

ULTRA-TRAIL

AUSTRALIA

UTA50 - Tania Craig

Running is my thing it is what makes me happy, I especially love trail running. Prior to entering this event I had never been to the Blue Mountains and up until that point all of my trail running has been done here in Canberra. As part of my training I travelled to Katoomba on two separate occasions to get an appreciation of the terrain and to prepare both my body and mind for the event. I really enjoyed my time running in the Blue Mountains and often I would remark that to organise such an event would be a mammoth undertaking.

I would like to say what an awesome event! And thank you.

Sometimes it is the little things that make the journey special, and on reflection these are some of the things that the UTA organisers have impressed me with.

- Advising me that a spot had come available when I left it too late to enter – this made me very happy!
- Regular updates/newsletter's
- Great website with heaps of great information that made preparation easy for the event ie, accommodation, mandatory gear check locations
- Twitter
- UTA t-shirt
- Event expo (including food vendors)
- Question & answer session (the runners on stage were inspiring and real)
- Pre-race briefing (especially the welcome to Country by David King, so refreshing to see)
- Registration (great job very well organised)
- Race start/finish atmosphere great! (even in the wee hours)
- Staging of start groups – This was one of my biggest concerns I had coming into the race was how I was going to feel about the crowds especially as I was in the last starting group. The start of the course was great meant that people could spread out and I only had bottleneck on the stair legs of my event which I was expecting.
- The check points were great loved that people offered to fill up my pack with water an offer words of encouragement. There were plenty of fuel options for everyone.
- After my race I went to the 75km check point to support my brother-in-law who was competing. This check point was great really thought of everything including coffee for the tired support crew.
- All the volunteers throughout the event they were so supportive and helpful.
- Course mark-up fantastic!
- Good toilet facilities
- Various cameras along the course (because the last thing I felt like doing was taking a selfie)
- My medal & Buff on completing the race! Yay loving the buff on these cold Canberra mornings.
- CMS Conference Centre were we stayed during the event. The organiser were lovely people and we would defiantly stay here again.
- The only suggestion I have for future years if you could possibly cater for vegetarians.

Keep up the great work and I look forward to the UTA 2017, perhaps I might tackle the 100km?