

Brindabella Classic - 55km

Written by David Osmond

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Emma Murray triumphed over an extraordinarily talented women's field to win the 2005 Brindabella Classic, a rugged 55km run held in the Brindabella Mountains near the ACT's western border. Emma was recently crowned World Long-Distance Mountain Running Champion, but to win this race she had to beat Jackie Fairweather, who has 2 World titles to her name from the sports of triathlon and duathlon, and Julie Quinn, who has 2 World Rogaining titles.

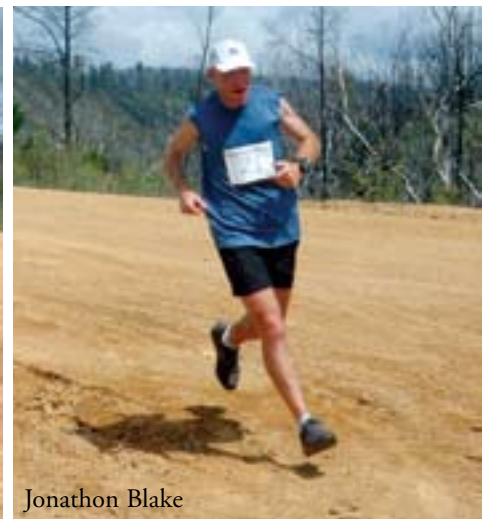
Jonathan Blake won the race outright, and demonstrated that the men's field also wasn't short on stars - he recently finished 12th at the 100k World Cup race in Japan. He was up against 10-time race winner Trevor Jacobs. Jonathan led the field out early, but for the next 10km, every time the course started heading downhill he found himself being challenged for the lead by Emma. As they commenced the big climb up towards the halfway point, he managed to put some distance between himself and the rest of the field, and from then on the interesting battle would be to see who would finish second. At various times, this position would be occupied by Emma, Trevor and Michael Gallagher. Emma seemed to have it covered with 10km remaining, leading Trevor by a few minutes. But suddenly Trevor found himself being challenged by Jackie Fairweather, who had stormed her way through the field. He quickened the pace to hold her at bay, and shortly after they had both halved the gap to Emma. But Emma was able to respond, and managed to run away from them both in the closing kilometres of the race.

An interesting addition to the field was Jackie's husband, Simon Fairweather. He ran brilliantly to finish 8th outright or 6th male. For an Olympic champion in archery, he makes for a pretty handy distance runner.

1. Jonathan Blake	3.58.05
2. Emma Murray	4.05.14
3. Trevor Jacobs	4.06.57
4. Jackie Fairweather	4.09.38
5. Martin Fryer	4.19.58
6. Adrian Sheppard	4.22.59
7. Michael Gallagher	4.25.56
8. Simon Fairweather	4.27.26
9. Paul Veldkamp	4.28.29
10. Brett Worley	4.34.20



Trevor Jacobs



Jonathon Blake



Cooling off post race.

Emma Murray

