

# The Great Wheelbarrow Race 2011

## Important Information for Competitors

- All support vehicles are to be assembled at the Mareeba Heritage Museum and Visitor Information Centre car park by no later than **8.00am on Friday 13 May 2011.**
- Race briefings will be held on the morning of each leg of the race. It is **compulsory** for all marshals and nominated team members to attend these briefings.
- Between the Rankin/Byrnes Street roundabout and the top of Granite Creek teams are **NOT PERMITTED TO OVERTAKE ANOTHER TEAM.**
- Between the Rankin Street and Lloyd Street roundabouts the left hand lane of Byrnes Street will be closed to other traffic however teams in the race are to travel down this lane. Traffic controllers will direct the runner and support vehicles into the appropriate lane at the Rankin Street roundabout. Teams are encouraged to leave their support vehicles and walk/run down Byrnes Street between the roundabouts.
- At the top of Granite Creek the runner pushing the wheelbarrow will be directed off the road by a traffic controller onto the bike path which runs beside the road. The runner with the wheelbarrow is to proceed down the bike path and cross Granite Creek using the pedestrian footbridge. They are then to proceed along the pathway across the railway line to where a traffic controller will direct them to their waiting support vehicle. **While on the bike path the runner with the wheelbarrow must proceed cautiously because pedestrians may be present.**

While the runner is crossing the bridge the support vehicle will be directed to cross the traffic bridge at normal speed and proceed to the traffic control officer waiting across the railway line on the road to Dimbulah. The support vehicle is to wait on the side of the road as directed until the runner with the wheelbarrow joins them. The runner and support vehicle will then be directed back onto the road.

- Those teams who are dressed in costumes on the Friday morning will be able to stop at the Mareeba International Club and change. Traffic control officers will be on the road to direct teams into the Club. **There will be no time penalty incurred by those teams who stop and change at the International Club.**
- The section of road between Mareeba and Dimbulah is the busiest in terms of traffic which makes it the most dangerous section of road for the runner pushing the wheelbarrows. Teams should exercise extreme caution when travelling along this section of road.
- The time a team takes to complete each leg of the race will be calculated by subtracting their finishing time from their starting time. When a team is on the road racing the **clock will only be stopped at the discretion of the Marshal ie. toilet breaks, safety reason, etc.**
- Competitors should wear **bright coloured clothing** to enhance their visibility when on the road.
- Competitors **should wear eye protection (glasses etc)** when on the road as passing traffic may throw up loose stones which may cause serious injury to the eyes.
- Sections of the Wheelbarrow Way **are gravel and competitors should take extra care when travelling along these sections.** Passing vehicles can generate large dust clouds which can severely reduce visibility. Under these conditions competitors will not be able to see other traffic and other road users will not be able to see competitors. In these circumstances it is imperative that competitors and their support vehicles move to the side of the road as quickly as possible and remain there until the dust has settled.
- Much of the road between Dimbulah and Chillagoe is unfenced and cattle often feed along the road edges. In most instances they should not present any danger to competitors however they should not be taken for granted and should be treated with respect because they are potentially dangerous wild animals.
- There are a number of cattle grids on the road between Dimbulah and Chillagoe and while rubber surfaces will be provided to allow competitors to cross them extra care should be taken.

## ROAD CONDITIONS

### **Mareeba - Dimbulah**

Between Mareeba and Dimbulah the Wheelbarrow Way is a sealed bitumen road. The terrain is relatively flat and this section of the race should present competitors with few if any problems or challenges other than completing the distance in the time allowed. This section will probably be the busiest in terms of traffic particularly in regard to trucks. This section of the race is 50 km in length.

### **Dimbulah - Almaden**

Between Dimbulah and Almaden the Wheelbarrow Way is mostly sealed.

The topography of the area is hilly and this section contains some steep grades which may present a challenge to some competitors. The steepest sections occur where the road crosses the Lappa and Bismark Ranges.

This section of the road is largely unfenced and cattle often feed along the edges. There are several narrow bridges/causeways which need to be negotiated. This section of the race is 65 km in length.

### **Almaden - Chillagoe**

Between Almaden and Chillagoe the road is sealed in some sections and gravel in others. Competitors should take care when travelling along the gravel sections and should move to the side of the road if dust clouds reduce visibility.

The topography of the area is hilly and this section contains some minor to moderate grades, however these should not present any major challenges for competitors. This section of the road is largely unfenced and cattle often feed along the edges. This section of road is 34 km in length.