

Inverary Co-Ordinator's Report

We were fortunate. Perhaps a better word is **BLESSED?**

The weather was mild and calm, "the final burst of summer" according to Monday's SMH. Which meant we had tables and chairs for al fresco dining around a blazing campfire. The hash house site was spacious, comfortable and welcoming.

The course was friendly, with open forest, few hills to climb, and plenty of checkpoints. Most teams had navigational problems, in part due to the lack of hills - gentle undulations can be confusing - in part because we had a large number of rogaining novices - which is encouraging. There were no injuries, some teams were late in the six-hour, and only one team only one minute late in the 12-hour event.

Naturally there were complaints: #44 was misleading, a couple of tracks and/or non-tracks caused confusion, the grass seeds in the farmland were prickly. But I expect people to complain when they are sore and weary from 6 to 12 hours walking, I did warn about #44 and the tracks at the pre-event briefing, and all seemed to be amicable after a good feed, sleep and a new day.

THE COMPETITION was varied. I was pleased that about half of the 12-hour teams only returned in the last half hour, so they made the most of their allotted time. At the other end, it was great to see so many Novice and Family teams in the 6-hour... so many babies and toddlers. Well done all you new parents.

Mike Hotchkis and Neil Hawthorne, overall winners, travelled 52km, climbed 2,200 metres and collected 70% of the available points. My estimate was that the whole course could be collected within 60km, so either my piece of string was wrong or Neil & Mike were inefficient in their route choice. Hmmm.

We have an offer to present all team routes via Google Earth, and hope to have that available within a few days. That will only show the controls you visited, not the ones you missed. The misses are usually more interesting, so please use the Forum (<http://nswrogaining.org/wpblog/2013/04/29/just-in-time-rogaine-bungonia-2013/>) to share your stories - what did you see, highlights, failures, lessons learned?

I have posted **SOME PHOTOS** on the NSWRA Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/88346474088/photos/>). Why don't you register with NSW Rogaining on Facebook and share some of your pics, or send them to our Webmaster like Moira and Giles did.

Back to **THE COURSE**, it's right up there as one of the most pleasant areas I have explored. The southern spur/gully/knoll areas are just delightful. There's a starkness at the moment due to the recent bushfire, but that gave a different character, highlighting the structure of the land... you could identify all the features... almost see the contour lines across the blackened ground. It would be nice if the creeks were flowing.

The ridges that meandered to the edge of the Shoalhaven Gorge have a dramatic airiness but are still easy walking. It's a shame that I didn't allocate more points for the checkpoints out there, because many teams rejected the unavoidable out-and-back. #91 and 93 remain my favourite locations on the course, with the big river 400m below looking very enticing.

The northern sector had bigger hills but even they were moderate, and the gold-mining ghosts were interesting. Happily nobody found the bottom of any of the vertical mineshafts.

The western sector was open grasslands and easy walking, which provided good variety. I heard that one team took my advice to be at Inverary Trig at sunset, and they truly appreciated the ambience - it's a shame they had to be back at the hash house by 6pm, and ended up losing a few points. I applaud that approach to rogaining.

I'd like to acknowledge all **THE WILLING HELPERS** who created and contributed to the event.

Course setting: Ian Almond, David Griffith, Peter Watterson, Alexa McCauley, David & Xanthe Knights (it was Xanthe's very first rogaine), Vince Carolan, Phil Whitten. Gill Fowler established landowner access.

Administration: Ian & Jenny Almond, Bronwyn Wilson.

Hash House and Roustabouts: Ros Atkins, Gary (the Knife) & Ninette, Greg, Olivia & Sam Knight, Phil Allen, Vince & John Carolan.

Also our thanks extend to **THE BUNGONIA COMMUNITY**, to the landowners and National Parks for allowing us to wander their space. It's important that we honour and respect the environment and people who care for the countryside. To that end we have decided to donate \$5 of your entry fee to a local community group. Phil Broadhead, the owner of the property where we camped has nominated the Bungonia Progress Association, so we will send them a contribution of \$1,200 from you all.

The Inverary Park property has quite a history and a beautiful old homestead (see <http://www.heritage.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahpi/record.pl?RNE1130>). It's notable that the Broadhead family have owned and occupied the property continuously for 160 years.

Talking history, this was my 100th rogaine, as competitor, organiser or helper. But that's another, long, story.

Trevor Gollan