



AURA BOGONG TO HOTHAM TRAIL RUN

ALIAS "THE ROOFTOP RUN"

carrying on the proud tradition of the Rooftop Runners

Next Run – Sunday 6 January 2008

Newsletter 2008-03

26 November 2007

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Volunteer Coordinator: Greg Sargeant Ph (02) 6026-8948, sarge@iinet.net.au

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Hi Everyone,

Only 6 weeks to go to Bogong to Hotham. We have around 40 entries, with a number of additional runners who have advised they intend to enter. **Remember the race limit is 60, so if you want to run, you should get your entries in without delay.** Spots will be allocated in order of receipt of entries, and if/when all 60 spots are filled, names will be added to a waiting list.

To avoid delays in the mail, the best way to enter is to scan your completed entry and [email](#) it to me, and direct deposit the money into my bank account (I'll send you the details upon request)

If you have sent in your entry form and have NOT received a confirmation email from me, can you please [email](#) me with brief details as soon as possible?

We've got our Sweepers

Thank you to those who volunteered as sweepers. I'm pleased to say that we have a full complement, which is really terrific.

What this means is that if the weather is fine, runners can carry the light pack. The Race Director will make that call on the morning of the race, so please come prepared with your full pack in case it is required. Those of you who ran 4 Peaks this year will testify as to how quickly conditions can change to a raging blizzard on the exposed mountain peaks.

New Communications Officer

In an earlier newsletter I announced my retirement from work early next year, and I will then be unable to continue in the role of Communications Officer for the B2H event due to my travel plans.

Mike and I are therefore pleased to announce that **Paul Monks** has volunteered to take my place. Paul is an avid hiker, ultra runner and roganier. He has hiked extensively across Australia with his partner Nicole and more recently with his son Jackson, who at six months old has already spent his first night in a tent.

Paul's first ultra was Cradle Mountain earlier this year because he couldn't get the time off work to do a full

hike in Tasmania. Since then he's run several ultras across the country on track, road and mostly trail.



Trail runs are certainly his preference, as they are more interesting, have courses with a greater variety and are more challenging. His short term running goal is next years Australian Alpine Ultra Marathon 100 Mile - but long term, who knows. Recently he has taken up roganing which he enjoys for the additional navigational challenge - where having a flat patch is more likely to leave you lost, rather than merely a few minutes off the pace.

When he isn't running around in the great outdoors, Paul spends his days as a Software Architect - skills that will no doubt help him as the Bogong to Hotham Communication Officer.

Paul will be assisting at the 2008 event, and will take over the Communication Officer responsibilities after the race. He can be contacted on paulmonks@gmail.com.

Saturday Briefing and Registration

A get together will be held between 5 and 8 pm on Saturday 5 January at the Bogong Hotel, Cnr. Kiewa Valley Hwy and Mountain Creek Road.

Formalities will include:

- Race number pick up
- Gear check
- Race briefing

Meals and drinks are available for purchase at the hotel.

Wireless Safety Net Story

Bob Tait has kindly supplied me with some information on how the wireless operators became involved with the Bogong to Hotham Run. Here's the background story as told by Bob.

Geoff Hooke was running the event under great difficulty in the early days as there was no efficient means of getting messages passed down the line to the next check point except by using the runners and some old CB radios which did not work very well. As Geoff and I were in the Victorian Veterans running club, I made the suggestion to him that we could use the services on the Amateur radio network to give safety communications and pass results to controllers at the half way point and the finish at Hotham.

Mt Hotham acted as the main control point for the race as most check point could be heard from there. When start time approached the radio station at the start would open the microphone to the operators on Mt Hotham to start the stop watch so accurate times could be given. This proved to be very helpful as it was not possible for the race controller to drive from the start to Watchbed Creek and then on to Mt Hotham before the first runners arrived.

Geoff and I agreed that the radio operators must wait until all runners cleared the next check point before packing up and walking out. On the Bogong section the operators at the start wait until the runners clear Ropers Hut; as the Ropers operator will follow the runners out to Watchbed Creek. On the second section the operator at Dibbins follows the runners out to Hotham. On the intermediate sections all operators go out in the opposite direction to the runners so they must wait until the runners clear the next check point.

Spare a thought for those who walk in with radio gear, batteries, poles and antenna plus their normal camping gear. These guys do a great job to ensure the safety of runners in this challenging event.

All The Best Bob Tait VK3XP.

Comment: The wireless operators have become an integral part of this event, to the extent that the event would not exist without it. Every year a sum of money is donated to the radio club from the proceeds of the race entries. Last year, many runners donated their entry fees to the club when the race was cancelled, with the figure exceeding \$1200. We greatly appreciate the service our radio colleagues perform.

Good luck with your preparation.

Regards
John Lindsay
Communications Officer

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