

“No Surrender Nukinenda” 2006 Queensland Rogaine championships.

8-9 July 2006 – Co-organisers report.

Paul Frylink on behalf of the organising team (Tony Scott, Paul Guard, Tim McIntyre, PF)

As I sit down to finish this report off, the 2006 Queensland Rogaine championships seem like a distant memory – in fact it has taken me longer to finish this report than the time we had to set and organise the event!

The first thing I need to do is thank the land owners for allowing us to roam all over their land. We used a total of 6 properties for this event – without the cooperation of all of the following land owners, the event would not have been the success it was.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---|
| • Ken Tickle | Nukinenda | Southern, central and western part of map |
| • Lindsay Berg | Silverton | North-western part of map |
| • Sandy Savage | Savage property | Heavily vegetated area central-north |
| • Tony Collins | Waterhole Gully | Northern part of map |
| • Andrew Medcalf | Milford Rocks | Eastern part of map |
| • Ray Cross / Ken Brown | Lyndhurst | South-east part of map |

Particular thanks must go to Ken Tickle of Nukinenda. Not only was he happy for us to use his land for the Hash house, but he went out of his way to find us a water truck for the event as well as allowing us to use his supply of firewood.

From the organisational side of things, the compressed time frame we had to put the event together meant a couple of hiccoughs behind the scenes. But in the end, with a bit of hard work - certainly from my perspective, the event was a resounding success.

In my opinion, some of the best rogaining terrain I have seen, presented on a great map produced by Paul, coupled with good weather (albeit a tad cool overnight) and very positive comments from all of you, made all the hard work worthwhile.

We had around 170 participants in over 70 teams. Most popular event was the 6 hour with 34 teams, followed by the 15 hour with 21 teams and 24 hour with 17 teams.

From a course setters point of view, it was very pleasing to see an even spread of teams going in all directions from the start. I tried to create an even spread of controls without any obvious routes, so it was satisfying when analysing the team routes to discover how diverse the team routes were. Every control was visited by at least one of the 24 hour teams. The 15 hour teams visited all but one control (50) and the 6 hour teams visited most controls within a 7km radius of the HH.

Using the electronic punches (Navlight system) combined with the digital map data has allowed us to do some interesting analysis of the team routes. On the QRA web site you will find some files to play with.

- There is an excel spreadsheet which lists the order of controls visited by each team - adding the coordinates of each control to the spreadsheet has allowed such things as average speed, distances and point rates to be calculated (based on straight line distances between controls).
- There is a summary spreadsheet showing just the overall totals and averages for each teams route – this allows some pretty graphs to be created.
- There is a google earth overlay file showing the team routes overlayed onto the map which is inturn overlayed on the satellite imagery. The map and individual teams can be turned on and off as desired. It is also fun looking at the area in 3D.
- Finally there is a DWF file – if you download the free viewer, you will be able to pan around and zoom in to see where each team travelled. Each team is drawn in a different colour and their travel direction is indicated by arrows. It is usually best to turn off all the teams and then turn on only the ones you want to study. (right-click on the map and select layers).

There were strong performances in all events.

Overall winners of the 24 hour event, were Robbie Andrews and Rob Gowland on 2050 points. Hot on their heels were Mark Nemeth and David Firman only 10 point behind on 2040 points. It is worth mentioning the importance of the 10 pointers – If Mark & Dave had remembered to punch at one of the 10 point waterpoints, they would have won as they returned 13 minutes earlier than Rob & Rob! It was actually fairly crowded near the top with the first 5 teams all between 2000 and 2050 points – quite interesting as analysing the routes of the top 5 teams reveals completely different routes.

The 15 hour event proved quite popular.

Again, it was close at the top with the winners Merrick Ekins and Liam Town on 1290 points just 10 points ahead of Phil & Judy Scott on 1280 points – also quite different routes taken.

Winners of the 6 hour event were Matthew Groves and Matthew Bourke (team 66) who covered an impressive 35.5km to score an equally impressive 1020 points. Their average speed of 6km/h resulted in them being 330 points clear of 2nd and 3rd place getters – who were both on 690 points.

While the 6 hour winners had the fastest point gain of any team with 171 points / hour, their efficiency rate of 28.7 pts/km was outfoxed by Roger and Amanda Guard (team 28). With a rate of nearly 30 points/km, they had the route with the highest yield of any team in all 3 events – well planned folks.

Have a look at the summaries spreadsheet described above to see how your team's route rated in efficiency. You can sort the data by any of the columns and create your own graphs.

Thanks to all those people who helped us out during the event – some names spring to mind – Wendy Read, Meredyth and Trevor Sauer. Big thanks to Jo Scott for organising the catering and also the Crows Nest scout group for the final Sunday lunch. Thanks also to the people who pitched in after the presentation to pull down tarps etc. and to the people who willingly went out to collect controls – all of your help was greatly appreciated.

Thanks to Ant Michelle who vetted the course for us and thanks also to my dad who came up to Brisbane for a visit and got roped into helping me construct 60 BAM's (Bovine Anti Masticate device)!.- they seemed to do the trick with only one Navlight mis-behaving due to tampering.

It is worth mentioning a couple of low points. Already tired from very little sleep, we returned to the HH at around 5:15pm after collecting controls on Sunday afternoon of the event, to the realisation that all the gear still had to be packed up and put into the trailer as well as 2 tents to be taken down – in the dark - with just the same 4 guys to do it. We finally left the HH after 7pm for the drive home – this is where it gets worse. We let Tony and Paul G get a head start with the trailer while Tim & myself went to collect one more control close to the road. About ½ hour later our hearts sank when we rounded a bend on a steep downhill section to be confronted with Paul G's car on its side – slightly comforted by the sight of Paul & Tony standing next to the vehicle uninjured, it was still a "what do we do now" moment. One positive was that the trailer stayed upright. Long story short – Paul's car was righted and he managed to nurse it back to Brisbane – I eventually fell into bed completely exhausted at 1:30am.

Apart from these little negatives, I found the whole thing very satisfying and rewarding. In summary, a very hectic 5 or 6 weeks – my car clocked up over 2000km in total over the 4 consecutive weekends we travelled to the event site – but I had a ball – some people pay good money to crawl around 4wd tracks in low range.

Would I do it all again – Yes...

Finally, to Paul Guard, Tony Scott and Tim McIntyre, thanks for having me along for the ride – it was a buzz.