

# Mayday-Mayday Multisport Rogaines

*What a hell of a week end.*

Well we thought so anyway. Leading up to Friday, the weather was not looking to go our way at all. Then on Saturday morning as though we were blessed, the skies cleared and the sun's warmth bore down on us once again. The scene was set for a great week end of Rogaining.

After 4 week ends of planning and putting check points in place, it was now time for the gifted and not so gifted navigators to have their go. When I say "not so gifted", I don't mean any disrespect at all. As some of the "1<sup>st</sup> timers to our exciting sport, chose the 24 hour event without really knowing what was in store for them, they boldly went forth.

In the week prior to the start, I found my self pondering at times, "what if a team gets them all", "clears the course". Looking at it mathematically, there were 52 points to get over 24 hours, in an area covering 304 square kilometres. So to clear it would mean getting a check point every 28 minutes that is on average nearly 6 square kilometres away from the last. It was not to be. The course was not to be beaten by the best we had to attempt it.

Team "Rat pack" with Terry McClelland, Brett Wilson and new member Jana Kaepler were the closest to do so with a score of 1420 points out of 2820 available. 2<sup>nd</sup> was "Team Dingo" with Adam Fletcher, Diane Owens, Shane White and Maxi Bernstone only 70 points behind. 3<sup>rd</sup> place was a fantastic effort by a Sydney based father and son team "Team Hardtale.com.aged care, of Matt and Greg Bacon. Without the local knowledge of the 1s 2 teams, makes their effort more commendable. Our 1<sup>st</sup> all female team were also our 4<sup>th</sup> place team overall and only 10 points behind 3<sup>rd</sup>. Well done girls, a fantastic result by "teamassaurus" including Michelle Newstead, Jordan Hougan, Rebecca Pople and Louise Carver.

Unfortunately none of the teams attempted a hike out to 3 points valued at 600 points collectively. It was tempting them, but could have been the downfall of the team that tried. Good strategy to stay away.

In the 12 hour event that started at 2am Sunday morning, numbers were low due to the unnatural start time. Those mad enough to start enjoyed a beautiful star filled sky with a slight nip in the air. Veterans of the sport and tireless workers in the adventure sport community "Team Greyfox" showed that if you're over the hill, doesn't mean you can't climb over it. 2<sup>nd</sup> place was taken out by relative newcomers team "Boobooks" with Louise Hately and Andrew Burrows just beating team "Something Funky" with Matthew Vidler, James Stokes, Yvonne Nathan and Michael Gooiker only 10 points behind.

The 6 hour event was the largest field with 23 teams contesting a hotly fought battle ending with the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 places separated by only 100 points. In the end team "Hellowi with Tony Marnane and Bradley Weaver winning over "Team Phoenix" with Sue Donoghoe and Peter Macartney by only 22 points with "The Towsvillians" Dana Ainsworth, Cameron Atkinson and Jon Collins not far behind.

Rounding off the weekend festivities saw the 3 hour event entries growing in numbers as the start drew closer. Some of these teams didn't know how to use a compass, but were out there to have some fun any way. The honours went to "Four blind mice" with Tony Webster, Greg Keith, Mick Giudice and Doug Crees narrowly holding out "Where's Dave" with Patrick Brown and David Kirkpatrick only 20 points behind. 3<sup>rd</sup> place was taken by a family entry "Agent Cody Banks" with dad Michael Short, Lachlan Short and Connie Short.

With the sun fading behind the mountains, the crowds waited, [and waited] on the grassy slopes of Camp Barrabadine for the all important Random draws. With over \$5000 of prizes and give-aways, few went away empty handed.

I would like to thank every one who didn't just help, but made it all possible. Jenny Keys who I think I forgot to thank at the presentations helped out at rego and as much as she could after a knee reconstruction.

I would like also to thank our sponsors Its Extreme, Adventure Equipment, Pump N Pedals, Cairns Plan Printing and Port Douglas Apartments.

I would also like to mention a friend of ours who helped us put out some of the check points and was looking forward to come and have a go at Rogaining. Unfortunately Tim was the Co-pilot on the plane that crashed near Lochart River over the weekend. Our hearts go out to his family and friends in these difficult times ahead. A tragedy for such a young man with so much potential to have his life cut short so early.

The next time we catch up, J and I will be actually racing for a change.

Cu out there soon.

Pb n J