

# Cross Country and Road 2026

Newsletter 1: 25<sup>th</sup> March



## 1. Welcome to the 2026 Cross Country and Road season

Pakuranga Athletic Club's Cross Country and Road section runs through winter, from the beginning of April to the end of September. This section caters for athletes aged 5 years and up, of all abilities. Many younger athletes enjoy playing a team sport in the morning and running cross country in the afternoon - all part of the winter fun.

The season calendar is included at the end of the newsletter. The year is split into two parts: cross country events from April to August, followed by road running events from August to September. **Club events** are held on Saturday afternoons at Pakuranga Athletic Club, 36/38 Cascades Rd. Participants register from 2pm, with the run beginning at 2.30pm after a warm-up. After the run, all junior competitors are entered into a spot prize draw, and food and drinks are available for purchase in the clubrooms. The Joker Draw will also be back this season.

Please note that events are not held every Saturday, as the committee strongly supports **external events** held at other locations. These offer great opportunities to run on different terrain and compete with other clubs.

Distances range from 1km for 5 to 6-year-olds, up to 10km for senior athletes. Runners compete within their age groups and accumulate points throughout the season for the club.

A weekly newsletter keeps members updated with news and registration information for upcoming events.

For more details, please refer to the club [handbook](#) and the [Athletics Auckland website](#).

## 2. Open Day – Easter Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April

Cross Country and Road 2026 

Are you between the age of 5 and 99?  
Looking for a fun sport to do this winter?  
Why not give Cross Country and Road Running a go?  
Whether you're new to the sport or a returning member, we welcome all!

**SATURDAY AFTERNOONS**  
APRIL - SEPTEMBER

- Two free trial sessions
- Regular club-based events
- Outside events - Winter League Series, Grand Prix Series & Relays
- Spot prizes and Joker draw
- Kids' clubhouse fun corner
- Tuck shop with hot food and snacks
- Clubhouse bar
- Awesome social scene - for all ages!

Come for a run and to find out more about what we offer at our free Open Day on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April. There is no need to pre-register, just sign in at the clubrooms (36/38 Cascades Rd) from 2pm ready to run at around 2.30pm. Bring your running shoes and have a go. All abilities and ages welcome.

For more information, please visit [www.pakurangaathletics.nz](http://www.pakurangaathletics.nz) or email us at [pakxcr@gmail.com](mailto:pakxcr@gmail.com)

There will be food and drinks for purchase after the run, and our club-famous spot prize competition for juniors.

We look forward to seeing you.

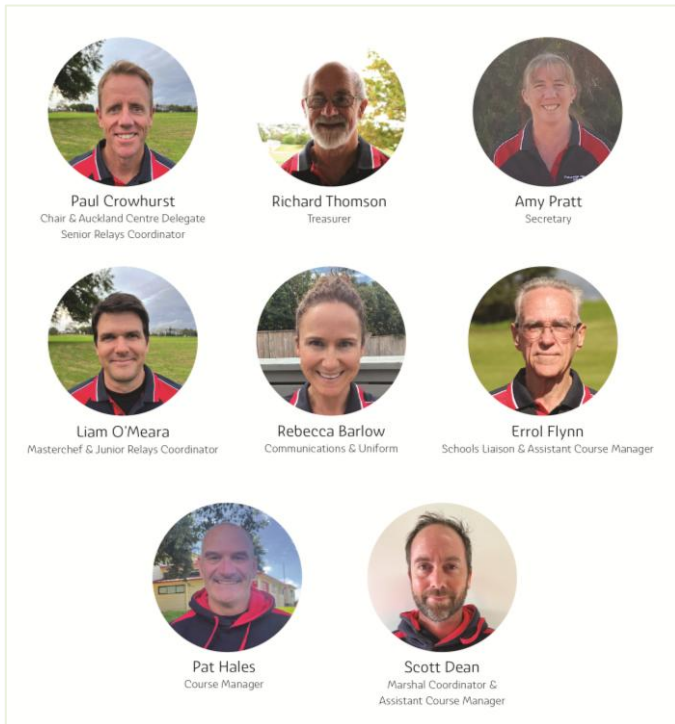


## 3. Registration – Opens online 1<sup>st</sup> April

Registration opens on 1st April for Juniors who have the option to register for winter cross country and road only, or for the full 12 months which includes the summer track and field. Seniors can register at any time of the year, and membership will be for 12 months. Register through our website [here](#).

Please note that there are **two free trials** before registration is required.

## 4. 2026 Committee



Look out for one of these lovely faces – we are easy to spot at events in the club navy and red polo shirt.

The committee are very low on numbers this year and this will influence the number of events we can offer. The calendar is subject to change as a result. Please do get in touch if you can help with becoming a committee volunteer. Any help big or small is awesome!

Please email Amy at [pakxcr@gmail.com](mailto:pakxcr@gmail.com) or speak to one of us.

## 5. Upcoming Events

### SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - CLUB OPEN DAY CROSS COUNTRY

See section 2 of this newsletter for more information.

### SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - CLUB CROSS COUNTRY EVENT

Sign in at the clubrooms from 2pm, race starts at **2.30pm**. You do not need to be a registered club member. This will be a time trial which will help us select teams and estimated times for the Southland Centennial Relays.

### SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - AUCKLAND & CLUB HALF MARATHON CHAMPS

The Waterfront Half Marathon doubles up as our Club Half Marathon Champs (for registered club members who wear club singlet). Half marathon entry is open to runners and walkers aged 14 and over on race day.

Standard entry deadline is 5<sup>th</sup> April -> click [here](#) There is also a 10km, 5km Fun Run/Walk, and a 2km Kids Dash.

**A note from Auckland Athletics:** If you are entering into this event, please email [office@athleticsauckland.co.nz](mailto:office@athleticsauckland.co.nz) so they are aware of your participation when working through Athletics Auckland results at the conclusion of the event. Auckland Registered athletes can enter using code AA26.

### SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - SOUTHLAND CENTENNIAL RELAYS

**NEW VENUE:** Dilworth School Senior Campus, Remuera (TBC)

The first relay of the season and always a fun event for all ages of runners and walkers. We encourage parents to register their interest as well. You do not need to be a registered club member.

For the Juniors (U8 – U16), teams are made of 4 runners of different ages and abilities, and each runner runs a 2km lap. Senior teams vary depending on age grade. The committee will make up the junior and senior relay teams and will submit and pay for all entries. Please email Amy on [pakxcr@gmail.com](mailto:pakxcr@gmail.com) if you would like to be included in a team.

### SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY - NZ MASTERS MARATHON CHAMPS & ROTORUA MARATHON

The Red Stag Rotorua Marathon is an iconic major New Zealand event, which was first held in 1965. The headline event is the Red Stag Full Marathon, where participants complete the unique 42.2km 'lap of the lake' course around Lake Rotorua. The event caters for runners and walkers of all levels, with the Full Marathon (42.2km), NZCT Half Marathon (21km) as well as the 10km and Wai Ariki Hot Springs & Spa 5km events.

Click [here](#) for further information and to enter. Prices increase at 11:59PM on 29 March 2026.

**Pakuranga Athletic Club Cross Country & Road**  
**2026 Calendar**  
 subject to change

| DATE                         | EVENT   | LOCATION                    |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Saturday 4 April             | Club XC Event – Open Day  | PAC                         |
| Saturday 11 April            | Club XC Event   | PAC                         |
| Sunday 12 April              | Auckland and Club Half Marathon Champs  | Auckland Waterfront         |
| <b>Sunday 12 April</b>       | <b>NZ Half Marathon Champs</b>  | <b>Christchurch</b>         |
| Saturday 18 April            | Southland Centennial Relays (Snr League Race 1 / Jnr League Race 1)                   | Dilworth Snr Campus (TBC)   |
| <b>Saturday 18 April</b>     | <b>NZ Mountain Running Champs</b>   | <b>Wellington</b>           |
| Saturday 2 May               | Club XC Event   | PAC                         |
| <b>Saturday 2 May</b>        | <b>NZ Masters Marathon Champs &amp; Rotorua Marathon</b>                              | <b>Rotorua</b>              |
| Saturday 9 May               | Grand Prix 1 (Snr League Race 2)  | Pukekohe                    |
| Saturday 16 May              | Club XC Event - Memorial Day  | PAC                         |
| Saturday 16 May              | Oratia Junior Relays (Jnr League Race 2)  | Oratia                      |
| Saturday 23 May              | Grand Prix 2 (Snr League Race 3)  | PAC                         |
| Tuesday 26 May               | College Sport Auckland Cross Country Champs   | Barry Curtis                |
| Saturday 30 May              | Lynndale Junior Relays (Jnr League Race 3)  | Lynndale                    |
| Saturday 6 June              | Club XC Event   | Eastern Beach               |
| Saturday 13 June             | Athletics Auckland Cross Country Teams Champs (Jnr League Race 4 / Snr League Race 4) | Barry Curtis or Ambury Park |
| <b>20 – 21 June</b>          | <b>NZ Secondary Schools Cross Country Champs and Relays Champs</b>                    | <b>Wellington</b>           |
| Saturday 20 June             | Club Event  | PAC                         |
| Saturday 27 June             | Grand Prix 3 (Snr League Race 5)  | Long Bay                    |
| <b>Saturday 4 July</b>       | <b>North Island Cross Country Champs</b>  | <b>Taupo</b>                |
| Saturday 18 July             | Grand Prix 4 incl. Auckland Cross Country Champs (Snr League Race 6)                  | Barry Curtis                |
| Saturday 25 July             | Club XC Champs  | PAC                         |
| Saturday 1 August            | Club Road Event   | PAC                         |
| <b>1 – 2 August</b>          | <b>NZ Cross Country Champs AND NZ Cross Country Teams Champs</b>                      | <b>Christchurch</b>         |
| Tuesday 4 August             | College Sport Auckland Road Race Champs   | Bruce Pulman                |
| Saturday 8 August            | ACA Pairs Race (Jnr League Race 5)  | Cornwall Park               |
| Sunday 16 August             | Grand Prix 5: Auckland Road Race Champs (Snr League Race 7)                           | Bruce Pulman                |
| Saturday 22 August           | Club Road Event   | PAC                         |
| Saturday 22 August           | Moire Park Trail Relays   | Moire Park                  |
| Saturday 29 August           | Club Road Event   | PAC                         |
| <b>Saturday 29 August</b>    | <b>NZ 10km Road Champs</b>  | <b>New Plymouth</b>         |
| 3 – 4 September              | NZ Secondary Schools Road Relay Festival  | TBC                         |
| Saturday 5 September         | Club Road Champs  | PAC                         |
| Saturday 5 September         | Te Hāora – The Hour Race (U18+) (Snr League Race 8)                                   | Ōwairaka                    |
| <b>Saturday 12 September</b> | <b>NZ 1 Mile Champs</b>   | <b>Dunedin</b>              |
| Sat 12 <u>OR</u> Sun 13 Sept | Auckland Road Relay Champs (Snr League Race 9) followed by Jnr Prizegiving            | Mt Smart                    |
| Sat 19 <u>OR</u> Sun 20 Sept | Auckland 5km Road Champs followed by Snr Prizegiving                                  | Mt Smart                    |
| <b>Saturday 3 October</b>    | <b>NZ Road Relay Champs</b>   | <b>Whanganui</b>            |
| Sunday 1 November            | Auckland Marathon (incl. Club Marathon Champs)  | Auckland CBD                |
| <b>Sunday 1 November</b>     | <b>NZ 100km Champs</b>  | <b>Christchurch</b>         |
| Saturday 7 November          | NZ 50km Champs (part of Legend of the Peaks)  | Rotorua                     |
| Saturday 29 November         | NZ Marathon Champs  | Whanganui                   |
| Saturday 5 December          | NZ Long Trail Champs and NZ 5km Champs  | Nelson                      |

KEY

School & Public Holidays

Events held at Pakuranga Athletic Club (PAC)

Secondary School Events

Athletics Auckland Events

Relays

Nationals

**Please be vigilant.** Police have recently warned the clubs and groups that use Lloyd Elsmore Park of car keys being taken from bags and cars stolen.