Porritt Classic issue

The Porritt Classic again provided an excellent early year trip for Whanganui Collegiate School athletes. The team travelled north with two trophies and returned with three. While, the Willis Relay Girls (300, 3 x 400m) was unopposed, the 1500 metre team races were won in big and competitive fields. In the boys’ race there were 36 starters. Andres Hernandez looked like he might pay the penalty for his fast 60 second first lap, but ran on smoothly and held off the late challenge of Liam Back on his comeback run. Liam covered the last 200 metres in 27 seconds. Zach Bellamy was the third to score team member to help the team retain the Dick Quax Trophy. Six of the nine Collegiate runners set personal bests. Sarah Lambert ran well in the leading group in the girls’ race to record a personal best. She was joined by Ashleigh Alabaster and Ana Brabyn to claim the Dianne Rodger Trophy for the leading 3 to score team.

Genna Maples and Sophie Williams qualified for the women’s 100m final from the four qualifying heats. Genna finished 5th in 12.38 seconds with Sophie .01 seconds behind in sixth (12.39) in a strong women’s Final. Tayla Brunger set a personal best to win her 200metre seeded heat to stop the clock at 25.42. It was unfortunate that she was not in the top heat as she finished 5th overall. Emma Osborne ran a season’s best to finish 3rd in the 400 metres (56.96) only an hour after running a 400m leg in the Willis Relay.