



OFF INTO THE SUNRISE: Runners in the Mudgee Bevco Marathon and the Pieter van Gent Half-marathon brave the cool start to Sunday morning for a run. PHOTO: SANDY SMITH 220810 MARATHON 6398



RACE TO THE FINISH: Mudgee's Ayden Toovey just beats Dubbo's Craig May. 210810 DS FUN RUN 283



CLOCK STRIKES: Runners were keeping a track on their time. 220810 BH MARATHON 015



STROLLING ALONG: (above) Marie Harris, Nadja Harris and Libby Karhan take part in the Mudgee Guardian 5km fun run. 210810 DS FUN RUN 148



THUMBS UP: Mudgee's Eli Harvey and Gulgong's Rebecca Bailey running together in the 5km. 210810/DSFUNRUN/199



OFF AND RACING: (left) Runners head off for the 10km fun run. 210810 DS FUN RUN 012

I'm too tired to run for fun, dad



FAST ASLEEP: Pip (in orange) and Tom Hutton from Manly push their sleeping nine-month-old son, Ned, whilst running in the Mudgee Guardian Fun Run on Saturday. 210810/DSFUNRUN/074

FUN RUN By DARREN SNYDER

More than 120 participants made the most of a sunny afternoon and run for fun at Lawson Park on Saturday.

Families, friends, clubs, couples and sole runners from all over the state ran in either the 5km or 10km Mudgee Guardian fun run.

In a curtain raiser to the Mudgee Bevco Marathon, some runners were using Saturday's fun run as their final preparation while others were maintaining fitness levels or just travelling to Mudgee for a family day out.

One family entering in the 10km run were Pip, Tom and Ned Hutton from Manly.

While Tom was preparing for Sunday's Mudgee Pieter van Gent half-marathon, his nine-month-old son, Ned, decided not to take in the beautiful Mudgee scenery but slept through the course in his pram.

"It was his first time in an event like this," Tom said.

"He absolutely loves it, we run with him in the pram often."

When asked if the young one will one day follow in his father's footsteps, Tom said he was hoping for a cyclist.

Although Ned completed the course on three wheels, many other young entrants showed they could be future Mudgee Bevco Marathon winners, sprinting home in the 5km run to make some fast and exciting finishes.

Mudgee Tri Club and Orange Runners' club formed a large contingent in both fun runs.

One of the veteran Orange members was handed a beer as he crossed the finish line, showing there can be rewards for hard work.

Gulgong's Rebecca Bailey was the first female to cross the line in the 5km.

Orange's Mitchell Williamson was the winner of the men's event. Martin Timms from Bathurst, who won the Pieter van Gent half-marathon on Sunday, was second.

In the 10km event, Mudgee's Ayden Toovey won the men's in a

sprint from Dubbo's Craig May, and Orange's Melissa Watson was first in the women's.

Fun Run winners

- Men's - 5km**
1. Mitchell Williamson (Orange) 16.34
 2. Martin Timms (Bathurst) 17.37
 3. Eli Harvey (Mudgee) 21.17
- Women's - 5km**
1. Rebecca Bailey (Gulgong) 21.19
 2. Karen Cherrett (Muswellbrook) 23.51
 3. Carrie Williamson (Orange) 24.54
- Men's - 10km**
1. Ayden Toovey (Mudgee) 37.26
 2. Craig May (Dubbo) 37.27
 3. Guy Atkinson (Mudgee) 37.59
- Women's - 10km**
1. Melissa Watson (Orange) 42.16
 2. Penny Chandler (Orange) 49.34
 3. Sally Comerford (Muswellbrook) 49.38.