

Welcome Competitors

The one week countdown is on to the Bayleys Mauao Challenge and Athletics New Zealand Mountain Running Championships here in Tauranga on our iconic Mauao. Please familiarise yourself with the following information, some minor details have changed from earlier versions.

Race Numbers:

Race number collection and timing tags will be available on the day from 10:30am, along with late entries. Timing tags will only be used for the NZ Champs races, not the social fun run/walk. Pick up will be located under the Bayleys/Athletics Tauranga Marquee at the northern/Mauao end of Pilot Bay/The Mall. Race numbers must be displayed on the front of singlets and timing tags must be securely attached to your shoes.

Program of Events:

10:30am - On the day entries plus race number/timing tag pick up opens
12:00pm - Start of Mauao Challenge Fun Run/Walk
1:30pm - Start of Junior Women and Masters Women NZ Championship Race
2:15pm - Start of Junior Men and Masters Men NZ Championship Race
3:00pm - Start of Open Women and Men NZ Championship Race
6:00pm - Prize giving at Astrolabe Brew Bar (82 Maunganui Road, Mt Maunganui)

Please report to the start line 10 minutes before your event for race briefing.

Drink Stations:

There will be a drink station at the hair-pin corner approx 2/3rds of the way up Mauao, which also is the turnaround point for the short lap. A second drink station will be positioned near the start and finish lines at the base of Mauao that competitors will loop past before they head back up at the start of each lap. Both drink stations will offer water and R-Line electrolytes. A table will also be available at the base drink station for individuals to put their own bottles, electrolytes etc. The table will be supervised however the organisers can not take responsibility for these items. Athletes - do not take what is not yours. Any outside assistance including being handed drinks elsewhere on the course will result in disqualification under World Athletics rules.

The Course:

Please remember all tracks on Mauao are open to the public at all times. We will have marshals on the course and signs warning the public but you are ultimately responsible for avoiding them. You are expected to stay on the left hand side of the track for both your ascent and descent, and cones will be placed in the centre in some areas.

The start and the finish will be on the sealed road Pilot Quay at the base of Mauao, and you will loop down onto this area between every lap, before ascending a short flight of stairs to take you back onto the main 4WD track. These are the only stairs on the course and will not be used on the first lap. All races head to the summit for lap one, then to the hair-pin turn around point for all subsequent laps (one big lap and one short lap for juniors and masters, one big lap and three short laps for open). A timing mat at the hairpin turn will record athletes every time you pass this point. Athletes will also be recorded manually at the summit on lap one.

The course is predominantly gravel and can be slippery in places. We have a first aid team on site, but you are competing at your own risk.

When you finish you must immediately return your timing tag. Anyone who does not will be charged appropriately.

On completion spot prizes will be randomly allocated and everyone will receive a goody bag with an assortment of fruit, food, drink, vouchers etc.

A local coffee cart Rudimaes will also be on site for the purchase of drinks and a selection of delicacies.

Mauao Challenge Community Fun Run and Walk

Invite your friends and family to participate in the social event with a 10% off discount code BAYLEYSMC23 for all supporters of the NZ Championships. This must be used online by Thursday 16th March. Enter at www.sporty.co.nz/athleticstauranga
Entries are available on the day but prices will rise.

If you have any questions please let me know, otherwise we look forward to seeing you next Saturday! Long range forecast currently looks pretty good, but please be aware if the weather looks like it will turn nasty the organisers reserve the right to combine the races to shorten the length of time our marshals and volunteers will need to be out on the course. We will endeavour to make this decision as early as possible and give everyone as much warning as possible. Please remember the weather is out of our hands and as organisers we do our best to look after both our athletes and all our helpers who are all out there purely for their love of the sport.

Kind regards,

Andrea Neal

On behalf of the Athletics Tauranga Organising Committee