

Team MD , Mojo Adventure at Perserverance Dam

I teamed up with training partner Lucy Shewell for this weekend adventure. We were both tired from heavy racing and training schedules .Lucy was 1st woman in the Mountain marathon weekend in the Green mountains. She ran 42km both days. She not only won the womens but placed 3rd overall on the Saturday and 2nd overall on the Sunday

The start did not suit us with a split orienteering leg, Lucy had only park orienteered a couple of times so we decided to run around around together. Coming into the paddle leg well behind the speedsters we were surprised to see teams opting to leave the western Paddle CP for the return trip, Night nav on the water can be tricky and with water levels low , making the map harder to decipher the topography we were not going to leave any paddle CP's.

The paddle went smooth except for a portage over a land section which is usually water, the exit was great but the re-entry was waist deep mud. YES THE ADVENTURE GOT REAL

Onto the long Trek and a clutch point of the race , you really needed to do your sums here as to know if you had to drop CP's to get to higher points later in the course. We had our rate of travel worked out to leave 6hrs for everything after this long trek. We estimated it would take 5.5hrs but wanted some time in hand as we both had hollow legs up any hill. we finished this leg with all controls and 20 minutes ahead of schedule.

The MTB went well no mistakes and mainly good route choices , fortunately for us after the initial climb up onto the plateau near Hampton the course was fairly flat plantation forestry roads

Another 20mins ahead of schedule and a real bonus to finish this leg in the light.

Last trek leg looked straight forward and probably was but with 9hrs of grovelling through the prior legs our concentration was starting to slip. CP 40 creek should have been easy , but we didnt pick up the creek line out of the TA and by the time we got to the ridge and realised we had missed it we were 500m away form the CP

Next CP was fine but then down into the creek, we cut in early trying to make up time on our fast moving competition of Kirk and Jody, who we didnt realise had miscalculated and dropped a CP early. We miss read the contours as when the creek started getting steeper I assumed we were past the CP so turned and went back through the flatter section of creek where we had read the CP to be, but the creek started dropping off steeper indicating we had passed it again, so turn back around and this time we were just going to keep going up till the creek intersected the trail and bingo there it was 100m past our first turn point , I thought this CP was not in the right section of creek but with our Nav getting scratching with dimming concentration there was going to be no questioning CP placement. Again the next CP was fine but heading along the trail to our next point I started reading the map as if we were on a lower trail and just before the turn to the CP thankfully we realised before we had taken a single step in the wrong direction.

Time to ease back and make sure of the last couple of CP's knowing that Kirk and Jody had well and truly cleared out and in actual fact had already finished and all teams behind us still had an extra CP to collect on the paddle. So we cruised into the finish a good hour behind Kirk and Jody only to discover they had dropped a CP and we had somehow , on one of our weaker days racing had managed to win outright.

A great feed of Pizza and then back to the Crows Nest camp ground for a hot shower and bed. We woke to frost and a solid shet of ice on the windscreen. So Mojo had lucked out with the best day for a rogain

Big thanks to Mojo crew for putting all the effort in to providing us with a great weekend adventure and all the friendly participants who made the journey out to share the adventure with all us like minded explorers.



