



As the year comes to a close, we extend our sincere appreciation to the business community and the wider public for their support of both Merrell Race Tekapo and The Mackenzie by Devold throughout the year. These events attract thousands of visitors to the region, and Scenic Sports Events works hard to encourage participants to stay beyond a single night, enjoy local activities, and support businesses across the district.

We are very grateful to the Mackenzie District Council for providing funding that enables the promotion of the region and supports strong event attendance. Their contribution plays a vital role in the success of these events. Appreciation is also extended to the many businesses whose sponsorship makes the races possible. Entry fees alone do not cover the cost of delivering events of this scale, and without the generosity of sponsors, these experiences simply would not be viable. Their support helps create memorable, high-quality events that draw competitors back year after year.

A heartfelt thank-you also to the local groups who provide essential assistance in bringing the races to life - from day-to-day preparation and maintenance of the outstanding trail network to volunteering on event day. Competitors consistently remark on the remarkable community spirit and the invaluable support they receive.

We also want to acknowledge the landowners who open their properties, allowing competitors to experience the iconic Mackenzie landscape. Their willingness to share access is fundamental to the events' success and to the significant benefits returned to the community.

Lastly, we would like to acknowledge the incredible team who work tirelessly behind the scenes to bring these events to life. Countless late nights, early mornings, and long hours go into pulling every detail together. Their passion, professionalism, and unwavering commitment are at the heart of what makes these events so special. We

are immensely grateful for their dedication and expertise, which shine through in every aspect of race week.

Their collective efforts - alongside the support of volunteers, businesses, landowners, and the wider community - are what make Merrell Race Tekapo and The Mackenzie by Devold truly memorable experiences for competitors and supporters alike.

We are deeply appreciative of every individual and organisation who contributes to making these events exceptional.

The 2025 season also marked an exciting milestone for both events, with significant growth in participation. The Mackenzie by Devold welcomed more than 700 riders, while Merrell Race Tekapo saw a remarkable 40% increase on 2024 numbers, bringing over 2,300 runners and walkers to the start line. This continued momentum reflects the strong reputation these events have earned - a testament to the dedicated team working tirelessly behind the scenes, as well as the outstanding support from the community, the Mackenzie District Council, and the businesses who invest in them.

This collective effort has helped shape events that competitors trust, enjoy, and return to year after year.

Looking ahead, both events will return in 2026: The Mackenzie by Devold on 11 April and Merrell Race Tekapo on 19 September. We warmly welcome local groups to be involved once again. All volunteers receive payments to their organisations, creating valuable fundraising opportunities while contributing to two of the region's vibrant events.

Businesses seeking greater exposure to competitors, supporters, and the continually growing event database are also encouraged to get in touch. Scenic Sports Events is committed to working closely with businesses to help achieve their goals and strengthen the connection between the events and the wider community.

We send our best wishes for a wonderful and prosperous summer ahead and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2026.

Kerry and Stu Uren.

Scenic Sports Events.