Wow! What an experience this has been – Running Events first ever marathon production! Thank you for being part of it, we appreciate you all more than you’ll ever know!

Now…..lets get into the nitty-gritty!

**RACE NUMBERS**

Everyone who registered at least four weeks prior to the event – by midnight on August 25th – should already have their race number. Delivered by a ridiculously good looking mailman.

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 August 25th, you will need to collect your race number (and Garmin Tauranga Hat) from the Registration tent at the race venue on The Strand on race weekend. There are two opportunities to do this:

- Pre-race registration runs from 4pm – 7pm at the race venue (The Strand) on the day prior to the event (Friday)
- Race-day registration opens at 6:30am. We advise those who still have to collect their race number to allow a little bit more time on race morning. Note there will not be a registration at the Papamoa and Otumoetai start lines. All bib collections and registration enquiries will need to be done at the event site on The Strand.

**LATE ENTRY**

It’s not too late to get your friends and family along to join in the fun! Online registration will remain open from the event web site until the race kicks off!

If you like to play it really casual and wait for race day, 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 extra on race day (some $10 or more!). We cannot guarantee that race day entries will be available. However, if entry closes we will announce this on the event web site and Facebook page.

**(Bus Schedule)**
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-labelled with your race number, so it is important to ensure you have your race number on you when you go to the Merchandise tent.

Hats!

If you are running the marathon or half marathon (ONLY!) and want to grab your FREE gift, a Garmin Tauranga Marathon run cap (and trust me, you wanna), head over to the merch tent on either of the times listed that registration will be open.

GETTING TO THE EVENT & BUSES

This one’s a doozy, so make yourself a cup of tea and settle in…

“I am racing the marathon/half marathon”

Well, good on ya! That is a big day for you, but lets make sure you get there on time. If you have purchased a bus ticket you will begin loading onto the bus at The Strand in Tauranga from 7:45, which means BE THERE EARLY! Get a good spot and the bus will get you the Papamoa startline on time.

If you wanna go and get there under your own steam – great! The address you will be starting from is the corner of Evans Road, and Papamoa Beach Road. There are loads of road closures around there – so if you are a little late, expect to put in a little bit of a “warm-up walk” to the start line.

Spectators! If you are here to cheer (good on ya!) your athlete will have an extra number printed onto their race bib. Load up with the rest of the team and get out there and cheer!

“i am racing the 10k”

Epic! You guys get all the scenery of the waterways minus the insane distance!

We will be leading a walking group from The Strand (finish line/event area) up to the 10k start line leaving at 8am SHARP!

If you don’t want to follow Rob on his bike, and would rather drive (don’t blame ya!), the area you are heading to is 64 Harbour Drive, Otumoetai. Again, loads of closures in the area, so expect a little bit of a mosey, and follow ALL the directions of traffic management!
“I wanna have a stab at the fast 5k”

Nice, my kind people! Hit it hard and fast! We will be kicking the 5k briefing and race start off from The Strand/finish line itself! So relax. Get a coffee. And get ready to HIT IT!

PARKING

This is one of those events when people say “you should carpool” that they really mean it! Due to the immense size of the course, there are LOADS of road closures, that means less parking!

As always, the earlier – the better!

TOILETS

A large number of portaloos will be located on the South side of the reserve, on the water side, as well as a few toilets in the reserve itself.

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 starter’s horn will not wait for you!

Out on the course, you will pass a few as well, follow the link here, turn the “toilets” tab on, and you can save them all to your GPS watch if need be!

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.

There is also a bag drop at the Papamoa Start line, this is only for the athletes who have prepped their bags with tags! We will haul them back to the finish for you (as long as they are numbered!)
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! Your start time is written on your race number.

Approximately 5 minutes prior to the 42K, 21k, 10k and 5k events, a compulsory safety briefing will take place at the start line of each of those races – check out the GETTING TO THE EVENT section for where those are.

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.

**CUT-OFF TIMES**

If it were up to us, we have Tauranga town closed down ALL day! Alas, we do need to open it up again for the locals to get about their city!

So. We aimed to be as generous as we could with the cut off times to make sure as much aid as possible is on the course for the longest times!

- 7 hrs for the Marathon
- 3.5 hrs for the Half-Marathon
- 2 hrs for the 10km Classic
- 1 hr for the 5km Fun Run

Marshals, aid stations, traffic management, signage, etc. – may all be removed from the course on a schedule equal to the course cut off pace. If you are unable to maintain the course
cut off pace, you must be ready to stop participating and make your way back to the finish area. At your option, you may elect to continue and complete the course at your own volition. This means you must carry sufficient water and nutrition for your needs, be able to direct yourself around the course and observe and care for your own safety. Where the event has been taking place on closed roads, you must move onto the footpath – where one exists – or to the side of the road and continue as a pedestrian.

Running Events want to encourage all of our participants to make it to the finish line – no matter how long it takes. The above conditions notwithstanding, we are normally at the race site conducting the awards ceremony or packing up the site for at least an hour after the official close off. Provided you make yourself known to us when you finish – and confirm that you followed the correct course – we will be delighted to record your finish time in the official results and present you with your finisher medal.

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 runner’s 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 is safe for You to do so.

Read the health and safety plan (available on request) which covers your behaviour and spectators who accompany you to the event. Please remind your 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 Garmin Tauranga Marathon is gonna take you through the most iconic parts of the beautiful Bay of Plenty capital!

We have done what we can to make sure this is equal parts fast, and scenic. So enjoy the different terrains you will hit – and all the sights you will see!

The Mount base track NEVER fails to impress!

Important! Due to a slip around the base track of the mount, there are a handful of steps to go up – they are well made, safe, and surprisingly fast!

Important! The nature of Tauranga being a bustling port means there are trains going in, and out, constantly! It is important to understand that it is extremely unlikely you will be affected by a train movement. Although we know some participants will undoubtedly be held up somewhere across the course, prior experience puts the total number of affected athletes at around 20 – or about 1% of the total field. Event start times and train timetables have been adjusted specifically to allow the majority of participants to pass over each level crossing unhindered and we do not expect anyone in the top 75% of any event to be affected. Nevertheless, if you are towards the back of the field then there is a chance you will be stopped and you should be prepared for this. There will be several marshals scanning your bib ID at the stop to account for the time taken (approx. 1-2 minutes). Use it as a rest-and-recover time. And these precious seconds will be taken off your time at the end of the race automatically!

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

There are Aid Stations located at the following spots –

(Or if you like, click here to get back to the interactive map with the locations [AID STATIONS>MAPS])

42.2k Marathon –
- Ocean Beach Road
- The Mount (Surf club)
- Coronation Park
- The Marina
- Harbour Drive
- Fergusson Park
- Ngatai Road
- Fergusson Park (again)
- Coach Drive
- Graham Park
- West Street

21.1k Half marathon –
- Ocean Beach Road
- The Mount (Surf club)
- Coronation Park
- The Marina

10k Classic –
- Coach Drive
- Graham Park
- West Street
PACERS

We have got a great team of pacers out there to help you hit your goal time!

So if you need the extra motivation, or want to join on to the back of a moving party on legs…stick to these guys like glue!

Pacers for the following times…

- 3:30 marathon/1:45 half
- 4:00 marathon/2:00 half
- 4:15 marathon/2:07 half
- 4:30 marathon/2:15 half
- 4:45 marathon/2:22 half
- 5:00 marathon/2:30 half

Half marathon finishers will be directed off at “Decision Point” where the marathon continues on, from there, you are on your own timing system (probably a Garmin!) for the last 1km of the race!

THE FINISH

42k Finish –

Enjoy the tour of Tauranga central as you can start to “put the hammer down” along Cameron Road with an epic down hill along Maclean Street to the big finale down a fully closed Strand!

Loads of people will be finished and there cheering for you – embrace it!

21k finish –

You get the pleasure of spending your day with the marathon athletes, nothing beats running with a large group to help carry you along the way…until…

You exit off from the big pack and double back under the Trinity Wharf hotel. Yes, I said UNDER the hotel! It is a beautiful spot to run with the water on one side, and marshals cheering you onto the big finish! (Just be careful with the low headroom for those taller humans who are racing this event!)
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 Photos4Sale to capture you in all your glory.

**FINISHER MEDAL**

This is where the marathon athletes “get what they deserve”, and I mean that in the BEST way possible!

The marathon finisher medal is HUGE, I mean REALLY huge. All you need to do is make sure you have your marathon bib on and it is ALL yours!

“But what about the rest of us???”

What sort of event would we be if we didn’t have finisher medal for all the people who are so important to us? Yours is equally as gorgeous, and totally unique to the marathon finisher medal, to make sure you remember your day at the races!

**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 there will be some sales running from Smith’s Sport Shoes, Marathon World Travel, RunEZ Belts, Steigen Socks, Vista…and who could forget the big one GARMIN!

**FOOD & DRINK**

A selection of food and coffee vendors will be available inside The Strand Reserve. The local shops and cafes are right across the road so there are lots of options for re-stocking the tank.
MARATHON RECOVERY AREA

This is something a little special. A little decadent. And something JUST for those who run the 42.2k marathon! Free 5 minute massages right next to your own personal aid station. Doesn’t get much sweeter than that… until you try on your very own, Garmin Tauranga Marathon FINISHER tee! Keep your bib in a safe place to make sure you can access this exclusive, VIP area.

MASSAGE

Alison and the crew from Body In Motion 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 don’t care if it’s a bit soggy!

AWARDS CEREMONY & PRIZES

The Awards Ceremony will take place in front of the main stage alongside the finish chute at 12:30pm sharp with a very special KIDS ONLY awards at 3:15pm. 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 Marathon, 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 ASICS running shoes and Garmin GPS watches. The grand spot prize is a big screen TV and a running holiday in New Caledonia! Do not go home early – you may regret it!

IMPORTANT!!!!
ALL marathon starters will be entered into the prizegiving draw automatically. This is important to many people, and it is also important to us! If a marathon winner wins a spot prize, they will be awarded across the finish line. WOW, wouldn’t that be an epic way to wrap up your race!

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 website. 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/taurangamarathon

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

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Without their help and support, the Garmin Tauranga Marathon would be a shadow of the event it is now. Please support those who support you and our sport ...

Title Sponsor
Garmin

Major Sponsors
Smiths Sport Shoes (Tauranga & the Mount)
ASICS
RunEZ Belts
Steigen Socks
Marathon World Travel

Associate Sponsors
R-Line Electrolyte Drink
Ciele Hats