

Run: 2266 Christmas in July

Date 22 July 2013

Venue Toowong Bowls Club

Scribe Ron the Bomb

GM Divot was casting around for someone to report the run and selected yours truly as the Scribe despite protestations that nothing worthwhile would result. So be it--here goes.

Twas a dark and stormy night--well not quite--definitely dark and definitely wet. The omens were not good for the run but there were some hardy souls prepared to turn out for whatever the hares had in store. The club carpark was somewhat empty early on but hashers sporadically drifted in to eventually comprise a reasonable pack. The rain meanwhile had increased from a mild sprinkle to some heavy stuff resulting in an outburst of umbrellas and the carport was quickly filled with groups of sheltering hashers all engaged in various forms of idle chitchat. One such was a vigorous debate on the comparative merits of rugby league (State of Origin match) espoused by Dr Who versus football (Manchester United match) by Jack Off. Verdict--Inconclusive!

As start time approached, the rain fortuitously eased and stopped allowing GM Divot to call the assembly to order to hear the hares' spokesman Waste of Time give some details of the forthcoming run, including trail markings adding the comforting reassurance that these included toilet paper which had been specially provided for those in need. However he didn't explain how said paper, by now sodden and disintegrating might be used.

With that, the pack (with the exception of some who headed to the Bowls Club bar) spilled out of the carpark and headed to Gailey Road. By the time Scribe got there, the runners were not in sight and the walkers were heading left and across Gailey Road which in view of the peak hour traffic was a hazardous undertaking indeed. Almost immediately the walkers turned right into Bellevue Terrace and thus began a night of hill climbing--not a pleasing prospect for the Scribe whose maxim is--Hills and me do not agree. Nevertheless, on and up we climbed, then right into Dengate Lane providing a brief breather, but swiftly left into Armadale Street and another exerting climb. Over the top and down to Douglas Street to catch up with another group who were still deciding which way to proceed. No doubts for our group which swung left into Douglas Street to Sir Fred Schonell Drive and then to the Ryans Road junction meeting up with yet another group. Much indecision on where to go--but not however for Snappy Tom who unhesitatingly started up Ryans Road--no trail markings required for him! Dr Who quickly joined him, followed by Scribe, then Jack Off and GM Divot with a few others following some way back. The remainder headed on along Schonell Drive towards UQ (Virgin later confirmed others also had headed to UQ via Guyatt Park)

Ryans Road-- and Carmody Road where Snappy led the group-- turned out to be one long hill climb but Snappy and Dr Who set a fast pace and soon opened a big gap to the rest of the group which by now was a long string of walkers. Mortein, the walkers usual pacemaker was not with this group but Snappy's effort was a good match. Upward ever upward the group toiled until at Highview Terrace some chalk trail markings were observed--not where we were heading but coming from the right so not much use to the group. Here, since the group had not been on any trail for some considerable time, Snappy was asked where we were going, to which he replied "I don't know--if you follow me you will probably get lost" Despite this, and relying on Snappy's great confidence, the group continued to follow him. and was rewarded when the Swann Road junction came into view. So it was then right along Swann Road thankfully downhill to the Gailey Road junction, right at the corner and thus back to the Bowls Club. More walkers arrived soon after followed by the first of the runners.

Can't report on the experience of the runners but if it was anything like that of this group of walkers they would have had plenty of hills to contend with.

Left early so proceedings after this point are unknown.