New Zealand Secondary Schools Athletics Association

Tour to Athletics Australia Cross Country Championships 2026

Expression of interest Open Friday 5th June (a link will be posted on this date)
Close Tuesday 23rd June 5pm

Competition Venue Victoria Park, Ballarat, Victoria

Tour dates

Thursday 20th August	- Departing Auckland International Airport 3:30pm
Monday 21st August	- Arriving Auckland International Airport 2:15pm

Tour itinerary

Thursday 20th	- Domestic and International travel
Friday 21st	- Course familiarization
Saturday 22nd	- Individual races
Sunday 23rd	- Relay races
Monday 24th	- International and domestic travel

Accommodation Quest Ballarat Station

Saturday event information

U17 Girls	4km	3:20pm	U18 Girls	4km	3:35pm
U17 Boys	6km	3:50pm	U18 Boys	6km	4:10pm
U20 Girls	6km	4:30pm	U20 Boys	8km	4:55pm

Sunday relay information

4 x 2000m	U18	1pm	(NZSSAA will enter multiple teams)
4 x 2000m	U20	1:50pm	(NZSSAA will enter multiple teams)

Costs

The expected cost per athlete will be approximately $2600. This excludes the NZSSAA representative team uniform. Those named in the 2026 NZSS Championship team [top ten finishers] in both senior grades at our Championships are eligible to receive a $250 travel subsidy to help fund their trip.

Team Selection

Selection in the team will be automatic for the top ten finishers in both the senior boys and senior girls' races at our NZSSAA Championships in Wellington on June 20th if they choose to be selected. Therefore, a minimum of two additional places will be available for athletes in the team for girls and boys who finish outside of the top ten. Selection criteria for those outside the top 10 automatic qualifiers from the NZSS Championships will be based on a range of factors including but not limited to:

- Competitive records at NZ Secondary Schools events
- Current and past competitive record at Cross Country for national and regional schools and club competitions
- Athletics New Zealand distance event rankings

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