



Australian Rogaining Association Inc.

President's Annual Report

2021/22

Presented to AGM 5th October 2022

Beyond Covid

The year 2021-2022 has seen rogaing in the southern states recover from the effects of the Covid pandemic. VRA and NSWRA are now back to pre-pandemic event schedules and participant numbers are growing.

However, 2022 has continued to throw up unexpected challenges for our associations. NSW and Queensland were affected by another year of La Nina wet weather: the NSW Championships were cancelled in 2022, a repeat of 2021, and the Qld Champs were postponed.

The table below shows numbers of events run in the last three years broken down by state/territory. Fortunately SARA, RTas and NTRA have continued to run a full range of events. ACTRA and WARA have had some hiccups but are now back to full strength. Most notably, NTRA is showing remarkable growth, which is to be celebrated!

Year	VRA	NSWRA	SARA	WARA	NTRA	ACTRA	RTas	QRA	Total
2020	1	4	6	4	2	5	3	4+0	29
2021	3	4	6	7	4	6	3	5+4	42
2022	9	8	6	6	5	7	2	7+5	56

Explanatory notes:

- Statistics include "virtual rogaines" (using the MapRun app) in SA and ACT where official results were published.
- QRA is shown with separate numbers for South East and North Qld. Raid events are excluded.
- 2022 includes events planned for the remainder of this year.

Finances and Insurance

The Treasurer's Report for calendar year 2021 shows that the ARA's finances remain steady with about \$50,000 of operating capital and \$40,000 reserved for International Development. At the 2021 AGM, it was decided to waive payment of the Capitation fee and there was no International Development Fund (IDF) levy.

Some states have expressed concern at their depleted reserves due to Covid lockdowns and event cancellations in the last two and a half years. ARA could be in a position to underwrite associations in exceptional circumstances, if called upon to do so.

The Treasurer arranged renewal of our public liability insurance in December 2021, and negotiated a reasonable deal on the basis of the Covid impact on participant numbers. However an increase of about 13% in the “Sports Combined” and “Association Liability” insurance premiums has all but cancelled this out, leading to a slightly reduced Insurance levy of \$3.32 per head. Invoices were sent out to Members in September. In future, we should be prepared for insurance costs to rise across the industry and ARA will likely be impacted.

The Treasurer has now arranged Volunteers Injury Insurance for all states and territories, with the charge of \$1663 included in the annual levies.

Our broker remains Arthur J. Gallagher & Co, with their contact details are on the ARA website: <https://rogaine.asn.au/documents/insurance>

Australian and Australasian Championships

The 41st Australasian Rogaining Championship, was organised by SARA on 29-30 May 2021 north of Burra, South Australia. This was a worthy Australasian Championship, event with a high standard technical course. Unfortunately attendance was impacted by a lockdown in Victoria, announced the week prior.

VRA is hosting the “Pyrenees Ponder” 2022 Australasian Championship near Avoca on 8-9th October. At time of writing there are 393 entrants: 104 teams entered in the 24 hour championship and 70 teams in the concurrent 6 hour event. Event Director is Greg Robinson, Admin Manager Karen Robinson, with course setters Vic Sedunary and Merv Trease.

Intervarsity 2022 was due to be held in July with the Queensland Championship, but this event was postponed due to the unusually wet conditions. The ARA Executive reverted the Intervarsity to the ARC date in October, which is acknowledged to not be ideal due to proximity to University exams. It also led to an unforeseen date clash with the ANU’s “Inward Bound” event.

By agreement between ARA and NZRA, the Australasian Championship is due to be held in New Zealand every 5 years. NZRA are planning to host the Australasian Championship in December 2023 on the central South Island. We look forward to further details and promotion from NZRA.

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

- 2023 – NSWRA
- 2024 – WARA
- 2025 – ACTRA
- 2026 – QRA

The ARA Secretary manages the return of the trophies for each Australian Championship. At present all the trophies are in good condition. One trophy, the Mens’ U23 is currently being extended to allow space for future awards.

Registrable Australian Body

The ARA has now become a Registrable Australian Body (RAB). A RAB is an entity registered under Commonwealth law with ASIC, which allows ARA to operate across Australia. Office holders are considered to be Directors, so each of us was required to obtain a Directors' Identification Number (DIN) with the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

ARA's Incorporation in South Australia remains as a necessary entity, providing legal protection separate from the office holders and members. Craig Colwell is ARA's Public Officer, resident in South Australia.

Technical Sub-Committee

Chairman: David Baldwin

As discussed at the 2021 AGM, the Technical Committee has endorsed and supported the practice of providing dual punches at each control flag for the Australian Championship. A vote to change the Rules and Technical Regulations is now tabled to formally implement this.

VRA has requested guidance as to how rogaines, including the Australian Championship, could fairly include entrants who identify as non-binary. The ARA Executive has discussed this and agreed with the suggestion from VRA that non-binary people could be accommodated in the Mixed section. An amendment to the Rules and Technical Regulations, section T17 – definition of "Mixed" would be required.

The Water Management Planning process approved at the 2016 AGM, requires the ARC organisers to formally prepare a Water Management Plan. This process has been successfully implemented at all subsequent ARCs and past plans have become a valuable reference for future organisers. The ARA's Water policy is on the website at: <https://rogaine.asn.au/documents/policy/water>

State Grants

ARA received a grant application from SARA and subsequently paid SARA \$1225, being 50% of the cost of a defibrillator.

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. Grant applications are encouraged before the deadline of 30 November each year. The ARA's grant policy is on the website: <https://rogaine.asn.au/documents/policy/grant-policy>

World Championship Czech Republic

The World Rogaining Championship returned after a 2 year hiatus due to the Covid pandemic. The WRC for 2022 was hosted by the Czech Rogaining Association and took place on 26/27th August in the Rychleby and Kralicky Sneznik Mountains along the Czech/Polish border.

There was only a small contingent of 16 Australians in the field of 567 (271 teams) from 22 countries. This event was impacted by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, with no rogainers from Belarus or Russia able to enter Czech Republic due to visa restrictions and also banned from the event by the IRF.

The organisers provided a very challenging planning exercise, with bunches of high value controls interspersed by massive gaps of low value. Terrain was hilly and navigation straight forward by Australian standards, with lots of tracks.

The event started on a warm, sunny and humid afternoon that developed into massive electrical thunderstorms with hail during the afternoon, turning the tracks into rivers. Competitors enjoyed sunshine for the closing meal (with Czech beer) and the presentations.

The top teams overall were from Spain, Latvia, Estonia, Czech Republic and Ukraine. Australia celebrated a superb performance from the "Dream Team" of Joanna George, Abigail George and Meredith Norman who won Womens' Under 23 by 610 points. Australian placings were:

- Joanna George, Abigail George, Meredith Norman - 1st Women Under 23
- Thorlene Egerton, Shari Hymes (USA) - 1st Women Super Veterans
- Rod Gray, Geoff Lawford - 2nd Men Ultra Veterans
- Robin Spriggs, Sharon Crawford (USA) - 3rd Women Ultra Veterans

International Rogaining

The ARA is formally represented on the International Rogaining Federation (IRF) by President David Rowlands and delegate David Baldwin. ARA was represented at the IRF Meeting in Czech Republic on 25th August by Rod Gray.

The most important IRF development which dominated the year 2022 was the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The IRF Council passed the following motion in April:

“The IRF Executive and Council strongly oppose the actions of the Russian Government to invade the sovereign Nation of Ukraine. We wish for a rapid withdrawal of Russian troops and for the return of peace to Ukraine and Europe. The IRF will not sanction any event to be held in Russia or Belarus until the end of June, 2023. At any event sanctioned by the IRF until the end of June, 2023, no person can compete under any variant of the country name Russia or Belarus. No flags or other national symbols of these countries can be used, including by competitors. Because individual rogainers are not selected by any country and do not represent countries, any individual can compete in IRF sanctioned events provided they follow these restrictions and compete under another label such as ‘other’ or ‘international’.

As a consequence, the 2022 European Championship planned for St Petersburg was cancelled by the Russian Rogaining Federation.

A further IRF motion was passed in July 2022: “That all competitors from Russia and Belarus will be banned from competing in all World Rogaining Championships and European Rogaining Championships until the end of 2023.”

Other IRF and WRC news is summarised below:

- The WRC planned for Lake Tahoe, California in 2021 has been rescheduled to 29-30 July 2023. This will be preceded by “Cal-O-Fest”: a program of major orienteering events deferred from 2021.

- The 2025 WRC has not yet been formally advertised for expressions of interest, but is expected to be held in New Zealand in late 2025.

International Development Fund (IDF)

Convenor: ARA Treasurer Mike Aylott.

There has been no activity by the IDF Committee this year.

The International Development Fund provides a unique opportunity for ARA to leverage its skills to assist the growth of rogaining internationally. Members are encouraged to promote the fund when in contact with international rogainers.

Information Systems

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

The ARA is responsible for hosting a number of other websites including the IRF and IRF qualification database. ARA has recently purchased the domain name "rogaining.au". The name "rogaine.au" was already owned by Johnson & Johnson Pty Ltd!

The ARA Executive maintains the National Calendar on the ARA website. States can request a login to make additions or changes to event dates, or import events directly into the website.

The entry system developed by QRA has been very successful and is now adopted by ACTRA, NSWRA, QRA and VRA.

Executive Roles

The ARA Executive has continued to hold regular Executive Meetings via Skype, at approximately six week intervals throughout the year. Once again I would like to publicly thank the Executive team: Secretary Paul Guard, Treasurer Michael Aylott, and Technical Committee Chairman David Baldwin, for all your work on behalf of ARA throughout the past year. This team has a wealth of experience in association management, event organisation and financial management, ensuring that ARA runs smoothly.

The Executive will be up for election for 3 year terms next year. It is my intention to stand down at that stage to facilitate renewal of the ARA with some new (possibly younger!) blood with more energy and ideas to take ARA forward.

Conclusion

A special thankyou to each of the Council delegates, state committees and rogaining volunteers across Australia. I am always impressed by your enthusiasm, innovative ideas and high standard of event organisation, which are the foundation of continued success of our sport.

David Rowlands
President