

# Asics Mooloolaba 5k Twilight Run, Qld

Friday 24th March, 2006

by Matt Phillips

WITH CYCLONE Wati hovering closely offshore, the 2006 Asics Mooloolaba 5km Twilight Run began with 2003 winner Alistair Stevenson the clear favourite. A plane ticket to Fukuoka for the World Cross Country Championships already in his possession, Stevenson meant business at Mooloolaba and didn't take long to prove it. Opening up a sizeable lead on the first lap, the 26 year old former national 1500m champion extended his lead to 41 seconds after two laps. Thirteen minutes into the race saw the heavens open, but Stevenson's lead allowed him to cruise home in 15:22 and collect the \$500 first place prize.

Further back, Brisbane runner Richard Blanch and Santamaria Alezandro put on an exciting fin-

ish for spectators. The duo caught the chase group with big finishing kicks that saw them running side by side before Blanch pulled away and prevailed by nine seconds. Commenting after the



*Alistair Stevenson had it all his own way in the 5km dash.*

race, Stevenson admitted the weather made running difficult. "Conditions were tough out there. There was a head-wind for probably half of the race but that's what cross country is, so I'll try and take the positives away from it."

The women's event had an international flavour with Swiss native and professional duathlete Renata Bucher and Scottish Commonwealth Games triathlete Catriona Morrison showing off their talents to the Queensland community.

Morrison held a narrow lead after the first lap until Bucher, 2005 European Xterra Duathlon Tour champion, increased the intensity to take the

| RESULTS                 |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| <b>Men</b>              |       |
| 1. Alistair Stevenson   | 15.22 |
| 2. Richard Blanch       | 16.02 |
| 3. Santamaria Alezandro | 16.11 |
| 4. Tim George           | 16.20 |
| 5. Simon Wilson         | 16.40 |
| 6. Adrian Ryan          | 16.44 |
| 7. Ryan Auld            | 16.48 |
| 8. Ricky Swindale       | 16.50 |
| 9. Paul Ambrose         | 16.51 |
| 10. Jess Kirley         | 16.54 |
| <b>Women</b>            |       |
| 1. Renata Bucher        | 16.55 |
| 2. Catriona Morrison    | 17.07 |
| 3. Clare Geraghty       | 17.14 |
| 4. Natalie Ewin         | 17.40 |
| 5. Genevieve Lacaze     | 17.42 |
| 6. Alyce Mckenzie       | 18.07 |
| 7. Jenny Young          | 18.35 |
| 8. Jasmin Hurikino      | 18.37 |
| 9. Elizabeth Colwell    | 18.45 |
| 10. Kirra Rankin        | 19.02 |

lead in the second lap before finishing strongly, winning by twelve seconds in 16.56. Brisbane teenager Clare Geraghty continued her impressive form in South East Queensland races, placing third in 17.14. Despite her glittering resume of prestigious race wins, Bucher was delighted to triumph in Mooloolaba.

"This is a fun event and I enjoyed it out there – it helped that I felt strong throughout and wasn't bothered by the conditions". **R4YL**

Photo: Eyes Wide Open Photography.



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