# Fun Run brings out the best in the whole community

by Bob Dooley

Nimbin's first *Discover Fitness* Fun Run was a huge affair, and went off without a hitch, paving the way for it to become an annual event.

Hundreds of people turned up for the Sunday event, centred on the Nimbin Showground, where there were organised events for the whole family, and a range of food options.

Dozens of kids under 11 took part in races around the show ring, as well as team events and strategy games, jovially MC'd by postie Dave Wacey, before the 2pm start of the main event, a 5km run around and through the village.

Some 60 competitors lined up for the start, to run, jog or walk the course, staffed by 11 track marshalls and three traffic controllers, with the role of starter performed by Mayor Jenny Dowell, who threw up her arms and shouted, "Go!"

Runners were challenged by the early uphill section to Falls Road, but took heart that the rest of the figure-eight course was largely downhill or on the flat.

In the section through town, runners were cheered on by spectators lining the street, with encouragement from Max Pike, commentating from the pub verandah.

The lead runner, Alex Hew from Lismore, came home in 21'15" to claim the $250 first prize, arriving a mere 15 seconds ahead of local Caspar Oxley, who was followed in by Alex' brother Nick Hew and local runner Warren Simpson.

Anuna Brady-Simes convincingly earned her $250 as the first-placed woman, with

Nimbin chemist Jo Treasure and Julie Riley taking the minor placings,

In the 12-16-year boys division, Jarod Dimmick won the $100, ahead of Quinlan Cox and Bill Graves, while in the junior girls, Carla Bell-Allen took the prizemoney, ahead of Shanti Kenny and Rachel Thienpont.

The minor placings all received prizes too, including group fitness classes, massage vouchers and gift vouchers.

Organiser Cassandra Jefferys said after the event, "I'm rapt. Everything worked out perfectly, with lots of people stepping up to help. I had no idea how many people would come, but as it happened, we even ordered the right amount of food."

The Fun Run was conceived as a way of raising funds to buy more equipment for the Nimbin Physical Acivities Centre in the Showground pavilion, and a total of $3,584.85 was raised on the day, after covering expenses of $2,013.

Cassandra explained that much of the cost had been for items that could be re-used for future runs, such as the runners' bibs, track signage and the all-important approved traffic management plan.

"I had always planned it as an annual event," Cassandra said. "In the future, the cost of holding the event will drop to about $1,200."

As the last walkers arrived at the finish line, nearly an hour after the start, they were greeted with the same encouragement as the front-runners, and beamed with the same sense of achievement and enjoyment from a day of fitness and fun for the whole Nimbin community.



**Fitness freaks** (from top): Starters orders; warm-ups for the kids; male and female Fun Run winners Alex Hew and Anuna Brady-Sime; Best dressed winner Gwen Trimble; youngsters race around the show ring; some of those who walked the course.