

Diaper Creek Rogaine 6 September 2014

Organisers report – September 2014. Paul Frylink & Tim McIntyre

I think it was around October 2013 when Tim volunteered us to organise another event – why not I thought, it must be our turn again. With the “Calabash” in 2010 and “Nukinenda” in 2006 before that, Tim and I seem to have entered a four year cycle when it comes to organising Rogaines!

The area

Early this year, Paul Guard and Paul Melloy had done some preliminary landowner liaison in the Brisbane River east branch / Squirrel creek state forest area so that gave us a good head start in selecting a suitable area for a 12 hour Rogaine. A few phone calls, emails and overseas trips later, Tim and I headed out for our first reconnaissance mission at the end of June. We met a key landowner who sounded very positive and the area looked good for Rogaining, and we selected a great HH site on the Brisbane River so it was all falling in to place. We even had a name for the event – “Karrawa”.

Cracks started forming in our plan when a central landowner had concerns about the potential for their new cattle being spooked, so they did not grant us access. This left a sizable hole in the middle of our proposed area. Several map iterations were proposed, but it all fell apart when the key landowner declined us access citing cattle concerns also.

We now had a problem as it was less than 3 months to the event and we were left with a couple of small land parcels plus some State forest – which was probably too small on its own and the usability of which was unknown. Some more phone calls and emails later and we had the Landcruiser Mountain Park on board. Tim and I arranged another recce – this time to the new area – we were both pleased and relieved that both the State forest and LCMP looked great for Rogaining (although the many scratches that we received when walking to the top of Diaper Mountain convinced us that this was not a suitable control site).

OK, 2 months to go, better kick this along - start creating a map so we can do some preliminary course setting. Caterers were arranged, so it was all humming along nicely. Our biggest problem now was coming up with a name for the event. All sorts of amusing names centred on the diaper theme were put forward, I shall spare you from the corny submissions, in the end we decided on the simple, but appropriate Diaper Creek Rogaine.

Setting

One month out, armed with control flags, navlights and an armchair set course, we made our first course setting trip to site. A busy weekend saw us hang about 30 controls and map some vegetation boundaries, tracks etc. The weather forecast for our next visit wasn't looking good, so I made the excuse that I had a wedding to go to. Tim trudged around in the rain solo for a day to hang another 10 flags (still a nice day out). This certainly eased the pressure on our last planned setting trip the weekend before the event.

Tim and I have participated in many Rogaine's together (over 30 at last count), so we walk together setting, vetting and hanging on the fly. We start with an armchair set course, take this into the field and then visit and discuss the merits or otherwise of each chosen control site – adjusting control locations as required. Some of our discussions are longer than others (54 – what's the feature again?), but we believe the end result is a challenging but fair course. We track and verify our course with handheld GPS units.

The map

All Queensland topographic data is freely downloadable from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM), so with appropriate tools, this data can be manipulated into the map you carried around. Having the right tools and resources on hand, I decided to have bash at producing the map myself. I hope you found the end result clear and readable. I also sourced some weatherproof paper called “Monsoon” paper for printing the map on – your feedback on this is encouraged.

The course

To me the goal of course setting is to place more controls than is physically achievable by one team to visit, yet have every control visited. In the end, we did achieve this. All controls were visited by 12 hour teams and all but the 4 controls in the north-western corner of the course were visited by the 6 hour teams - very pleasing. The other challenge for course setters is to avoid any obvious routes from the HH to reduce the chance of a procession. Having our HH site towards one side of the map along with a large patch of green

nearby increased this challenge for us, but watching the teams disperse almost evenly in four different directions from the start was very pleasing. Flicking through the team flight plans after the start revealed vastly different route choices, so we patted ourselves on the back ☺

The teams

With both the Bridge to Brisbane fun run and father's day on Sunday, It was pleasing to see a good turnout to this event. A total of 150 people in 59 teams fronted up on the day - 19 Teams entered the 12 hour event and 40 teams entered the 6 hour event. Maybe you were swayed by my propaganda photos, maybe the lure of hot showers – whatever the case, thanks for coming!

We had lots of family teams and a good turnout of 1st time Rogainers to this event - I hope your team achieved what you set out to do and enjoyed the experience. We hope to see you back to more events in the future.

The results

Outright winners of the 12 Hour Simon Kay, Paul Melloy and Mathew Kerr (Team 25) visited 32 of the 48 controls on offer, amassing 1760 points in the process. Their straight line distance of 41.2 km took them from the southernmost control to the northernmost control and lots in between. They were the only team to visit 84 – fantastic effort guys.

6 hour winners Paul Elby and Liam St Pierre set a cracking pace to cover a straight line distance of 25.5km. Their route took in all 3 of the 100 pointers, amassing 1090 points through the 18 controls they visited – nicely done.

Congratulations to all category winners, detail results and maps with route overlays are available on the QRA website – check them out to see how your route compared with others.

The Hash House

We hope you liked the Hash House site – complete with territorial magpie. Plenty of camping space, short grass, toilets and a shower block up the hill. Our caterers, Megan and Chris did a great job – really lovely food and plenty of it. We discovered that it was actually their 28th wedding anniversary that weekend – nice romantic getaway ☺

Reflection

After a bumpy start, everything turned out well. I'm not sure how many emails Tim and I exchanged, trying to think of all that would be required - lots of hard work, but all the positive feedback from everybody really makes it all worthwhile.

Being a commercial enterprise, Landcruiser Mountain Park charged a fee per head for use of their property and facilities. Upon reflection, I think this turned out quite reasonable for us as it removed a couple of the subtle little organisation tasks from us, such as toilets and rubbish disposal and the hot showers were a real bonus.

With thanks to

Paul Melloy and team for initial land liaison

Landcruiser Mountain Park

Rangers in charge of Diaper State Forest

The Ferlings (landholders to the south)

My Prado for not complaining about days on end in low range and what I pointed it at – well ok, perhaps it did complain once when I bottomed out heavily.

Janelle and Michael Schafer for set-up assistance on Friday evening and Saturday morning

Saturday hash tent putterupperers

Caterers Megan and Chris

Sunday morning Control collectors and packing up helpers

Everybody for coming and enjoying yourselves

Very special thanks to Paul Guard. Paul's help throughout has been invaluable and he has provided his assistance in the face of such devastating family tragedy. RIP Dr Jill Guard and Dr Roger Guard.

Paul Frylink