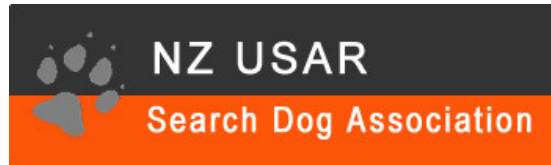




Community Banking Since 1869



MEDIA RELEASE

7 June 2011

Great support for SBS Marathon charity of choice

Nearly 4000 turned out to take on the challenge of the relocated SBS Marathon course at Lincoln on the outskirts of Christchurch on Sunday and the support for the USAR Search Dog Association was terrific with \$10,000 becoming a reachable target as funds continue to come in.

SBS Bank Riccarton manager Matthew Mark was among the large contingent of SBS Bank staff, customers, USAR dog handlers and dogs who joined the field in one of the events on offer, when he ran the 10km with search dog Boo, who is owned by the NZ USAR Search Dog Association president Tim Drennan.

“It was a blast to run with Boo, she seemed as excited as I was to be taking part for such a worthy cause and I know all the handlers and their dogs were very much admired and respected for the incredible work they carry out in such difficult and often terrifying conditions.

“That has certainly been reflected by the generosity of everyone who has made a donation to USAR or myself through our online fundraising websites, or into the charity buckets during the SBS Marathon on Sunday.”

Mr Mark said the enthusiasm of the SBS Bank team during the event had been huge and the response to the dogs and handlers being present and involved on the day was fantastic.

“Everyone seemed extremely happy with the event and venue and the feedback was all positive so we’re delighted SBS Bank could get on board again for our 10th year as the key SBS Marathon sponsor.

“It was great to have around 3800 start in one of the seven events on Sunday and fantastic to have more than 500 of those featuring in one of the two kids Marafun events.”

Mr Drennan said their team of dogs had certainly won over everyone’s hearts at the event even the woman’s marathon winner Liza Hunter-Galvan, who donated \$500 of her prize winnings towards the cause. Hunter-Galvan had just returned to competition after a two-year ban for drug-taking.

“We’re really proud of our dogs and the work they do and they’ve gone through a lot of training to achieve what they have. To see the adoration and respect everyone had for them during the SBS Marathon and to receive such great financial support through the donations has been fantastic.

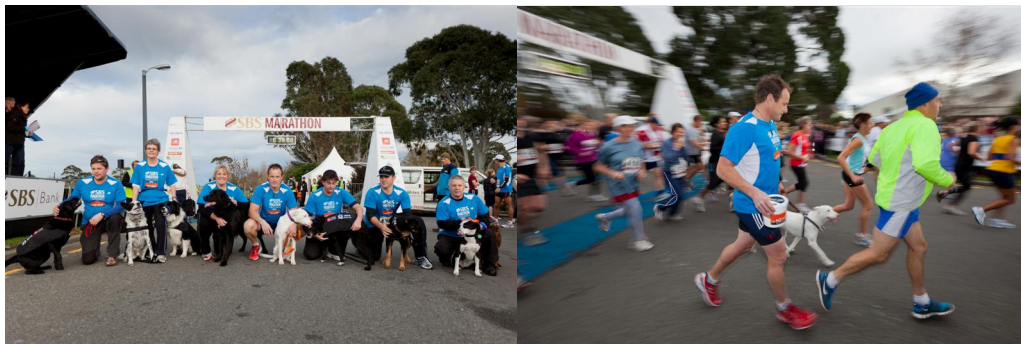
“We thank SBS Bank, the race organisers and everyone who has donated to our cause and supported our NZ USAR Search Dog Association and we know we will be able to replace or purchase some much needed resources for our team to use in future search and rescue operations.

Anyone still wishing to make a donation to the USAR Search Dog Association can do so by visiting www.usardogs.org.nz

Photo caption 1: SBS Bank Riccarton manager Matthew Mark joins the NZ USAR Search Dog Association owners and their dogs at the start line for Sunday’s SBS Marathon.

Photo caption 2: SBS Bank Riccarton manager Matthew Mark joins the field with NZ USAR Search Dog Boo for the 10km run during Sunday’s SBS Marathon to raise funds for the USAR charity of choice.

Please contact Melissa if you would like a hi-res version of either of these photos for use in your publication. Thanks.



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www.sbs.net.nz

www.usardogs.org.nz

www.sbsmarathon.co.nz