

PIRONGIA TRAIL RUN 2022

EVENT REPORT | 22 OCT 2022



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A WORD FROM THE BOSS

Josh Lyon | Event Director

And just like that, we're three PTRs deep!

Running two events in the same calendar year was always a bit of a risk, but the support from the community was awesome and we filled out PTR22 with the biggest athlete field so far. How good!

We were concerned that there might be some weariness from our community with PTR21 being run earlier in February only eight months prior to PTR22. We had set a target of 300 athletes, effectively double PTR21 field, and things were ticking along fairly slowly until the last two weeks before entries close when we received the majority of entries. We ended up with just under 220 on race day was a great result, with all things equal!

We're all a bit more considered about where we spend our money at the moment and we appreciate that these sort of pursuits are a luxury, now more than ever. We're thankful for all our athletes that took on the maunga and supported the PTR. The need to keep this an affordable community event, particularly in our youth categories, is an absolute priority – we're all about limiting the barriers to entry in active living in the outdoors.

We're blessed to have developed a fantastic event team – all of which are volunteers. Our team selflessly provides their time and experience in organising and supporting our athletes on race day.

A special thanks to our original and new community supporters; Volare Bread, Anglesea Clinic Urgent Care, Mahoe Medical and Tompkins Wake. It's cliché to say that this wouldn't be possible without their support and enthusiasm, but it's very much true. These bunch of great NZers believe in our vision at the PTR and their support is critical in being able to provide this event to the community.

We also get a fantastic level of support from community funders Trust Waikato, Waipa District Council, Brian Perry Charitable Trust and the Lion Foundation. We're appreciated of being selected for funding from a competitive pool of funding applications.

Finally, I'd like to pass my thanks onto our athletes. We can have all the plans and courses in place, but it doesn't mean a thing unless we have people to share it with. Our athletes make the event what it is; a special experience in the Waikato. We're stoked to be increasing our youth component and building inspirational relationships with organisations like Achilles International.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josh Lyon', written in a cursive style.



OUR COMMUNITY



TOMPKINS | WAKE



BY THE NUMBERS

EVENT

217 ATHLETES

30% increase on 2021 numbers

7:29:34 COURSE RECORD

New female Munter record

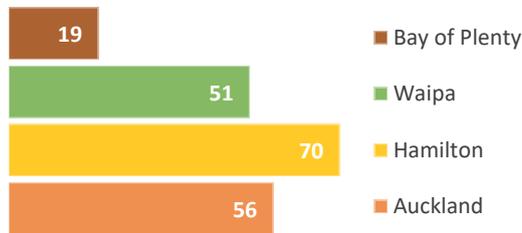
206,493m CLIMBED

55 ascents of Mt Cook

2,905km RUN

Auckland to Samoa

ATHLETES



35 AVERAGE AGE

1 yr Youngest | 70 yr Oldest

22% YOUTH

Of all competitors

REGION

542 ESTIMATED VISITORS TO WAIPA

On average, athletes brought 1.5 people with them

\$20,398 ESTIMATED SPENT IN WAIPA

On average, athletes spent \$94 while in the region



AT A GLANCE

The Pirongia Trail Run is an event organised by the Kiwi Challenge Foundation. The PTR is Waikato's premiere community focused trail run and evidently, it's probably one of the most challenging and rewarding, too!

We're in it to share positive experiences in the great outdoors. The PTR team is driven by the goal of maximum participation and community involvement.

We're a completely voluntary and charitable organisation. No one is making a massive profit and sailing in their gold yachts, everything invested stays within the event and within the community!

THE EVENT

- Waikato's community focused trail run/walk event held on Pirongia maunga
- Four courses; Runter 3km, Punter 8km, Grunter 13.5km, Munter 36.4km
- Course selection for all ages and abilities
- Ranging level of difficulty and exposure from ½ hr to 11hrs
- Our community helps sponsor entries to schools and youth – effective altruism

GOALS



To shape an active and healthy NZ through participation in outdoor activities and eating healthy; particularly targeting the youth of NZ.



To engage with to community and promote Pirongia maunga, and the greater Waikato region.



To connect the community with nature and highlight the benefits and beauty of the outdoors.

NEXT STEPS

We've had some great feedback from our team, athletes and community about how to make the PTR that much better! We're looking forward to moving onto the PTR23 next year and bringing a bigger, better and more community connected event.

One common theme that we'll look at addressing is better communicating the toughness of the course, especially the Munter the Grunter. Both courses are unlike anything else out there for the same distance, and we're aware that this can catch people out with preparation.

Our review process involves all stakeholders; athletes, sponsors, iwi groups, medical teams, volunteers and event management.

BEHIND THE SCENES

YEAR THREE | OUR TEAM

Organising and running the PTR requires an awesome team of people who all believe in the goal and mission of the event and Kiwi Challenge Foundation.

For three years, the PTR has operated with a small and dedicated team of great NZers who juggle their full-time jobs with creating an awesome community event. All for free. They're a team of extraordinary volunteers who only take payment in good vibes, sandwiches and brownies.



Josh

Originally a Waikato lad, Josh is the founder of the PTR and Kiwi Challenge Foundation. Now based in Auckland, he's in charge of a lot of the organisational, webmaster and admin work. He builds the community partnerships and wades through challenge of event funding. He also spends way too much time coming up with different and unique social posts and emails. When he's not putting out event fires like forgetting safety pins on the eve of the event, he's putting out real fires in Tamaki Makaurau.

William

Best mate of Josh, William was dragged into the PTR for his load carry and extreme medic abilities. He's the guide that keeps the team on task, the chauffeur and the all-round get-it-done guy. He's a master time wizard, splitting his day between being a dad, a first responder and a part time athlete.

Monique

Monique's 9-5 sees her in charge of educating the next generation of rural Waikato kiddies; so she fits right in running registration and race HQ. Solid and dependable, her smile welcomes athletes and sets them at ease before taking on maunga.

Dr Paul

Paul has been the PTR's go to medical authority since the event's inception. Every year, he heads up the maunga early and keeps a vigil on the upper mountain, ready to respond to any incident. A keen outdoorsman, Paul loves to incorporate his day job as a doc into the wilderness.

Anita

When she's not mountain biking, she's helping to keep our registration like her bike, a well-oiled machine. Anita is the finish line hype woman and the annoying blonde who bullies you into polaroids – she's the general dogs body of the PTR.

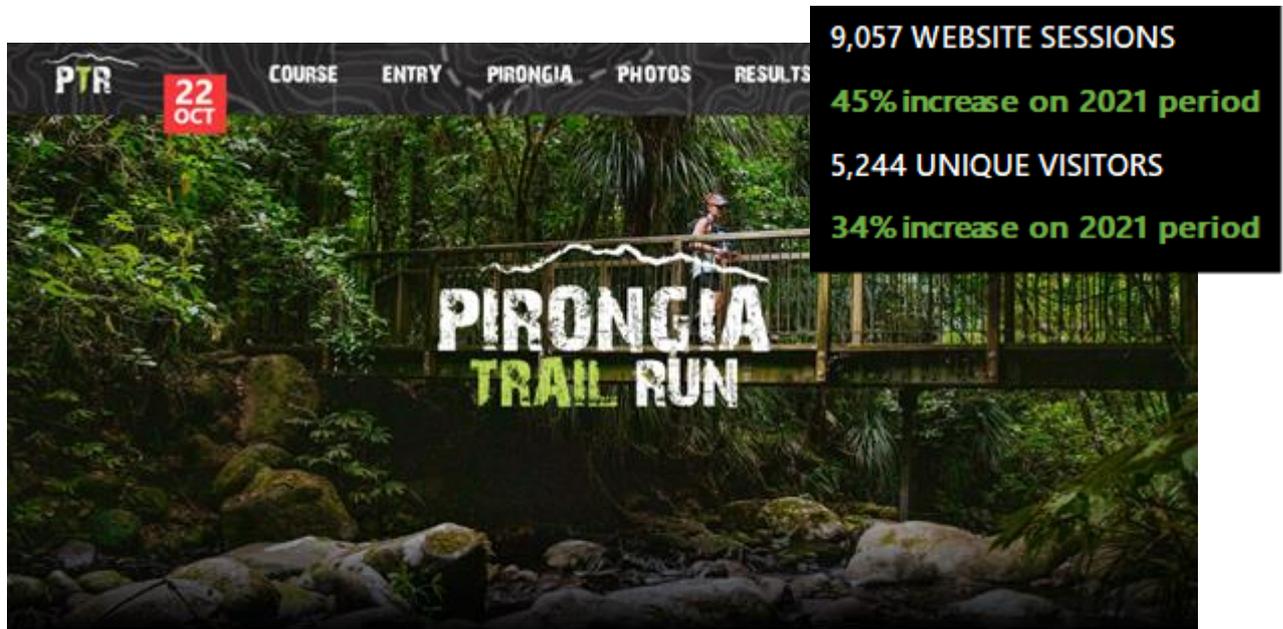
Renee + Josh

Another important cog in the race HQ wheel, Renee and Josh wear many hats on race day. You'll find them at rego, marshalling on the course and helping co-ordinate the finish line. A teacher and an engineer, they're at home with the organisation and logistics. Good thing, too, someone has to be!

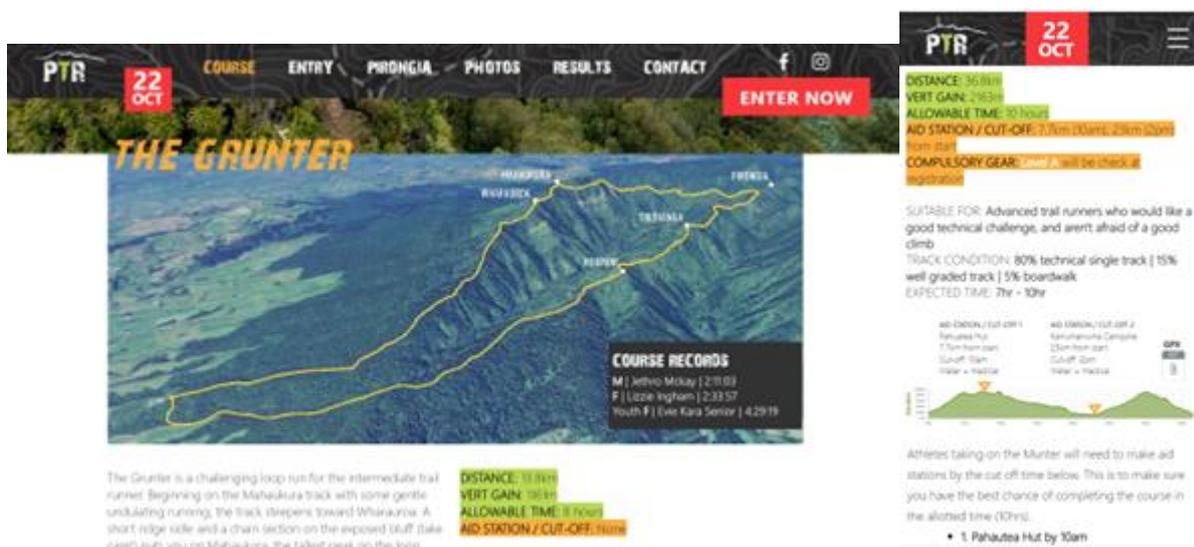


WEBSITE

The event website (www.pirongiatrailrun.com) was the primary vehicle to deliver news and information to our competitors over the course of the year. The website received an update during the event hiatus with updated graphics, branding and information. We've received some critical feedback from athletes this year and will implement the changes.

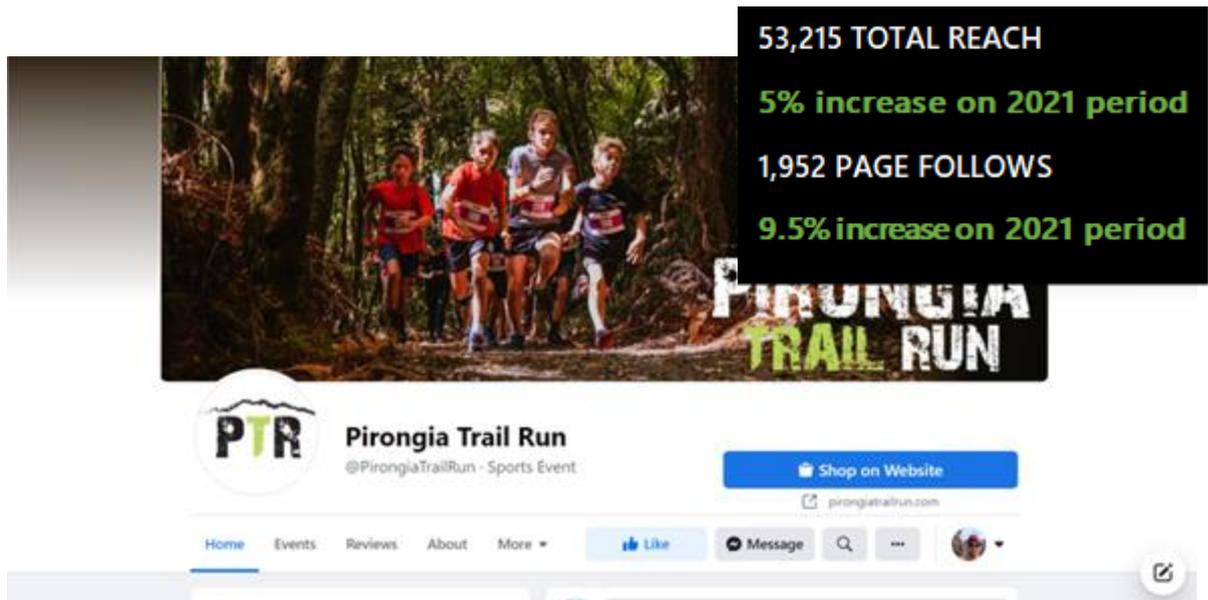


WELCOME TO THE PIRONGIA TRAIL RUN



FACEBOOK

The event Facebook page ([Pirongia Trail Run](https://www.facebook.com/Pirongia-Trail-Run)) was the secondary source of updates and information. This allowed the event to connect and network effectively with the community. We will continue to build our social profile during the off season, with a focus on growing the Instagram account.



RACE REPORT

22nd October 2022

Eight months after the PTR21 catch up event, the sun rose on race day for PTR22!

We had a different build up with this iteration – all organisation and operation took place remotely, outside of the Waikato. The first time back on the maunga for the team was the day before the race! A bit more challenging, but all is well that ends okay.

Setting up on race eve, we knew the courses would be a challenging treat for our athletes. Pesky, persistent showers had been off and on over the last two days and we were crossing everything for sunny race day. While it wouldn't make a drastic change to track conditions, a bit of sun would do wonders for athlete and team morale. Our offering to Huey the weather god would prove sufficient, and we'd received the blue-bird day we were after.

The final and last touches of set up ran late into Friday night – with a midnight emergency trip into Kmart to source some 1000 safety pins. Kmart is the MVP.

After a few hours sleep, the team rose at 0430 to set up for Munter registration. The now-standard PTR breakfast of coffee and croissants shook off the weariness as the Munters began their preparations. A full field of 30 crazy lads and lass' set off at 0700 for their assault on the 36.4km course.

We had a little break before our next wave of athletes began to arrive, our Grunters. These athletes taking on the 13.5km course represented our largest ever group of athletes. Split into two starting waves, these heroes and heroines started up the maunga at 1015 under the warming skies of a beautiful Waikato day.



Our Punters were next out of the starting blocks at 1115. Racing up to the Ruapane trig, the Punters certainly earned their descent. This track has some of Pirongia's nicest and most flowing trail running and we're stoked that the Munters, Grunters and Punters all get to enjoy it.

And finally, our most exciting and inspirational field, the Runter. This course is stacked with young fellas giving it their all! It's awesome to see, essentially it's what the event is all about. We set these champions loose at 1215 to complete three laps of the course. As the Runter began to wrap up, this marked the point in the day where we started seeing our fastest athletes begin to cross the finish line.

Given the tricky track conditions, particularly on the upper maunga, the winning times and effort of everyone involved was out the gate. Our first athlete across the line was Grunter, Hamon McKay, returning to the top of the podium with a blistering 2:18:20 and smashing close to 9 mins of his previous time. Andrea Peat was the female Grunter winner with an impressive 2:39:28. We also had new records for youth; Sean Jones crossing the line in a respectable 2:29:44 and Tilly Davis getting the work done in 3:51:19.



Like Hamon, Jesse Whitehead returned to the gold medal spot, cruising the Munter in 5:57:32. Natalie Bunting crushed the female Munter record, shaving almost 40mins off with a finishing time of 7:39:24!

It was a super close race in the male Punter, with Graham Sinclair 1:23:02 holding off Volare Bread's own Ed Hemming 1:23:16. Hamilton Girls' High School had a great run with three girls taking out the podium spots for the female Punter. Molly Peate 1:19:52, Carezza Elley 1:19:52 and Lucy Jamieson 1:30:30, represent.

The Runter saw a defending of the title with Max and Jack Stirling repeating history and grabbing top spot in 15:12 and new-comer, Aliesha Greenaway taking the girls title with a quick 17:43.

The event was closed out with great NZer and all-round battler, Ian Ottaway who finished the Munter in 10:50:09. Champion effort in setting the PTR Hard(wo)man record with most time on feet!

We were super impressed with this year's field. In tricky track conditions our athletes took on the maunga and won. We CAN'T wait to see a larger group take on the maunga in PTR23.

Tu meke.



RESULTS

All our race results can be found online [here](#).

Using our very complex and detailed algorithm we're pleased to announce **Volare Bread** as PTR22 Corporate Challenge winner! Tu meke, guys. With a strong showing from **Hamilton Girls' High School** team, they were deserved winners of the School Challenge.

PTR CORPORATE CHALLENGE

The **Volare Bread** team are the winners of the PTR22 Corporate Challenge! Ed and the team entered a strong and fast team to take on the maunga, how good. Sorry Ed, next year we'll have the beersies ready.

PTR SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Like PTR221, **Hamilton Girls' High School** took the trophy with a clean sweep of the podium for the Punter race. 1, 2, and 3! Well done girls.



THE FUTURE

The PTR will be returning again in 2023, likely around the same date. We'll try and get the tracks a bit drier for our athletes – either shifting the date further into spring or hiring 1000 industrial fans. We'll see what we can do.

Going forward, we'd like to test the event with a full field of 350 athletes for PTR23. We were short of our 300 athlete goal for PTR22 which we look forward to addressing for next year.

We'll be working toward creating that 'event atmosphere' that athletes have let us know they want. We'll be investigating the possibilities available drink and food vendors for the finish line.

Further, we're excited to continue our work in promoting activity in the outdoors amongst community tamariki and rangatahi. Our goal for youth participation for PTR22 is 30% of our athletes which we didn't quite hit (22%) so we'll address this by continuing to engage with our community partners and school networks.

Until then, everyone take care, train well and be great NZers.

