



Australian Rogaining Association Inc. 2006/07 President's Report

The balance of 2006 and first half of 2007 have continued to be a busy and successful for all state associations. 14 months have passed since the 2006 Australian Rogaining Championships and Annual General Meeting.

The main work of the ARA Executive and Council during that period has been the relaunching of intervarsity rogaining, renegotiation of our insurance coverage and commencement of another review of the Technical Standards to include electronic scoring.

2006 Australian Rogaining Championships

The 2006 "Barkly's Hope" Australian Rogaining Championship was hosted by the Victorian Rogaining Association near St Arnaud on 13th / 14th May 2006. 359 rogainers in 160 teams took part with representatives from all Australian States and Territories, and 2 teams from New Zealand.

Julie Quinn and Karl Strode-Penny put in an extraordinary performance to take out the overall title by 190 points over second place. This is the second occasion in four years that a mixed team had won the Australian Championship. The VRA won the interstate trophy, ahead of ACTRA and SARA.

7th World Rogaining Championships, 2006

The New South Wales Rogaining Association hosted this event on 13th/14th October 2006 in the Warrumbungle National Park and adjacent farm land. 691 entrants (including 125 entrants from overseas) in 311 teams took part. The event was over subscribed, leading to a new high water mark for World Championship events in Australia. In the future some form of qualification may need to be considered.

The pre-event billing: "Everything you look for in a classic endurance event in the Australian bush: a combination of navigational, strategic and physical challenges. You will be stretched to your limit." certainly came true.

Overall champions were Dennis de Monch & Chris Forne of New Zealand. Full results and event reports can be found at: www.rogaine2006.com.au

Congratulations to NSWRA and the Organising Team on putting together such a successful event:

Coordinator	Alan Mansfield
Event Administrator	Ian Almond
Course Design / Chief Setter / Mapping	Mike Hotchkis
Course Setting, Checking and Fieldwork	Trevor Gollan, Mardi Beat, John Barnes, George Collins, Peter Tuft, Chris Waring
Independent Vetter	Tony Maloney
Sponsorship	Julian Ledger
Event Treasurer	Tony Maloney
Catering (Event)	1st Waitara Scouts
Catering Information	John Keats
IT Support	Graeme Cooper
Site Support	David Sigely

Future World Rogaining Championships

The 8th World Rogaining Championships has been awarded to Estonia. The event will be held on 13th/14th September, 2008. Refer to the following website for more information: <http://8wrc2008.rogain.ee>

The 9th World Rogaining Championships is scheduled to be held in 2010. The selection process, to date, has been confusing and disappointing. Despite a rotational policy between Europe, North America and Asia (including Australia and New Zealand), it appears the IRF wants to hold the event in Asia in 2010. Individual rogaining associations have been approached rather than an open bidding system. The ARA has requested a clarification of the bidding process and rotational policy.

The IRF recently undertook a review of trophies for future World Rogaining Championships. It was decided to:

- Retain the current permanent trophies and have them at each event. This process will be coordinated for the time being by the Australian Rogaining Association.
- Replace the current overall winner trophy which is fragile and broken. The IRF will obtain a new trophy and move the team plaques from the existing broken trophy onto the new trophy.
- Have individual medals for each section winner and placegetter at each WRC. The cost of these for 8WRC will be provided by the IRF not by the Estonian organisers. At subsequent events, the cost will become part of the event budget.

The World Rogaining Championships are still being conducted under different rules to the ARA. It is hoped that consistency can be reached in the future.

National Events

The 2007 Australian events calendar is below.

Type / State	36 hr	24 hr	15 hr	12 hr	8 hr	7 hr	6 hr	5 hr	4 hr	3 hr	Sno gaine	Metro gaine	Cyclo gaine	Multi Sport	Total
ACT		1		1	1	1	2	1				2	1		10
NSW		1		1			2					1			5
NT		1													1
SE Qld		1	1	1	2		3			1		1			10
N Qld	1			1		1	4		1	3		3		1	15
SA		2		3			1					1	1		8
Tas		1			1		1								3
Vic		2	1	2	2		5				1	1	2		16
WA		2		3			1								6
Total	1	11	2	12	6	2	19	1	1	4	1	8	4	1	73
%	1%	8%	1%	9%	4%	4%	26%	1%	1%	3%	1%	6%	3%	1%	

The number, mix and variety of events continue to be consistent across all the states.

Finances and State Grants

In 2006, the ARA made a surplus of just over \$300. A \$1 capitation fee was again charged. After payments of grants for the year, the 2006 closing balance was approximately \$19,600. In addition, a \$5,000 loan had been provided to NTRA in advance of the Australian Championships.

It was very pleasing that three states were awarded grants in 2006. These were:

- \$431 to Rogaining Tasmania application for a 50% subsidy for the purchase of two GPS units and some first aid equipment.
- \$1,750 to ACT Rogaining Association for a 50% subsidy for the purchase of a marquee.
- \$560 to South Australian Rogaining Association for the purchase of two GPS units.

Information Systems

Web sites for all rogaining associations have continued to promote the sport and provide information and results to competitors. Electronic entries and payments over the internet are now becoming more common with VRA, NSWRA and ACTRA growing the use of this facility.

The ARA site, www.rogaine.asn.au was converted to a blog format in 2006 and can now be modified by the ARA Executive. Thanks once again to Alistair Honeybun who has provided support for the site. A website for the ARA Council containing relevant material for the functioning of the group is still available separately at: www.rogaine.asn.au/aradocs. It is hoped to shortly convert this into a blog format also.

Publicity

The Wild Diary in the Wild magazine has been kept up to date with national events. This has continued to be a very effective form of publicity for the sport.

Nationally, the ARA has not placed a high priority on recruiting and appointing a Publicity Officer. Publicity for events has been continued to be undertaken very successfully at a state level.

Public Liability Insurance

It was very encouraging to see competition returning to the Public Liability Insurance market in 2007. This gave us more negotiating power to improve both the terms and cost of our insurance. The upshot was that we changed underwriters for the 2007/08 policy renewal (which fell due in June) from Sportscover to a wholly owned subsidiary of QBE.

As part of this, we were able to add cover for landowners where the landowner either has no PLI or the landowner's PLI does not respond. This is a significant improvement on our previous terms. In addition, the 2007/08 premium through our new broker Horsell International, was 33.5% cheaper.

We now also have more options for future renewals in regards to the level of cover for PLI and Personal Accident. These will be discussed at the 2007 AGM.

Technical Standards

At the 2006 ARA AGM, David Baldwin was appointed as the chair of the ARA Technical Subcommittee. A review of the 2006 Australian Rogaining Champs was concluded in July 2006.

Since then the main focus of the Technical Subcommittee has been to discuss the updating of the technical regulations to allow for electronic punching systems. The Navlight electronic scoring system has been used at several state, national and international championships since its inception about 2.5 years ago. However, the existing rules still require the use of the manual punch card. This will be further discussed at the 2007 AGM. It is planned to introduce new rules by 1st January, 2008.

David Baldwin is also investigating accreditation for the sport of rogaining by the Australian Sports Commission. Already, he has arranged for rogaining to be added to the online ASC directory. It can be found by entering "Australian Rogaining" into the Organisation Name in the Search facility at: <http://www.ausport.gov.au/sportdirectory/default.asp>

Criteria for accreditation that need to be confirmed are:

- Whether membership of the sport's international body (ie. the IRF) of GAISF is required.
- Adoption of a harassment and member protection policy.
- The adequacy of the ARA drugs policy.
- 3 years of audited accounts. Richard Robinson is currently looking at recruiting an auditor.

Intervarsity Rogaining

The biggest project of the year for the ARA Council was to relaunch intervarsity rogaining. The proposal put together was "To draw on funds from the Nigel Aylott Memorial Sports Foundation Inc. (NAMSF) to launch an Australian University Rogaining Championship. This will be held annually in conjunction with a major rogaining championship. A perpetual trophy will be purchased (or manufactured) and named in Nigel's honour."

"As an incentive for university student groups to participate in the Championships, a fixed subsidy equivalent to 2 return air fares (and bus fares between the airport and the event location) will be provided for a team from each state. The funding from NAMSF will cover three consecutive years of Championships to provide sufficient impetus for the event to become sustainable."

The following subcommittee consisting of a university liaison from each state worked together to produce the proposal, publicise the Championships and administer the selection of the travel subsidy winners:

ACTRA	Keith Conley
NSWRA	Bob Gilbert
NTRA	Jon Smith
QRA	Paul Guard
RT	Hugh Fitzgerald
SARA	Steve Cooper
VRA	Amanda Bush
WARA	Ashley Horton
NAMSF President	Michael Aylott
ARA President	Phillip Holman

The details of the proposal were approved by the ARA Council by unanimous vote in June.

As the submission for trial "Allocation Of Australian University Sports Status" takes 12 months to complete, the initial event in 2007 will not carry the Australian University Rogaining Championship title. However, it will still be deemed to be an intervarsity rogaining event and will carry ARA Championship status. The winning team will be awarded the inaugural trophy named in honour of Nigel Aylott.

International Rogaining Matters

The ARA is still not a member of the International Rogaining Federation. Following continued negotiations with the IRF over the past 18 months, the ARA Executive canvassed the opinions of the ARA Council and their state associations in regards to a number of outstanding issues and final details identified.

In conclusion, there has been a unanimous agreement on the following.

- IRF voting should be restricted to Members, the President, Secretary/Treasurer and Immediate Past President.

- Members of the IRF (Member category) should comprise representatives of the National Peak Rogaining Body in each country, not individuals.
- The end of the transition period to reach this position will be June 2008.
- Observer category should be maintained where a country does not have a Peak National Rogaining Body, to ensure a wide scope of voices on the IRF. These individuals will have no vote.
- States, provinces and regions with IRF Member status through Peak National Rogaining Bodies will not have additional Observer status.
- Members will receive 2 votes per country, as per the ARA Constitution.
- The location of World Rogaining Championships will be rotated between the 3 world regions (Europe / North America / AsiaPacific) every 2 years. A bidding selection process should be determined in conjunction with voting members (and observers) and then used to select the host organisation.
- For the time being, an annual membership fee payable to the IRF from each Member national association will be approximately \$US1 per member of each national rogaining association, or less; the fee will take account of the individual circumstances of each country. Membership fees will be determined by Council in discussion with each Member and can be reduced or waived during the early years of development of the sport in a country.
- The ARA's IRF delegate(s) will be elected by ARA Council annually and consist of the ARA President plus any Council member.

The ARA would be happy to become a member if the IRF constitution is amended to reflect the points listed above. These points, seemingly agreed verbally with representatives of the IRF Executive, have yet to be acted on.

In December 2006, the IRF reported that they were focused on "updating its membership in preparation for voting on some structural changes next year". Currently they are undertaking a vote to add the national groups of rogainers in Russia, Estonia, Latvia and Ukraine to be entitled to elect two voting representatives to the IRF.

Executive Roles

Richard Robinson (Treasurer), David Rowlands (Secretary) and I have continued bi-monthly phone conferences to manage the activities and administration of the association. Richard and Dave have both been very active and supportive in their respective roles. It has been a very productive team which I have greatly enjoyed working with. Thanks to Richard and Dave for their continuing contribution.

Conclusion

Congratulations to each of the state committees and rogainers all over Australia that continue to make the sport grow and prosper.

Phillip Holman
ARA President
22nd July, 2007