

Mini Cyclones 2021 Camp Review

Mini Cyclones camp was FUN! I've cleaned up, gone back to work and am still excited by what we achieved on the Labour Day long weekend. And the fun 😊.

With Covid, this camp was two years in planning. My goal of preparing a number of orienteers to be more able to confidently run Moderate courses and be ready and willing for selection in the Qld Schools Junior Team was realized. Checkout the results from the Camp Champs event at Cotswold on Sunday 3rd May in difficult and challenging terrain. Alternatively, have a look at the smiles on faces in the photos and video.

I could feel anxious when faced with the responsibility of leading almost 100 people for two and a half days and six orienteering activities (all with SI – see results for all three days on Eventor), whilst all the while trusting that what I have prepared will be suitable for a diverse range of orienteering experience, in school aged participants, and their parents. This being my sixth year, there weren't many nerves but that is partly due to a great band of helpers. My thanks to:

- Tony and Dylan Bryant – technology
- Brenton and Meredith Gray and Neil and Alex Gannon for a great Camp Champs!
- Ryan Gray – guest coach
- Simeon Burrill – guest coach
- Ken Laws – course setter
- Dylan, Miles, and Joshua Newnes - constant control putting out and collection
- Deb Reinbott, Lucy Peljo and Sue Campbell – camp logistics
- Felicity Crosato – fellow orienteer and coach
- The band of seven parents in the kitchen
- Cam Schubert – chief toilet digger and video creator
- Fiona Caristo and Nicole Cooper – photographers
- Nicole Cooper – compass loan
- Philip Burrill – encourager, sounding board and fellow coach

Our two learning areas this year were reading contours and taking good bearings. We had 59 school aged orienteers, six of whom were younger siblings of Mini's and 11 who helped as coaches. That gave us 42 actual Mini Cyclones. The age of a Mini Cyclone has blurred a little since Rob Simson handed over the reins to me 7 years ago. With Covid last year, we found a larger number of orienteers than usual who had not orienteered last year, hence we had one 16 year old Mini and also an experienced 10 year old.

Having the older coaches join in for two relays (one sprint and one bush) was a lot of fun as the younger orienteers saw what it was like to have a mass start and compete as a team. The younger ones also saw the older orienteers get their game faces on for a sprint final at Maroon Dam Camp. No pressure! One adult tried a bit too hard to keep ahead of the field and caused himself an injury and of course, there was a soccer injury. Marion Burrill