

## Australia Day Run 17 Mile Rocks

The venue is a beacon in the history of early industrial Brisbane, being the unloading point for the barges bringing coral mined in Moreton Bay upriver. The smashed coral was then sent by conveyor across to the Darra cement works, conveniently close to the railway, pie shop and bowling club, whence it was turned into the Victoria and Captain Cook Bridges. As rowers from that period will attest, coxless boats were always in fear of the barge Darra which bowled up the river at impressive speed, its appearance was always a surprise.

But great venue hares, inspiring memory of the low moments in the history of runs in the Seventeen Mile Rocks area, namely runs I have set having forgotten all others. First run went from Oxley somewhere and ended up down Blackheath Rd and along the river bank. That was considered pretty tough going by the pack, especially the climb up to Fort Rd. Miles lived across the river and wanted to swim home. Then there was another with co-hare Snappy Tom that started at Rocks Park at the end of Counihan Rd, did a circuit of the industrial estate and what little there was of Edenbrooke at that time. Then back down Blackheath Rd, this time for the full traverse of the river front, kids tracks now extinguished and in the dark, ending with a variety of man proof fences protecting the wharf area and other industrial sites, and back to start. Some shirkers escaped the locked factory yard, it's still there, by climbing out of the letterbox, that was a shortcut as the real trail went over the fence and the three strands of barbed wire. It was also the first run of Dead Man Walking, and yes, he was appropriately named from his appearance. Bugs reminded me on Monday night that he surprised a couple in mid bonk in the grass while on a check on this run. Can't be sure the pack enjoyed the run, but the hares certainly did!

This time round, it was Tinkerbell and Tweety, did I hear right, first hareing for Tweety, for the Australia Day run. Small turnout explained by the long weekend syndrome, but how long weekends impact on the life of the great retired remains a mystery; hashmen are just creatures of habit. Can't speak for the walkers, but the runners trail went down through the park and up the convict cut steps to the conveyor easement, the remnant conveyor supports illustrating a bit of enlightened planning. From there across Seventeen Mile Rocks Rd and through the Edenbrooke estate to the park and track system. There's a surprising body of water in there! Then followed a series of FTs, CBs and loops which certainly confused this runner, who hoped that it would all up somewhere closer to home than the Mt Ommaney shopping centre. Yes, now wrong side of the highway, no chance of SCBing this! So, down to the overpass at Jindalee, with a couple of variations to keep the pack honest, and home in 65 minutes, not too bad really! Can't say much about the walking trail, but there were no complaints.

Before the circle, the food was served, classic Aussie cuisine, pies and chips, but they had to be eaten right then and now....so I can't report on the quality.

In centre stage was this cardboard dunny, ex Tweety and ice filled pedestal, ex Tinker, representing the proudest achievement of Australian society, weekly night soil collection. Tweety was first on the ice, the 65 minute trail did it, followed by Tightnut, dropped in it by F\*\*\*nut for rubbing out the start marks! Other candidates were put forward, but Tightnut won the pleasure of the new STOW high vis vest, duly inscribed, and presented by HRH Shitbags, but then immediately taken back. Will this be the nanny state year? When STOWs can't be even trusted?

So good run hares, great venue, deserves a repeat, and next time along the riverbank, runners and walkers.

Pushup

Hash Flash photos next page





