

EMMA-ROSE MABER

100km First-Time Solo Competitor – Surf Coast Century 2020

Dear Rapid Ascent,

It feels ridiculously anonymous to address this email to a company – please accept my apologies!

It has been a year of sh*t. Absolutely ‘Crapola’. I was devastated when the event was pushed back from September – I really thought “That’s it! It will just get cancelled.” But you guys didn’t seem to give up so easily, and actually, that was so much more powerful than you could have ever realised. This sliver of hope. That just maybe something positive will happen this year. Hang on a bit longer...

My training was poo. The limited hours in Melbourne were so frustrating. But the VUR community is a crazy bunch and they kept me sane. Backyard ultras and like.

So, race day was announced as a goer and my first thought was something like “OH F*&K!” But hey - they say ultra runners are a bit nuts so I thought I would have a crack. That a DNF was a heck of a lot better than a DNS.

So, knowing not a soul, I set out for my first ever 100. Sure, I have done a lot of 50+, but 100? Nup. I made a friend pretty early on and we chatted and laughed about the sections we had predicted to be easy, but were tough and visa versa, we ended. Up. Crossing the line together after 14 ½ hours supporting each other along. Previous strangers, now mates.

The vollies were all super helpful, fun and engaged. The coke at 86kms was GOLD! The chips delicious and salty and the help with water and Tailwind ah-maze-zing!

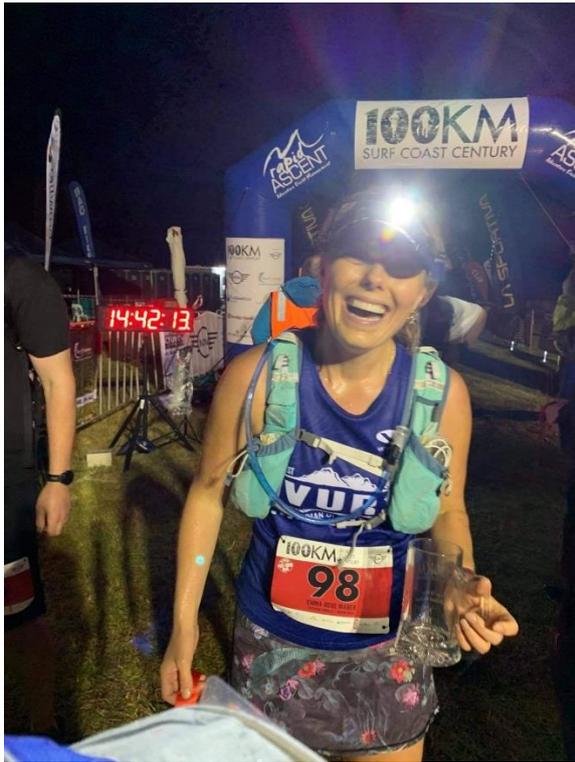
I stacked at about 30kms in – just hit a little wall, had a moment, then off I went again. And one step in front of another, I felt like I was getting little pieces of me back, after an absolutely shocking year. Step by step, I got piece by piece back. My run was mirroring my year.

I saw some of the most stunning landscapes I could have imagined. 2 echidnas, a blue tongue, some roos. A double rainbow! Met some awesome people. And finished a personal goal of 100 blooming kilometres!!!!

Anyhoo, a very long-winded way to say THANK YOU! For not giving up on the event, for keeping that little ray of hope. And for presenting an opportunity for realising a dream I didn’t actually know was so powerful.

See you again in 2021! And I’m bring my friends too!

Emma-Rose Maber #89



PHOTOS – From Emma, by Emma