

The 2016 Queensland Rogaine Championships – the “Gold Rush” Rogaine - Organisers Report.

Paul Frylink, Tim McIntyre, Suwati Lowth – May 2016.

Tim and I have recently been on about a 4 year cycle for organising Rogaines and it seemed like only yesterday that we had organised the ‘Diaper Creek’ Rogaine, so when the call came out to give Suwati a hand with the 2016 Qld Rogaine Champs, we were both a bit hesitant to commit once again so soon. But as the tone of the requests became more urgent, Tim put our hands up...

Right then, when is this event? May – OK better get our skates on. With the compressed time frame, we would need all the help we could get. Land / Maps / Catering / Site visits all started to be discussed. A site visit was arranged; we checked out the area and met a couple of the landowners and caterers. It was all looking very positive.

Initially we were worried we wouldn’t have enough area for a 24 hour event, but then along came local landowner and Rogainer Mark Murray who organised further land access. In the end, we called a halt at around 190km<sup>2</sup>!

Time was ticking away, so I cobbled together a map and a rough course layout which we could take to site. Our first (and only!) course setting weekend was arranged just 3 weeks before the event. Ryan Langley put his hand up to help with control hanging. Andrew Gills also joined us for a day. This allowed us to split into 2 teams, resulting in the entire course being set in one solid weekend – quite a relief.

With the course set, the three of us busied ourselves with various tasks to pull the event together. In the end, we were quite pleased with the area, the map, the course and a centrally located HH. My main aim as a course setter is to make the course big enough so collecting all controls by a single team is very unlikely, yet provide sufficient but no obvious route options such that every control gets visited.

All our efforts paid off as (with the exception of an overloaded trailer issue...) everything worked like clockwork on the weekend of the event. Nobody ‘got the lot’ and all controls were visited by at least one team. All the positive feedback received from everyone was a great reward for our efforts.

We ended up with 110 entrants in about 50 teams – 20 teams in the 24 hour and 27 teams in the 15 hour.

Congratulations to Qld champions and outright winners Liam St Pierre and David Schloss who travelled in excess of 100km to amass 2180 points – 130 points clear of second place Paul Guard and Tony Scott on 2050 points with Lukas Cann and Stephen Wallis coming 3<sup>rd</sup> on 1500 points.

The 15 hour event was won by Dennis Scott and Gary Sutherland, accruing an impressive 1430 points – 260 points clear of second place getters Steve Wise and Kim Beckinsale on 1170 points.

I hope everybody enjoyed the event and achieved what you had set out to achieve – there were some tricky areas to keep you on your toes and fairly flat areas making for challenging navigation at night.

The landowners (8 properties in total) were all incredibly supportive and cooperative for which we cannot thank them enough :

- John and Shannon Griffith "Ennisclare" + "Columba"
- Mark Murray "Ennisclare" + "Columba"
- Mark Russell "Weyunga"
- Sandy Smith "Allendale"
- Bruce and Angela McLeish "Warahgai"
- Adam Markovich
- Graeme and Megan Fearby
- Michael Welsh

And a huge round of applause to the Karara P&C for providing excellent food throughout the event, with special thanks to Megan Fearby for her untiring and contagious enthusiasm pulling it all together.

Many thanks to the following volunteers who helped us with the setup and running of the event : My neighbour Dan who assisted with absolutely everything, Fiona McIntyre and Jacqueline Dukino who assisted with numerous tasks, particularly volunteering for the night shift. It was also pleasing that a number of people stayed back after the presentation to assist with the packup – very much appreciated thank you.

Even more pleasing were offers to assist with control collection – many thanks to Ula and Mick, Kevin and Richard.

And finally Tim and Suwati, I think it is safe to say we all had a blast, from meals at the pub to driving all over the country side and meeting some fabulous people.

Suwati's enthusiasm for 4wding even surpasses mine and her skill at getting Woollies to sponsor the food for the water points was impressive. Welcome to the team 😊

Paul Frylink