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## **Team Wild Earth / Tiger Adventure**

I finally got to the start line of a Rouge 24hr and for that matter to the finish. In 17 years of Rogaining in QLD this was only my 2nd finish in a 24hr event and surprisingly enough my first finish was my very first Rogaine in QLD and my 2nd Rogaine ever.

I nearly didnt get there with 2 x team mates pulling out in the final week due to injury and illness.

Trevor king Tiger adventure came to my rescue yet again and paired me up with an incredible athlete from Port Macquarie Alison Mclachlan.

Even better i got to race as a mixed pair which is a category I always try to support as its recognised premier division in Adventure Racing and I love the dynamic.

Alison's family all came up and camped, her equally talented Adventure Racing husband sitting on the sidelines with baby sitting duties.

The event started with a 20km paddle and we managed to clear the course through choppy conditions is sight of the lead mens team.

Onto the Trek and after losing my compass on the paddle struggled to nail down the first control . After a 15min bungle we worked it out and arrived at CP12 with the eventual winners of the 6hr event and training buddies from the Goldy, team Blowfish/Tiger Adventure. Jonny who usually wears his map as a hat kindly gave up his thumb compass and we powered through the rest of the course. We decided to go get the long out and back CP17 as we were well ahead of schedule. I was surprised as the 2 x lead mens team didnt go to this control which in effect gave us a big opportunity along with the other 2 other power AR racing Husband and wife couples The Delany's and the Nutell's to take out the whole event.

I was suffering with a poor shoe choice and had blown out my Achilles and had bad hot foot so was relieved to jump on the bike for some high speed action in the fast lane on the rail trail to Esk. Travelling at 40km per hour centimetre's apart in the dark on dirt is quite exhilarating.

Still ahead of schedule we hit the the second trek which must have been frustrating for Alison as I crawled along from Cp to CP with the same feet issues from leg 2. It took us 2hrs longer than planned with a couple of fatigue mistakes and the Lantana being more prolific in this forest . Thankfully back on the bike and no more trouble , we navigated the sandy and indistinct trails through the Esk forest without a hitch, sped back to the Logan inlets reserve via the slick travel rail trail and then made the hard decision to drop our first 2 x CP's so we would have time to clear the last paddle. Again sorry Alison my slow run pace cost us these 2 x CP's.

We finished with smiles 3rd overall 20 points behind the mens teams and we won the Open mixed with the Nutell's and Delany's very close behind.

Big thanks to Liam great course and wouldnt it be nice if Geo-Quest was run like this ,Unsupported ,supplied boats and the organizers only had to drop off 1 gear box. SO EASY

Thanks to all the happy volunteers, racers Alison and family, and the boys that kindly let us wash ride them

Thanks again Trevor and Tiger for welcoming me in and finding great team mates to race with