

24 hour winners report – Great Northern Rogaine 6th / 7th May 2006

I had been looking forward to this event for some time even going as far as organizing a team mate some time in advance, when I caught up with Clayton Bennett at a local orienteering event. For those who know me, this is not very typical of me; I usually just turn up and find someone on the day. Coming from Townsville and all of the events, being organized out of Cairns, it is sometimes hard to find willing team mates. Then a couple of weeks before the event at Shane's 30th birthday, I eliminated the competition by inviting Adam Fletcher to join our team.

On the day, we had very limited planning time and just came up with a basic plan of attack and thought we had 24 hours to plan the rest of our race. We initially headed off on the bikes to the south of the hash house, with no great plan. We decided initially that we would tackle the big points in and around the major hill south of the hash house, then head east and collect all the controls down that way before heading back to the hash house to refuel. We arrived back at the hash at around 10pm with Adam suffering sleep deprivation from being up late all week doing the admin for the event and trying to set up the electronic control system. So Clayton and I felt sorry for him and let him have a nap for about 90mins, while we enjoyed a rest at the hash house. While we were there several other teams came in and informed us of how it took them an hour to get to their first control going to the north of the map and it was only worth 20points. With this information on board we immediately dismissed this part of the course and headed to the extreme west of the map and cleaned up all the check points down this way for the remainder of the time, finishing back at the hash house with around 10 minutes to spare.

It was a great event, with a very well planned course. I would like to thank the Australian Wildlife Conservancy for allowing us to use the property, although the only wildlife I saw was cane toads and two snakes. A big thanks to Shane for setting the course and his sister and father for assisting with the catering, Adam for helping out the admin and all the other people who made the event a possibility.

For the 24hour event we went 47, 1, 18, 23, 25, 24, 17, 55, 10, 45, 13, 44, 46, 14, 43, 42, 26, looked for 41 and couldn't find it then 37, 38, 39, 36, hash 49, 6, 33, 52, 51, 50, 5, 8, 60, 4, 15, 3, 11, hash.

Tony Bowman

Dad and Me

Winners - Three hour event

Dad and I had planned to do the 3 hour rogaine, just the two of us. But on Saturday night the team grew to include my two cousins, Connor and Malindi and Dad's friend Markus.

And so the five of us set off on Sunday morning, at the very civilised time of 10am- much to Dad's delight, as there was time for bacon, eggs and coffee beforehand! It was pretty hot and clear by the time we started walking, but we had plenty of water and incentives (as in lollies) to keep us going. First checkpoint was number 48, a bit of a scramble up a hill, where we met mum

and Andrea on their 12 hour split event. It was an easy checkpoint to find, as there was a lot of grass pushed down by other people in the rogaine.

Then we decided to go towards the cemetery, off the main road. On the way we saw the checkpoint in the distance – it was pretty easy to get. We kept walking down the dirt road, until we saw a clearing (scrape), and a sort of dam. Us kids decided to sit this one out in the shade, while Dad and Markus went off to get checkpoint number 1, at the end of the dam. Then Dad had a rush of blood to the head and he and Markus decided to jog up the steep track to the lookout at number 18.

By the time they got down, it was getting towards the end of the time we had, and we still had a long way back to go, along the dirt road and then the bitumen. Halfway along the bitumen Dad called out that we had better start running back or else we would be over time. I took off, and Malindi followed. Connor was feeling the heat, so luckily Dad came along and held his hand all the way home while running. We just made it in time and Malindi and I put the tag under the clicker. We were really pleased with our 180 points, but we had to walk 12 kilometres to get them – a long way! I won a random draw prize of a bottle of \$25.00 sun screen.

Marlee Kruger