Can't believe it is this time already! The FOURTH season of the Auckland Half Marathon Series kicks off with this absolute belter – the 2019 Harcourts Cooper & Co Devonport Half Marathon!

But enough about me, let's see what is gonna be going down for you on the next few days...

**RACE NUMBERS**

Everyone who registered at least four weeks prior to the event by midnight on September 1st should already have their race number. If you registered with an Auckland Half Marathon Series (AHMS) Series Pass, you will have received race numbers for all five events in the series plus your free hoodie, your cap, AND your visor (gosh, we are good to you sometimes!) by courier. For those entering just the Devonport event, your personalised race number will have arrived through the mail.

Keep your race number safe! Your race number includes your integrated, disposable timing tag on the back. Because of this, replacement bibs cost $10 - so don't lose yours!

**“I Don’t Have My Race Number Yet!”**

If you registered AFTER September 1st, you will need to collect your race number (and hoodie/cap/visor if you purchased an AHMS Series Pass) from the Registration tent at the race venue on race weekend. There are two opportunities to do this:

- Pre-race registration runs from 4pm – 5pm at the race venue on the day prior to the event (Saturday)
- Race-day registration opens at 6:00am. We advise those who still have to collect their race number to allow a little bit more time on race morning.

Make sure you either print or have your eticket/race number ready to go to make it extra fast!

**LATE ENTRY**

This is a tough one – we are WELL on our way to being entirely sold out, in which case there are gonna be ZILCHO
on-the-day entries! So, if your Aunt Betty is umming and ahhing about racing this year, tell her to get her A into G and register before we sell out!

If we DONT sell out (and you are really playing a risky game here), you can just rock up in person to the Late Entry tent on race morning. However, you should allow at least an extra 20 minutes to go through this process. Also, be aware that all entries cost an additional $10 on race day.

We will let you the status of the on-the-day stuff on the Facebook page. Good gravy, PLEASE check the page constantly through race week – a LOT goes on there!

**MERCHANDISE**

If you ordered any merchandise with your race entry, then you can collect it on race weekend at the dedicated Merchandise tent. Just show your race number to our friendly staff and they will pull your order out of the boxes. All of your items will be pre-labelleed with your race number, so it is important to ensure you have your race number on you when you go to the Merchandise tent.

*What?? I didn’t know you were selling event tee’s!*  
Guess what - we still have some event t-shirts but they are sweet you need to get in quick with $25 (cash only) at the merch tent

*I need to pick up my sweet race cap/visor?*

Dont blame you, those things are epic. Head on over to the merch tent and grab them from there if you DON'T already have it! (21k, 15k, and 10k only)

**GETTING TO THE EVENT**

The Devonport peninsula is always busy with traffic and parking can be difficult so we encourage all entrants to consider taking public transport to the event. What better way to arrive at the venue relaxed and ready to run than taking the stunning Devonport ferry from the city? The ferry terminal is only a stones throw from the race venue. Alternatively, there are many bus services from around the North Shore and beyond which terminate at the ferry terminal. Check out the Auckland Transport travel planner (https://at.govt.nz) for more details.

Please note that due to the earlier start time for the 21k, the Devonport Ferry from the city is only a viable option for the 10k, 15k, 5k, and 2k. Yes – we would love to have a dedicated ferry service for everyone coming from the city. We approached the ferry company but unfortunately the only option available would be for us to hire a vessel and the costs were prohibitive.
PARKING

If you do have to travel by vehicle, please consider a ride share to keep the impact of that journey to a minimum. We know that many of you have the whole family taking part, which is awesome.

There are no parking meters in Devonport (that we have noticed) so all parking is free. However, the central village area runs on a one-hour time limit so many of the spaces will not be suitable for your needs. Please, do not challenge the system and think you will “probably get away with it cos its a Sunday”. Actually, you probably will not. Auckland Transport will very often focus parking warden patrols on areas hosting special events. Please don’t sour your event experience by parking in the wrong spot and picking up a ticket (or worse, getting towed away).

If you dont mind arriving at the venue nice and early, there are long term free parking spots available next to the ferry terminal. Were not psychic though, so we cant say how many of these might be available on a Sunday morning as many people heading away for the weekend park here and take the ferry to the city. You must also be aware of road closures in place for the event which will take effect from 7am onwards.

Lots of parking is available just outside of the central area on King Edward Parade towards Torpedo Bay or up on Calliope Rd and surrounding streets. Most of these will give you a 10-15 minute walk/jog to the race venue which is an ideal loosener. Please park sensibly. It is just basic courtesy not to park on grass verges or block driveways for the very tolerant residents of the area.

TOILETS

A large number of portaloos will be located on the WEST side of the venue, down the footpath on Victoria Road. There are also public toilets on the eastern edge of the reserve, facing the beach. Needless to say – until the day that we provide one portaloo per competitor there will never be enough and you may have to wait for your turn. Please avoid ramping your stress levels up - take care of business well in advance of your start time. The starters horn will not wait for you!

Out on the course you will pass several public toilets including Stanley Bay, Narrow Neck Beach, North Head and the Devonport foreshore.

GEAR DROP & KEY CHECK

A gear drop and key check will operate at the race venue from 7am look for the Gear Tent next to the registration tent. Ensure all your gear is contained in a single bag. Write your race number on the labels provided, secure it around a handle and hand it to our friendly crew. When you finish, just show your race number to the crew and they will return your belongings.
Important! You can save yourself so much time at the bag drop just by arriving at the venue with your bag already labelled with your race number. Drop and go – simple.

If you only have a key to drop off, ask the crew to put it into the key drop plastic container. It is useful, once again, to use a label to number your keys so they don’t get lost.

Running Events operate an 'all care, no responsibility' policy on the gear drop and key check so please do not leave anything with us you cannot afford to lose.

**TIMING TAG**

When you receive your race number, your electronic timing tag will be attached to the back. We are using disposable stick-on timing tags. All you have to remember is to secure your race number to the front of your shirt and you’re all set.

Important! There is no need to return your timing tag.

Important! Keep your race number with you when you finish as we will use it to register you in the prize draw for the Awards Ceremony see below.

**START TIMES**

The beauty of the Devonport Half Marathon is that it falls onto the same day as the daylight savings switch over. I know, I know, you wanna sleep in. But imagine it like tearing off a band-aid, you can’t be tired if you have a race to get to!

With that being said, these are the times you kick off!

07:30am Half Marathon runners only
07:33am Half Marathon Competitive Walk
08:30am 10k classic and 15k hit-out runners only
08:33am - 10k classic Competitive Walk
09:30am - 5K Fun Run/Walk
10:30am - 2K Kids Dash

Important! Your start time is written on your race number.

Approximately 5 minutes prior to ALL events, the safety briefing will take place at the main stage inside Windsor Reserve 15 minutes prior to start times (to allow time to move to the start line).

It is a condition of race entry that all competitors must be in position to hear the announcement and comply with the important safety instructions given.

“Where is the start line for my race?”

You’re gonna love this.

No matter which race you are in, you get to fire up your engines as you hurtle down the start line on an ENTIRELY closed off King Edward Parade! That means you get the glam and the glitz of the beautiful mansions as you run,
totally free from cars, down Devonport’s high end street!

Important! The half marathon field is enormous this year! To ease congestion in the first few kilometres, the start line will be deliberately narrowed to feed athletes onto the course in a controlled manner. Please seed yourself according to the PACE SIGNS that are held up by the side of the start chute that will avoid someone potentially speedier than you nipping at your heels and spoiling your race start!

INFORMATION FOR WALKERS

Those registered in the Competitive Walk option for the half marathon or 10K Classic are reminded that they must:

• start on the official walk start gun which is 3 minutes after the main runners start
• walk at all times during the event. You may not run at any point no matter how briefly

Please respect those walkers who take their competition seriously if you will run - or changed your mind and decided to run - ensure you tell our crew at the finish line so we can move you into the run category. Walkers, if you accidentally start with the runners, you will be placed in the run section of the event. This is final and un-reversible so please start appropriately.

EVENT SAFETY

It is compulsory for all participants to attend, listen to and heed the advice of the safety briefing. Above all else, however, please understand that no roads are closed during the event. You have sole responsibility for your own safety. Do not leave any pavement, cross any road, pass any driveway unless you deem it safe for you to do so.

Read the health and safety plan on the event web site which covers your behaviour and spectators who accompany you to the event. Please remind your own spectators that they should not attempt to accompany you in vehicles, bikes or otherwise. They must follow the normal rules of the road to reach vantage points.

Please remember the golden rule Always give way to vehicles. No matter who has right of way, vehicles always win.

COURSE NOTES

The Devonport Half Marathon features some of Auckland’s most beautiful scenery; beaches, harbour views, military history, reserves and heritage homes ... it’s got the lot. However, this is also one of the most complex courses of any event we produce with lots of turns and road crossings. Competitors must have their wits about them at all times and respect the normal rules of the road. Stay on footpaths at all times and only cross the road when you deem it safe to do so.

For the FIRST TIME EVER we have got Lane Closures AND Road Closures! This means you can REALLY stretch your legs out and chase that elusive Half Marathon PB around
the North Shore’s most scenic course.

Particular care must be taken at the Narrow Neck Beach boat ramp, which will be busy.

Competitors in the Half Marathon who are not familiar with the course are specifically encouraged to print out their own course map and take it with them. You guys will spread out during the event and you will find yourself having to make decisions at times on the correct route. You also have several unmanaged road crossings to navigate of lesser roads. Use your common sense and behave as you would on a training run. Always give way to vehicles. No matter who has right of way, vehicles always win.

Important! After your safety, our number one concern on race day is to keep you on the course. We run four independent systems to ensure this (signage, marshals, lead bikes and course maps) but you must remember that ultimately you should be familiar with the course. If you are not, we strongly advise against making any rash decisions. If you are not sure of the way, stop and wait for confirmation. If there is no one ahead of you ... and no one behind you ... you are probably off the course and should retrace your steps.

We will have directional arrows and marshals at every change of direction. Look for the yellow arrow signs on power poles, street signs or fences; these will be at every change of direction. Look also for fluro painted arrows on the footpath.

### AID STATIONS

Aid stations will serve water and R-line sport drink. Locations as follows:

**Half Marathon**
- 4.5km: Narrow Neck Beach
- 8.5km: Navy Museum
- 13km: Ngataringa Park
- 15.5km: Lake Road
- 18km: Ngataringa Park

**10K Classic & 15K Hit Out**
- 4.5km: Narrow Neck Beach
- 8.5km: Torpedo Bay Navy Museum
- 12.5km: At the turnaround for 15K competitors only. Water only.

**5K Fun Run & Walk**
- 3.5km: Torpedo Bay Navy Museum

A refuelling station is available after you finish; see below.

### THE FINISH

Those in the 21k, and 15K, will approach the finish line from the west, running in front of the ferry terminal and straight on to the finish line.
Those in the 10K and 5K, and 2K will approach the finish line from the east (North Head) on the shell path. Follow the footpath around the outside of Windsor Reserve before a final right hand turn brings you to the finish line. With the 10k runners starting first, there should be virtually no overlap between these groups.

As you cross the finish line, look up, smile, wave ... go a little bit crazy! We'll try to get a photo and video of every finisher which you'll be able to access (free of charge) from the results or our Facebook page next week. We're also expecting Allan and the great team from www.photos4sale.co.nz to capture you in all your glory.

FINISHER MEDAL

Of course, what good would be finishing a race if you can't brag about it to your mates for all of eternity? Luckily, we have the answer! The weightiest, sleekest, sexiest medal we have EVER made for the Devonport Half Marathon! If you are in the half marathon series this makes up 1/7 pieces of the GIGANTIC piece of kit you are gonna be left with at the end of the season. Check it out on the Facebook page and find out more about the whole series medals!

Check out halfmarathonseries.co.nz for more info.

REFUELLING STATION

Once you have exited the finish area, look out for the blue REFUELLING tents, marking the refuelling station. Water, bananas and R-Line sport drink are available for everyone. Please help us - and the planet - by only taking one cup and refilling it if you need more. We will also have banana boxes next to our rubbish bins for your food waste.

SPONSOR MERCHANDISE

Remember to bring some spare cash and your credit card on Sunday, as the crew from Mizuno and Shoe Science will be on hand to get you kitted up with the best running shoes at some epic prices!

FOOD & DRINK

The Harcourts Cooper & Co Coffee and Cone van (that's a bloody mouthful!) is gonna be dishing out hot coffee in the...
morning, and delicious ice cream to cool you down after your race! All the proceeds going to Breast Cancer Cure foundation! How good is that?

**AMUSEMENTS**

To keep the kids from driving you crazy whilst they wait for their own dash at 10:30am, we will have a couple of face painters on duty. These are free of charge with our compliments.

**MASSAGE**

Luke and the crew from Sports Lab will be on site to soothe those aching muscles when you finish. Cash is the preferred currency so consider packing a couple of notes in the key pocket of your running shorts ... they dont care if its a bit soggy!

**AWARDS CEREMONY & PRIZES**

The Awards Ceremony will take place in front of the main stage inside Windsor Reserve at 11am sharp (we hope). The team at Running Events believe a good game is a fast game and we will be working hard to have it wrapped up within 30 minutes. At the same time, we want to properly acknowledge the amazing efforts of those at the sharp end so please bear with us. We do not dally!

Beautiful glass trophies will be awarded to:

- top 3 overall male and female finishers in the Half Marathon, 10K and 5K.
- top 3 overall male and female competitive walkers in the Half Marathon and 10K
- top 3 boys and girls 7 & Under and top 3 boys and girls 8 & Over in the Kids' Dash.

Not one of the show ponies? Don't worry, you may still be going home with a great prize. We have some wonderful spot prizes including lots of superb Mizuno running shoes and the amazing Garmin GPS watch. The grand spot prize is a big screen TV. Do not go home early you may regret it!

Remember - you must be present at the prize giving to claim your prize. Only those who scan their timing tags at the spot prize timing point (near the main stage from 10:40am onwards, listen for announcements) will be eligible to win a prize.

Important! In the event of seriously inclement weather, we may elect to cancel the Awards Ceremony. If the weather is marginal, listen out for announcements on the PA or check out our Facebook page. If this does happen, all prize winners will be announced on our Facebook page and prizes will be couriered out to them.

**RESULTS & PHOTOS**

Race results will be live throughout the event follow the results link on the event web site. Afterwards they will be posted to our facebook page, along with all the photos from the finish line and photo booth. All photos provided on our facebook page are free, with our compliments.

Important! Please accept our apologies if the photographer was not able to capture you on the finish line it does get crowded with so many people taking part. So why not make sure you pay a visit to the Photo Booth to be sure of a photo from the day?

http://facebook.com/devonporthalfmarathon

Results will be posted to the event web site on Monday morning. If you see any issues with your results or believe there may be an error, please use the web site contact form and well get into it.

**THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS**

Without their help and support, the Harcourts Cooper & Co. Devonport Half Marathon would be a shadow of the event it is now. Please support those who support you and our sport ...

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