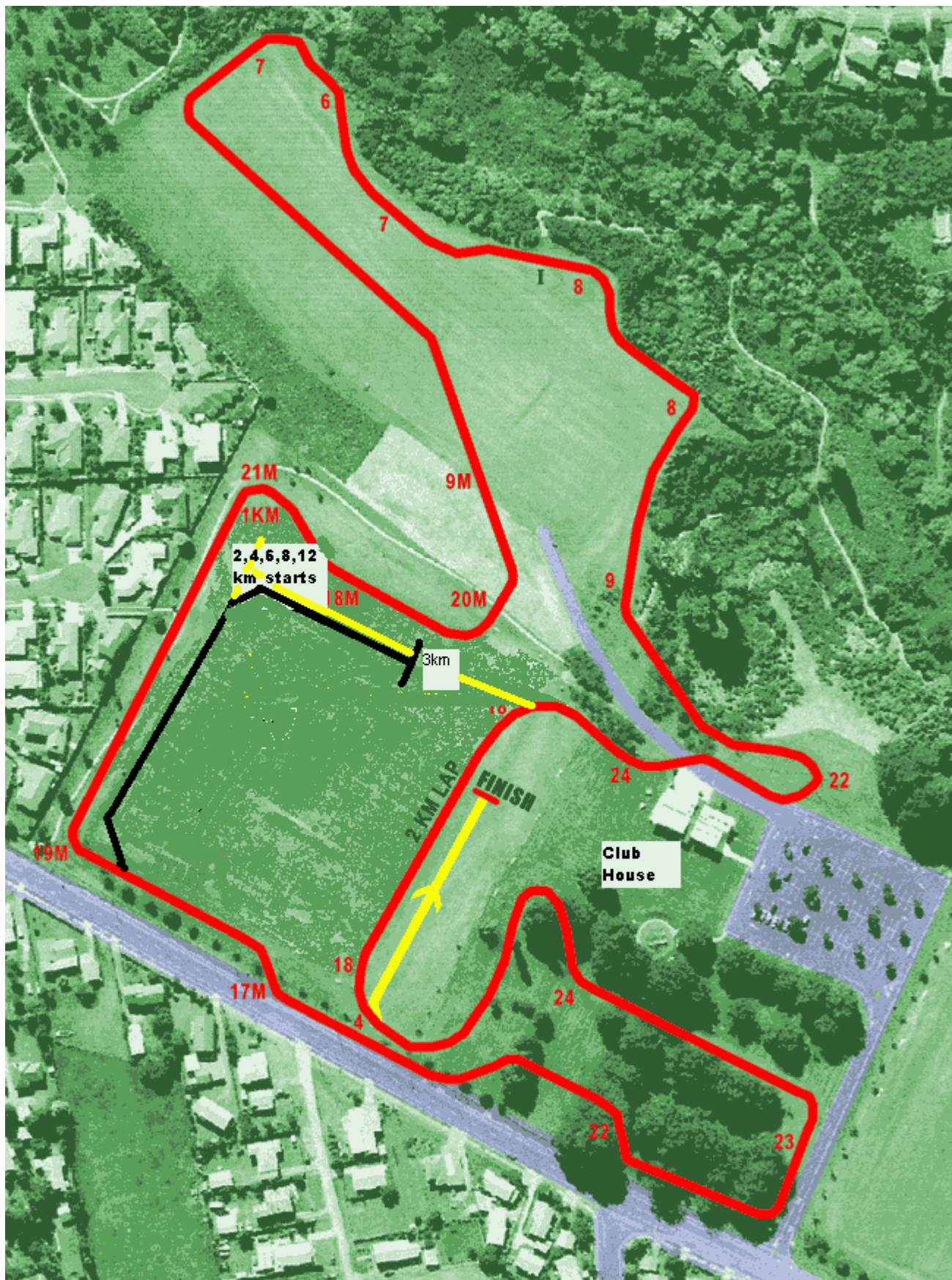




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RUNNERS FROM 1970 to 1997.**





**WAIPUNA PARK - WELCOME BAY**

**TAURANGA RAMBLERS HARRIER CLUB**

**GRAHAM BENNETT MEMORIAL CROSS COUNTRY COURSE**