



# Australian Rogaining Association Inc. 2023 Annual General Meeting

Held Online  
11th September 2023  
**Minutes**

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The meeting was opened by the President at 7:35pm AEST.

## 1. APOLOGIES AND NOTIFICATION OF PROXIES

Apoloiges: Richard Robinson, Kristin Raw, Mike Dunbar

Proxies advised: Lucy Hawthorne is proxy for Kristin Raw

Executive: David Rowlands, Paul Guard, Mike Aylott

Delegates:

ACTRA: Stephen Goggs, David Baldwin

NSWRA: Graham Field, Michael Watts

NTRA: Shani Bryceson

QRA: Sue Clarke, Paul Guard

RT: Gary Carroll, Kristin Raw

SARA: Zara Soden, Craig Colwell

VRA: Sue Noy, Richard Homburg

WARA: Andre Morkel, Ann Smithson

Observers:

Kim Seccafien (North Qld Rogaining, within QRA), Julie Quinn (ACTRA) and Peter Blyton (NSWRA)

## 2. INTRODUCTIONS

Each delegate was invited to introduce themselves and their role in their state/territory association, and brief report from their association.

### **Steve Goggs (ACTRA President)**

- ACTRA President

### **David Baldwin (ARA Technical Committee Chair and ACTRA Representative)**

- David is ACTRA webmaster and ARA's IRF representative
- ARA Technical Committee chair

### **Graham Field (NSWRA President)**

- Graham is NSWRA President
- Comes from a mapping and surveying background
- NSWRA recovery from Covid is underway
- Main issue is finding good event coordinators

**Michael Watts (NSWRA Representative)**

- Organiser of the cancelled Gundabooka event
- NSWRA main issues are finding organisers and securing land.

**Shani Bryceson (NTRA Representative)**

- Shani has been rogaining for 5 years
- NTRA had a pretty good year, despite losing 25% membership since Covid
- Held 9 events, both metro and bush
- Organised a training weekend together with orienteering
- \$5000 grant from the NT Government to train all volunteers in first aid.
- 3 new course setters recruited in the last 12 months
- Key challenges are finding new land and managing wet season/dry season weather.

**Sue Clarke (QRA President)**

- QRA are organising six events this year.
- Main issues are finding friendly landowners and event coordinators.

**Paul Guard (ARA Secretary, QRA Representative)**

- Navlight and entry system manager
- Major success this year was a course setting workshop
- Keen to develop mapping resources, Maprun group.

**Gary Carroll (RTas President)**

- Most regular Tassie course setter / organiser
- Event coordinator role
- Last year's 24 hour was washed out and deferred to October this year.
- 2024 Calendar is looking good, including a paddlegaine
- RTas problems include spiralling costs, shortage of volunteers, and a need to broaden expertise, especially in Navlight.

**Lucy Hawthorne (proxy for Kristin Raw)**

- Newsletter editor for RTas.

**Zara Soden (SARA President)**

- SARA had a good year running its usual events
- The recent event in Flinders Ranges was a highlight
- SARA has approximately 1000 members
- Big and active committee with good number of younger members
- The SA U23 'Dream Team' competing in WRC USA gained media attention.

**Craig Colwell (SARA Representative)**

- Craig is Vice President and chief mapper
- Issues with local events getting permission from land managers, particularly for off-track access
- SARA Committee is strong.

**Sue Noy (VRA President)**

- Sue is the acting VRA President
- The VRA Committee is 'in transition', after a high turnover of personnel
- VRA had to cancel one event due to state government inaction on permits
- Still holding events that were planned during Covid

- Recent Metrogaine near Melbourne helped to raise the profile of the sport
- VRA is focussed on reviewing governance
- Building up training and communications
- Catering at events is being simplified, with external providers to reduce effort.

**Richard Homburg (VRA Secretary)**

- Previously in a technical role looking after website and Navlight
- VRA has a full calendar next year.

**Andre Morkel (WARA President)**

- WARA Committee is in transition, with 6 out of 11 committee members being new
- Held a full year of events. Highlight was second paddlegaine held in February.
- New Navlight scoring system to be trialled before next year's ARC
- The National entry system will be adopted.

**Peter Blyton (Observer)**

- Peter has organised rogaines and served as QRA Secretary, now living in NSW
- He has an interest in mapping and scoring systems.

**Kim Seccafien (Observer)**

- Kim is the North Queensland representative
- She is a long time administrator, rather than participant
- A big challenge is training novices.

**Michael Aylott (Treasurer)**

- ARA Treasurer since 2010

**David Rowlands (President)**

- ARA President since 2013.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 2022**

<p><b>MOTION:</b> That the minutes of the 2022 AGM be accepted as true and accurate  Moved: David Baldwin, Seconded: Shani Bryceson. Motion passed.</p>
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**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT DISCUSSED ELSEWHERE / OTHER BUSINESS**

Nil

**5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President's Report was tabled. The President noted that Australian rogaining has returned after the pandemic lockdowns and weather interruptions of recent years to a trend of steady and healthy growth in both the number of rogaining events organised and membership.

**6. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**a) Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report for 2022 was tabled. Mike Aylott gave a brief summary of the report. We have a similar bank balance to last year, approx. \$85k of which about half is the International Development Fund. Insurance costs are about \$30k each year.

Technical reviews of previous years to 2010 are now complete. We are now in our second year of national Volunteers Insurance. ARA continues to be claim-free. The Treasurer has provided estimates for insurance costs next year for the purposes of setting levies.

Mike Watts suggested that the ARA look into higher yield term deposits for the unused cash balance. The Treasurer said that this has not yet been considered. The ARA Executive and the incoming Treasurer will pursue this option.

**MOTION:** That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.  
Moved: Mike Aylott, Seconded: Paul Guard. Motion passed.

**b) Setting of Capitation Fee and IDF Levy for 2024**

The Treasurer's report presented a proposal for the 2024 capitation fees. In 2024, the Capitation fee is proposed to continue at \$1 per member/participant.

**MOTION:** That the Capitation fee for the calendar year 2024 be set at \$1 per participant/member.  
Moved: Mike Aylott, Seconded: David Baldwin. Motion passed.

The Treasurer in his report recommended a zero levy for the International Development Fund, since the IRF is now in a stronger position to support international development of the sport.

**MOTION:** That the IDF Capitation fee for 2024 be set at \$0 per participant/member.  
Moved: Mike Aylott, Seconded: Graham Field. Motion passed.

**c) National Liability and Volunteers' Insurance**

The ARA arranges Third Party Public Liability insurance, Directors & Officers insurance and Volunteers Injury insurance on behalf of the ARA and its Member states. Renewal falls due in December for the 2024 calendar year, on the basis of 2022 participant numbers. Insurance premiums increased 10% last year and are expected to continue to increase in 2024.

**d) ARA Grant Policy and Status of 2023 Grants**

Two grants were approved in 2022: to SARA for a contribution towards a trailer, and QRA for Garmin messenger units.

State and territory associations are encouraged to apply for grants as per the existing ARA grant policy. The deadline is the end of November each year.

**e) Financial Review of ARA Accounts**

The accounts for 2010 to 2022 were reviewed by John Gavens. The report was tabled. John noted that the accounts were generally in order and made recommendations to improve procedures and documentation. Mike Aylott explained the background of the major issues raised in the report. ARA will undertake to implement the recommendations of the review. The mix up between SARA and WARA levy payments from 2014 has been resolved. John Gavens has expressed a willingness to conduct ongoing reviews each year, and the ARA will request this.

**MOTION:** That the ARA Executive thank John Gavens for his review.  
Moved: Michael Watts, Seconded: Sue Clarke. Motion passed.

**MOTION:** That the incoming ARA Treasurer and Executive report back to the ARA Council on implementation of the recommendations.  
Moved: Michael Watts, Seconded: Sue Clarke. Motion passed.

**MOTION:** That the ARA Executive undertake to have the accounts reviewed on an annual basis.  
Moved: Michael Watts, Seconded: Sue Clarke. Motion passed.

## **7. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

### **a) President – Election For a Three-Year Term**

David Rowlands is retiring at this AGM.

**MOTION:** That Paul Guard be elected President  
Moved: Craig Colwell, Seconded: David Baldwin. Motion passed.

### **b) Secretary – Election For a Three-Year Term**

No Nominations – Vacant.

David Rowlands agreed to fill this role on a temporary basis until a replacement is recruited. Stephen Gray from SARA has been approached to fill the role.

### **c) Treasurer – Election For a Three-Year Term**

Mike Aylott is retiring at this AGM.

**MOTION:** That Peter Blyton be elected Treasurer  
Moved: Michael Aylott, Seconded: Craig Colwell. Motion passed.

## **8. Reappointment of Public Officer – Craig Colwell**

**MOTION:** That the ARA Council reappoint Craig Colwell as the ARA's Public Officer  
Moved: Craig Colwell, Seconded: Zara Soden. Motion passed.

**MOTION:** That the ARA Council expresses its gratitude to Mike Aylott and David Rowlands for their contributions to Australian Rogaining as ARA Treasurer and ARA President over many years.  
Moved: Paul Guard, Seconded: David Baldwin. Motion passed.

## **9. AUSTRALIAN AND AUSTRALASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **a) 2023 Australian Championship: NSWRA**

Location: Goobang National Park

Date: 30 September 2023

Trevor Gollan is the coordinator for ARC 2023. Ronnie Taib and David Williams are the setters. Andy MacQueen, Sarah Delaney and Greg King are the vetters. The event area is between Orange and Parkes.

Graham Field reported that everything is prepared for the event. The course is set and vetted and the maps are just about done. With entries about to close in 13 days, there are currently about 120 entrants. Buses are organised from both Canberra and Sydney airports.

### **b) 2023 Australasian Championship: NZRA**

Location: Lake Tekapo, South Island, accessed via Queenstown or Christchurch.

Dates: 16-17 December 2023.

Delegates are encouraged to promote this event to all of our members.

**c) 2024 Australasian Championship: WARA**

Date: 7-8 September. Coordinator: Ann Smithson Setter: Ann Smithson, Veters: Owen Horton, Will Blackshow, Ann Baraan, Paul Sjizarto. Area: Karrara Rangelands near Mt Singleton. Preparations are on track. Approximately 4.5 hours from Perth.

**d) 2025 Australasian Championship: ACTRA**

No details yet. ARA Executive will follow up with ACTRA.

**e) Future Australian Championships**

The subsequent planned sequence of ARC hosts is: 2026 QRA, 2027 RTas, 2028 SARA. However, this can be varied given sufficient notice.

The meeting encouraged NTRA to nominate to host an ARC in any of the above years, whenever resource availability allows. The ARA is willing to provide additional resourcing support using interstate volunteers. The general consensus was that an area of 130 sq km of terrain is required.

**f) Trophies**

The ARA Secretary will ensure the return of all perpetual trophies at the next ARC.

**10. INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION**

**a) International Developments**

IRF Vice President Julie Quinn provided a summary of international developments.

IRF Executive:

- IRF Executive positions turn over at the end of 2024. The incumbents of all positions are keen to step aside, or move to new roles.
- Julie is prepared to take on the IRF Treasurer role.
- Ideally IRF would have an Australian Secretary to be a signatory on the accounts.

Other IRF activities:

- Many countries are having trouble finding volunteers and suitable land.
- IRF is planning to create a new European Coordinator role. The Russians and Ukrainians are not able to compete, which reduces the viability of the European Championship, which is currently rotating between only 5 countries.

**b) WRC 2023 USA**

Organisation of the 2023 WRC in California was not as well executed as expected. It was challenging to try to organise the rogaine on the back of an orienteering carnival. There was a lack of experience and the absence of any request for assistance was unfortunate. The IRF will need to review how they can support WRC organisers. The technical aspects of the map and the WRC course were very high quality.

**c) WRC 2025 Spain**

The next WRC will be held in 2025 near Madrid, Spain. The organisational team will be similar to 2019, hence no organisation issues are expected.

**d) WRC 2027**

NZRA has decided it does not have the capacity to host, so Australia needs to seriously consider submitting a proposal.

Expressions of interest will be due early next year. Julie Quinn suggested that the organisational model that was used for the 2016 WRC in Australia (where tasks were allocated to each state) was proven to be successful and should be considered for a future ARA proposal.

**ACTION:** All Members are requested to investigate suitable locations for a WRC in their state/territory and report back to the ARA Executive.

**e) IRF Technical Regulations**

The IRF has implemented changes to the age category determination which will commence from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. ARA voted in favour of the changes, which determine ages by year of birth rather than age on the date of the event, and increase the Veteran category from 40+ to 45+ years.

**f) ARA's International Development Fund (IDF)**

There was no IDF activity to report. ARA Members can provide ideas for international development projects or initiatives that are in line with the goals of the IDF.

Mike Aylott suggests we need to refresh the IDF Committee membership. Currently it is Mike Aylott, Rob Gardner and Greg Robinson.

**g) IRF Capitation**

ARA currently pays IRF a levy of US \$200 (AUD \$280) per annum. There is also a levy per competitor paid from the budget of the Australasian championship.

**11. TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Convenor: David Baldwin**

**a) Age Categories Rule Change**

The ARA Technical Subcommittee proposed a change to the technical regulations for the age category definitions, to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. This will align the ARA rules for age categories with the IRF's recently adopted changes. A benefit is that associations will not have to collect sensitive birth date data.

**MOTION:** That the ARA Technical Regulations be changed as circulated, with the change to take effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.  
Moved: David Baldwin, Seconded: Craig Colwell. Motion passed.

**b) Review of the 2022 Australasian Championships**

David noted that the course was challenging technically and physically. The organisers overcame significant challenges to go ahead in the face of extreme weather in the lead up to the event.

**c) SARA Proposal Regarding Rule R7**

SARA suggested a change to Rule R7 to reduce ambiguity. The increasing use of GPS watches for route tracking and mobile phones for photography provide a grey area in the rules that is difficult to administer.

The ARA Executive agreed to discuss and circulate potential changes to Rule R7 to make it clearer that GPS watches are not permitted to be worn during events.

## **12. INTERVARSITY**

### **a) 2023 Intervarsity Championship**

Recruitment of teams for the Intervarsity is again down this year. The date clash with the national orienteering championships in WA was not helpful. The ARC this year is unfortunately only a week before the Inward Bound event, which has impacted numbers from ACT.

### **b) Future of Intervarsity and NAMSF Funding**

Mike Aylott explained that NAMSF plan to transfer remaining funds in bulk to the ARA. It would then be up to ARA to administer the Intervarsity subsidies, which at present rate would last about 7 years.

### **c) Proposal for the 2024 Intervarsity Championships – 2024 ARC in WA**

Stephen Goggs noted that the UniSport Games organisers are keen to have events run in parallel with the games. Discussion included whether a shorter event might be more appropriate than a 24 hour for an Intervarsity event at a wider sporting carnival.

### **d) Intervarsity Convenor**

The role is currently vacant.

## **13. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **a) Review of Mission, Vision, Objectives For the Australian Rogaining Association**

The new ARA Executive plans to commence a review of the ARA's strategy and circulate proposals for discussion within the ARA Council.

### **b) Review of Communication Protocols With ARA Council Delegates and Member Associations**

Paul raised the issue of communication protocols and is seeking feedback on how the communication with states/territories could be improved. Perhaps if each state/territory could nominate 5 or 6 people who would like to be involved in the national discussion they could be involved in a wider Google Group.

### **c) National Hosting and ARA Website**

The ARA is responsible for the domain rogaine.asn.au and the hosting of a number of websites for ARA, IRF and several state associations. David Baldwin coordinates hosting and the technical management of the ARA website.

### **d) Entry Systems**

The entry system developed by Paul Guard for QRA is available for other states/territories to use at no cost. NSWRA, VRA and ACTRA are currently using it (with their own branding on their event entry forms), as well as North Queensland rogaining and several SEQ adventure racing companies. State Associations should contact Paul Guard for further information and assistance.

## **14. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **a) Working Groups**

Informal discussion groups have been set up for discussion on

- MapRun <https://groups.google.com/g/maprun-for-rogaining>
- Map making <https://groups.google.com/g/rogaine-mapping>
- Navlight software is in a private repository on Github. Contact Paul Guard for details.



## **15. NEXT AGM**

Given the high attendance, there was general agreement to continue holding the AGM online. The next AGM date is expected to be three weeks before the 2024 ARC.

The meeting was closed at 10:10pm AEST.

## Tabled Documents

- President's Report - **2022-23 Presidents Report.pdf**
- Treasurer's Report - **2022 Treasurers Report.pdf**
- Technical Review of Accounts - **J. Gaven Review report.pdf**
- Minutes of 2022 AGM - **2022 ARA AGM Minutes.pdf**
- Proposed technical regulations changes -  
**2023 ARA AGM Tech Regs Proposal – Age Categories.pdf**

## ARA Council as at 11/09/2023

**President:** Paul Guard  
**Secretary:** (Vacant)  
**Treasurer:** Peter Blyton  
**Immediate Past President:** David Rowlands  
**Public Officer:** Craig Colwell

## Delegates:

Sue Clarke	QRA	President
Paul Guard	QRA	Representative
Mike Dunbar	NTRA	President
Shani Bryceson	NTRA	Representative
Stephen Goggs	ACTRA	President
David Baldwin	ACTRA	Representative
Graham Field	NSWRA	President
Michael Watts	NSWRA	Representative
Andre Morkel	WARA	President
Ann Smithson	WARA	Representative
Gary Carroll	RT	President
Kristin Raw	RT	Representative
Sue Noy	VRA	President
Richard Homburg	VRA	Representative
Zara Soden	SARA	President
Craig Colwell	SARA	Representative