

Glasshouse Mountains - Cooks Tour 16th May 2010

Images courtesy of Sarah Marshall, G3 photography

May is firming as Queensland's busiest running month with at least five other local events just on the same weekend. Despite this 275 keen runners lined up in the four races (11, 30, 50 and 80km) starting at the Woodford swimming pool. Tony Shaw and Sarah Glover glided over the sand and bog to win the 11km in slick times. The 30km runners found Cook's climb (named after Bruce not Captain James) a worthy challenge with Tim Garrett ten minutes clear of the field and Eleanor Robertson (ex-Scotland and ex-NZ) first female.

Over 70 lined up for the ultra events. I wonder how close they all got to the extremely large python near checkpoint 6 before they realized it wasn't moving? Marita Eisler (1st female and in her 1st ultra) was leading the 50km into the second loop at checkpoint 8 before Vince Kelly (sporting some cortisone in a narky knee) decided to make his first Glasshouse Ultra a winning one. Craig Brown seems to be liking ultras more and more and was 3rd across the line. Lia Bull (2nd female) and Deborah McIntyre took out the minor placings; though we should mention photographer extraordinaire Helga Dalla who was a few minutes ahead of Deborah though ineligible due to the her early start. Well done to Dianne Schot on her finish too!

Some hardy (some injured) soles in the 80km thought the 3am start was a little late in the day and braved the start-line at midnight. The race was a close one and with only a few kilometers to go Nigel Waddington passed previous 100 mile winner (and International Adventure Racer) Walter Brumniach, with Walter not so keen on a sprint finish. Andrew Beattie placed third. Mandy-Lee Scott (combining duties of 1st placed female as well as pacing Chris) obviously had recovered from 'The Prom' two weeks earlier to finish just ahead of Rebecca Pratten who was in her 1st ultra. April Palmerlee (aka 'Pink Skirt' and came dressed as such) made the trip up from Sydney to claim third. Marita, Mandy-Lee and Rebecca have added to the wealth of ultra talent amongst the Queensland women.

Even better than the running are the 'snags and burgers' at the finish made by the Glasshouse Mountains Advancement Network. The series has recently started recognizing those with an unbreakable bond with the Glasshouse events. Runners are recognized for the most completed runs (and ultras) and the most kilometers completed. Kerrie Morris has run over 2300kms in 35 events to date with Rodney Ladyman the only other over 2000kms. Seven others have accrued over 1000kms. Adrian Pearce has run more than just a few events himself (and must have the most podiums of anyone!) and Ian Javes has race directed over 40!

Thanks to the Trail Running Association of Qld, Ian and his on-course and checkpoint helpers. The next event is Saturday July 24th with the last in the series on September 11-12th. Photos of the events can be found at www.g3photography.com.au Order your finisher's certificate now!