

ACT Rogaine Association

6 hour MTB Rogaine 3rd Sept 2017

The six-hour MTB rogaine was held in Penrose Forest and Jumping Rock in the Southern Highlands. The event started at Kirrikee Outdoor Centre. The night before was a 6 hour foot rogaine and there was a day foot rogaine held at the same time as the MTB rogaine. There were 22 teams entered in the MTB rogaine and the foot competitors had the same controls to visit.

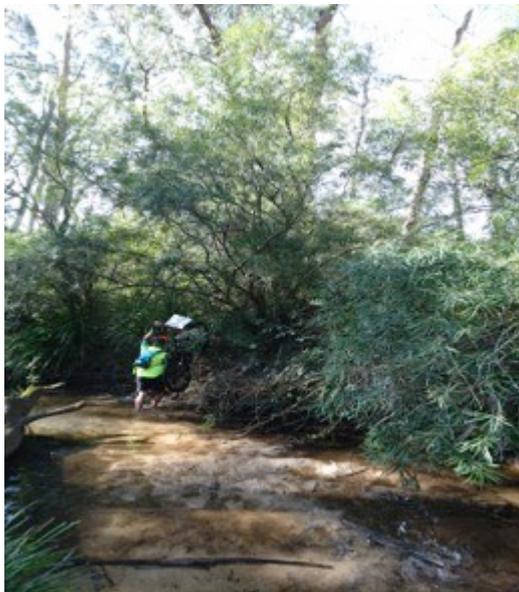
The controls were all situated in features just off the tracks in the forest so were mostly easy to find however, some were a little tougher in the featureless pine plantation.

Our team of Greg Bacon and Rob Prentice were in the super veterans class. We only planned on doing around 75% of the course and we allowed 10kph average to ride and walk to get the controls. We started off with a hike a bike uphill to the first control then some single track before heading into some farmland. Rob had his pedal caught in some fence wire and did a flying W over the handlebars near the next control. He looked a little shaken after the spill. We had a good run through the paddocks and then a very long and fast downhill to Penrose Forest.

The navigation was very easy on the bike with good catching features before the controls. We did not use our maps or a compass once we left the bikes on the road. Most of the time we hit the controls and we relied on a bit of luck to get the rest. Our route choice was fairly good, as we did not have too many hills to climb.

On the odd occasion we looked up the road towards the control location, if it was too big a hill we gave it a miss. It worked for us. There was the odd control in the Pine Plantation where we met other teams searching for the controls and were lucky enough to see them just as they found the control. The wind had picked up after midday and it was a struggle at times climbing the hills into the wind. We were not use to riding for more than a few hours at a time and by the four-hour mark we decided to head back to the finish. This time the wind was behind us and mostly flat to down hill so it did not take long to get back to the creek crossing into the Jumping Rock area.

We could not find the indistinct track and crossing of the creek so we bush bashed carrying our bikes, it was a struggle. It took a little effort to lift our bikes out of the creek. It was now along some rough single track back to Kirrikee to collect a few controls around the centre and back to the finish.



We ended up with 2930 points, which was enough for a placing in a few of the classes. It was a fun and well organised event by ACTRA and a very friendly atmosphere.

There should be more events of this nature as it is great value for money and you can do as much or as little as you want!

Picture of Rob lifting his bike out of the creek near Jumping Rock.

Greg Bacon