

CROSS-COUNTRY

Buscomb adds to her national distance titles

Hamilton's Camille Buscomb has won her first national senior women's cross-country title.

In a small consolation for narrowly missing Commonwealth Games qualification in the 5000 metres, Buscomb fought off a strong challenge from Canterbury's Rebecca Kingsford and Auckland's Annie Keown to take out the championship in Christchurch on Saturday.

The Waikato-Bay of Plenty representative, who runs for the Hamilton Hawks club, adds the title to the 2013 national road championship and two national 3000m titles won on the track.

Buscomb, 24, Kingsford and Keown ran together for the first 6 kilometres of the 8km race, before first Keown and then Kingsford were dropped, giving Buscomb the title.

"Annie and Rebecca ran really well and I had to dig deep to stay in front of them," Buscomb said.

Although Waikato-BoP had three in the top five in the race, they did not have a fourth runner, and the team title went to Wellington.

Hamilton's Emily Roughan was fourth, while another Waikato-BoP runner, Sally Gibbs (Tauranga), was fifth, also winning the women's masters 6km title.

Canterbury's Callan Moody took his first New Zealand title in the 12km senior men's race, the 26-year-old running near the front of a big leading bunch for four of the six laps, taking the

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Camille Buscomb
National senior women's cross-country champion

outright lead part-way through the fifth lap.

A fast-finishing Jonno Jackson (Auckland) grabbed second place ahead of Cantabrian Daniel Balchin.

Auckland won the men's team title, getting their best six runners all inside the top 17, taking the title from Canterbury who, although they took three of the top four positions, could not get their remaining three runners high enough.

Joshua Baan from Otago caused an upset in the junior men's 8km race, outprinting favourite Geordie Beamish from Wanganui to take the title, adding to his junior 5000m track championships win, while Hamilton's Jacob Priddey finished third.

Hamilton's John Crane won the men's 50 masters title, while Hamilton's Isaiah Priddey and Sam Montgomerie were first and second in the boys' under-15 3km.

St Peter's School runner Ariana Lord was ruled out of the junior women's race with a bad dose of flu.