

AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND CAMP – THE WRAP UP

It was great to have 3 whole families (and parts of others) at our Australia Day camp this year and everyone found something to have a go at. Thanks to you all for coming along and sharing in our love of adventure. Here's a recap of the weekend....

SATURDAY...saw 6 of us head out on the MTB's via roads and Ringtail Forest where we linked up with Noosa Trail 4 and left our bikes at the base of the back ridge of Mt Tinbeerwah. Jay braved the ride in his running shoes, whereas Seb, in his hasty packing, found he had left his bike shoes at home. A quick message to Mum, Lisbeth, gave us a cryptic clue as to where she had hidden them at the toilets near the top, and he was lucky to have them for the ride home. What would we all do without our Mum's Seb?? Once up and down the climb – with Gail a little dizzy from the Australian heat/humidity – we linked up with Trail 4 again and headed over to Twin Hills Lookout where we witnessed the rain/storms that were lashing the area around us, but seemed to completely miss us all weekend... for some strange reason! The lovely downhill ride home via Cootharaba Rd was a welcome relief and we all tucked into a hearty BBQ lunch.



We made it to the top of Mt Tinbeerwah!

Having focussed this weekend on navigation, we had set up a small orienteering course in and around the campsite and Seb & Dad, Soren had some great rivalry with Seb wasting 10 minutes looking for a Mango Tree....(he now knows what one looks like!) and coming in first.... Soren got a little confused with the clues, but will read the instructions more carefully next time! Young Emil got some useful advice from Novak and he was much more confident – Everyone managed to find all the CP's and came back with a sense of achievement...

We retired early as it was a 6.00am start for the paddle/run the next day...

SUNDAY...6.00am start on the lake which was crystal clear and smooth as glass. This was probably the best ever condition we have had on Lake Cootharaba and we were all happy paddlers heading out on the 7k crossing to Fig Tree Point. Jay had brought along his 'bath-tub' plastic kayak and we convinced him to paddle our 16ft Hayden, which he mastered immediately....some people are just good at everything! Jo & Di were the experienced paddlers and enjoyed the fact that they had knowledge of this activity from last year's Easter Camp. Landing at Fig Tree we left our boats and headed off on the 6.5k run up to Harry's Hut. The track was a lot drier than last year, we noted..ie: no under water sections! - and we all enjoyed the beautiful rain forest and bush surroundings that are part of this lovely run. The day was very warm, so at Harry's we cooled off in the fresh water of the Noosa River and had some snacks to fuel us up for the run back. The only glitches to the morning were the blisters forming on Soren & Seb's feet – they will know next time that socks are very important in trail running...however, they soldiered on and Seb excelled himself in running probably the longest distance ever – we sometimes forget he is only 14!

Meanwhile back at the campsite, Lisbeth had arrived to keep Emil company. He was having a nice paddle with Mum when he got a better offer from Novak on the sail-boat. He was excited to tell us all that they went fishing and he caught a cat-fish..!!

On our return we all relaxed and enjoyed the BBQ lunch before getting organised for the MTBO course in Ringtail Forest which was scheduled to start at 1.00pm. We had set the course in an Aussie theme with CP's displaying the names of Australian animals and birds. Jo, Novak and Kai set off on the medium course and cleared it in 1hr48mins. Jay and his twin boys tackled the short course and took 1hr39mins to find all the CP's – and their way back. Great effort boys! Seb, Soren & Emil headed off for the long course and Di & Lisbeth did the same. The girls were a bit confused but ended up on the right track when Aunty Jan came to the rescue and we cleared the long course in 3hrs10mins....It was a great learning experience for all of us! Seb retired early but Soren and Emil took on the long course and did really well until CP7...which was hiding, apparently... anyway they found their way back to base and will be glad to have another go at it when we put the event on again in the near future.

We had the scheduled dinner at the Apollonian Hotel and were joined by Alinda – bravely camping alone (ie: without hubby Mark) with her 3 boys. It took a lot longer than anticipated for our meals, so we were all quite tired by the time we returned to the campsite – well, some actually stayed up sipping Reds... but not Aunty Jan (surprisingly!)....

MONDAY... 6.00am start, again for our Mini Adventure Challenge. This was a chance to put all the previous day's activities together in the form of a real Adventure Race. Di, Seb, Soren & Jay opted to 'race' as individuals, Jo teamed up with Alinda and Lisbeth & Emil were happy and safe together as well. Leg 1 was a paddle to Boreen Pt where competitors left their boats and collected CP's on foot before paddling back to Elanda for Leg 2 which was on Mtb. Jo, Jay, Soren and Di were within seconds of each other at the end of Leg 1 and Seb was having a bit of trouble paddling with his pack on and a little behind... Jay and, now, Alinda cleared the Mtb course with 5 minutes between them and Seb, Soren and Di coming in a little later. Jay was fired up and finished Leg 3 (run) and took out the event in 2hrs30mins.... He has proved he has great ability for this type of racing and will hopefully be able to take part in some other events later in the year. Lisbeth & Emil officially withdrew from the event when Emil wasn't able to continue... (we also sometimes forget Emil is only 11 and he is amazing!) due to

being very hot and tired. Seb and Soren were quite close on Leg 3, with Seb getting in just ahead, however, Soren was victorious over his son on a technicality which saw Seb failing to punch in at the finish...(Seb will be well aware of this next time, Soren!) Di and Alinda had a frustrating time out on Leg 3 but finally made it back and are now more savvy to the Adventure Race style of event from their efforts...



Before the start!

Packing up is always a challenge – but we managed to get it done in time to arrive back in Noosa for a refreshing ocean swim at 2pm. A nice lunch at Café le Monde (with champagne) rounded off the weekend of adventure and fun.

Thanks to everyone who took part – and those of you who missed out, hope you can join us for something in the future.

See you out there!
Jan & Kim ☺ ☺