

COORDINATOR'S REPORT, Trevor Gollan 18-Jun

Belanglo has been used many times for rogaining and orienteering but it remains a convenient and attractive area for bushwalking. I wanted a course that explored some different extremities, big enough to disperse the larger crowd, while rewarding a stroll through the pine forest for our genteel participants.

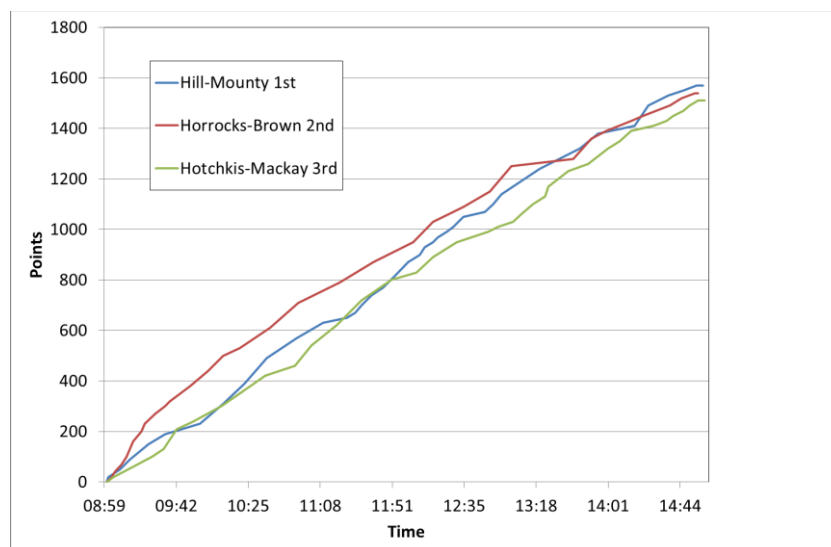
The western side is protected by unfriendly landowners and Balkan paramilitary, the south side by serious clifflines which we explored and rejected, but the north became available when we discovered the Biloela Outdoor Experience bushcamp and their walking tracks into the Wingecarribee valley. That was somewhere new and pleasant.

THE COMPETITION

I was pleased to see that the top three teams chose very different paths and departed the Hash House in totally different directions. Between them they visited all the controls except #85, which reflects their various approaches.

Andrew & Richard quickly went to the north, at #100 by 10:36, then down the eastern side to #102 and around the Out-of-Bounds to the HH. Glenn & Andrew started with the rich scoring in the pines then north to #83 by 10:38, then the longer distances for 3 hours to #100 and #101 before returning to mop up a few flags near the HH. Mike & Joel started to the west, ignoring #101 then to the north and #100/83, up on the plateau at #35 after 3 hours then criss-crossing the pines for the next 3 hours.

Mike provided the following graph of the top three teams' progress, how they scored over time, and it shows the winners being ahead for only the last 45 minutes of the 6 hours. I wonder whether the 2nd and 3rd placed teams were affected by their crossing of the Red Arm and Longacre valleys – the traverse between 63 and 40. The winners instead chose the loop around the south which may have had less points but was flatter and faster than the north-west.



It's notable that Andrew & Richard defended their win at the 2013 Paddy Pallin at Glenbrook, and that Glenn Horrocks also ran 2nd last year (with a different partner in Patrick Gunnarsson). These fast, fit and focussed teams are impressive.

THE WEATHER

We had impeccable weather while setting the course, so it was unfortunate that 5mm of rain fell at the start of our event, including steady drizzle from 08:00 to 10:30. Fortunately the rain and cloud lifted, there was even a touch of blue sky, and it became a typical winters day that one should expect in the highlands. The protection provided by the extra large marquee was certainly appreciated – in all we provided 216 square metres of tent coverage. And of course the day after the event was clear, blue sky again ... c'est la vie.

SAFETY

As coordinator it is always a great relief to have all teams safely back to the Hash House in a reasonable time, and no injuries reported. Thanks BWRS for your support of the event.

MANY THANKS

Course Setting: Ian Almond, Vince Carolan, Ted Booth, Phil Allen, Graham Field, Tristan White, Pawel Wagner, Peter Gray & Derek set, vetted and/or hung flags. Bert Van Netten & Anita Bickle hung and collected flags, and suggested #42 wasn't a good control.

Administration & Roustabouts: Capably guided by Belinda McLean & Anita Bickle, with Bert Van Netten, Ian & Jenny Almond, Graham Field, Kay Gollan & Vince Carolan. Thanks Grant and Alistair from Waitara Scouts for lighting and sound system assistance.

Catering: Waitara Scouts maintained their high standards, with Keith Fone leading their flotilla of equipment and avid helpers. They had an all-time record of 45 helpers this year.

Paddy Pallin (<http://www.paddypallin.com.au/>) for providing some great prizes and event promotion.

NSW Forestry Corporation – for helpful access to the State Forest

Biloela Bush Camp – for allowing us through their land in the north. Check them out at <http://www.biloelabushcamp.org.au/>

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

I've put a bunch of pictures on the Rogaining NSW Facebook page. Have a look and feel free to share your pics.

(<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10152450242469089&type=1>)

And please contribute to the Forum – we really love to hear your stories, trip reports, comments and complaints. What animals did you encounter? Did you see the albino deer, like Vince did? Do we really need Superveteran prizes for the Women and Mixed categories? With 12 teams in Mixed Super Veterans perhaps we should, then again we had 17 Novice teams.