



Australian Rogaining Association's International Development Fund (IDF) Report to ARA

Background

In 2008, the Australian Rogaining Association (ARA) established an International Development Fund (IDF) to assist with the development of rogaining in other countries. This fund is managed by the ARA's IDF Sub-committee. Support is targeted at assistance to the development of rogaining outside of Australia, particularly in countries or regions where rogaining is at a formative stage.

WRC 2014

On 17 September 2013, the ARA received an application from the organisers of the 2014 World Championship with support from OUSA the national rogaining body in USA.

Four areas of support were proposed in the application:

- Course setting assistance
- Checkpoint flags
- Mapping cost subsidy
- Setting/ organisation workshops

The first two options were supported by the ARA's IDF sub-committee. The concept of workshops after the WRC in USA was also supported, but at time of writing, nothing concrete had been arranged.

Course Setting Assistance

The ARA was able to provide personnel with extensive experience in competing in, organising, course setting and mapping for Australian Championships. Eric Andrews and Jon Potter provided remote desk vetting assistance during the period late November 2013 to May 2014. Merv Trease and Vic Sedunary visited South Dakota, USA for 2 weeks in early June 2014 to provide on-site vetting and course setting advice.

Eric Andrews and Jon Potter assisted the course setter through several rounds of revision of the course. There were some limitations until the event map was available, with course setting initially done on a 1956 topo map with part 20 foot/ 40 foot contours. This proved to be cumbersome due to significant land use changes since publication, which illustrated the limitations of remote desk vetting.

Merv Trease and Vic Sedunary visited the event site and were given an additional role on behalf of WRC Manager Jan Tojnar. At this stage, the checkpoint locations were mostly fixed in place by land manager approvals. Their onsite review included:

- Visit to all 80 check points and assessment for location accuracy, description, circle placement on the map and navigational challenge.

- Spent many hours of knowledge transfer with the Course Setter.
- Spent two days working with the Course Setter upgrading the map and Checkpoint descriptions.
- Spent one day course vetting with the official USA Course Vetter.
- With the course setter, revalued some check points to reflect navigational challenge, distance travelled from other CPs, and balance across the map.

There were many positive outcomes:

- The educational role of the visit was believed to be very successful. The ARA trusts that the learning will flow through to higher quality events in South Dakota and USA.
- The course setter and other people associated with the event were extremely helpful in accommodating Merv and Vic on the ground, including arranging a place to stay at no cost and a hire vehicle.
- From this experience, ARA would suggest that future onsite vetting for a WRC be done by two people, not one as was originally planned for this role.

Subsequently, ARA understands that the IRF intends to formalise a **Host Agreement** with each WRC organising body, which includes the appointment of a WRC Event Adviser. The role is for an experienced rogaïne administrator who is not a citizen or resident of the WRC host nation. This Event Adviser shall act as the IRF's representative in directly overseeing the conduct of the WRC and shall act with the authority of the IRF WRC Manager.

IDF Current Status

Expenditure in 2014:

- AUD \$4800: Part funded the travel costs for Vic Sedunary and Merv Trease to provide vetting services and advice to WRC 2014.
- \$1670: Materials for 120 control flag sets for WRC 2014, with ownership to be transferred to OUSA after the WRC.

Fund Balance:

- AUD \$25,000 remaining in the Fund available for future international projects.

IDF Application Process

Submissions for support under this scheme should be made by in writing to the ARA Secretary. Submissions will be assessed each six months, with applications closing on **30 April** and **31 October** each year.

Further details: <http://rogaine.asn.au/ARA-Council/International-Development-Fund.html>

ARA would like to thank Eric Andrews, Jon Potter, Merv Trease and Vic Sedunary for giving substantial time and effort, and for applying their considerable knowledge and skills in support of WRC 2014.

David Rowlands
 President, Australian Rogaining Association
 August 2014