

Alice Spillane – The North Face Peak to Peak

It was a stunning morning in Queenstown. The sun was out, temperature approximately 5C. I tired to force down breaky and then headed for Remarkables.

I was up the front for the start of the race and when the gun went I just took it easy going down the hill, it was mayhem, people falling over. I started to slide down until I hit a rock and thought not a good idea! I had strategically placed my skis next to a pole. They were easy to find however this is where I hit trouble. I got my first boot in peace of cake but the second caused me somewhat trouble. It just wouldn't go in! At first I thought it was because they were on a hill, however I moved them round, sat down, tried what I thought was everything. It felt like the whole mass of people were now in front of me! The more I couldn't get my boot in the more I couldn't think straight. Anyway this was amateur behaviour and im over it now!! The ski leg was 2 km and this went without incident, we then jumped on the Mountain bike for 17 km down Remarkables road to Frankton, this went well and reached a top speed of 60.3, I was flying. The kayak leg was 7 km and this also went well I seemed to pass person after person, which was all good. When I jumped out of kayak for run, my legs were heavy and it took me awhile to kick into it but after a bit I was off and the 9 km seemed to go fast. Next was the dreaded 9km road bike up to Coronet Peak, same again started off slow and then got amongst it and started to catch people which made me ride stronger.

It was a great race and I was pleased to beat my time from last year by 10 minutes. I will definitely be back next year and have new tactics and beat my time by another ten minutes!