



Australian Rogaining Association Inc. President's Annual Report 2018/19

This year we are returning to Tasmania for the Australasian Rogaining Championships. I have fond memories of the ARCs in Tasmania going back to Cradle Valley in 1996. The last time we were here was "Where Eagles Soar" at Avoca in 2011. I'm pleased to see that the entrant numbers have grown considerably and this can be attributed to the development of Rogaining Tasmania in recent years.

2018 was another strong year for Australian rogaining. Our 8 member states and territories continued to run an extensive rogaining calendar of successful events: 56 rogaines in 2018, while in 2019 there are 57 events completed or planned. Comparison with the statistics produced by Phil Homan in the 2007-08 ARA President's Report, shows the continuing wide variety of events that we run: fewer 24 hour rogaines, and more metro, cycle and shorter events. This year all Members are running 24 hour championships except Northern Territory.

Year	24 hr	12 hr	8 hr	6 hr	3 hr	Metro	Cycle	Paddle	Multi	Total ¹
2008	14	12	8	16	6	6	4	1	1	68
2019	8	12	7	20	11	14	7	2	2	84

¹ Multiple concurrent events are counted separately.

Finances and Insurance

The Treasurer's Report for calendar year 2018 will again show that the ARA's finances have retained a healthy balance. At the 2018 AGM, it was decided to set the Capitation fee for 2019 at \$1 (which was waived), with an International Development Fund (IDF) levy of \$0.50 per member.

The ARA Treasurer again negotiated a favourable rate for our public liability insurance in 2018. This together with membership which has now increased to 8652, has reduced the Insurance levy to \$2.65 per head. The insurance, due on 13 December each year protects event organisers and landowners from risk. The AGM will set the levies for 2020, which together with the insurance cost will be invoiced to Members in early 2020. Our broker is Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. Their contact details are on the ARA website: <https://rogaine.asn.au/documents/insurance>

2018 Australasian Championships – QRA

QRA hosted the 39th Australian Rogaining Championship near Manumbar in the Gympie region on 25-26 August 2018. The Event Director was Paul Guard, course setter Richard Robinson, with vettors Tim Frylink and Paul McIntyre.

Terrain was dry open undulating farmland which made for fast and easy travel. The All Night Cafe was superb. Expected rain held off until the last few hours of the event. A landowner's concerns lead to last-minute headaches for the course setter, producing route choices around a number of out-of-bounds areas.

The leaders were very close with the top 4 teams separated by only 110 points. Winners of the Open categories were:

- David Symons, Paul Williams (WA): First Men
- Tamsin Barnes (Qld), Thor Egerton (Vic): First Women
- David Baldwin (ACT), Julie Quinn (ACT), Jackson Bursill (ACT): First Mixed

The Intervarsity Championship for 2018 was won by Fergus Macleod and Emily Rowbotham from ANU, who came 7th overall. The Interstate challenge was won by NSW in a tight contest ahead of ACT, Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland.

The ARA Executive is grateful to QRA for volunteering to host this ARC at relatively short notice.

Future Australian/Australasian Championships and Trophies

The 2019 Australasian Championship is hosted by RTas on 9-10 November, near St Helens in the scenic Bay of Fires region. Organiser is Peter Tuft, course setter: Bernard Walker, vetter: Jeff Dunn. At the official close of entries, there were 220 competitors in 99 teams, plus a further 16 teams in the 15 hour roving event. ARA is underwriting the buses from Hobart and Launceston.

The hosts for the next Australian/Australasian Rogaining Championships (according to the rotation schedule) will be:

- 2020 – SARA (9-10 May, Burra)
- 2021 – VRA
- 2022 – NSWRA (the Australasian Championship is scheduled for New Zealand)
- 2023 – WARA

ARA Secretary Paul Guard manages the return of the trophies for each Australian Championship. David Baldwin has arranged purchase and engraving of a new trophy for the Interstate Challenge. He has revised the results back to 1990 and there will be space for a further 28 years.

Intervarsity Rogaining Championship 2019: Merimbula

Convenor: Brad Vallette

Brad's report on the Intervarsity follows: *"The 50th annual Intervarsity championships were held concurrently with the ACT Championships on the NSW South Coast. The course was one of two halves: with the western-half being dominated by open woodland along the main ridge lines and the eastern coastal section with some thicker bush and classic coasteering. Thirteen teams competed for the Intervarsity title across four different universities. It was a strong showing from the ACT with ANU taking out the top five positions. In a very impressive display, Mikey Dimuantes and Anthony Newman took out the Intervarsity and Mens Open win with a staggering 3150 points. It was an honour to have David Hogg, the founder of the Intervarsity competition, there to present the prizes for the event. Next year the Intervarsity champs travels to South Australia, hope to see you all there!"*

Winners of the Intervarsity categories for 2019 were:

- Anthony Newman, Mikey Dimuantes (ANU): First Men
- Kelvin Peh, Holly Ashburner (ANU): First Mixed
- Alice Schacher, Zoe Oldfield, Rhea Papadopoulos (ANU): First Women

The Intervarsity Rogaining Championship is open to all tertiary students (full-time, part-time, undergraduate, or post-graduate). Since 2007, the Nigel Aylott Memorial (NAMSF) has covered the travel costs of one team from each state in full. States are responsible for organising the selection processes to choose their representative team. However, in the last few years, not all Members have been taking up this opportunity.

Changes to UniSport endorsement rules for external stakeholders like ARA mean that official sanctioning is reserved for student-only events. Given our long joint history, this is an area to be clarified and negotiated further with UniSport.

Significance of the 50th Anniversary

The first official intervarsity was held on 31 May 1969 in the Blackwood-Daylesford area of Victoria. It was a “score” event, following the style of South Australian 24 hour walks and the NSW Paddy Pallin, rather than the “line” style of the Melbourne University 24 hour walk. David Hogg adapted the rules of the English Orienteering Association to draft the rules for the ‘24 Hour Orienteering Contest’, so that it could become an official Intervarsity sport.

When did the sport of rogaining commence? Was it the MUMC 24 hour in 1947, the drafting of the official rules, or the formation of the first rogaining association? The sport of football (soccer) dates itself from compromise rules drawn up in 1863. English rugby union dates its start from the writing of its rules in 1871. Australian football officially traces its origin to the rules committee meeting in 1859. There is a good case that 50 years ago in 1969 the sport of rogaining as we know it today was founded.

Most artefacts from the first official Intervarsity in 1969 have survived, due to the meticulous record keeping by MUMC Historian David Hogg and the Victorian Rogaining Association (VRA) archives setup and managed by Chris Solnordal. The 1969 Intervarsity course was set on the Daylesford 1 inch to 1 mile scale (1:63,360) topographic map. The course consisted of 25 controls, separate Start and Finish, plus 3 Hash Houses. These materials can be found on the ARA website: <https://rogaine.asn.au/news/it-was-50-years-ago-today>.

2019 World Rogaining Championship La Molina, Spain

The 2019 World Rogaining Championship delivered an epic and picturesque event at La Molina ski resort in the Pyrenees Mountains of Catalonia. The organisers promised a 140km² course of 86 controls requiring 103km with 9000 metres climb to complete. Postcard perfect weather in the preceding days did not last, with thunderstorms during the planning on the Saturday morning, another storm with hail in the afternoon, followed by gale force winds on the high open peaks all night. The event finished in glorious sunshine.

The organisers produced an impressive video with drone footage and upbeat music which was released shortly after the event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBxLTjg05UY>

All teams carried GPS and routes were available in “real time” (with 2 hour delay) on the event website. These route paths were available subsequently for analysis in PlayMap.com at <http://play-map.com/event.php?id=347>.

Standout performance of the 56 Australians in the field of 866 (386 teams) was Julie Quinn and David Baldwin, 1st in Mixed Veterans and 2nd in Mixed Open with 349 points. The following were the Australian placings:

- David Baldwin, Julie Quinn - 1st Mixed Veterans and 2nd Mixed Open
- Mike Hotchkiss, Jonathan Worswick - 1st Men Super Veterans
- Robin Spriggs, Sharon Crawford (USA) - 1st Women Ultra Veterans
- Karen Pedley, Christine Brown - 2nd Women Super Veterans
- Derek Morris, Ted Van Geldermalsen - 2nd Men Ultra Veterans
- Isaac Bell, Benjamin Rada Martin - 3rd Men Under 23
- David Rowlands, Jon Sutcliffe (GBR) - 3rd Men Super Veterans

Technical Sub-Committee

Chairman: David Baldwin

A proposal has been tabled at this AGM to make two minor changes to the ARA Technical Regulations:

- Include New Zealand in a revamped and renamed Regional Challenge competition.
- Refinement of the scoring rules where only one state is represented in a category. The rule previously referred to “only one state” being represented. The change would exclude a category only if the “host state” is the sole representative.

David has documented the combined knowledge gained in recent years through the adoption of Teslin water proof map paper, which has become common practice for major rogaining events in Australia. Sourcing paper and printers for large size maps such as WRC2016 have proved particularly challenging.

David is continuing to manage the stocks of Navlight devices held in Australia and coordinating with Peter Squires to address any technical and software integration issues that arise.

The Water Management Planning process approved at the 2016 AGM, requires the ARC organisers to formally prepare a Water Management Plan detailing water locations, volume, resources and planned replenishment procedures. This process has been successfully implemented by the ARC organisers from 2017 to 2019. Learnings from each event have been collated and passed on to the next. The ARA’s Water policy is on the website at: <https://rogaine.asn.au/documents/policy/water>

State Grants

The ARA Grants Policy enables the ARA Executive to allocate up to 40% of annual capitation income to grants to support the sport through Member projects and capital expenditure. These are relatively low value grants, best suited to assisting the smaller associations.

No grant applications were received in 2018. A recent application was received from SARA for assistance with the purchase of a marquee, which will be assessed when applications for 2019 close on 30 November. Further applications are encouraged before this deadline.

The ARA’s grant policy is on the website: <https://rogaine.asn.au/documents/policy/grant-policy>

International Development Fund (IDF)

Convenor: ARA Treasurer Mike Aylott.

The IDF has in place a loan of US \$17,000 (equating to AUS \$24,450) with the organisers of the 2020 World Rogaining Championship. The balance is due to be re-paid by 30 June 2020, or earlier depending on event receipts. There will be no interest on the loan and the ARA will bear further expected currency losses and some exchange costs.

No further proposals have reached the IDF Sub-committee in the past year. Members are encouraged to promote the fund when in contact with international rogainers. Whilst IRF now has reasonably finances and capability to promote international rogaining, the IDF provides a unique opportunity for ARA to leverage its skills to assist the growth of rogaining internationally.

International Rogaining

The ARA is formally represented on the International Rogaining Federation (IRF) by President David Rowlands and delegate David Baldwin.

The following is a summary of IRF developments in 2019:

- The new IRF President is Matt Bixley from New Zealand
- New IRF Vice President is Julie Quinn from Australia.
- The IRF Meeting before WRC 2019 was very well attended with over 35 people from a wide range of member and observer countries. The 2018 European championship was in Ukraine, but there was no European championship in 2019, partially due to conflict with the WRC in Spain. The ERC has been used to develop rogaining expertise in emerging countries, with many new centres developing rogaining in both western and eastern Europe and beyond. The USA WRC organisers gave a presentation and asked for advice on whether of a shorter event can be run concurrent with the world championship. There was a proposal from Europe for a shorter event than 24 hours to be the regional championship. The USA rogainers again raised the issue of the name rogaining (conflicting with the hair restorer) and requested official endorsement for an alternative in USA. The new IRF leadership team seemed very receptive to consider these innovative ideas.

World Championships update:

- The WRC for 2020 will be at Lake Tahoe, California, USA on 1-2 August. It will be the culmination of a 10 day orienteering festival. Entries for WRC2020 are due to open imminently.
- There were 2 bids to host WRC 2022: from Ukraine and Czech Republic. The ARA Executive decided to vote in favour of Ukraine, based on their very impressive formal proposal and the opportunity for support through the International Development Fund (IDF). However, the IRF vote was awarded to Czech Republic by a margin of 15-5. The decision against Ukraine was driven by ongoing doubts in Europe about Ukraine's organisational skills, whilst the proposal to reuse terrain caused concerns. This will be the third Czech WRC, to be held on 19-20 August 2022 around Staré Město on the Polish border. There is no WRC for 2021.
- The WRC for 2024 will rotate to the southern hemisphere and is likely to be held in New Zealand.

Information Systems

The ARA's website is <http://www.rogaine.asn.au> and Facebook page www.facebook.com/ausrogaining.

The ARA website upgrade has been completed by Kostya Shevchenko. This was implemented within the original \$5000 budget approved in 2014. The final works addressed some layout issues and corrected the URL structures. It would be prudent for state committees to check their websites for any dead links to ARA rules, insurance, or results.

As stated in last year's report, the ARA is responsible for hosting of a number of websites including the ARA, some Member states, IRF, and the IRF qualification database. Unfortunately there was a major failure of our hosting provider on 5 August 2019. David Baldwin had the sites back online quickly, but there was a significant loss due to a lack of backups. This was very regrettable, with significant impact on NSWRA. I would like to apologise for this incident and assure those affected that steps have been taken to ensure this does not happen again. The ARA website was not impacted as our new website was in the process of being migrated from our developer's server.

The goal of a National Entry System is unlikely to be achieved in the short term, due to the diversity of state administration systems. The QRA entry system is working well and can be adapted as an entry system by any state by setting up entry forms hosted within the QRA website with neutral branding. NSWRA and ACTRA have migrated to this system, whilst WARA have shown interest.

Executive Roles

The ARA Executive has held regular Executive Meetings via Skype, at approximately six week intervals through the past year. I would like to thank our fantastic ARA Executive team: Secretary Paul Guard, Treasurer Michael Aylott, Technical Committee Chairman David Baldwin, for their support of the sport of rogaining during 2018/19.

Richard Robinson has now retired from the IRF Presidency and ARA past-President roles. Richard was ARA Treasurer from 2003, then President 2008-2013, and IRF President from 2013-2018. The outstanding success of the World Rogaining Championship in 2016 was largely due to Richard's dedication and attention to detail. I will be moving a motion of thanks to Richard at the AGM for his enormous contribution to the administration of rogaining.

Conclusion

Thankyou to each of the Council delegates, state committees, volunteers and rogainers all over Australia who ensure that the sport grows and prospers.

David Rowlands
President