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**ABP**

<b>TUESDAY 13</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 14</b>	<b>THURSDAY 15</b>
10:07 am	10:48 am	11:30 am
10:29 pm	11:12 pm	11:56 pm
<b>FRIDAY 16</b>	<b>SATURDAY 17</b>	<b>SUNDAY 18</b>
12:15 pm	12:42 am	1:31 am
	1:03 pm	1:54 pm
		2:25 am
		2:49 pm

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# Marathon run rewarded

www.times.co.nz

By REBECCA GARDINER

**A**NYONE who's considered running a marathon will be buoyed by Rebecca Robinson's description of one of the world's best.

"It was like running a party with 46,000 people," says the Whitford mum, who is back on home soil after completing the 42km New York Marathon.

"There are two million people watching and they are noisy - with pots, pans and placards. They're American and they're so positive. There are lots of kids out there waiting for high-fives."

Rebecca signed up for the marathon to raise money for the UpsideDowns Education Trust, an organisation helping families of young children with Down syndrome.

Her inspiration was four-year-old Ryan Mora, the son of one of her best friends Melanie.

"I was 26,733rd and did it in 4 hours 21 minutes 13 seconds," says Rebecca. "I was really pleased with my time and did as well as I could. It was the whole tears in your eyes, I can't believe I finished this thing."

The 36-year-old's fundraising target was \$10,000, but support from family, friends and the community exceeded all expectations and helped her to a grand total of \$15,083.

The money will be used to provide a year's speech therapy for up to six children with Down syndrome.



**SWEET SUCCESS:** Rebecca Robinson, of Whitford, is exuberant after completing the New York Marathon. Photo supplied

## Finding way home for Christmas

By LIBBY GUDMUNDSSON

**CHRISTMAS** will have a touch of musical Kiviana if Caroline Zeeman has her way.

The Howick music teacher

play and wanted it to be about New Zealand," she says.

After the children performed it, she decided to rewrite it as a story and the concept for an interactive

help her on her way.

"I wanted to incorporate music, so each animal is represented by an instrument."

The music was written

Melanie has known Rebecca since her school days and says she has been humbled by her friend's "extraordinary efforts".

"Everyone is busy these days just keeping up with their own lives," says the Parnell resident.

"The fact that Rebecca undertook this project and committed so much time in support of our family and so many others whose lives have been changed by Down syndrome still blows me away. She is a truly special friend."

The jet-setter, who has a penchant for shopping, was accompanied on the trip to the Big Apple by her husband Mark.

He told the *Times* that he's "incredibly proud" of his wife's achievement.

"The hours she put into training were incredible and she was so unbelievably focused on her schedule and end-goal.

"I saw Rebecca twice on the run and every time I saw her I felt immense pride seeing her realise her dream and achieve her goal. She continues to inspire and amaze me every day."

He says thanks must also go to his wife's running coach Jon Ackland, Damian and Cathy Halford of Power-Station Gym in Howick, and Soar Printing for producing fundraising flyers.

With running no longer at the top of her priority list, Rebecca says she's going to keep it up for the sake of her New York frocks.

"I want to keep the figure," she says with a smile.

was one of the most enjoyable parts of the project.

Painting New Zealand landscapes for the backgrounds, she then created clay figures and an assortment of designs that were stuck on the backgrounds and then photographed to use as