

Lake Macquarie Rogaine

Report

The 23rd Lake Macquarie Rogaine was blessed with almost perfect weather conditions, calm day, clear skies but a little on the cold side. The start saw 298 competitors set off to tackle the challenges of the Watagans and the courses which Bert had set.

The first team back in the 6 hr event (Ben Cirulis and James Humphreys) cleaned up all but 3 controls, scoring an impressive 1140 points. They were closely followed by Tom Joss and Claire Winnick on 1100 points and Lee Coady and James McQuillan on 1060.

It was no surprise then that four teams swept the course in the 12 hr event with Ronnie Taib and David Williams completing the course in 8 hr 48 minutes. They were followed by Mike Hotchkis and Jonathan Worswick 10 minutes later just 3 minutes ahead of Max Cllett and Dane Roberts. The fourth team to collect all was the first mixed team of John and Mardi Barnes who completed the course in 9 hrs 55 min. A special mention should be made of Scott Koppelhuber and Josh Taylor who were not only competing in their first rogaine which with an impressive 1140 points (collecting all but 3 controls) were winners of the novice category but were only juniors and hence won the under 23 category

Congratulations to all competitors who took part and from the many favourable comments most seemed to enjoy the event.

However successful events involve many people and I'd like to acknowledge the contribution from these groups and volunteers.

Bert Van Netten once again did a terrific job in setting the course even though he had major surgery last December and is still undergoing treatment. Anita Bickle did a very efficient job at her first administrator's role which resulted a smooth and hassle free admin area. Cardiff scouts were able to satisfy the hungry appetites of competitors with plenty of delicious food. A new group in helping out this year was Toronto Girl Guides who organised the popular T & D which is a welcome stop for most and once again they were not disappointed. Cooranbong SES do a marvellous job in being on call for any emergency and providing vehicle assistance for fatigued or injured competitors. Dug Floyd as safety officer does a super job and because he helps in the course setting has an intimate knowledge of any dangers etc.

Our thanks to those who volunteered:

Ros Atkins, Richard Smyth and Carolyn Rigby who helped with administration

Dug Floyd, Anita Bickle and Andrew and Rochelle Duerden who assisted with vetting and flag hanging.

Ronnie Taib, David Williams, Emma, Vivien & Justine de Remy Courcelles, Dug Floyd and Ian Dempsey for flag retrieval. Ian was also responsible for once again producing a first class map.

My sincere thanks to all (competitors and volunteers) for supporting The Lake Macquarie Rogaine

It's on again next year

Bob Gilbert