

Paddy Pallin 2016 Report

Congratulations to the 458 competitors who, in less than ideal conditions, competed in this years event. Early indications were that the forecasters had overreacted and may be we were going to escape the impending weather. Optimism turned to disappointment when just after the start the rain intensified the grounds became waterlogged, tracks became muddy quagmires, scenic views became white outs and the car park became a bog hole. However in true rogaining style everyone seemed to enjoy the event.

Congratulations to all category winners especially to the overall winners Greg Barbour and Richard Mountstephens who scored a very impressive 2080 points from a maximum 2500. Considering the conditions all the scores were very good with most teams using their maximum allowable time on the course.

Unfortunately course setter Peter Charlton was hospitalised on the morning he was supposed to start hanging flags. That's when his wife Diana stepped in and conscripted some emergency flag hangers who completed the job with days to spare. Rob and Marg Cook, in their professional and pleasant manner did an excellent job vetting and supporting Peter and Diana. Peter devoted a lot of time in his planning of the course and this was reflected in the many favourable comments from competitors regarding the area and the course design.

Waitara Scouts did a magnificent job in very difficult and trying circumstances. You need a very efficient system to feed 500 competitors when they finish but to do this with changing and deteriorating conditions adds an extra challenge. Well done to Keith and his crew.

The Catherine Hill Bay Bowling Club was superb in their support and willingness to cooperate with any request we asked. I'm sure Nola and her staff (who are all volunteers) did not realise that they were going to be such an integral part of the event. They were amazed and not only the scale of the event but the friendliness, persistence and resilience of the competitors.

BWRS once again were on hand as the safety team and were assisted in first aid by Catherine Hill Bay Surf Life Saving Club.

Car parking was managed by Ian Dempsey and a couple of the bowlers from the club

Thanks to the admin staff on the day , in particular Anita and Vivien for the efficient way they run the event. They were assisted by Carolyn Rigby and Carolyn Chalmers.

Finally a big thank you to Chris Mien from the Paddy Pallin Organisation who assisted with promoting the event and organising "give aways" to every competitor and prizes to all category winners

Quote of the day from a competitor:

"A memorable event"