

## Round 5 Coliban Relay Saturday 7 July 07 – Report by James Atkinson

Three Athletics Waverley teams travelled to Harcourt on Saturday to compete in the Ekiden/Coliban relay to Bendigo. For the first time silk sashes were trialled in keeping with the tradition of the Japanese Ekiden relay which attract some of the best runners in the world. The attached pictures show some of our Waverley athletes demonstrating their changeover technique with Steven Williams passing to me (moments before he crashed into the timekeeper) and Sally Atkinson passing to Uma Muthia more successfully.

Our Men's Division 2 team found some strong competition out on the Bendigo backroads. Youngy, Knotty, Stevie, myself, Handman and Ash propelled the Waverley sash along the course with Peninsula, Glenhuntly and Essendon all leading at various stages. Eventually Essendon prevailed with some of their gun junior athletes putting distance on us. Waverley finished a mighty second ahead of Glenhuntly and Peninsula, and the other 6 teams. Cumulative positions at the top of Division 2 are now pretty tight between these top 4 teams.

Our men's Division 5 team suffered a blow when Marcus Albiston suffered a hip injury halfway along the second leg, and he was forced to hobble the rest of it in true Waverley spirit, the last km in bare feet. Johnny Nolan, Holsty, Tony George and Tim Hassett combined with Marcus to take a solid 5th place in Div 5. Our women's team did well to field our first women's Coliban team for Waverley since 1997, the year Venus Williams debuted at Wimbledon. Anissa, Shamila, Sally, Uma and Simone combined well to take out a competitive 5th place in their division, and were within a minute of 3rd place.

A few of us stayed on in Bendigo to make a weekend of it. John, Simone and I caught up for dinner afterwards and John kicked on into the night with the Nunawading team. There is a story about their adventures with a troupe of Bendigo midgets at one of the nightclubs, but you'll need to catch up with John to hear the details.

Well done to all who ran or drove cars around or officialled or supported the Waverley teams. The event is a big logistics challenge but I think we only lost Tony and not for too long. Individual results are not yet available but stay tuned.

<u>Men's Division 2</u>			<u>Men's Division 5</u>			<u>Women's Division 3</u>		
1st	ATE	148.26	1st	BER	121.50	1st	KNA	131.45
2nd	AWA	152.33	2nd	KNA	129.13	2nd	BER	153.06
3rd	GHY	153.14	3rd	COL	130.19	3rd	WES	163.04
4th	PRR	153.46	4th	BOH	130.50	4th	SAN	164.02
5th	DIV	161.51	5th	AWA	142.41	5th	AWA	164.08
6th	ANW	162.01	6th	COB	153.42	6th	GHY	173.38
7th	MAL	162.08	7th	IVA	154.12	7th	TRH	175.44
8th	BHA	163.50	8th	SSH	178.19			
9th	COL	167.36						
10th	TRH	168.09						