



# Northern Territory Rogaining Association Newsletter

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## In this Newsletter

Welcome to the Northern Territory Rogaining Association's December 2016 newsletter. This edition contains interesting information on:

- Editor's Note
- Presidential Comments
- Next Event Info
- What's happening Elsewhere – , Australasian Championship Event Feb 2017.
- KNB&B Event Wrap up : Reports, map, results and photos



## Editors Note:

As editor I put together reports that are written by you, the competitors/setters/vetters, and would like to thank all those involved, including at the events and people contributing photos to publish. Well done to all Verena, Sue and Mike - Winners at the KLBBB! Thanks again to good organisers Ben and Simon Saunders. Additionally Thankyou to Mike and Sue over their efforts to prepare a wonderful Yuletide at Litchfield.

## Presidential Comments and End of Year Mention

*Some months ago, Michael floated the idea of having a Christmas Bash come camping come bush navigation coaching come 4 hour rogaine weekend. This event was to be conducted at the better than excellent special education facility in Litchfield National Park with the participation of both the Darwin Bushwalking Club and the NTRA.*

*Being extremely one dimensional when it comes to all things roaining, I have to fess up that I was very dubious as to how the mix of recreational cultures would work. Well.....now that the dust has settled and it's all been there done that, and any doubts that I had about the feasibility of such a venture have been well and truly shot down in flames, I can say that Michael and Sue definitely kicked a goal on this one and did an outstanding job coordinating, planning and setting a superb, fun weekend for all concerned.*

*Accolades also to Marj for catering, Karl for BBQ duties, Mara for her theatrical flair as Secret Santa head honcho and all who cleaned and packed up post event. Feedback tells me that everyone had a blast and I, for one, would like to see this as an annual event. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all volunteers for their input during the past season and wish everyone an enjoyable and safe Christmas and New Year.....see you all at the February Metrogaine.*

JP

## Next Metrogaine – Metrogaine Mania!

**Where : Darwin High School Pavilion, - Bullocky Point**

**When : Feb 18th 2017**

**Organiser : Mike Dunbar**

### Events Elsewhere:

The [Australasian Championship for 2017](#) will be on 11-12 February in the heart of New Zealand's south island high country.

The land includes some pockets of native beech forest, some high tussock grasslands, and a large area of rolling hill country, mostly developed but with plenty of challenges. For more information go to <http://www.rogaine.org.nz/arc2017/information.html>



## KLBBB – Random Photos



## Remote Camera Station Setup– Recent Photos from the Wilderness



## Winner's remarks for Metrogaine KLBBB – The Riders

You don't learn to walk by following rules. You learn by doing, and by falling over.” — Richard Branson

And so it is when learning Rogaining ! Smart man that Mr Branson.

The first Rogaine that Jed, my then 15 year old son, and I did was the 2015 event run from Casuarina Senior College. Being typical males we ignored most of the planning information about getting there early however we did ensure we had a good stock of snacks on board. I had done orienteering a few decades before in the Welsh Mountains and spend plenty of informative time at work poring over maps so was confident that we were suitably prepared. When the gun went off and all participants bolted in various directions we were still looking at the map wondering the best route to take to get around all 200 odd check points? It did seem rather ambitious!

We had also failed to note the cut-off time which resulted in us returning half an hour early, but at least we got a head start on those awesome burgers! From memory we ended up with a respectable result but were well beaten by a couple of other triathlete teams and those that actually knew what they were doing. The challenge had been set.

Having pre-registered for the 2016 event and With Mr Branson's words of wisdom in our ears we determined to arrive early now we knew what we were in for. The previous year we had struggled with continually getting the map and score card in and out of plastic wallets, recent deterioration of eyesight and the reluctant need for reading glasses not helping. So this year we tried a new strategy. Jed became responsible for the score card and question sheet while I concentrated on the map. A set of tri bars mounted onto the Mountain bike handlebars made a good platform for a clip board, another ready supply of snacks and fluids and we were ready to go.

Despite best efforts we still arrived late but at least had a strategy for determining the best route, only planning to cover sufficient sites that we could visit riding at an average 15 kms per hour. Like the year before, the gun went off, participants bolted, we were still assembling our various snacks and fluids, nearly last to leave. New strategy not quite working yet.

After a shaky start we got into the groove, now more familiar with the format, the type of questions being asked and enjoying the more open country around Micket Creek than the tricky suburbs of Casuarina. We opted for a clockwise circular route that took us around Robertson Barracks, through Pinelands and then North to Knuckeys Lagoon. As it got dark we were ahead of schedule, just below 20km/hr pace, so we added a loop around Coonawarra industrial estate, Boulter Road and Amy Johnson, picking up a few extra points in Karama and Secrett Rd before bolting back to the Scout Hall with 5 minutes to spare. It's fair to say we had had a good workout and were well and truly ready for those fantastic burgers.

Our result was a surprise but just goes to show you can learn from your mistakes. Especially when you let the person who doesn't need glasses read the question sheet. We thoroughly enjoyed the course, had a great time racing our fellow competitors and have great admiration for the runners, some of whom covered an enormous distance in that heat.

A huge thank you to all the organisers who had clearly put a great deal of effort into setting the course, and to the other competitors who made it so much fun. Jed and I really enjoyed doing an event like this together; we will definitely be back for the next one. See you then.

Simon and Jed Cruickshank



## Winner's remarks for Metrogaine KLBBB Boots on the ground

Verena and Sue lodged their team entry for the 6 hour foot event in the Knuckey's Build-up Boot 'n' Bike Metrogaine set and vetted by Simon and Ben Saunders. On the day we both arrived at 1pm to commence our map planning. But Mike Dunbar's partner had to unfortunately cancel at the last moment, meaning Mike now had no team, so Mike decided to 'gate-crash' our team instead.

In the two hour's preparation available, it soon became obvious that this was not going to be an easy task as many route choices were 'discussed'. "No, we can't go that way, we'll miss out on these controls" "And that way entails a lot of doubling back on the many dead ends" "Don't think it's possible to cut across there- is that a fence?" Simon and Ben had certainly set a very thought provoking course. By 2.15pm we realised that we had to make a decision on some route, otherwise we'd still be discussing our route at 3pm! We quickly contacted our maps in the 'not too windy' conditions which made a nice change, covered ourselves in plenty of sunscreen, filled up water bladders and checked our food, in readiness for the hot and arduous conditions which lay ahead.

2.45pm, Simon and Ben provided us with a safety briefing, then 3pm we were off – 1<sup>st</sup> control we headed to control 39 to find the car body – not so bad. We then went through the scrub to 52 and travelled along the track to 70. Now things got interesting, our 'gate crusher' decided to change the route a little "rather than heading directly to 56, why not head down to 74 and then onto 56". Another 'discussion' followed and Verena and Sue finally relented, but were left wondering why when we were fighting through more bush and eventually came out onto the track wondering whether to turn left or right? We did manage to find 56 and then cruised along to 46, 85, 37 and 84 where we bumped into Ken and Daniel. Then headed onto 25, 82 (crikey another dead end), 26 and 63 (Dead End).

Again things got interesting, our 'gate crusher' decided to change our route again, Verena and Sue were not so sure, but in the end decided it was a better route choice. So, instead of heading to 64, we headed down to 54 and managed to cut over to 67 and onto 110. To make up a bit of time and as it was not so hot, we decided to jog a little, heading over to 45 and 35. We headed into Berrimah and counted the diamonds at control 48. Mike was wanting to up the pace and in his surging haste to get 83 walked right past 20! Sue said to Verena "Isn't that guy with the white hard-hat, our control number 20?" Verena said "what are you talking about" and Mike was ahead flapping his arms "what are you two doing?" Sue answered "getting control 20 which you've just raced past..." Quickly writing down the answer, we headed onto 83 and found where Total Security Screens had moved to.

We crossed Berrimah Road and jumped a gate to then come across a blooming big high fence with 3 strands of barbed wire at the top blocking our route to 93. "What now?" We walked along the fence hoping for a hole and were very lucky to find someone had kindly rammed the gates giving us access to 93. We then doubled back and headed over to 87, "there's Ken and Daniel again". And then headed along the track to 47, fortunately it was dry track. Now it was starting to be a race against time, as we wanted to get to 120 by 7.30pm. Across country, dashed across Berrimah Road and found 92 in twilight. Quick top up of water, heading over to 68, more bush to find the fuel capacity at 75. By now, we were jogging and walking to the controls. It was a bit of a hike to find the power pole number at 120, arriving there by 7.41pm – that's not so bad!

Now it was time to start heading home. But guess what, our 'gate crusher' had another trick up his sleeve "Let's modify our route home....." So, quick dash over Tiger Brennan, headed up to 72, 60, 36 and 55 and into Knuckey's Lagoon, unfortunately by now it was too dark to see the bird-life. Jogged along the track to 94 and onto 76. We then headed out onto the road, down to 53 to find the wagon wheels, and back, then onto 24 and 23, counting the lampposts protruding through the wall (interesting). "How much time have we got left?" "Just under 10 minutes, we'll be OK". Found the lamps at 10 "Wow is that Marj's BBQ we can smell?" (Turned out it was!). Then decided to jog to our last control at 28. "Damn, wrong power pole!" Found the right one and raced home, but to our dismay found we'd lost 10 points as we'd arrived 56 seconds late. Oh well, never mind, we had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed the event. It was also good to see a large number of entries, particularly with the cyclists and we hope that everyone else out on the course enjoyed the event as much as we did.

We must say thanks to both Ben and Simon for setting such an excellent and interesting course over various terrain each with their own challenges. As we know how much time and effort goes into setting a Metrogaine. The questions were easy to understand and the answers not cryptic and were obvious, once you had navigated to the right control. Thanks to Marj and Jane once again for their dedication in providing a delicious BBQ, cake, fruit and cool drinks. Thanks to Susi Bertei for all your effort with the role of event secretary. And thanks to Greg and Sally for volunteering their time





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