

## **FLINDERS TOUR REPORT – 2014**

At the start of each event for this year's Flinders Tour the entrants observed a minutes silence to reflect on the loss of lives on the MH17 flight, particularly the loss of Roger and Jill Guard. Roger was a winner of the 50km at this event in 2005 and had completed 30 runs at Glasshouse which was the most by any male. He had also compiled 2000 kilometres in distance run at Glasshouse Series events. While he was away I had organised a cap to commemorate the 30 runs and an embroidered polo shirt for the 2000 kilometres and delivered them to his son, Paul. Paul and his wife were there for the start of the 50km run and Paul wore the polo shirt and cap and ran the first few kilometres with the 50km runners.

The weather proved to be ideal for running and the just over eighty started in the 50km which is the largest field ever for a 50km event at Glasshouse. Cameron Munro led from the start to complete the course in 4:13:57 a few minutes ahead of Nigel Waddington with Richard Laurens another few minutes behind in third place. Carol Hitchcock led home the women in 4:54:50 with Mandy-lee Noble close behind followed about five minutes later by Mallani Moloney in third. Dion Reeve finished the 50 kilometres to clock up just over 1000 kilometres in Glasshouse Series finishes at his twelfth event. Finishes by Nigel Waddington, Matthew Grills and John Taylor saw them reach the 10 finishes mark.

A field of 115 started in the 25 kilometre run which also was one of the largest ever at Glasshouse. Unfortunately eight runners, including the leading runners, missed a critical left turn and failed to complete the correct course. This sort of thing has happened before. I recall one year where in a 20km run the whole field, except for a person who was walking and out of sight of the leaders, failed to take a turn which was clearly marked. About an hour later I had a call from the first checkpoint informing me that the person walking was the first person to arrive. Charlie Hall then set out to round up the rest of the field but they covered considerably more than the 20km. Runners must stay alert for markings and do a quick check at any intersection. I checked what I suspect was the problem spot on Monday and the two arrows painted on the ground were still there. James Flittner was the first to finish the correct course in 1:48:40 with Ben Millen second less than a minute later. Third across the line was the first woman, Tressa Lindenberg ( 1:58:53 ). Tressa is from Toowoomba and knew Roger Guard quite well. Third male across the line was Ben Phillips but Steve Whiteman had a breakdown in his car and started 0:06:30 behind the rest of the field so his time was the third fastest. Harriet Smith was the second woman with Michelle Martinez third. Finishes by Carolyn Marslin, Debra Anderson, Amanda Mugridge and Alan Cossey saw them achieve the 10 finishes level.

The field in the 10km was a bit less than normal at 64. Tim Carton led them home in 38:46 followed by the first female, Alex Ralph ( 46:48 ). Steve Reynolds was the second male and Graham Murphy third male. Tina Kirwan finished second woman and Jenny Walker third. The 10 finishes level was achieved by the following at this run – Steve Reynolds, John Heather, Karen Artis, Kay Farinazzo, Alberto Farinazzo and Rita Sutton. Jill Forster who is 70 years young became the third person to finish 30 runs at Glasshouse Series events.

Once again the Beerburrum State School P& C members led by Kim Litchfield put on excellent food at the finish. Caboolture Road Runners under supervision of Francis Harvey did the administration work at base and managed checkpoints and assisted with course marking. This event saw the first usage of the new bridge to be part of the Soldier Settler's Track connecting Beerburrum to the Trachyte Circuit. The latter was funded and constructed by the Glasshouse Mountains Advancement Network early in this century. TRAQ and GMAN shared the cost of materials so QPW could construct the bridge and will put further funds to more improvements and signage when they are undertaken. GMAN also has a nursery where they raise local native species of plants and since it was National Tree Day they gave away free plants at the event.

The hardest thing about organising the Glasshouse trail runs is getting sufficient people to carry out the various tasks. I am seeking volunteers for the September 13/14 event where the runners in the 100 mile will go through the night. If you are available to assist please contact me. Some could be given free entries to one of the short runs in return for assisting during the night ( Saturday, September 13 ).

regards

Ian Javes

TRAQ - President