



Fox on the Run Rogaine

Race Report

Saturday 2 June 2018

Organising a rogaine is a very rewarding experience. In our case the very small organising group went through all of the preparatory stages which then culminated in a very successful event.

The group of organisers consisted of Helen Bedingfeld, Susie Williams-Blissner, Peter McCallum and myself, Gav Blissner. Along the way we were guided by Paul Guard and on the event weekend we were assisted with logistics and set up by Will Cox who lifted all of the heavy things, maintained the dunnies and threw out the dirty dish water. Yes, who would have thought, the event isn't just about visiting a landowner obtaining permission and then selecting a few checkpoints to create a useable course.

Big thanks also go to those groups who collected CPs on Sunday morning. As tired as some were the collection was enjoyed by all as cars or pushbikes could be used which gave a totally different perspective of the course. Thanks to John in his Discovery and Jarad in his Hilux. This timely collection enabled the hire truck to be packed and on the road by 1.15pm.

I've put this part of the event story before the actual "race" report to ensure the full story is read. Often the last paragraph full of names is skipped over way to fast. Besides the helpers these events rely on the generous and honest nature of the landowners and or the managers of parcels of land. Without them there is no event. Also, without our whole group of 130 or so people respecting the generosity of the landowners we wouldn't be allowed back on their land. Congratulations all, my final emu parade to pick up any rubbish provided a bounty of only 3 bottle caps.

Anyway here is an overview of some of the things that occurred on our Fox on the Run journey.

The initial scoping map I printed had somehow stretched during the printing process and unknown to me the 40km course was in fact only 32km. Helen then dealt with a disturbing phone call from a concerned neighbour. As a result of that phone call we needed to drop an area in which we had already placed CPs.

Time progressed, admin was being sorted, a course map was being initialised, caterer's consulted and then a phone call advising that one of our land parcels was now **unavailable**. This was too much land to lose and the think tank was then reconvened 5 weeks before the event date. A bit of a hurry up on our part necessitated a redesign of the course. With an additional 10 new checkpoints, a new Hash House location and a tweak of the map enabled us to get going in the right direction again. We then had somewhere close to 38km of useable course. Just enough land I thought. Just enough land. Perfect!

Almost all was set. Then 2 weeks before the event we were contacted to say we could access an area that we had initially taped. This area was added to the map and we ended up with a 52km direct point to point course. Much more land than we required or so we thought. Thank you Glendon Camping Ground.

Event Day: 47 teams received maps at 10am with a number of stragglers arriving late. This could be put down to a semitailer rollover near Aratula. Kelsey Harvey, I thought you



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came from the Goondiwindi direction? Still a healthy score considering you arrived during briefing.

There were some notable occurrences and achievements during the weekend:

Team 36 opting for extra hydration before the event. Coupled with a very casual departure from the HH on a course that bagged them 920 points. I guess you'll have to come back and try for 1,000 in the future.
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Laughter and tears rolling down the cheeks of fellow team mates when a cactus lodged in the butt of one of their team.
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Very amused officials and bemused 3 team mates, looking for their 4 th 15 mins post event start. I think they caught up to the single team mate at the 1 st CP. Note: keep an eye on the location of your team mates at the rather hectic start of the race.
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The event organiser, yours truly, running over a full box of control flags that he had placed in front of his own car.
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The two old guys in MSV (I can say that because I'm in the same category) achieved 1550 points in 5 hours 25 mins and were the first team to return to the HH. 10 th overall. Impressive!
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Less than 10 of the 47 teams arrived back at the HH before 7.30 pm.

The Taylor Family out for 7 hrs and 32 mins. I guess those not yet mature legs were a bit tired afterwards.

Julie and Jenny taking out the WO & WV category. Impressive for a first time rogainer and a navigator who hasn't rogained for 10 years. Welcome back Jenny!

Our caterers, Meagan, Chris and Hannah once again supplied a hearty dinner and breakfast.

The return of fruit cake, bananas and snakes at the Water Points was welcomed

2300 points were on offer in the 8 hours. Only 2 teams achieved upwards of 2000 pts.

Paul Elby & Steve Amor were close with 1960 points and secured 3rd place overall.

Craig Keeling & Christine Perry were 2nd overall, first Mixed and MV with 2100 pts.

The team that got the highest score and the only one to clear the course (with only 6mins & 3 secs to spare) was Errol Bebbington & Dan Browning. They took away a very big piece of wood (the perpetual 8 hour Trophy) and I'm sure they are proud of their effort.

For anyone volunteering to organise a rogaine, you don't need to set an unachievable course. No matter the effort you put in there will almost always be a team turn up who may be able to sweep the course. If a number of teams sweep the course then the fastest team wins. Looking back I'm glad we, as Organisers, lost some of our available



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land and had to search for more. Given Errol and Dan's average speed was 7 kph, our original 38km course could have been cleared in 5 ½ hours. Saying that, this course terrain allowed for very fast travel in an open and relatively flat area. This course can't be compared to some of the others around Glen Rock or Wivenhoe Dam area.

We hope you enjoyed the event and will welcome you again when next we take on the task.

Thanks for the experience.

Gavin Blissner