

Melbournite's 'Harden Up' with a smile at Teva 2009!

After a perfectly clear night twilight came with a chilly bite in the air as teams arrived Gilwell Park Scout Camp near Gembrook to the east of Melbourne for race 3 in the 2009 Teva Adventure Series.

With reports from the carpark as teams jumped out of their cars, and some straight back in, that the temperature was anything between -2°C and -6°C those that found the registration hall early were treated to a roaring log fire, whilst others made straight for the Scout Tent where the coffee was brewing hot and strong.



By 7:30am a big queue had already formed for the start of registration as teams grabbed their bags of goodies, maps, course instructions and race bib's and headed off to plan, study maps and maybe grab another coffee!



With notice boards set up under the Teva Tepee including information about the opening challenge and also the clues to the **Camelbak Dash for the Stash** – 3 great Octane 8 Hydration Packs up for grabs, teams started to gather to discuss who was going to represent them at the start and how they would find the Stash.

At 8:25 those who had put them self forward and some others who were 'chosen' by their team mates gathered for the **Men's & Women's Health Ultimate Fitness Challenge**.

After a quick brief we started the challenge at a nice steady pace to lull the uninitiated into a false sense of security. As we progressed through the first stage only a small handful of teams dropped by the wayside as the vast majority pushed on into the second level. A number of teams decided to take the middle ground and pulled up at stage 2, however, a large portion of the teams pushed on to the final stage with 3 teams remaining to fight for the coveted title of 'Last Man Standing'.

With the starting positions assigned, and the Start Brief complete, the first teams took off at the sound of the Hooter for a quick sprint to their bikes and off into the bush.

Leg 1 on the bikes took teams out of the scout camp crossing a small creek and a bit of a hike a bike for 100m up hill into Kurth Kiln Regional Park to collect CP's 1 to 5.

Cp 5 found teams searching to find Captain Starlight, with teams showing some real generosity before the dash into the first TA.

Into TA 6 and team **RAP** lead the Male field, with **Hoses, Hooves and Haircuts** who had travelled all the way from Adelaide, leading the Premier





Mixed and **SkirtSports.net.au** leading the Female category, a lead that they would hold onto for the rest of the day. **Team Benchmark** were first in for the corporate category until they realise that they had forgotten a few CP's on the way!

Mountain Designs/Teva were second male team into the TA with **Team HTFU** in third.

Wheredawahkarewe pulled up in second place in the premier mixed with **Bog Rats** third. **Studio 4o4 Performance Physio** came into the TA second for the corporate category to take the lead from **Benchmark**.

Crazy Chicks followed by **Team HTFU** took second and third place for the females as all the teams started to get to grips with the 'Blast Past' Challenge and find out a little bit about the amazing history of the Kiln and the area in general. Some teams used their deductive skills well and worked out the final answer without having to run for clues, others relied on their physical fitness to get them through.

Out of the TA and **RAP** held the overall lead and first place male team. **Hoses, Heart Attacks and Haircuts** were first out for the premier mixed and **SkirtSports.net.au** continued to lead the females with **Lonely Planet** taking the lead in the corporate category as the teams headed north through Kurth Kiln collecting 7 CP's on bike before returning to TA 14.

Mountain Designs/Teva took a couple of minutes lead into the TA having passed **RAP** at CP 13 but gave up the lead during the challenges at TA 14 allowing **RAP** to take a brief lead out. **Hoses, Heart Attacks and Haircuts** continued to dominate the premier mixed category with a fair lead over **Wheredawahkarewe** and **FiNiTi**.



SkirtSports.net.au were up with the lead male & mixed teams at the pointy end of the field with **Crazy Chicks** and **Muddy Maidens I** chasing them into the TA. **Lonely Planet** lead the corporate field as all teams jumped into the next challenges, testing their skills in listening, memory, recollection and knowledge of popular culture. Some teams took on the Teva Fun One & entertained us all, while others at the pointy end of the field departed swiftly.

Out of the TA it was a short dash back to HQ via 2 more CP's to tackle 2 more challenges at HQ. **Mountain Designs/Teva** came in with a short lead over **RAP** and we now saw **Focus Health and Fitness** move in third. **Hoses, Heart Attacks and Haircuts** maintained the lead in the premier mixed category back with **Wheredawahkarewe** and **Bog Rats** following. **SkirtSports.net.au** still held a strong lead and overall were top 5 back into HQ, and with **Crazy Chicks** in second, that made 2 female teams in the top 10 showing the guys how adventure racing is done!

At HQ teams took on the Survivor Challenge testing a combination of strategy, navigation, teamwork, planning & construction skills. Teams weathered the Survivor storm, some better than others, with **Team Mountain Designs / Teva**, having to make several attempts and adjustments before they stood up to the challenge. Some focussed on the Teva Fun One, and put every effort into gaining more entries into the fantastic prize draw. It seems Melbourne has some budding interior designers and the judges were considerably impressed.

RAP made a fast turnaround on the HQ challenges and led **Mountain Designs/Teva** out onto the last leg by 10 minutes, with **Focus Health and Fitness** holding third.

Hoses, Heart Attacks and Haircuts also raced through the challenges and left HQ onto the last leg with a good lead over **Wheredawahakarewe** and **Shakajam**.



SkirtSports.net.au continued to dominate the female field with a 15 minute lead over **Crazy chicks** as they led off onto the final foot leg with **Muddy Maidens I** in third.

As teams took off on foot for the final 9 CP's there were 2 final surprises as they hit CP B for Paddle Pop in a challenge of deduction and CP F for Harden Up where teams got high, tangled and muddy on every obstacle that the Harden Up course threw at them. Teams threw themselves into the mud of the mesh pit with great abandon, while others took it a little more gently. Harden Up was certainly going to sort out a few teams especially those who didn't keep an eye on their map and finished the challenge wondering where exactly they were!

On the sprint back to HQ **RAP** held the overall lead until Harden Up when **Mountain Designs/Teva** just overtook them only to beat them to CP G again as both raced for the line.

In the final few hundred metres **Mountain Designs/Teva** took line honours for the day just ahead of **RAP** by only 1 ½ minutes after 3 ½ hours of racing. Then as teams continued to cross the line they were welcomed by the cheers from the crowd and a well deserved BBQ provided by the Gembrook Scout Group.

A special mention goes out to all those teams who made their adventure into something special by raising some much needed funds for the Starlight Children's Foundation, to those who embraced the Teva Fun One, and those who challenged themselves and took part in the true spirit of the Teva Series. A special mention goes out to team 61, **Kaos** who went out of their way to assist another team who required help just past TA 6. Thanks to you all, and at the end of the day those first across the line for each category were:

Top Starlight Fundraising Heroes - Melbourne

Dopler Effect – Rebekah Cosier, Mathew Shaw, Chad Parker

Team Drizak – Mark Dziedzic, Kylie Dziedzic, Diane Dziedzic



Premier Mixed

1st Hoses, Heart Attacks and Haircuts – 3:59:46 – Morgan Coull, Owen Jones, Linda Kyritsis

2nd Wheredawahakarewe – 5:26:50 – Lisa Brydon, P Brydon, T Sheldon-Collins

3rd Bog Rats – 5:30:04 – Marlon Briggs, Simone Ardern, Peter McUtchen

Male

1st Mountain Designs/Teva – 3:33:04 – Gary Sutherland, Brett Stevens, Andrew Pike

2nd RAP – 3:34:35 – Adrian Willoughby, Richard Wright, Peter Farmer

3rd Team HTFU – 3:57:13 – Matt Tait, Steve McKay, Geoff Millar

Female

1st SkirtSportz.net.au – 3:58:30 – Narelle Ash, Isobel Bepalov, Jodie Street

2nd Crazy Chicks – 4:15:29 – Kath Copland, Thor Egerton, Del Lloyd

3rd KaoS – 6:17:05 – Sharon Hepworth, Kate McDonald, Christine Ervin

Corporate

1st Team BenchMarque – 6:46:32 – Drew Sutherland, Craig Mitchell, Michael Edmonds

If you're ready for a Teva Adventure then look out for events coming to a town near you. Upcoming events include:

Brisbane: 23rd August – Only 6 places left

Sydney: 6th September – Only 14 places left

Champs Brisbane: 4th October

To find out more go to www.tevaadventureseries.com. We look forward to seeing you there!