

## **\*\*RACE DIRECTORS REPORT\*\***

The first thing you have to ask yourself in the current climate of a global pandemic is "what sort of crazy people would choose to run events that involve large groups of people, 100's of hours of prep and no guaranteed event actually occurring at the end of the day?"

Well that would be us... Jo and Erren aka the MOJO Crew. Don't get me wrong, we are fortunate that events for us - unlike many of our amazing friends and fellow race directors - are a side hustle to our main jobs as a nurse and building designer. The risk of our event not going ahead, while present, is not going to stop us feeding our families. After postponing our 2020 event we delayed a whole year to the same area - the beautiful Camp Somerset.

Now we live in beautiful Toowoomba, and haven't been affected by the recent snap SEQ lockdowns, so we have experienced a paradox of normal life up on the hill versus not being able to travel to the event location to prep. For us our favourite part of the race prep is getting out and about on course, and carefully crafting each checkpoint for maximum enjoyment and challenge. Even with a year's delay it was difficult to get on course as much as we hoped and we even got locked down while course setting in the Somerset region!

Regardless, for some reason it seemed everyone wanted to race and all our events filled to overflowing. We knew that we needed to have an event that would be flexible enough to be postponed quickly and we even had an early February 2022 back up date... all the heat haters rejoice that didn't happen!

Watching the pressers become a daily event management task and Jo often texted Erren to say it was a double donut day! (no cases) Erren actually thought he might get donuts but alas - no. Right up until the day before race day we held our breath for fear of a snap lockdown. Thankfully Friday came and no cases! Yeah! The race was on!

Supported by a talented and incredible volunteer crew the event began. We could tell the 12 hours were not impressed with the hike a bike to start with. We even learnt some new cuss words when we ventured up the hill to bring more water. But you know what? We see those photos and you are all glowing with adventure etched on your faces. You should be grateful we didn't stick with our original plan and make you swim to pick up your paddles from checkpoint one. You can thank Erren for that, he thought you may get hypothermic. Having suffered hypothermia at an event myself I thought it was a cup of concrete moment for you all.

It is always such a joy for us to run our events and meet you all. We got to make many new friends, I saw three koalas (YAY!), three snakes and watched people overcome pain and achieve their goals. It was a crazy lead up for some teams too, cats getting hit by cars, kayaks and bikes flying off cars (EEEEKKKK) covid isolations, getting bitten by snakes, etc, etc, but yet we all got out there and had some fun.

Even when Erren was up on the hike a bike helping carry bikes (what a champ!) or I was having a minor meltdown when our scoring system didn't want to score, we knew there was no place we would rather be than out there with our extended AR fam.

Thanks to our sponsors [TriRunning](#) [Navis Outdoors](#) [Rogaining Queensland](#) and [Rogue Adventure](#) for all their help and support. Thanks to our coffee lady Jeanette for a last minute call up. Thanks to our amazing vullie crew now dressed in coolest sunnies ever. Thanks to you all for coming. We look forward to seeing you next year in another spectacular location!

Much love racers!

Jo + E