

Esther Keown wins world schools cross country title and other news

CZECH REPUBLIC

Esther Keown of Auckland Girls' Grammar School headed the best of the world's schools cross country runners winning the world girls 3000m cross country title in the Czech Republic.

The 15 year old was a clear winner in 9m 19s, beating the Belgium pair of Zenobi Van Gansbeke and Eline Dalemans by six seconds.

New Zealand also won the teams race, with Hannah Newbould of Cashmere High School fourth, Nicki McFadzien of Villa Maria College sixth and Olivia Burne of Palmerston North Girls' High 12th combining for 23 points, to beat Algeria on 49, England 51 and Australia 76.

Keown will next represent New Zealand at the world junior track and field championships in Poland in July in the 1500m.

Aaron Pulford of Hauraki Plains College was the highest placed New Zealander in the selected boys 5000m finishing 17th in 15m 4s. New Zealand finished sixth in the teams race. Kane Grimster of Australia narrowly won the race in 14m 33s from Anes Traikia of Algeria.

In the individual schools teams races Wanganui Collegiate were fifth in the boys and Tauranga Girls' College sixth in the girls.

Results:

WORLD SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Zdar nad Sazavou, Czech Republic

Selected Girls 3000m:

Esther Keown (NZ) 9m 19s 1, Zenobi Van Gansbeke (Bel) 9m 25s 2, Eline Dalemans (Bel) 9m 26s 3.

Teams: New Zealand (Keown 1, Hannah Newbould 9m 29s 4, Nicki McFadzien 9m 30s 6, Olivia Burne 9m 41s 12) 23 points 1, Algeria 49 2, England 51 3, Australia 76 4, Belgium 79 5, Spain 80 6. Other New Zealand placings; Hannah Morgan 9m 58s 21, Sophie Corbidge 10m 2s 25.

Selected Boys 5000m:

Kane Grimster (Aust) 14m 33s 1, Anes Traikia (Alg) 14m 33s 2, Emin Tan Muhammed (Turkey) 14m 36s 3.

Teams: Algeria 40 1, Spain 43 2, Australia 53 3, Turkey 61 4, England 62 5, New Zealand (Aaron Pulford 15m 4s 17, James Holden 15m 7s 18, Campbell Garry 15m 7s 19, Nathan Barrett 15m 11s 24) 80 6. Other New Zealand placings; Zak Hawkins 15m 18s 29, Corey Casey 15m 31s 36.

Girls Schools Team 3000m:

Tauranga Girls' College (Esther McArthur 11m 1s 30, Shelby Goddard 11m 3s 32, Ella Mangan-Walker 11m 5s 34, Julia Campbell 11m 35s 54) 6.

Boys Schools Team 5000m:

Wanganui Collegiate (Angus Watson 15m 41s 20, James Tie 16m 8s 35, Daniel Hermann 16m 18s 40, Joshua Van Dalen 16m 27s 44) 5.