



2017 BAYSIDE RAID - ORGANISERS REPORT

It's a wrap. Thanks to all for participating in the first QRA event of 2017, and what I hope to be a regular fixture on the calendar in the future. It wasn't hard to get motivated to get out and do the course work, it was a pleasure and a good excuse to do stuff I like doing anyway ☺ I really think our coastline is one of the jewels in the crown of living in South-East QLD - we really are lucky. When getting the fleet of kayaks was being considered, the model was always going to be something that could make use of these areas that have not been well utilised in either AR or rogaine format events in the past. I really hope the Raid events start to rectify that.



As mentioned as often as I have been able, the volunteers and sponsors have been nothing short of wonderful for this event. Volunteers are one of the things I love most about events under the QRA banner – people who genuinely want to just put on a good show first and foremost, and generally for little or no recognition to boot. There was no shortage of them for the Bayside Raid, from weeks before until late Saturday afternoon. So BIG thanks in no particular order to Kerry Collins, Paul Lutz, Merrick Ekins, Liam Town, Zac Twidale, Derek McKinnon, Grant Reid, Deb Hard, Rebecca Austin, Avissa Azaria, Tony Bowman, Gavin Cole, Gin Anstice, Dave Strong, Paul Maxwell, Paul Guard, Tamsin Barnes, Richard Robinson, Stephen Wallis, Reuben Wallis and Linda Wallis.



Also, the event sponsors proved very generous with prizes and support, so thanks again to Ferno Australia, Spirit Paddle Sports, and Rosco Canoes and Kayaks for helping to put on the event. Very appreciated!



Feedback for the event has been awesome, and it certainly makes putting the time into these things worthwhile. It generally went well from an organisers perspective (asides from a rather interesting start and a rambling disjointed presentations – I blame lack of sleep and a little too much sun and caffeine). The objective in setting was to get a course that was firstly enjoyable yet challenging for all abilities to be out

on. Large sections were cut from what was available in the end as it was not on par with the more aesthetic areas. Variety of route choice was constantly considered as well, and it seems given where people went it proved worth the effort. This all said, I would certainly do a few things different, including some aspects of the course and timing, but you learn from these and a paddle focussed event was a new one for me to try and get right. My largest regret is that I could not supply everyone who was on the waiting list a place in the end, and I am thinking about how to rectify that somewhat in the future.



While fun for all was priority number one, next there certainly needs to be congratulations to the various category winners, in particular

- Men's Open and Overall winners, team Mountain Designs (Gary Sutherland and Russell Stringer)
- Women's Open and Overall 3rd, team Tri Adventure Girls (Kim Beckinsale and Cass Kimlin.)
- Mixed Open winners and Overall 4th, team Neverest (Gary Palmer and Lucy Coldwell)
- And rounding out the top 5 overall, team Rogue (Liam St Pierre and David Schloss, Overall 2nd) and team Outlandish (Alan Ferris and Jeremy Tibbits, Overall 5th)



The post paddling clinic was very successful, and again the feedback from the participants has been nothing but very positive. I am hoping to see the relationship with Spirit Paddle Sports and Michael Baker in particular continue to grow through the Raid events.

In closing, remember the 2017 QRA calendar is chock full of quality events this year, including 3 more Raids. Make sure you check out the events page and/or follow the Queensland Rogaine Association on facebook to keep informed. I have 3 or 4 courses already partially investigated for future Bayside Raids (possibly renamed to Coastal Raid in the future!), all promising a lot, so watch out for edition 2 in early 2018.

Cheers,

Adam