

Cradle Mountain Ultra, Tasmania

4th February 2006

by Sue Drake

THE 2006 Cradle Mountain Ultra was run on a dry track, with overcast skies and some light drizzle for the 6am start. The weather cleared for a fine day with hot conditions faced by competitors in the afternoon.

In all, 51 runners started out from Waldheim (Cradle Valley) to make the 82km trail run along the Overland Track to Cynthia Bay. The course starts in the northern end of Cradle Mountain/Lake St Clair National Park and travels to the finishing point at the southern end of the park.

Matt Dalziel scorched through to finish at Cynthia Bay (Lake St Clair) in 7hrs 49mins (4th fastest time recorded in the Run's history since 1981). Dalziel finished almost an hour in front of second place getter Peter Reefman (8.46). Third place was taken by Richard Mountstephens in 8.50.

In the women's division, Grace Elson was first across the line in 12hrs 10 mins - an excellent performance. The 22 year old finished 19th overall and 17 minutes ahead of second place getter Jane Shadbolt (12.27). A further 3 minutes back was Cat Wright (12.30) in third position. **R4YL**

RESULTS

Men

1. Matt Dalziel	7.49
2. Peter Reefman	8.46
3. Richard Mountstephens	8.50
4. Rob Preston	8.59
5. Andrew Hill	9.14
6. Aubrey Henricks	9.16
7. Dave Heatley	9.36
8. Peter Hoare	10.07
9. John Wilson	10.27
10. Brett Worley	10.34

Women

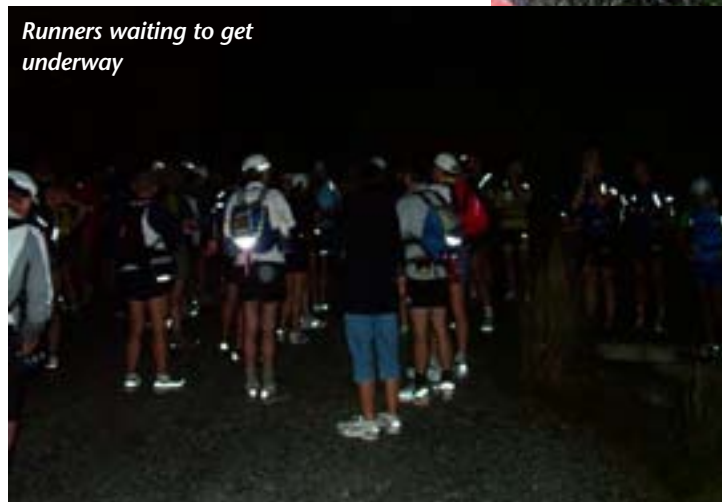
1. Grace Elson	12.10
2. Jane Sandbolt	12.27
3. Cat Wright	12.30
4. Lorna Gregory	12.39
5. Julia Thorn	13.03
6. Sue Wright	13.12
7. Dale Lancaster	13.12
8. Robyn Fletcher	13.14
9. Janelle Miller	13.31
10. Elizabeth Ong	13.45



Matt Dalziel romping to a sub 8 hour performance



Grace Elson looking a little warmer



Runners waiting to get underway



Grace Elson leads the chargers just moments after the 6am start



Happy campers post race