

TO OUR YOUNG ATHLETES - FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

It is with great pleasure that, on behalf of the Local Organising Committee of the 48th New Zealand Secondary Schools Cross Country Championships, I say a final fond farewell and thank you very much for being part of the event which you helped make so special.

When we first agreed to organise this event, we had one goal: to ensure that everyone participating - athletes, managers, parents, friends, officials and spectators - had a wonderful experience. Particularly, we wanted to create an event you would remember fondly for years to come.

With so much disruption, and many events being cancelled over the last two years due to Covid 19, we developed a real passion to do everything we could to give you the opportunity to do what you so dearly love to do - run.

If the comments we have received during and following the event are any indication, we have achieved this goal. Again, it's in no small way to you for making the effort to come to Nelson. We were delighted to see the final entry numbers reached 700, ensuring the event would be a real success not only for you, but also for the Nelson Tasman region.

Now that you have returned home safely, there are two further opportunities for you to remember your experience.

Photographs

Over the weekend, our photographer Pete Marshall took some wonderful photographs of every finisher. He also photographed the Awards Ceremony at Nelson College. These are available on his website <https://www.petemarshallphoto.com/>. There is bound to be a couple of photos which will bring back memories.

Merchandise

If you did not pre-order, or were unable to purchase an event T-shirt or hoody, you can still do so. These are available on the website <https://sas.co.nz/product-category/athletics/nz-secondaryschools-athletics-association/>. As you will have seen, if your friends were wearing one, they look very smart.

Finally, from us all in Nelson, we wish you all the best in your future careers. From a personal viewpoint, standing on the stage at the Awards Ceremony at Nelson College, I looked down on the mass gathering and felt so proud to be involved with such a wonderful group of young people. You really have done your schools, your families and your friends proud.

Vern Mardon
(LOC Chair)