

Bunyaville 3hr Mini Rogaine
28th March 2021

One Monday night in late November 2020, I get an email from Sue Clarke asking if I'll consider organising the mini rogaine in March 2021. In it she told me "don't worry it's an easy event to cut your teeth on. Just follow this plan and it'll be right". Ok said I'll have a go. I used to think I appreciated how much work went into organising an event. Well, I can honestly say it was far more than I thought, and this was only a 3hr event. I have enjoyed the experience and it was wonderful to see those that participated enjoyed the day.

I put in our permit application for the normal 200 participants, and I set up a course with 33 controls with the aim of challenging the more experienced Rogainer and fun for the novice and families. Then Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QPWS) had other ideas.

QPWS placed more restriction on the event than had been in the past. This included restricting numbers to 150, requiring two separate courses with a maximum of 120 competitors on a course, and strict requirements on where to park.

Having two courses meant lots more controls as QPWS only allowed 3 controls to overlap both maps. It's a good job my husband, Richard, likes going for walks as several weekend and odd days during the week were spent walking Bunyaville marking out the controls.

We quickly filled the event and had several people on the waiting. Covid, raised its ugly head again in Brisbane but we managed to get the event in, and the day ran smoothly. It was really lovely seeing all the families out with children in wide age ranges from babies in carriers, toddlers running round with compass in hand, to teenagers out for the day with Dad. Everyone was full of smiles at the end of the event and full of compliments on the courses. Though I reckon the surprise of the Easter eggs when they returned broadened those smiles.

The Booth Family (Oskar, Katy, Theo & Ashton) who despite returning 10 mins late and loosing 100 points still managed to win the short course with 540 out of 730. Sara Bennett, Craig Keeling & Trevor Mullens were the only team to clear the long course with 9 minutes to spare. Full results are here <https://qldrogaine.asn.au/results/>

I would not have been able to achieve this without the tireless help of others volunteering. So, a huge thank you is owed to: -

- Sue Clarke & Walter Kelemen for all their support in vetting the course, hanging & collecting controls, on the day for assisting with everything from parking to photographs. Though most importantly for mentoring me through the process and answering my constant emails.
- Dave Congreve for vetting the course, hanging & collecting controls and assisting on the day.
- Richard Crossley for putting up with me saying yes to most things including joining the committee despite saying I wouldn't, walking km's to set up the courses and then going out and hanging & collecting controls and assisting on the day.
- Darryn & Fiona Quinn for travelling down from the Sunshine Coast to hang controls
- Dean Williams for hanging controls
- Liam St Pierre for printing the maps

- Paul Guard for answering my many, many emails on relating to the admin of the waiting list and setting up results.

I'd like to thank the competitors for making the day so enjoyable and the following teams, who saved me from a long week of control collecting: -

- Team 13 – Jack Wright & Jack Spence
- Team 33 – Charlotte Petersen & Michael McCluskey
- Team 51 – Melody De Laat & Allan Bourke
- Team 56 – Jennifer Gale & Chris Gale, who cycled 17 km to collect 4 controls

Finally, I'd like to thank Ian Witheyman, QPWS Project Ranger D'Aguilar, for all his help with the permit and assisting with looking at future sites for Rogaine Events.

Fiona Crossley