

## Three Hour Cyclegaine event report from the third place Mens Team

The last time I had been out at Hidden Vale was for the Upside Down Rogaine in 2009 with Liam Town (the bearded, impoverished student doing the finish computer). At that time, somewhere around 4am in the morning, I made a mental note that the bike tracks here looked pretty friendly and my kids would really enjoy them. Thus when the cyclegaine popped up on the Rogaine calendar it was diarised to be a family event.

The plan was to take my sons Daniel (aged 10) and Ryan (aged 8) and participate in the shorter three hour event. We went out for a mountain bike ride last weekend as practice and the kids were ready to roll. As an ulterior motive, I also figured that by having two small kids we would be a dead-cert for the Junior division but alas the rules stated all participants had to be young. Oh well, we still had a crack at the family category. (Note this plan was also thwarted when Ryan awoke sick on the morning of the event). Reminding myself that this was to be fun and not serious we enlisted one of Daniel's friends, Johannes, ruling us out of the family category and our only prospect of victory was to take out Mens Open.

Daniel had done one Rogaine previously (the Ewen Maddock bigaine a few years back) and continued his trend of only doing rogaines where one could sit down the entire event. For Johannes this was his first rogaine (this didn't help us sneak into the novice category either apparently).

We decided pretty early on that the mountain biking alone would be difficult enough for the kids and the idea of them looking at a map whilst riding was just going to result in injury. If you think I am being too pessimistic, look at the accompanying eight second [video](#) of them in the grassed area before we even start. Thus I took on-board the planning responsibilities whilst they played in the dam.

It was to be a simple course somewhere between 5 to 7 controls on the more interesting single-track area and away from the roads. It relied upon us averaging between five and six kilometres per hour which should allow for plenty of rest breaks. The plan was also to walk one of the controls to give them a break off the bike.

Navigationally, the first two legs seemed to be permanently on the cusp of disaster (Controls 43 and 54). None of the tracks we were riding made any sense at all on the map. Where a track was meant to be contouring around a hill we were crossing watercourses and where a control was meant to be near a watercourse/track junction we found it on the middle of a spur. After about an hour of confusion, albeit we luckily did go direct to the controls, an executive decision was made that all the tracks were in the wrong spot on the map but relative to each other they were correct. It had appeared that all the tracks had shifted North-West of where they

were meant to be on the map. [ed: unfortunately true, the tracks were mapped by GPS but these weren't lined up closely enough to the rest of the map]

The kids spirits were lifted halfway through with a 15 minute play around the old airplane north of control 54 and our walking control was to be the Yowie track out to the 90 pointer control 92. They just had one big hill to ride up on the way home halfway between 51 and 62 and it was then a very pleasant finish along some of the nicest tracks to 62 and 22; this was there most enjoyable riding.

We returned earlier than most teams and the following photo shows an early results board with us leading Mens Open.



We eventually finished 5<sup>th</sup> out of 12 twelve teams and third in Mens Open on the 3-hr event. Distance covered was 16k which was pretty much in line with the plan and time out on the course was around 2:40 hrs of which we were moving 1:50 hrs.

Thanks to Spicers and the organisers for a day of single track the kids enjoyed greatly.