

SPORT

Tough field for young gymnasts

WHAKATANE gymnasts had a tough competition at the Mid-Island Gymnastics Club in Rotorua last weekend, but still managed several top-10 placings.

With clubs from as far as Auckland taking part, the gymnasts were up against around 120 athletes at some levels at their third competition of the season.

Competing in the Step 1's overs, Miley Whitely, Tara Petersen, Oshanna Surman, Khloe Newport and Chloe Hogg all achieved their pass marks of a total of 50 or more out of 60 for all four apparatus.

This was their second competition of the season and they achieved some good results, with Miley placing sixth overall after placing third on bar and fifth on floor. Khloe placing sixth on floor; Tara earned a fifth spot on the vault plus eighth on floor and Oshanna earned ninth on vault.

The Step 2 girls Addie Tetze, Olivia Allison, Brianna Knowles, Bailey Law, Chloe Sparrow and Lucy Carter all earned personal bests. Lucy placed sixth overall after earning third on vault and 10th on beam. Brianna was sixth on vault and ninth on floor and Bailey placed 10th on vault.

The Step 3s, Zoe Flowerday, Kamea Aldridge, Tayah Prince and Emma Newport also earned personal bests, with Zoe coming in eighth overall after placing fifth on beam and eighth on floor. Tayah was eighth on vault.

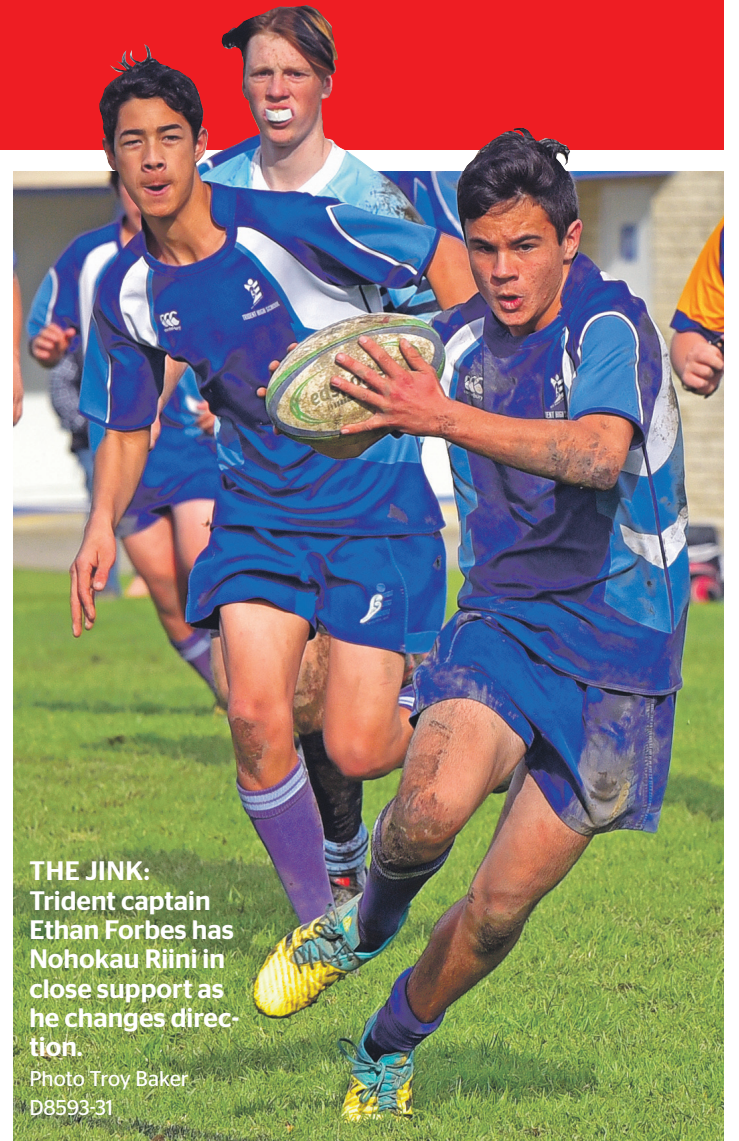
Kayla Forsyth was the only gymnast competing at Step 4 and earned personal bests on beam and bar.

The gymnasts are coached by Jordan Biggs, and EBOP Gymnastics Club operations manager Anne Gould said they would next be competing at the end of July so had time to work on improving their skills even more.



TOUGH COMP: Chloe Sparrow and Brianna Knowles earned personal bests in Step 2 at the Mid-Island gymnastics competition in Rotorua last weekend.

Photo supplied



THE JINK: Trident captain Ethan Forbes has Nohokau Riini in close support as he changes direction.

Photo Troy Baker
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Strong U-15 win

TRIDENT High School's under-15 side had a strong 41-15 win against Western Heights at home on Saturday.

Playing in slippery conditions, the boys scored early after a strong forward drive was finished off by hard running Xavier De Vries.

Harlym Taitapanui was next on the score sheet, running in untouched in the corner after a great draw and pass from Ethan Forbes.

Just before halftime, Ethan scored, picking the ball up from the ruck and scooting around the unprotected blind-side.

Trident led 17-10 at the break. The home side increased their intensity after

half time and some bone-crunching tackles from the forwards stopped Western Heights from gaining any momentum.

Tyler Williams-Dowie's good support play saw him awarded with a try after a slick backline move, then a quick tap by Tane Howe from a penalty saw another try for Trident as he dived over the line.

Kazsdy Wera-Cook scored a great try in the corner after some awesome passing from his inside backs and, with time just about up on the clock, Tyler scored again with a strong charge to the line. Ethan Forbes kicked three conversions.

Entries open for Tarawera Ultra-Marathon

ENTRIES for next year's Tarawera Ultra-Marathon have opened, with a stunning new event hub and finish line on Rotorua's lake front planned to welcome competitors at the world-renowned trail running festival.

The event hub for the February 8, 2020 event will be located in the heart of the lakefront reserve, an area set for a three-year \$40-million redevelopment that is set to transform that part of the city and attract visitors and locals to the area.

Race director Tim Day has been involved with the event for all but two of its 12-year history, first as a competitor, then as a volunteer and more recently as a part owner and race director, a role he continues alongside new owners Ironman Oceania.

The event has steadily grown in stature with the local and international trail running community, with Day saying that reputation is set to further strengthen with improvements across all events, and the retention of the

100-miler that will take competitors throughout much of the stunning topography of the region.

"The 100-mile runners are fortunate to touch on nine lakes in the region and all the beautiful connecting forests. The beauty of our city is we get the chance to connect the forests and lakes with the geothermal activity.

"It is such an aspirational event to consider, being out there for 24 to 36 hours running 100 miles, it can be a bit mind boggling. For our running community to have that gold standard 100-mile event as part of New Zealand's biggest trail running festival alongside the elite and international component of competitors, it is such a neat opportunity for everyday people from all over the world to enjoy that interaction and the challenge of such a truly international event."

As normal, the 102.3km race will start from Kawerau's Firmin Field. It will take runners through the solitude of the Tarawera Forest, past waterfalls

on the Tarawera Falls track, twists and turns on the Eastern Okataina track, towering redwoods, steam alongside the trail at Sulphur Point, run along five lakes, finishing at the Lakefront Reserve in downtown Rotorua.

A total of 463 runners competed in the event, which is race two of the Ultra-Trail® World Tour, with competitors coming from many parts of the world.

The top three men in this year's 102km race came from Australia, United States and Great Britain, while the top three women were from USA, Australia and New Caledonia.

Another change to the event sees the 21km race now joining all other events in being run on the Saturday, making it easier on families' work and school commitments as they plan their Tarawera Ultra Marathon weekend.

Day said the variety of events meant there was something for everyone at the Tarawera Ultra, with a wide appeal to people of all backgrounds and abilities.

"As the event has evolved over the

years, we have introduced shorter events.

"The 50km ultra has in some way become what was the marathon – 50km on a trail in natural spaces, not beating yourself up on the road, has become a popular distance and event for people. It's a chance for people to get out of the increasingly urban life we live, challenge themselves and reconnect with nature.

"And the half marathon distance is a little trickier than on the road with the trails and some ups and downs, but the way that event is laid out is there are no time limits – you can be as competitive as you like or get a bunch of friends together and walk the event and get out into nature.

"You can have a picnic along the way if you want."

Last year's Tarawera Ultra attracted 97 runners in the 160-kilometre race and 717 in the 50-kilometre race.

Go to www.taraweraultra.co.nz for full details.