

2009 Teva Adventure Series Sydney

Fathers Day Sunday 6th September dawned with clear blue skies and freezing temperatures and a good coating of ice on the Teva tent was only just starting to thaw as cars rolled through Penrose on their way to the bike drop off. With some teams having trouble finding their way to Race HQ it looked as if we could be in for a longer day than expected ☺

With bikes and gear left at what was to be the first TA of the day a mass of competitors descended on Penrose Community Hall for registration. With a bit of time to spare a long queue had already formed at the Cafe2U van as teams looked for something to warm them up.

The first glimpse of the Sun over the tree's gave some promise of the warm day to come as everyone collected their race bags and started to plan for the day ahead.

Signs under the Teva tent gave instructions for the opening challenge and also the clue for the Dash for the Stash hidden at a secret location somewhere on the course, which we had affectionately named 'Broccoli' Hill. With the stash being quite a way from the course we wondered if any teams would dare to take the gamble, but with 3 fantastic Camelbak Octane 8 Hydration packs on offer, valued at almost \$600 it was well worth the gamble... only time would tell!

At 8am the Men's and Women's Health Ultimate Fitness Challenge, otherwise known as the Beep Test, got the day under way. This was a challenge kept teams strategising as to whether to go out hard and fast to secure the first wave start, or save their energy for the rest of the day.



The challenge required one team member to represent each team and take part in the test where they had to run back wards forwards between two line 20m apart in time with a recorded sound track. The time of the shuttle runs gets progressively harder and faster as the test progresses, with teams who failed to complete level 7 starting at 8:36am and those who made it to level 8 starting at 8:33am the majority decided to drop out once they had reached the middle starting time.

However we were treated to a great show from those who pushed on to complete level 11 and achieve the perfect start time of 8:30am. Would the effort used at this first challenge have an effect on their race later in the day and would those few minutes make that much difference? Two runners kept going pushing each other until we were left with the last man standing who was Stephen Winacott from Team Wheel.

Straight from this it was into the safety brief with no respite for those who had only just finished and then it was time for the first start.

The first stage of the event was a real adventure, including a Bush Bash, a Creek Crossing and a steep climb up a very steep gully before hitting the open tracks and heading for the Bike Drop Off at TA 3. Some teams went





chest deep into the icy waters, some queued to delicately make their way across fallen trees, and those clever ones went up the creek about 50m and just walked across without a drop of H2O touching their toes.

At the first TA **Just Trippin** held the lead in the Premier Mixed Category over **Old Butt Slow** and **Don't Follow us we're lost!** **SGA Environmental** took the lead in the Corporate Category with Sydney Survivors Team 5 and Sydney Survivors Team 1 following.

SkirtSports.net.au took an early lead in the female category which they would hold onto for the remainder of the race with The **JKK's** and **Kaleka** chasing them down. **Wheel** led the male field with **Just in Time** and **Dellboys Trotters** hot on their heels.

Onto the first MTB leg with teams collecting 3 more CP's on their way to TA 7.

CP 5 proved to be an interesting one with many teams not realising there was a small track around the north east of the creek. It seems a few took a very chilly early bath as they swam across to collect the CP5 only to be cursing themselves at the finish line when we told them about the track ☺



From here an interesting choice of tracks split the field up as they headed to CP 6 located on a high point 250m from the track. A few tired soles didn't really want to head all the way up but with a great view of the surrounding area it was well worth the climb.

Into TA 7 and **Just Trippin** still held their lead with **Old Butt Slow** second and **Monkey Magic** third, and only 10 minutes behind. **SGA Environmental** still led the corporate field just beating **Just Trippin** into the TA with **Sydney Survivors Team 5** second and The **Red & White Wino's** third. **SkirtSports.net.au** were up with the sharp end of the field leading the female category with The **JKK's** and **Kaleka** close behind. **Wheel** continued to lead the male teams with **Honey Badgers** and **Maximum Adventure** close on their heels.

With a choice of collecting 5 of the 6 CP's on foot teams headed out and spread out across the surrounding forest with some great views from the outcrops at CP's F, D & C there were hard choices as to which CP to drop. F appears to have been the most popular choice with A & D next.

Once back into the TA teams were faced with the Square Ears challenge before hopping on their bikes and heading off to TA 10. Out of TA 7 the lead was held by **Just Trippin** followed by **Old Butt Slow** and **The Angry Dragons**. **SGA Environmental** lead **Sydney Survivors Team 5** and **The Red & White Winos** in the corporate category.

SkirtSports.net.au held a strong lead over The **JKK's** and **Wish someone would carry us** in the female category. **Maximum Adventure** had taken the lead in the male category with **PRIMAL** now in second and **Dellboys Trotters** third.





On their way to TA 10 teams who hadn't seen 'Brocoli' hill (the hiding place for the dash 4 the stash) on the way in to the bike drop this morning were treated to a good view and the choice to deviate from the course to try and collect the stash. A few tried but only one could win.

Into TA 10 and the front end of the field was starting to sort itself out as **Just Trippin** lead from **Old Butt Slow** and **The Angry Dragons** in the premier mixed category. **SGA Environmental** still dominated the corporate category with **Sydney Survivors Team 5** second and **Inglorious Bastards** third.

SkirtSports.net.au continued to lead strongly in the female category with **The JKK's** and **Wish someone would carry us** behind them. **Maximum Adventure** continued to lead the male teams with **Honey Badgers** and **Wheel** just behind.

After taking on the Teva Time Trial and Symbolic it was back onto the bike for 3 more CP's before hitting TA 14. Reaching TA 14 first was **Just Trippin** followed by **Old Butt Slow** and **The Angry Dragons** as teams took on the Gauntlet and the Survivor challenge. Had teams payed heed to the cryptic words of the Seuth Sayer? Some had, and those that didn't we're in for a drenching from the Survivor Storm!

SGA Environmental held their strong lead in the corporate category with **Sydney Survivors Team 5** and **Team 1** in second and third. **SkirtSports.net.au** continued their strong race with **Wish someone would carry us** second and **The JKK's** third. **Maximum Adventure** led the male teams with **Awesome Bruce** second and **Wheel** third. With a short ride back up the road to Penrose Community Hall to finish teams were faced with one final test of Adrenalin before crossing the line.



At the end of the day line honours went to **SGA Environmental** with the winners of each category as follows:

Premier Mixed

- 1st Just Trippin - Tsalina Phang, Luke Su, Csaba Geco
- 2nd Old Butt Slow – Robyn Simionato, Roger Simionato, Graham Johnston
- 3rd The Angry Dragons – Lucy Vowels, Brian Vowels, Paul Carruthers

Corporate

- 1st SGA Environmental – James Walker, Peter Graham, Dahmon Sorongan

Female

- 1st SkirtSports.net.au – Narelle Ash, Nicolette Kenny, Sally Lynch
- 2nd Wish someone would carry us – Sarah Biffin, Lindsay Carpenter, Melanie Robbins
- 3rd The JKK's – Kellie Baker, Jamie Page, Kathy Adrian

Male

- 1st Maximum Adventure – Gary Farebrother, Henry Van Heerden, Geff Harper
- 2nd Bringing up the Rear – Jason Rutkowski, Milan Turoczy, Mark Roberts
- 3rd Dellboys Trotters – Nick Gage, Ian Crisp, Richard Jackson