

KEEN ADVENTURE RACE 2009 A JOURNEY THROUGH THE OTWAYS

Well KEEN #3 is done and dusted... or should I say 'scrubbed and thawed' as I'm quite sure I didn't see one bit of dust in the whole of the 5-day event! Once again John Jacoby and his band of merry folk managed to take everyone way out of their comfort zone for an experience of a lifetime.... We really should thank them, you know!

This year I was on support/volunteer duties until my 1-day expose on the last day – and I managed to have a wonderful (but cold) time getting around the course looking after Kim & Kev (Tri Adventure) and also looking after some of the other teams with no mother figure on hand.....

Being a volunteer was quite rewarding and I'd like to acknowledge some of the others whom I was working with stacking boats, bikes and boxesThe gorgeous Mr & Mrs Maffet (Mum & Dad to all of us for a week), Holly (dressed to kill everyday but ever-efficient in her duties and a happy/nice person to be around), David Lacey (yes, I promise I'll get over to those extreme NZ events in my lifetime) Michael Young (who was severely mentally effected by box dimensions and is probably still in therapy...) and all the others who gave up their time to help out in some way. These events wouldn't happen without the volunteers – so hope you all appreciated their efforts at the time!

Some memories from the week...

Severe (an understatement) weather conditions.... Being from sunny Qld, we were a little under prepared for hail and frost – and the coldest day Victorian day since 1957 – and we were camping in a remote location...!! Toughened us up, this one....

My efforts in putting up Kev's Mountain Designs tent.... Well, in a nutshell, I failed miserably! I thought I was master of most things 'camping' but this little beauty had me, well and truly, flummoxed... I enlisted the help of 'tent guru' Nicola who was equally confused...then I asked anyone passing by to have a crack at it... at one point there were 3 men inside it standing up with poles going everywhere....then we thought we had it sorted but the poles were blocking the entrance!...then we finally thought it was done (what kind of tent is put up inside out???) but we had one spare pole that didn't seem to go anywhere....Um.. could be the TV aerial.....that'll do... and I carried it back to our site and placed the aerial beside it!...When Kev came in he didn't say much – think this tent is secret men's business or something.... Anyway it kept the frost off him during the night and that is all that matters....

The perfect wave... Yes, team Aunty Drew will unashamedly say they got the wave of the day coming in off the swift paddle in Andrew's Fenn XT double

A few firsts... Standing up on a surfboard, climbing the high ropes – it's always good to keep getting firsts – even in your 50th year!

Thanks to Andrew for the gentle pushes up the hills on the Mtb – and great to see his fitness has improved 10-fold since Anaconda Lorne last December.

No matter what part of this race you took part in, you must agree that the world is a better place because of these amazing events. In this age of speed, convenience and physical inactivity it is really beneficial to go back to basic survival and grass roots to make you appreciate how difficult things were in 'the olden days'.... Sometimes I think I'd be better off back there....do you think that's because I'm old?....No, seriously, I can't complain about my modern life at all.... And I hope to have many more 'firsts' in the coming years. See you out there!

X Aunty Jan