

## NEW YEAR RUN/WALK

### 5KM WALK

1638	Andrew Duncan	M55	31:50
1110	John McDonagh	M75	35:40
468	Wayne Taylor	M65	38:35
262	Johan Hagedoorn	M80	38:44
455	Sean Keane	M60	50:16
40	John Pellier	M85	51:57
227	Gary Fisher	M70	57:30

### WOMEN

2274	Fiona van Heerwaarden	W45	35:10
1808	Marcela Ruiz Valdés	W60	37:47
2541	Judy Saunders	W70	38:59
99	Peggy Macliver	W80	39:44
713	Grace Hollin	W65	47:37
1787	Hazel Stephen	W75	52:10
2600	Paula Angel	W55	54:18

### WOMEN 5KM RUN

689	Sandra Stockman	W55	24:56
739	Margaret Saunders	W70	27:55
1926	Gayle Craft	W65	29:01
2022	Jenny Hogg	W60	31:25
928	Sandra Rourke	W55	31:45
149	Jackie Halberg	W75	51:45

### 12KM WALK

1729	Victor Munoz	M70	1:22:38
1704	Melissa Lewis	W35	1:26:39
1257	Karyn Tolardo	W55	1:27:42
1138	Lui Cecotti	M75	1:36:10
1226	David Adams	M45	1:47:13
1828	Phillippa Bennett	W65	1:49:30

## GUIDE FOR PARENTS



### No. 1 The Drop Kick

**CHILE'S Atacama Desert is the driest non-polar desert on earth. Average annual rainfall is less than a millimetre. Temperature swings from 30°C to sub-freezing. It's so barren and devoid of life that Nasa simulate practise landings on Mars.**

**Would you like to run a 310-mile non-stop ultra-marathon there?**

**You wouldn't. You couldn't. It's invitation only.**

Organiser is Nils Arend and the race is The Speed Project.

Last time it was held, at 4am in the Chilean beach city of Iquique ninety runners from all over the world limbered up in a deserted skatepark on the beachfront, 50m from the Pacific Ocean.

Then, in six-person teams they ran across the Atacama Desert, alongside the main highway, to the 'finish line' at San Pedro de Atacama, some 500km away and at an altitude of 2,400m.

Like the American version of The Speed Project (TSP) from Los Angeles to Las Vegas which made organiser Arend's name, this race has no prize money, no rules, no set route and no website.

Like LA-LV, there is no official way to enter.

**Invitations and intros come via Arend's WhatsApp, and the event itself is unsanctioned and entirely unsupported.**

Among the 90 runners were former Olympians, a high-profile

# The Speed Project - wait for the call!



American TV presenter, the so-called 'real-life Forrest Gump' William Goodge, and former women's international footballer Daniela Andrade, who has run the length of Chile solo.

Unsupported racing is not a new phenomenon in running, or indeed in other sports like ultra-distance cycling.

For example, the Trans Continental (TCR) is infamous in the world of cycling as a brutal, yet beautiful 4,000km solo race across Europe in which accepting help of any kind means disqualification.

But even in races like TCR each rider has a tracking device and there are checkpoints to ride through and monitor the welfare of the field.

Arend already adamantly shied away from any such checks and balances for The Speed Project.

With TSP Atacama, he pushed the boundaries and runners' comfort zones even further.

**One runner in each team of six had to be moving at all times alongside the one road that traverses this hugely inhospitable environment.**

In essence, the favoured tactic for the fastest way to clock 500km was frequently swapping runners in and out and breaking the distance down into two or three kilometre sections each, repeatedly, for nearly two days.

In theory, each leg sounded pretty achievable. About half a Parkrun at a time.

**“The party line, if pulled over by the police is that we're 'just a group of friends running from Iquique to San Pedro de Atacama'. Nothing to see here.”**

One of the race's few rules was that one runner from each team has to be on the road and moving at any one time. Arend tried to get across the imperative that all teams put safety first.

And, secondly, in slight contradiction, he then laid out arguably the race's most vital tenets.

Unsanctioned: no route, no route markers, not an 'official event' in any way, shape or form.

For much of the first few hours the gaps between the teams weren't huge.

But after a long, steep climb away from the ocean on a jet-black road covered in bright white salt from nearby lithium mines, things started to split up.

At sunset, with the teams well spread, rumours were spreading like wildfire.

The race attracted the attention of local police, with a few teams deciding the risks involved didn't warrant continuing.

**Of the 15 teams who started, 12 crossed the finish line, a 30ft white cross on the outskirts of the Atacama tourist town of San Pedro.**

**The winning team covered the 310 miles between Iquique and San Pedro just inside 35 hours.**