

[View this email in your browser](#)



MERINO MUSTER RESULTS MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. 1 September 2018

US cross country skiers Jessie Diggins and Simeon Hamilton defend their 42km Merino Muster titles in perfect conditions at Snow Farm.

United States Olympic cross country skiers Simeon Hamilton and Jessie Diggins won the 2018 Merino Muster 42 km marathon cross country ski race at Snow Farm on Saturday in a tight race against other international skiers and members of the US national squad.

There were 288 entrants from at least 19 nations, with 130 in the marathon race, 80 in the 21km Snow Rake race and another 78 in the 7km Straggle Muster.

The Merino Muster has been an annual fixture on the Pisa Range near Wanaka for 24 years. Hamilton also won the race in 2017 while Diggins previously won in 2016 and 2017.

Merino Muster Ltd director Mary Lee said the event was “brilliant”.

“Every has been going super well, perfect. The snow is perfect, the weather perfect. I have just interviewed Jessie Diggins and she loved it,” Lee said.

Lee was impressed by the number of local children who took part in the place.

“See how many kids we had. It was just amazing.”

Hamilton skied in a bunch comprising US team mates Adam Martin (second) and Kyle Bratrud (third) and Tomoka Satou and Kaichi Naruse of Japan.

Just 26 seconds separated first and third. Satou was fourth, 45 seconds behind Hamilton and Naruse was another three minutes down, in fifth place.

In the women’s field, 2018 gold medal Winter Olympian sprinter Jessie Diggins showed she was no slouch on a marathon course, winning by an 81 second margin over second-placed French skier Aurelie Dabudyk. Diggins’ US team mate Alayna Sonnesyn was another five minutes down, in third.

Campbell Wright, 17, of Wanaka was New Zealand's top prospect going into the 21km race, which he won in 2017.

Wright has had a couple of successful seasons racing in Ontario, Canada, during his summer breaks.

However, he did not defend his title as planned because he has a minor injury and is keen to protect himself for upcoming Winter Games NZ races.

Wright raced the 7km Straggle Muster instead, stomping home in just over 25 minutes, with Wanaka's Leo Staufenberg 2 minutes 23 seconds behind in second place.

The 7km women's winner as Australian skier Katerina Paul.

The Straggle Muster was popular with people of all abilities. As is the tradition, many people dressed up for the occasion. Bat Woman, Xena Warrior Princess and Bat Girl were among the superheroes taking a crash course in cross country skiing around the Snow Farm.

For a full list of results please go to www.merinomuster.com

If you would like more information about this, please contact John Burrridge on 021 076 5472 or jmburrridge@xtra.co.nz

Key race results

42 km Merino Muster Men

Name	Time	Country
Simeon Hamilton	1:39:46	United States
Adam Martin	1:39:49	United States
Kyle Bratrud	1:40:10	United States

42 Merino Muster Woman

Name	Time	Country
Jessie Diggins	1:52:34	United States
Aurelie Dabudyk	1:53:55	France
Alayna Sonnesyn	1:58:04	United States

21 km Snow Rake Men

Name	Time	Country
Benjamin Saxton	0:47:48	United States

Dan Clossen	1:00:27	United States
Petr Sykora	1:00:36	Czech Republic

21 km Snow Rake Women

Name	Time	Country
Katharine Ogden	0:50:29	United States
Julia Kern	0:51:25	United States
Elizabeth Martin	0:57:59	United States

7 km Straggle Muster Men

Name	Time	Country
Campbell Wright	0:25:38	Wanaka, NZ
Leo Staufenberg	0:28:01	Wanaka, NZ
Benjamin Silipo	0:30:45	Wanaka, NZ

7km Straggle Muster Women

Name	Time	Country
Katerina Paul	0:28:29	Australia
Olivia Jones	0:32:28	Wanaka, NZ
Scarlett Norman	0:32:56	Wanaka, NZ

ABOUT THE MERINO MUSTER

First held at the Snow Farm in 1994. Open to all comers of all abilities and fitness levels. Races are held over 42km, 21km and 7km. The race became a Worldloppet event in 2014. Worldloppet is an international sports federation of cross-country skiing marathons.

NATIONS AT THE MERINO MUSTER

New Zealand, Australia, Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, Finland, USA, Japan, Liechtenstein, India, Russia, Canada, Estonia, Latvia, Czech Republic, Norway, Poland, Israel.

ABOUT JESSIE DIGGINS

Minnesota athlete Jessie Diggins (27) has one Olympic gold medal and four world championship medals (one gold, two silver, one bronze). She competed for the United States at the 2014 and 2018 Winter Olympics.

Media release prepared for Merino Muster Ltd by Marjorie Cook, Wanaka journalist, 02102379376, marjoriecook66@gmail.com.





Input caption text here. Use the block's Settings tab to change the caption position and set other styles.

Copyright © 2018 Merino Muster, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

MailChimp.