



# A Day at the Races For Teva Sydney!



Photos Courtesy of Steve Cooper: Sleepmonsters

It was time for Sydney to 'Saddle Up' ready for a Day at the Races as an all new event location just South of Cessnock played host to the Teva Adventure Series Sydney. With Race HQ based at Cessnock Wine Country Race Course teams broke out of the starting gates and into more adventure in one day than most people experience in a lifetime. And amongst all the adventure **Team Rank Outsiders** at odds of 3:1 took out the Trifecta, taking out Line Honours, the Male Category and \$450 cash from Teva, being the first team across the line wearing Teva Footwear!

Beautiful Werakata State Conservation Area, just south of Cessnock, played host to a day of adventure, mayhem and fun as teams lined up for round 5 of the Teva Adventure Series 2008. And after promises of bad weather, the sun rose above Cessnock Race Course to start the day off with a bang.

The Teva Adventure Series is an event with a difference. Participants only find out the exact race location 5 days before the event and the course is revealed just one hour before the start. Strategy and planning play a part in the outcome as well as a team's physical fitness, mountain biking ability and navigational skills.

With basic navigation (if teams can read a street map, they usually have no problem navigating) and courses that provide alternative route options depending on your skills and abilities, The Teva Adventure Series is perfect for beginners to come along and try their hand at one of Australia's fastest growing sports, while still keeping the more experienced and competitive teams competing right up until the final checkpoint.



place.

Teams entered the betting hall for registration to discover their odds for the race on the betting wall. Based on where they had ranked themselves earlier in the week determined their odds for the event and the pay out in 'Teva Fun One's' if their team crossed the finish line in first

place. Teams were each given one Teva Fun One Entry to place their bets and lined up for the Teva Bookie hoping to increase their winnings by betting on the winning team. Some teams predicting they would be in the top 10% were at odds of 3:1 with others who were obviously just there for the fun ranked at

25:1. Early betting was high on teams **Rank Outsiders, Kiwidingos, The Angry Dragons and Old Butt Slow.**



After registration, with only one hour to plan, Race HQ fell eerily quiet as most teams, planned, strategised and set their plans for the day, while others chose to chill out and take things as they came! As always with the Teva Adventure Series teams should assume nothing and expect anything, and the race brief offered a few clues (if you were switched on), to help teams along the way.

The race started with the first twist of the day as Teams were set the task to rescue their team Captain's in Men's Health International Rescue.

As the team captains were led away (perhaps never to be seen again ☺) the remaining team members looked lost wondering exactly when, where and how they would meet up with them again.

They were soon to find out, and as they set about collecting the clues and deciphering the secret code from the Men's Health Magazines. Stable 45 quickly revealed the map showing where their long lost team leaders were being held. Then it was off on their mountain bikes 1km away to rescue them.

As it turned out, some team captains, weren't so keen to be rescued, busy relaxing at back of the pack it took other team members to coax them out to head off on the first leg of the course. As at other events the teams that chose to work together were away quickly, while other team chose to go it alone and do it their own way.

After the bedlam of Men's Health International Rescue it was off on the first leg with both courses heading out on their Mountain Bikes, some



heading south east to TA 7 and other heading south west to TA E.

Teams on the south east leg of the course were treated to one of the most beautiful views in the area with 360° views of the surrounding Hunter Valley at CP D.

On arrival at TA E teams discovered just how observant or, as for most team, 'non-observant' they had been, in **'Mountain Designs Gear for Places You'd Rather Be'** challenge. And where brains triumphed over brawn, some saved on the leg work by remembering exactly what gear our Race Director was wearing at the Race Brief and only having to collect 3 check points, while others just had to keep on running to every check point. It was also great to see more team work going on as teams worked together to take on **'Rich List'**.

Meanwhile at TA 7 based at the old Kitchener Poppethead Mine Site teams separated, ready to take on **'Geographically Challenged'**. Some teams felt they had been 'Geographically Challenged' for the entire event so far, with some interesting route choices and map reading skills on course to TA 7.

The team member who chose to be the runner didn't expect that after recent rain the boardwalk around the dam was under water, and led to a chilly, muddy dunking along the way. Our navigators showed us their skills with a compass as they uncovered the clues in Poppethead Park and the bike riders headed off to one check point, which proved to be one of the most challenging of the day, with some riders almost making it back to HQ in their search for the Geographically Challenged List!



As teams completed their individual tasks and met up back at TA 7, they matched up the clues they'd collected. It was good to

see that some teams were listening all those years ago in school Geography class, while others, well, let's just say it was time for them to run again to collect the secret clue to be able to collect an Atlas from officials to solve the puzzle.

After the fun of geographically challenged it was time to regroup as a team to take on the **'Monopoly-O'** Orienteering Challenge, but as with all Teva events, 'orienteering ain't just orienteering' and this years twist saw teams throwing a 6 on the

giant dice to enter the Monopoly Board and then head out on the course to collect properties, Train Stations, Utilities with extra Teva Fun Ones for collecting houses for their properties.

We have to say a big "Thank You" to all the teams who collected the 'Community Chest' check point where they discovered they had made a donation to a community charity, with many teams choosing to donate their gold coins into the collection tin to support the great work of the Youth Enterprise Trust and collect more Teva Fun One's as a bonus.

After all this, there was even more in store at HQ as teams headed back to the Race Course on their mountain bikes.



At Race HQ it was time for teams to take on **'A Day at the Races'**, but first there was a 4 minute compulsory stop for each team to select a team jockey and create some silks to wear on the challenge. With 3 Mountain Designs Gift Vouchers on offer for the best silks, the competitive teams took only the four minutes, while others chose to stay even longer than the compulsory 4 minutes to make some marvellous creations that even Melbourne Cup jockeys would have been proud of.

A special mention goes out to teams **SNAFU & Hot Chocolate** with a special commendation from the Stewards for their silks, but the winner of the best silks, as judged by the Stewards went to team **Civic for Cystic**, who were also raising money for the Sydney Children's Hospital and research into Cystic Fibrosis as part of the event.

With jockeys selected and donned in their team coloured silks, teams headed down to the lawn to take on **'A Day at the Races'**. Celebrating their jockey's win, teams had to transport their jockey the length of the field and back without spilling the glass of celebratory champagne. It was stealth, style, agility and team work that won the day as we saw many styles including the Fireman's Lift, the Chair Hold, the piggy back and some others that we just don't want to mention as teams skilfully transported their jockeys, trays & champagne.

After taking on the field it was time to collect their winnings, and with a calculation that Einstein would be proud of, some teams wished they'd packed their calculators, while other like **Three Times the Fun** used their financially skilled brains

to wizz through the calculation and head straight to stable 13 to collect their gold coin winnings.

On collection of the winnings it was time to sober up those jockeys, and what better way to do that than with a right royal dunking!

At the dunk machine it was time for the jockeys to Saddle Up on the seat of the dunk machine as their other team mates tested their strength & accuracy and fired off balls into the target. As the targets hit, jockeys fell, splashes were seen and screams were heard (and that was mainly the male teams!).



After the fun of 'A Day at the Races' teams chose to either '**Pick It**' in a giant game of pick up sticks with a

twist that involved innovation and team work or to '**Pull It**' on the giant bungee. Most teams made the challenge target on the bungee, with some teams stretching themselves just a little further to reach the Teva Fun One Target and collect even more entries into the Teva Fun One prize draw.

It was fantastic to see at '**Top of the Pops**' that not only do our teams know how to compete hard, they also know how to play hard too with teams getting together to do a rendition of their favourite 60s, 70s, 80s, or 90s pop song in 'Top of the Pops' Well done guys for making it a Teva Fun One!

After all the challenges at HQ teams headed back out on their bikes for the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg of the race before making their way back to HQ to take on the '**Camelbak Cup**'.

Teams were going fast and furious in their hopes to take out the **Camelbak Cup** with the fastest non-placing team to complete the 200m run, up the straight to the finish line taking home 3 Camelbak XC Hydration Packs.

Teams were flying down the straight in the hope of taking home this awesome prize from Camelbak, and at the end of the day Andrew Stanford, Tim Coghlan & Adrian Watson from team **Community of Believers** recorded the fastest sprint of the day in an amazing **27 seconds**.

Special mention in the **Camelbak Cup** must also go to:

Kiwidingos: 33 seconds  
Rank Outsiders: 33 seconds

AVT 3:	33 seconds
Beer Belly Buff Basards:	34 seconds
Snap Crackle Pop:	35 seconds
Bonnet Bay Freaks:	35 seconds
iCycle Indoor Training	37 seconds
Pedro & the Pacemakers:	38 seconds
Suncorp One	38 seconds
Steve's Entourage	38 seconds
Underachievers	38 seconds

And after all the adventure it was time to celebrate the winners of the event at the prize giving. Those teams to make it to the finish line before the rest were:

### Corporate

#### **1<sup>st</sup> SGA Environmental (88)**

*Motto: Can On*

Odds: 5:1

James Walker, Peter Graham, Dahmon Sorongan

### Premier Mixed

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Trundlers In Training (96)**

Odds: 5:1

Rob Tyson, Ann Marie Mulligan, Jimmy Tyson

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Max Adventure (75)**

*Motto: Living Life to the MAX!*

Odds: 3:1

Andrew Harmer, Fluer Grose, Gary Farebrother

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Old Butt Slow (84)**

Odds: 3:1

Robyn Simionato, Roger Simionato, Graham Johnston

### Female

#### **1<sup>st</sup> 8 Legs (4)**

*Motto: We're not here to #\$\$% Spiders*

Odds: 5:1

Megan Divett, Melissa Backhouse, Kylee Ingram

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Missing In Action (9)**

Odds: 15:1

Cheryl Nas, Lynne Pinsent, Charmaine Nicholson

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Three Times the Fun! (16)**

Odds: 15:1

Jeanette Dillon, Liza Whitfield, Marg Harivel

### Male

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Rank Outsiders (39)**

Odds: 3:1

Kris Plain, Rick Plain, Ben Rattray

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Suncorp One (52)**

*Motto: Just here to perve!*

Odds: 5:1

Campbell Wills, Jason King, Andrew Wisniewski

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Snap Crackle Pop! (42)**

*Motto: We finish what we....*

Odds: 5:1

David Wood, David Eisenhauer, Mark Williams

The '**Dash for the Stash**' proved popular and teams were searching for the stash right up until the final prize giving.

For the Mountain Designs Adventure Starter Kit, teams were challenged to work out 'In the words of Otis Redding' the stash was hidden 'Under the boardwalk' in the water (H2O) where the shark was (from Spielberg take your warning). A number of teams worked out the clue, tugged on the shark at the board walk, but didn't but didn't explore hard enough, until Team 14 **The Nudie Girls Team 1**, discovered the stash toward the end of the day.

For the In 2 Adventure pack, lots of teams worked out it was in the sand somewhere at Race HQ and they were searching on the track, in the middle of the track, near the mud pit, but Team **Old Butt Slow** were smart enough to ask the caretaker if there was a sand pit at the race course. And of course there was, and after minutes of furious digging the stash was discovered buried in the horse sand pit!

As teams cashed in on their winning bets from the morning the Teva Fun One Box was bursting at the seams. It was so great to see everyone competing in the spirit of the event and in the most important part of the day; it was time for the **Teva Fun One Draw**. The Teva Fun One offers teams at the 'Let's Have Fun' end of the field the opportunity to choose to take on some extra challenges throughout the event to gain extra entries into a fantastic prize draw at the end of the day.

Prizes are awarded to all 3 team members and include Mountain Designs AR Starter packs valued at over \$280, Camelbak Hydration Packs, High 5 Race Packs, Teva Footwear, Continental Tyre & Rudy Project Gift Packs, Mountain Designs Gift Vouchers, Men's Health Gift Packs, Women's Health Gift Packs, Race Elements Training Vouchers and Much More.

As part of the Teva Fun One we'd like to make a special mention to a number of teams, who embodied the spirit of fun and adventure that is the Teva Adventure Series. Emma, Michelle & Emma from team **Lighting Flashers** who kept us all amused with their red bonds undies (worn over their shorts & complete with yellow lightning flash), masks and red capes as they flew down the camelback cup to the cheers of the waiting crowd. To the Teams from **Addventure Training** who did the whole event in their Viking helmets and to all those teams who took on a new adventure for the first time and did it all with mud splattered smiles on their faces.

Congratulations to everyone who took part in Teva Sydney, it was a special day for all of us and thank you for the many emails and fantastic feedback you have sent. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2009!

If you would like to find out more about the Teva Adventure Series and what's happening in your state check out:

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