

**Event: NQ Beaches Metrogaine**

**Date: 3/7/05**

**Venue: Trinity Beach**

### **Organiser's Report**

The event kicked off at 9:00a.m. with an unexpected 117 entrants. There were two categories Hike and Bike. With a total of 50 controls it was going to be a difficult task to pick up all markers. Points tallied to 2290. The course went as far south as Trinity Park and North to Clifton Beach. Westward the course passed across the highway close to the Smithfield mountain bike tracks. The day temperature was about 28 degrees, but quite cool due to the gusty winds.

The first teams started arriving back around 11:30a.m only then having to try and pick up control 66 in the water. Not too many people minded going for a dip and were extremely happy to consume the nibbles and a well cooked sausage.

The top 3 teams of each category are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Bike Team 27 Struan Lamont, Dave Wood, Brett Smith. 2210 points

2<sup>nd</sup> Bike Team 14 Louise Carver, Michelle Newstead, Jordan Hougan 1990 points

3<sup>rd</sup> Bike Team 29 Brian Springell, Fiona Hall 1980 Points.

**Note: Team 27 only missed one control**

1st Hike Team 24 Lawrie, Jeremy and Simon Owens 990 Points

2<sup>nd</sup> Hike Team 33 Simone Bignell, Jono Bleakley 970 points

3<sup>rd</sup> Hike Team 1 Mike Coleman, John Harders 930 Points

The feedback from the event was that everyone loved the course and the markers indicated were placed in the correct positions.

For future events it is essential that everyone tries and enters online. As of 3 days before the event only about 70 competitors had indicated they were participating. This makes it extremely difficult to cater, organise maps, etc. I didn't charge late fees. This is unlikely to happen at future events.

Overall the event was enjoyed by all and it was a pleasure to see quite a few new faces to the rogaining scene.

**Brett Wilson Event Organiser**

## **Bike Winners Report**

### **Team 27 - Dave Wood, Struan Lamont, Brett Smith**

With the city still recovering from the onslaught of rogainers at last years Metrogaine, the beaches seemed like a perfect place to hold this year's event. Brett and Renee Wilson worked tirelessly in the weeks leading up to it, placing sticky coloured dots all over Trinity Beach, Trinity Park and Kewarra Beach.

117 Cyclists and Walkers lined up on the day and took off in all directions shortly after 9am. There were 50 dots ( checkpoints) available to visit; quick calculations revealed that's about one every 3.6 minutes. Throw in a strong head wind, some healthy hills and a swim and we'd be sure to be calling on that extra bowl of cereal from this morning's breakfast.

Our team began with a quick sprint around North Trinity before heading south around the rocky headland to Trinity Park. There was a short detour up the hill to no.100 but it was the wet sloping rocks of the headland mixed with metal studded cycling shoes that soon blew out our 3.6 minute goal. No. 85 at the end of Trinity Park Beach refused to be found even though we leaned our bikes against the dead tree on which the ribbon was apparently placed. This mixed with a variety of other strings hanging from trees in the area quickly confused our little brains and again the 3.6 minute goal was blown out.

So we took off around Bluewater then onto the Germans house on the hill and surrounding areas. Our first puncture hit us as we negotiated the wrecked green car and steep dirt incline up to the very enviable house block. A little slit in the side wall was the cause and would come back to haunt us later on in the event.

From here we headed north at 50km/h along the highway with the help of a good tailwind.

Kewarra Beach was the next point of call and the close checkpoints started to bring the average back close to 3.6 minutes. Thanks to some well thought out course setting, and a bit of luck, we found many paths, bike tracks, and dog paths that linked up many of the cul-de-sacs in the Kewarra / Trinity Beach Suburbs.

With time running out, advice from locals proved more of a hindrance, and the last 15 minutes were a sprint. Thankfully we got to the beach with just enough time for the dip to collect the last checkpoint and grab a sausage before the 3hours time limit was reached.

All in all a great event, a great crew of competitors and a great BBQ afterwards. Well done Brett!

## **Hike Winners Report**

### **Team 24 - Lawrie, Jeremy & Simons Owens**

And so the post-mortem begins! In our household, not every member goes to the rogaine, but all have to suffer the endless series of ‘what if’s’ for the next week or two.

This winning team consisted of father, Lawrie, and sons, Jeremy and Simon. Dear old Dad is moderately fit – he does attempt these things after all! Jeremy is a bit of a cruiser, happy to go along and enjoy the scenery, and sometimes gets a bomb under him and can pull out all the stops. But not this time. Simon is a teenager – bullet proof, keen, with a view to go out and grab the world and everything that comes his way – including getting those elusive check points. We could even see Simon thinking that he could keep up with the pushbikes on foot!

So the day began.

There was remotely mutual understanding on the general flow of the course, with a vague agreement to go in the circuitous route that they ended up taking. Bravely these adventurers set out down the beach to find the first markers – checkpoints 53 and 49. No problems. Then they proceeded to follow the crowd, meandering down the beach with a sense that checkpoint 67 might have been accessed by a track from the beach. The arguments began! Backtracking and eventually finding 67.

From here the boys starting jogging, it was downhill. Even dear old Dad had a chance. Checkpoints 22, 21 and 36 were accomplished with ease, followed closely by 38, 26, 39, 47, 25 and 90. Bit breathless by then.

Do-or-die Simon thought it would only be a hop, skip and a jump to detour over to Clifton Beach. Dad was not too keen on Simon’s ability to perform CPR. Age and wisdom prevailed. The team proceeded to 35 and 33, the background static (whinging from Simon) continued. Onward to 56, 34, 42 and 50.

Team democracy (aka obstinate old age) broke down at this point. Simon decided to take the reins and lead to 103. At a brisk jog....for the first few breaths. Even Simon conceded that this was a rather steep rise. And everyone else took great glee for the next few days when he had difficulty walking! They all did – he just moaned and complained more. This checkpoint was also a bit tricky to locate. Blinded by exhaustion? Onward our adventurers proceeded, albeit with less complaints from Simon who had realised his mortality a bit more at this stage. The other two realised this well back; years ago. Peace.

23, 27, 37, 28 and back to the beach.

With time on their hands! A chance to grab 17 and 55. Much searching for 14 and could not find the ‘meter sign’. Must have been too obvious!

15 minutes to go. Checkpoint 66 was within reach. The voice of humbug, Jeremy – You'll never make it! A quick swim. Used to train every day. Used to! More like a dash and drown. But they got it.

And won. And the post-mortems continue even as this is typed. Thanks, from all of us, to the organisers for a well-run and very entertaining event. Until the next one!

Author – household logistic support.