



Athlete Information - Saturday 7 August, 2021

Meridian Hydro Half Marathon

Thank you also to all participants - this event raises funds for the Fiordland Trails Trust.

Start time

The event starts at 10.30am.

All participants must be at the start line by 10.20am for a safety briefing.

Start line

This event starts at Kepler Farm, on the Te Anau-Manapouri Highway.

Parking

Ample parking is available at the start line at Kepler Farm.

If you decide to leave your vehicle there, please collect it before 5pm that evening. It is private land and the gate will be locked after this point.

Finish

The event finishes at Lions Park, in Te Anau.

Minimum age

Anyone participating in the Meridian Hydro Half Marathon must be at least 18-years-old on race day (Saturday 7 August, 2021).

Course summary

The course offers riverside and lakeside running, trails through native bush and small sections of road and 4WD tracks. Most of the route takes place on the Lake2Lake trail, a hard-packed trail, and there are some undulating sections, with a maximum elevation of 240m.

Course description

The event starts at the location of the original hydro construction village, now part of the Kepler Farm, on the Te Anau-Manapouri Highway.



Runners will start in the paddock for a short distance, before exiting from the northern entrance of the farm and running 300m down the Te Anau-Manapouri Highway.

Turning into Balloon Loop the course joins the Lake2Lake trail, before heading onto a 4WD track then on towards Rainbow Reach.

An uphill section leads to a minor gravel road crossing, before descending past an ox-bow lake then heading in and out of native bush areas. After an uphill stretch to Queens Reach, the course then traverses the top terrace, which is followed by a narrow downhill forest trail and a short road section with a ford.

From Queens Reach the trail follows the Upper Waiau River, first at river level before climbing up to higher terraces on three occasions. A relatively flat section with a few rises leads to the Te Anau Control Gates.

From there, enjoy the Lake2lake trail with stunning views, pass Tui Bay, the bird sanctuary and the Marakura Yacht Club. The course continues on down Lakefront Drive and finishes in the midst of Lions Park – a new finish line for 2021.

The course elevation is between 190m and 240m.

Route map



Athlete check-in

All participants must collect their race number from either of the following:

Friday 6 August, 5pm to 7pm – Outside Sports, 38 Town Centre, Te Anau

Saturday 7 August, 8am to 9.30am – Meridian marquee, Lions Park

If you have booked transport to the start line you will also collect your bus ticket from the registration point.

Transport

Transport from Lions Park (departing on Lakefront Drive) to the start line is available at \$15 per person. Please [book your transport](#) when registering for the event. (You can still add later if space is available)



Race briefing

Participants should be at the start line no later than 10.15am.

A safety briefing will be held at 10.15am and the race will start at 10.30am.

Leaving your items at the start line

There will be a drop trailer available to leave personal items/coats – please provide your own bag and ideally label it with your name. Items will be transported to the finish line and available to collect there. Items are left at your own risk. Please do not leave any valuables.

Toilets

There will be 10 portaloos available at the start line, and there are public toilets along the course, including:

- Rainbow Reach public toilet 500m off the trail
- Queens Reach public toilet
- Near the Control Control Gates at the Kepler Track Main Car Park
- Bird Park public toilets

The public toilets at Lions Park will be available for event participants and supporters to use free of charge on Saturday 7 August.

Water stations

This is a zero rubbish (cup free) event so we ask you bring your own water, or container. Suitable SpeedCups or collapsible cups are available from most sports shops in New Zealand. Water will be available at the following locations:

- Start line
- Rainbow Reach
- Queens Reach
- Control Gates
- Yacht Club
- Finish line

Timing

We will have timing mats at the start, each drink station and at the end so your friends and family will be able to watch and see your progress and results during the race on the [SportSplits App](#) or the [website](#).



Prizegiving

Prizegiving will be at 2.30 pm at the Meridian Marquee, at the finish line.
All participants will receive a finishers medal.

Prize Money

1st Male \$400 and 1st Female \$400
2nd Male \$200 and 2nd Female \$200
3rd Male \$100 and 3rd Female \$100

Spot prizes

Some of these will be awarded during the race to be collected as you finish to allow athletes that arrive after 1pm to be eligible, some will also be awarded at prize giving.

Cut-off times

12.30pm at Queens Reach

Walkers

Walkers are welcome to enter the event, but please be mindful of the cut-off time which is 12.30pm at Queens Reach. If you are walking, please start at the back of the field.

Prams and strollers

Due to the narrow sections on the trail, we ask that you leave the pram/ stroller/buggy at home. We can NOT allow these in our health and safety plan. However there is a great playground for kids at the finish line.

Spectator viewing

Although spectators can watch the start at Kepler Farm, there will be a short delay exiting the car park as participants need to leave the area before the cars are allowed to depart along the road. There is some parking at Queens Reach, due to the event, there is likely to be an extended wait to exit this area so it is not advised to view here by car.

The best opportunity to view the event is near the Kepler Track carpark (5km to go) where there is ample parking. Tui Bay is also another area with parking. This is less than 3km from the finish.

Support at the finish line at Lions Park is highly encouraged.



Health and safety

- If any participant becomes distressed or exhausted, the race director has the right to withdraw that person from the event
- Please listen to all instructions given by officials at all times
- Please stay left at all times – the trail is open to other users

Your fitness

Runners and walkers should be quite certain you are fit enough and sufficiently well trained to complete this event. If you are unsure about your general health or fitness consult your doctor before embarking on a training program. There are many running/ walking training programs available online.

Road closures/ course safety

There will be limited road closures throughout the course, however runners and walkers should remain vigilant, obey normal pedestrian rules and respect other trail users at all times.

The trail is still open to the public so please be mindful should there be other trail users. Participants should constantly be on alert and follow all directives from the course safety marshals.

Participants must follow the indicated channeling of the cones where necessary.

Walkers should walk no more than two abreast and keep single file/ to the left on narrower sections of the course to allow runners to pass safely.

Cancellation and refund policy

- Withdrawals up to 01 July 2021 will receive a 50% refund (or defer to 2022 event, and incur a \$20 administration fee)
- Withdrawals from 02 July to 01 August 2021 will receive a 25% refund (or defer to 2022 event, and incur a \$20 administration fee)
- There will be no refunds or deferments after 01 August 2021
- Any request for refund or transfer must be made in writing to events@fiordlandtrails.nz
- In the event of cancellation of the race due to any adversity, be it weather, flooding or any other force majeure, including restrictions due to Covid 19, the organising committee reserves the right to decide whether to defer entries to the 2022 event, and/or to make arrangements for entrants to request a **60%** refund. This will be communicated to all participants via email.



- Transfer of registration is only available up to 01 August 2021, and will incur a \$20 administration fee

Any Space left?

The Meridian Hydro Half Marathon has limited spots left should you have friends still thinking about registering, they will need to [register](#) ASAP

Competitor List

You are able to view the list of competitors on the [website](#) and on [this link](#)

Staying the weekend?

If you have not booked accommodation, there are some accommodation deals on the website. Why not support the local activity operators and make a weekend of it?

Further information is available on <https://www.fiordland.org.nz/see-and-do/>

Dining in Te Anau

We strongly recommend you make a reservation if you intend to dine out. There will be over 600 athletes this year to swell the numbers in town plus family/support.

There is limited staff in Te Anau during the Winter, so although they appreciate your support to their businesses, booking in advance will make it a much easier and quicker option for you.

Alternatively you can book a \$20 buffet breakfast or \$45 buffet meal at the Luxmore Hilights on your registration, if you find you can't get a reservation elsewhere.

Add to or change your registration

You can add the bus, transport or even a donation by signing in on this link

<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/AccessRegistration.aspx?E=43384>

Next Years date

Save the date 6th Aug 2022, all participants will receive an email when the early bird registration is open.