

NZ SECONDARY SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM to travel to MELBOURNE 2015

AUSTRALIAN CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPS: Saturday 29th August 2015

AUSTRALIAN ALL SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY RELAYS: Monday 31st August

NZSSAA intend to again take a full Secondary Schools team to the Australian Cross Country Champs this August.

This would include athletes in the following teams:

- New Zealand Girls team – Up to 12 female runners from throughout the country
- New Zealand Boys team – Up to 12 male runners from throughout the country

Team selection will largely be based on results of the 2015 National Secondary School Cross Country Champs in Dunedin although other performances may be taken into consideration. A Paper Team of 12 female and 12 male Athletes will be announced at the completion of the meet in Dunedin. Those named in the Paper Team will gain automatic selection to attend the Australian Champs as part of the NZ team and will also be eligible to apply for a Travel subsidy of up to \$NZ300. Others who are not named in the Paper team are also eligible to apply for consideration for selection to the team.

To be eligible for this event athletes must be enrolled in a Secondary School in New Zealand at the time of the running of the event.

Early estimates expect the cost of this trip to be in the range of approximately \$1,800-\$2,000 for each athlete; this includes: International airfares, Domestic airfares (if required), accommodation for 5 nights in Melbourne, Transport costs in Melbourne, travel insurances, comprehensive team uniform, meals, sightseeing and other activities. Any savings will be passed on to athletes by the overall cost being reduced.

As in previous years NZSSAA would plan the tour with all athletes traveling together as one team.

APPROXIMATE ITINERARY: The team would depart from Auckland Airport on the afternoon of Thursday 27th August, Friday will be a free day to acclimatise and view race venue etc, Saturday afternoon will be the individual race at the Australian Champs, Sunday is a sightseeing/educational day in Melbourne, Monday morning is the All Schools Relay race and Closing ceremony. Tuesday morning return to Auckland Airport.

Athletes would be away from school for four days from 27th August to 1st September. A letter will be sent to school Principals to indicate Athlete's selection to represent NZ and resultant days away from school.

Rhys Taucher

Team Manager