

Media release for immediate use
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Motatapu Miner's Trail awash with Pink Laces

The finish line of the Motatapu 15km Arrowtown.com Miners Trail was scattered with Team Pink Pilates supporters and fundraisers.

The shorter, but highly challenging course takes an off-road loop from Arrowtown into the high country property of Glencoe Station before descending to the Arrow River, and joining the final stage of the Motatapu Mountain Bike and Marathon course to Arrowtown.

Ten of the 257 strong field competed as part of 'Team Pink Pilates' to raise money for the Pink Pilates Trust, funding New Zealand women who are recovering from cancer through the rehabilitative Pink Pilates programme.

Dunedin Pink Pilates Physiotherapist and Miner's Trail competitor, Kerryn Tutty, says, "Lots of people were out on the course supporting Pink Pilates today with pink laces and ribbons and hats off to those women who are out there running today having survived breast cancer."

Supporters of Pink Pilates wear special pink laces in their sports shoes, symbolic of taking the first steps in the road to recovery, it was great to see so many people wearing the laces and supporting such a great cause.

One team member is cancer survivor Judith Ansell from Auckland, a recipient of Pink Pilates who calls the Miners Trail "my new favourite run."

"It was a fantastic day, the weather was perfect and it is just so beautiful up there. It sounds like a cliché but Pink Pilates has changed my life and I could never imagine how I could have gotten to this point, to run the Motatapu Miners Trail without the support from Pink Pilates," Judith says.

All funds raised by Team Pink Pilates today will go towards funding women in Canterbury through the programme. Judith says people responded immediately to this appeal, "it really struck a chord with people."

Lou James, founder of Pink Pilates Programme says,

"We have raised over \$8,000 so far for women with cancer in the Canterbury region. We are hoping to get up to \$10,000 by the end of the weekend, which will ensure all the women on waiting lists to enter the Pink Pilates programme in Christchurch can be funded through the programme."

There were over 100 Team Pink Pilates members competing in one of five Motatapu events during they day, the team members and their supporters stood out wearing pink laces in their shoes.

Dunedin couple Alan Funnell and Louisa Andrew were the fastest male and female runners respectively.

Alan Funnell, a first time Motatapu competitor says, "My girlfriend won the women's last year and recommended to me to come and do it, 'cos you'll love it."

Funnell broke the course record with his 1hr:21m:42s over the 1hr:25m:28s Graham Harris in 2010.

"I was pretty happy with that. The course was good, it was slippery on top, it is pretty hard work you have to slow down quite a bit, can't go full bore down there otherwise you're just going to damage yourself" Funnell says.

Luke Vaughan of Christchurch finished second recording 1hr:21m:42s.

The slippery conditions, prohibited Louisa Andrew from breaking her previous time, the female course record, of 1hr:30m:46s. Andrews still managed to demolish the rest of the female field.

Andrews says, "It was slippery on the downhill so was a bit slower this time. It's a great run I really enjoy it."

Andrew's time was 1hr:35m:09s. The second placed female, Carole Shuttleworth coming in at 1hr:48:52s.





The Miners Trail field included Motatapu's oldest competitor, Max McDermid, aged 82 years old.

The Motatapu Arrowtown.com Miner's Trail 15km mountain run is just one of five events held today. The other events are: the R&R Sport Adventure Race, Speights Summit Mountain Bike, Icebreaker 42.2km off-road marathon and the new invitation only half ironman length triathlon.

The Motatapu is in its seventh year and this year was its largest event. In 2010 it won the New Zealand Association of Event Professionals for the best event.

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For further information or high-resolution images for media use please contact:

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Full race results available at www.motatapu.com

To learn more about Pink Pilates visit www.pinkpilates.org.nz

To support Pink Pilates, purchase your \$10 pink laces at www.motatapu.com

To sponsor a Motatapu Team Pink Pilates entrant visit www.everydayhero.co.nz/event/teampinkpilates

