Inaugural fun run has miles of great potential

RUNNERS will see Darwin’s tourist strip in a whole new way tomorrow when hundreds take part in the inaugural Mitchell Street Mile. From families to elite runners, the new race day is set to attract plenty of spectators along the street to watch the best in each of the 10 categories go head to head.

The Poulson boys of Darwin City will run with their dad Duncan and mum Kathy Gardenal. “I like competing,” said Oliver, 8. “Running keeps you healthy, and it’s fun, and this is pretty cool,” Dominic, 10, said. “The boys run for Darwin Walkers and Running Club, and we think something like this is great in bringing the city community together,” Mr Poulson said.

They will see elite runners like Commonwealth Games medalist Craig Mottram and Lisa Corrigan, Australia’s women’s mile record holder. “An event like this gets everyone active,” she said. “I’ve never been up here... the heat is a big shock, but it’s always good to promote health and physical activity.”

While she and women’s cross country champion Brayde Delaney considered also entering the three-legged race, they gave the course their tick of approval.

Athletics NT general manager John Bowden said the Mitchell Street Mile would be providing something for everyone. “We’re so happy with the numbers we’ve already got, it’s really family oriented,” he said.

For us it’s about making the whole area family friendly, to promote health and fitness, and to also engage our Asian partners long term.”

As part of the NT Festivals’ calendar of sporting events, it is hoped Asian tourists who are keen on fun runs will in the long term support the Mitchell Street Mile. “This is a unique event and the only race of its kind in Australia, so it is all set to be an exciting day,” Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing Matt Conlan said.

The day will also have a family fun zone at Tamarind Park, which will include jumping castles, face painting and a fundraising barbecue. Online entries will be taken until 10am on Sunday, with walk-up entries available on the day from 10am until half an hour before each race. Racegoers can also sign up at the Parap Markets this morning.