

GRATER RIM
ULTRA

**Bellbird Buster
30KM**

**Event Handbook
2026**

**Version 6.2 April
2026**



THANK YOU to our incredible sponsors, supporters, and charity partners who make the event possible!



Thanks to our Charity Partners



Welcome to your Crater Rim Ultra – 30km Bellbird Buster journey!

It's Crater Rim Ultra time!

You've completed the first step on your Crater Rim Ultra event journey. This handbook will provide you with the information needed to make the next step on that journey. 😊

Event Timetable

When Full OR

Friday 18 September, 6.00pm - Personalised bib entries close

Wednesday 14 October 6.00pm - Online entries close

Sunday 18 October, 7.00am - 8.30am - On the day entries available, if there is availability. Additional \$15.00 charge

Saturday 17 October

1.00pm - 5.00pm

Registration Day at Hansen Park, Christchurch - collect your bib, merchandise, final information and have your compulsory kit checked off.

17:00 - Marshal and Volunteer Briefing

Sunday 18 October

7:00am - Crater Rim Ultra 53km- Race Briefing

7:15am - Crater Rim Ultra 53km- Race Start

8.30am - Bellbird Buster 30km- Race Briefing

8.45am - Bellbird Buster 30km- Race Start

9:15am - Kiwi Challenge 22km- Race Briefing

9:30am - Kiwi Challenge 22km- Race Start

10:00am - Rapaki Rumble 12km- Race Briefing

10:15am - Rapaki Rumble 12km- Race Start

10:30am - Valley View 6km- Race Briefing

10:45am - Valley View 6km - Race Start

11.30am - Kids Dash race bibs can be collected from the Information Tent

12:45pm - Hansen Park Dash 1km/2km - Race Briefing

12:50pm - Hansen Park Dash 1km - Race Start

13:00pm - Hansen Park Dash 2km - Race Start

13:45pm - Valley View, Rapaki Rumble & Kiwi Challenge Awards & Spot Prizes (Hansen Park)

17:00pm - Bellbird Buster & Crater Rim Ultra Awards & Spot Prizes (Hansen Park)

Bellbird Buster 30km Timetable

Saturday

1.00 - 5.00pm - Registration Day @ Hansen Park, Christchurch

Sunday

7:15am - Arrive at Hansen Park

7:20am - Buses begin to leave Hansen Park for Bellbird Buster 30km Start

8:00am Buses begin to arrive at Bellbird Buster 30km start (approx.)

8:00 to 8:25am - Pre-race check in at Bellbird Buster 30km Start

8.30am - Bellbird Buster 30km- Race Briefing

8.45am - Bellbird Buster 30km- Race Start

5.00pm - Bellbird Buster & Crater Rim Ultra Awards with Spot Prizes (Hansen Park)

Registration

Saturday 18 October 1.00 - 5.00pm - Registration Day @ Hansen Park, Christchurch

- Registration – we require all entrants to register on Saturday in preparation for Sunday's event
- Course Maps – Large course maps will be available to view in race village.
- Questions - The CRU team will be available to answer any final questions.
- Partners Stalls – Those last-minute crucial race items will be available from our sponsor stalls.
- Merchandise - If you ordered t-shirt, singlet, or other merchandise, pick it up here.

Things we will ask:

- To see your compulsory gear

Things we will give you:

- Race Bib Number
- Race Briefing
- Spot Prize Ticket (Bring to prizegiving)

Virtual Race Packs will be sent prior to registration so you can take full advantage of our partners' promos and deals!

Out of Towners

If you are coming from out-of-town and unable to make registration, please make contact with the CRU team at:

craterrimultra@gmail.com

Compulsory Gear

The compulsory gear is for your protection and safety.

This list of gear is the minimum requirement while competing. Without the full list we cannot let you take part in the event.

If you have a bad injury and need to remain in one place, especially in poor conditions for an extended period of time you will need all of these items. Conditions are changeable on the course.

Compulsory gear is in addition to the clothing you will be wearing on the day of the event.

Compulsory Gear List

- Seam sealed waterproof jacket (Seam sealed and constructed of durable material)
- Long sleeve thermal top (wool/polypropylene)
- Thermal pants - Full length thermal base layer pants
- Thermal hat
- Thermal gloves
- Emergency space blanket
- Whistle
- Compression bandage
- Ziplock bag for personal rubbish

Compulsory gear checks will take place at race registration on Saturday. Please bring your gear to registration to be spot checked.

Race Village – Hansen Park

Parking at Hansen Park

Hansen Park / Race Village parking is very limited. Please arrange for alternative transport to the race village and finish line.

Facilities at Hansen Park

Hansen Park is used as the Race Village and finish line for all events.

Race Day Services at Hansen Park:

Toilets

First Aid

Coffee Vendor

Ice cream Vendor

Food Vendors

Partner & Supporter Stalls

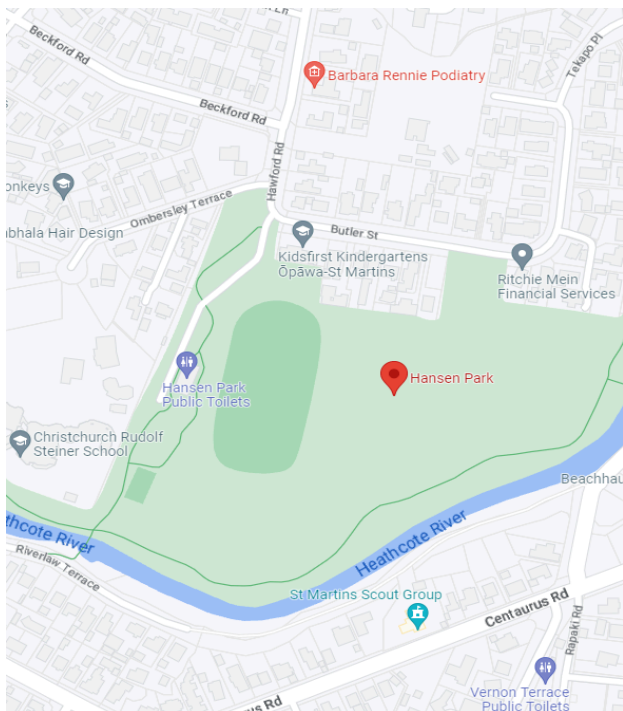
Water Supplies

Recovery Station

Hansen Park Location

Address: Behind - 8 Butler Street, St Martins, Christchurch 8023

Location:



Race Day

Start Line

Waibl Farm is the official start line of the Bellbird Buster 30km.

Toilets will be available at the start line.

To ensure all logistics work, some entrants may have a period of waiting. Please prepare to stay warm until the horn goes off!

CRU officials will have a dedicated vehicle to collect start line bags ready for transport back to Hansen Park– further details below.

Start Line: Plan



● = Start Line Bag Trailer

● = Toilets

● = Pre-Race Check In

Transport

The Bellbird Buster 30km starts from Waibls Farm, near Gebbies Pass (private land).

Getting there: CRU provides your travel from Hansen Park to Waibls with your entry fee.

Meeting at Hansen Park, Opawa you will be transported by bus to Waibls Farm. See timetable for Hansen Park arrival and bus departure times.

There is no parking at the Bellbird Buster 30km start line. Arranging your own transport to the start line is not an option.

Pre-race Check In

We operate a 'Pre-race Check In' to ensure we know who is starting – this is a safety procedure. Please make time for this check in. Look for a desk with officials wielding clipboards.

Race Briefing

Will be held 15 minutes prior to the race start. The briefing will provide you with any last-minute changes and safety tips for your day ahead and is compulsory.

Race Start

Please remember to start in a position to match your ability. The race is a mass start but there is plenty of room to find your place. Start steady – finish strong & safe!

Race Bib Numbers

To assist our volunteer marshals on the day and ensure they don't need to stop you running please wear your race bib number on your front so it can be seen as you run through a checkpoint.

We use checkpoints to mark off your race numbers to ensure no-one is left on course.

If the weather isn't favourable a race number can be worn under a jacket but please open up your jacket at all marshal points.

Marshals will ask you to stop and present your number if they can't easily view it. Please stop if asked to! Remember our marshals are volunteers – we are all here for a fun day.

Start Line Bags

We have the option for competitors to take a small bag to the Bellbird Buster 30km start line.

This can be used to carry warmer clothing until the race start.

The CRU team will transport all drop bags from the 30km start line at Waibls Farm back to Hansen Park at about 11:30am and place them in the drop bag collection area.

Start bags must be marked with your name and race number.

The Course

The Words

Are you ready for the most amazing journey across Canterbury's Port Hills?

Race day starts with a bus trip arriving to the quiet paddock where the Bellbird Buster disturbs the serenity for one morning each year.

Please ensure you check in with our crew, so we know you've arrived at the start – chat away the nerves and keep warm.

You'll have heard the rumours and they are true!

The Bellbird Buster start gives no mercy – be prepared for that climb.

Runners follow course markers up a 4WD drive track and onto a narrow track with a few tight spots. Follow course markers all the way and until dropping back down onto Summit Rd.

Marshals here will guide you safely over the road to the start of the Crater Rim Walkway Track.

Runners stay on this trail and follow the course markers for some great well-formed track and nice running passing the Sign of Bellbird/ John Jameson Lookout. A kilometre on from the lookout you'll arrive at the Ohinetahi Bush aid station to refuel. Continue on the Crater Rim Track until arriving at the Hoon Hay Reserve carpark.

Marshals will assist runners across Summit Rd and on to the grass trail, heading through a small swing gate and runners will be guided up Worsley Spur Rd.

At the top of the road head down Worsley Spur track, this is a rough and ready downhill – it can get speedy but watch that step!

Reaching the bottom gate marshals will direct you in the Christchurch Adventure Park.

Keep your eye out for mountain bikers as you ascend the Uphill Track back to Worsley Spur Rd and the Crater Rim Track.

Marshals will assist runners across Summit Road and back on track around to Coronation Reserve, skirting around the back of the Sign of the Kiwi.

Marshals and Traffic Management will assist runners across Dyers Pass Rd to Sugar Loaf Scenic Reserve.

A tough little ascent on Cedrics Track has runners reach the Sugar Loaf Car Park where you will find the Sugar Loaf Aid Station and toilets.

Marshals here to guide you through the carpark toward the aid station and back onto the Crater Rim Track.

Follow the Crater Rim Track and the course markers, staying on the harbour side of Summit Road, heading in and out of a variety of environments - tree cover, tall grasses, rocky crops and open hills.

Follow course markers on the Crater Rim Track and skirt around Mt. Vernon arriving at the top of Rapaki Track (above Summit Rd) and the Rapaki aid station.

Using a mix of the Summit Rd and the Crater Rim Track you will head out toward Castle Rock while taking in the views of the city. After a quick turnaround at the Castle Rock corner you will head back towards the boundary of the Linda Woods Reserve. Marshals will direct you into the reserve.

After some fast downhill grass tracking runners will arrive at the very runnable Jacks Track and traverse the head of Avoca Valley before starting on the final downhill decent.

Once at the Rapaki Saddle our marshals will direct you down the Rapaki track. The Rapaki track is very busy with other runners, walkers and bikers please keep left and share the trail.

Ensure you save some legs for the final section. Our marshals will direct you off the Rapaki Track, and you will enter some fun technical running known as the Rogers Track. Take care as this track has rocky and narrow sections, it's great fun as a run or even a walk.

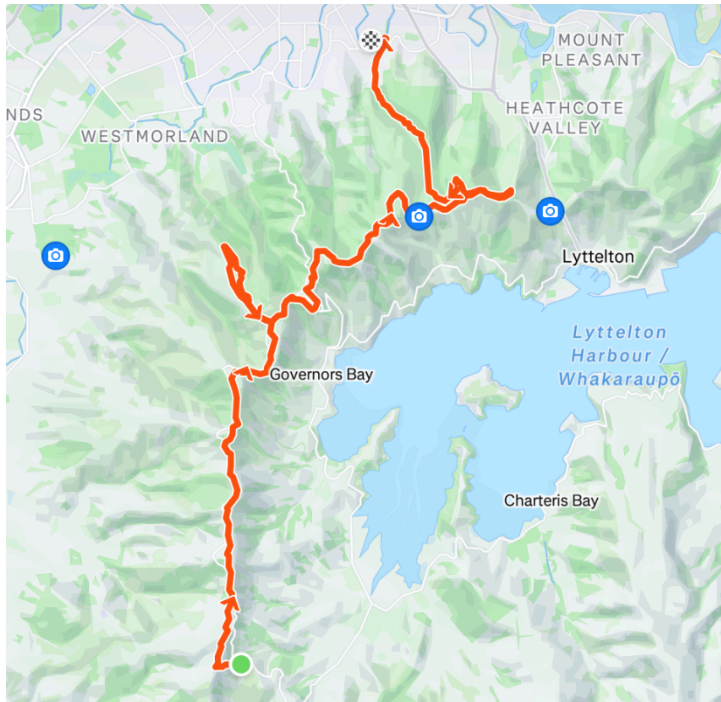
Nearly there, Rogers Track opens out into the Mt Vernon Valley car park. Marshals will direct runners onto Vernon Terrace. Please stick to the pavement as you head towards Centaurus Rd.

Marshals will meet runners at the bottom of the Vernon Terrace and direct them to the road crossing. Traffic management will cross runners over Centaurus Rd. It's time to prepare yourself for those finish line photos!

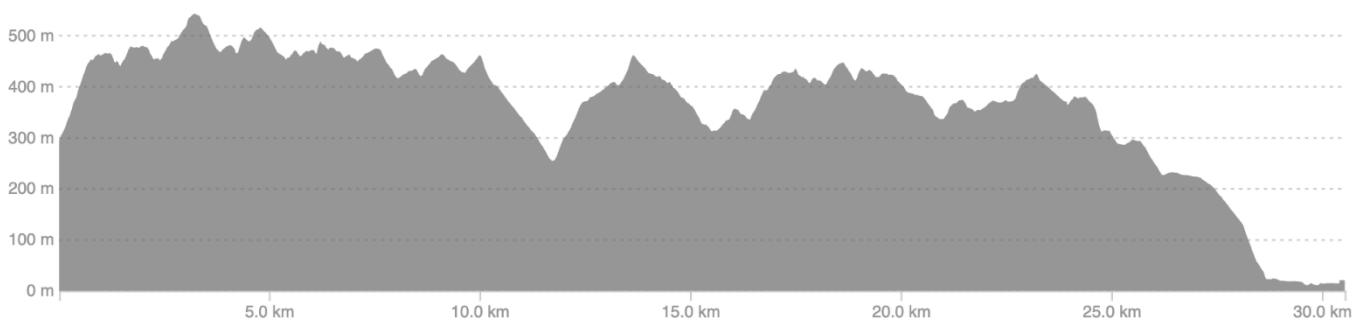
Head along the Ōpāwaho -Heathcote River on Aynsley Terrace. Turn left over the footbridge and back into Hansen Park following the sealed path around to the finish line, big smiles!!

Finished! Nice work - High fives all round!

The Map



The Ups & Downs



GPX and Map available: www.craterrimtrailrun.com

Courses are subject to change to meet environmental conditions

Aid Stations

- 9 km - Ohinetahi Bush Carpark
- 17.5km - Sugarloaf Reserve Carpark (Comms Tower Carpark)
- 21km - Top of the Rapaki Track
- 30km - Finish – Hansen Park

Aid stations will provide the following (subject to change):

- Water
- Pure Sports Nutrition Electrolytes
- Flat Coke
- Lollies
- Pineapple or Watermelon (subject to availability)
- Oranges and Bananas
- Chips

Aid stations will not use paper or plastic cups. Please arrange your own cup, flask or bladder to use the water and electrolytes at the aid stations, or even better, check out our website store for a Crater Rim Ultra soft re-usable cup.

Support Crews and Viewing Points

If you wish to take aid from your own supporters this must be done at one of our designated aid station areas. We say this because much of the course is inaccessible and there is limited parking etc. The safety to entrants, supporters and the public is a priority.

Our aid station areas are the best place for your family and “fans” to cheer you on. Other good viewing spots would be Sign of the Kiwi café, Sign of the Bellbird carpark and Hansen Park.

There are no safe viewing areas on the longer courses prior to the Sign of the Bellbird.

Please bear in mind that all aid stations and viewing areas have limited car parking and are busy areas.

Toilets

Toilets will be available at the following locations:

- Waibls Farm - Start Line
- Ohinetahi Bush Carpark
- Sign of the Kiwi (Public Toilet a few meters off course)
- Sugarloaf Reserve Carpark (Comms Tower Carpark)
- Top of Rapaki
- Hansen Park

Timing Mats

Timing mats/sensors will be at the following locations:

- Waibls Farm
 - Sugarloaf Reserve Carpark (Comms Tower Carpark)
 - Mt Vernon/ Summit Rd
 - Hansen Park
 - Secret mat location somewhere on the course, look out for it!
-

Course Markings

Although the course is well marked with yellow directional signs, orange ribbons and marshals at crucial direction points we advise that you research the course and become familiar with it.



Road Crossings & Traffic Management

All roads on the course are open to traffic. The courses are designed to minimise the use of open roads but at times you will be required to cross open roads.

Marshal and traffic management are located at all road crossings. You must follow their directions unless it is unsafe to do so. Be aware of traffic on the roads. Some vehicle drivers may not stop when asked, so please take care.

When the course uses the sealed road, you will be instructed which side of the road you must run on.

Public and Mountain Bikers

All trails are open to the public – you may encounter walkers, runners and mountain bikers throughout the course.

Please respect the public using these trails and co-operate in making room when passing. Give them notice that you are passing them - call 'Runner', 'G'day', 'Morning' etc and pass with care.

Please always give way to all mountain bikers – bikers have right of way on all the mountain bike tracks.

Bikes hurt! Stay out of their way.

Tail End Charlies

All events will have a Tail End Charlie to ensure we get everyone off the course at the end of the race.

Tail End Charlies will support you all the way however they will remove a competitor they believe is not sufficiently prepared to safely complete the course.

Retiring from the Race

If you unfortunately need to retire from the race, please advise a race official or marshal. This ensures we know you have retired, and we know you are safely off the course.

If you retire our marshals can assist in contacting family and friends.

Cut Off Times

Strict cut offs will apply in the Bellbird Buster:

14:30pm - Ohinetahi Bush Carpark (8km approx.)

15:45pm – Sugarloaf Reserve Carpark (17.5km approx.)

16:30pm – Top of Rapaki Track (21km approx.)

18:15pm – Course Closure

Cut off times are used to ensure the safety of our competitors and marshals.

In the event you miss the cut off times our marshals will assist in contacting family and friends.

Course Restrictions

Private Land

A small section of the course travels through private farmland from Summit Rd to the beginning of the Crater Rim Walkway trail on Summit Road. We appreciate the landowners allowing us access. The land is closed to public at all other times through the year – please do not enter this land at any other times.

Lambing Times -The course from Diamond Harbour through to Gebbies Pass, even though a public path, normally closes for lambing from 8th August to 15th October. Please respect this closure.

Headphones

No headphones are to be worn on the course.

You will need to hear and follow the instructions of marshals.

Don't miss out on the birdsong and rustle of the trees in the wind!

Finish Line

The Bellbird Buster 30km finishes in Hansen Park.

Prizegiving & Awards

Awards will be held at Hansen Park in the marquee - see '*timetable*' for details.

Spot prizes will be awarded on a ticket system – In your registration pack, we will provide a ticket with your race number on. Bring this with you to the prizegiving and place it in the designated box to be in with a chance of a spot prize.

Photos

Photographers will be roaming the courses throughout the day – if you see a camera, throw it a smile!

Photos from the event will be available from: <http://www.photos4sale.co.nz/>

Contacts

Should you have any questions around the event, please contact our team: craterrimultra@gmail.com

Local Info

Course Weather <https://www.metservice.com/towns-cities/regions/christchurch/locations/banks-peninsula>

City Weather

<https://www.metservice.com/towns-cities/locations/christchurch>
<https://www.summitroadsociety.org.nz/about-the-port-hills/port-hills-webcam/>

Things to do <https://www.christchurchnz.com/explore/activities-attractions>

What's on <https://ccc.govt.nz/news-and-events/whats-on>

Plan your trip <https://www.newzealand.com/int/christchurch/>

Local running clubs

<https://porthillsathletic.org.nz/>

<https://live2runtrail.com/>

Accommodation in Christchurch

There are many accommodation options all within a short distance of green parks, beaches, river trails, quiet bays and the pinnacle of the city our lovely Port Hills.
