

# **Safety Officers Report Autumn Rogaine April 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

## **Location: Gundy – in the Upper Hunter Valley**

Map: - Supplied Rogaining map (based on Gundy and Parkville 1:25,000 Topographic Maps).

**Date: April 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**(2 events 15 hour in 24, and 24 hour - 12 noon Saturday to 12 noon Sunday.)**

**BWRS personnel:** - Chris Cunningham, Marcia Kaye, Geoff Dale, Brian Stirk, Thaïs Turner, (Dug Floyd assisted in setup and pull down)

## **Introduction**

Approximately 185 registered competitors enjoyed the beautiful Upper Hunter landscape albeit under a cloudy occasionally drizzly sky and occasional thick fog on the higher ground, for the NSW Autumn Rogaine, held on private land at Gundy. The 24 hour event had about 32 teams with about 83 members entered, the 15 hour in 24 event had about 39 teams with about 102 members entered.

BWRS base tent was set up close to the administration and Hash House. These were on The Gundy Showground. A great location with a large grassed paddock with a few shade trees. A very experienced management committee ran the event. All competitors were provided with an accurate map and checkpoint descriptions. The pre-event briefing covered all likely problems such as very steep terrain with many unmarked cliff lines, vehicular traffic on roads, out of bounds areas, etc.

A Safety Plan was prepared based on past NSW Rogaining Safety Plans. This was forwarded to the NSW Police Area command at Muswellbrook and to the NSW Ambulance Service area headquarters at Hamilton.

BWRS provided :-

- 5 members as Safety Coordinator and Safety Response Teams. (Dug Floyd assisted in preparation and distribution of the Safety Plan and also to setup and pull down of base.)
- Troopie,
- Trailer,
- Base tent and equipment,
- HF and UHF radio equipment, GPS's and PLB's,
- First aid equipment, stretchers.

## **Event**

I am pleased to report there were no major incidents requiring BWRS input this year. The minor incidents recorded were:-

- Team 29 sent an SMS message at 4:45am Sun to say they were lost in thick fog on the north eastern part of the course and that they were heading south east to pick up the Gundy Road. They did not give a last checkpoint visited. A text message was sent requesting the last CP. This team arrived

back at the hash house during the morning.

- One un-named team was reported as returning from the All Night Cafe, along Kewell Creek back to the hash house, with a limping team member. Two members took the troopie to try and meet them along the drivable section of the track. At the limit of prudent driving, the members walked beside the creek towards CP65, half way to the ANC. They met four teams but couldn't get any information regarding the damaged team. They returned to base. A squad UHF radio was lost on the walk. The team retraced their steps, speaking on another radio but couldn't find the radio. (The organisers were informed in the hope a flag retrieval team may find the radio).
- During the retrieval of the water drops at the end of the event, the troopie team picked up an overdue team.
- Three teams were late to return, including the team picked up by the troopie.
- BWRS took the water drops into the field and recovered them after the event.

BWRS Troopie made several sweeps to the water drops, this also acted as a safety patrol, as competitors were advised to use the water drops and roads if they required assistance.

At base we set up HF radio on the frequency schedule advised by Mike. In general there was good reception with the troopie in all parts of the course we could visit. On a couple of runs reception was lost during transmission and the tune button on the troopie radio was used to recover reception. UHF reception between the troopie and hand-helds was acceptable.

Chris, Thaïs, Brian and Geoff got to drive the troopie under operational conditions. There was some rain during the event resulting in slippery tracks. The troopie was muddy by the end of the event. This could not be cleaned immediately after the event and Keith had to wash it the next day. It is a requirement of the VRA that vehicles are kept clean.

## **Conclusion**

A very well run event and only very minor incidents reported to Safety Response / First Aid Team or Safety Coordinator. The personnel all worked well together and formed a strong team.

The Troopie HF radio provided good coverage back to base HF over the whole course including some deep valleys, during the road sweeps.

Assisting with these Rogaining events is raising BWRS profile in the outdoors community. The competitors showed their appreciation of BWRS support for the event, often saying thank you when we passed them in the field. We get a favourable response from NSW Police and Ambulance when lodging the safety plans.

A special thanks to all those who did such a good job, Chris Cunningham, Marcia Kaye, Geoff Dale, Brian Stirk, Thaïs Turner.

Dug Floyd

(Event Safety Officer)

Post script:- The missing radio has been found and will be returned at the Paddy Pallin in June.