



## **Australian Rogaining Association Inc. 2005/06 President's Report**

The balance of 2005 and early 2006 have continued to be a busy and successful for all the state associations. 12 months have passed since the 2005 Australian Rogaining Championships and Annual General Meeting.

The main work of the ARA Executive and Council during that period has been the completion of a review of the Technical Standards, continued negotiations to become a member of the IRF and a reprint of the colour rogaining brochures.

Perhaps the most interesting development in the sport is the successful trialling of the Navlight electronic scoring system. This was used for the first time at a major championship in Australia in 2005 and is gaining more and more interest.

Following the death of Nigel Aylott in 2004, a Nigel Aylott Memorial Sports Foundation Inc. has been established. The ARA is planning to submit a proposal for the development and promotion of an Interschool Competition for use of part of the funds.

### **2005 Australian Rogaining Championships**

The 2005 "Over the Border" Australian Rogaining Championship was hosted by the Queensland Rogaining Association near Cherrabah Homestead, Warwick on 21st / 22nd May 2005. 223 rogainers in 99 teams took part with representatives from all Australian States and Territories, and 7 teams from New Zealand. The course spanned both sides of the Queensland / NSW border and included land in the Maryland National Park and 21 private properties.

VRA won the interstate trophy, narrowly ahead of the host state QRA and ACTRA in third place.

One of the most popular innovations in the past couple of years is the use of the Navlight electronic scoring system developed by New Zealander Peter Squires. This was used at the 2005 AusChamps in Queensland and has been trialled recently by the VRA in preparation for the 2006 AusChamps. NSW are also keen to use it for the World Rogaining Championships. Participants wear a small electronic wrist band which is 'punched' into an electronic device at a checkpoint. To date, this system has only been used as a back-up to the control card. However, it has proven very robust and delivers a quick print out of team scores and times visited at each checkpoint at the end of an event. Although quite expensive, this system may become more widely used in the future. At this stage the ARA has elected not to be involved in the purchase of a system, but have encouraged the states to purchase or lease the system independently. Also, states must adapt their computerised event administration systems to interface to Navlight.

Before being fully adopted the Technical Standards will need to be reviewed to cater for the new technology. By issuing all team members with an electronic wrist tag, the system provides the potential to ensure all members do not split up when visiting a checkpoint.

## **7<sup>th</sup> World Rogaining Championships, 2006**

The New South Wales Rogaining Association will be hosting this event on 13th/14th October 2006 in the Warrumbungle National Park and adjacent farm land. Entries are already strong and the event limit of 500 is expected to be reached by September. There is an embargo on the event and course area and camping for entrants will not open until 12th October 2006.

The event is being billed as “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.”

The Organising Team are:

Coordinator	Alan Mansfield
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
On the day assistance	Andy Mein

An excellent website has been set up for the event at: [www.rogaine2006.com.au](http://www.rogaine2006.com.au)

The competition will be run under the current IRF Rules. These have a couple of minor differences to the Technical Standards endorsed by the ARA: principally 1) the finish time in the event of a late start and 2) the age for the Junior Category. The Rules of Rogaining can be found at: <http://www.rogaining.com/rules.html>

Trophies for future World Rogaining Championships are being reviewed by the IRF to consider permanent trophies for the winners. This would provide less transport concerns than perpetual trophies.

## National Events

The 2006 events calendar is below.

Type / State	36 hr	24 hr	15 hr	12 hr	9 hr	8 hr	6 hr	4 hr	3 hr	Metro gaine	Cyclo gaine	Paddlo gaine	Total
ACT		1				1	1				1		4
NSW		2		1			3			1			7
NT		1			1					1			3
Qld		1	1	1		2	2				2		9
NQld	1	2		2		3	2		5	3			18
SA		2	1	1			1		1	1			7
Tas		1				2		1					4
Vic		2		2		2	5			1	1	1	14
WA		2		3			1						6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>72</b>
%	1%	19%	3%	14%	1%	14%	21%	1%	8%	10%	6%	1%	

Northern Queensland has continued to grow dramatically, running double the number of events than the previous year, including a 12/24/36hr Adventurerogaine in August.

## 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 states like VRA and NSWRA starting to promote this facility.

Thanks once again to Alistair Honeybun who has provided another year of service as webmaster of the ARA site, [www.rogaine.asn.au](http://www.rogaine.asn.au). With assistance from Dave Rowlands, the website was recently revamped and looks great. A website for the ARA Council containing relevant material for the functioning of the group is still being maintained at: [www.rogaine.asn.au/aradocs](http://www.rogaine.asn.au/aradocs). The current Sportscover insurance policies continue to be stored on ARA website making them easily accessible to event organisers.

## 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.

This year Ainslie Cummins undertook a revamp of the colour rogaining brochure. This features some new photos and slightly modified design. 20,000 copies have been printed which should be sufficient supply for all states for approximately 5 years. Many thanks to Ainslie for putting this together.

## **Finances and State Grants**

In 2005, the ARA made a surplus of just under \$1,500. The capitation fee was charged again as the states again began to apply for grants in 2004 and marketing projects like the reprint of the colour brochures occurred. The closing balance for 2005 was just under \$24,300.

No grant applications were received from the states in 2005. However, in April 2006, ACTRA applied for funds to underwrite their bus to the AusChamps. Given that there had been no other applications for grants and the bus had been promoted in the pre-event publicity this is sufficient grounds to provide the money. However, to guarantee this, all grants should be applied for by 30th November in the previous year.

Provision was made to provide NSWRA with an interest free loan of \$10,000 to assist with cash flow leading up to 7WRC 2006 Sydney. However, this was not required.

## **Public Liability Insurance**

This was renewed in June 2005 with Sportcover. A 6% reduction in premium was achieved under the same terms as the previous year.

## **International Rogaining Matters**

Negotiations were restarted in November 2005 for the ARA to become a member of the IRF. Three formal meetings and numerous other informal meetings and email correspondence has taken place between representatives of the IRF and ARA Executives over the past six months.

One of the key sticking points in the past has been the criteria for membership outlined in the IRF Constitution. This provides for voting IRF Council members to be both individuals as well as representatives of national roganing bodies. The ARA has consistently argued for a change to the constitution so that individuals could not be members. In-principal agreement to this and other minor changes have now been agreed to by the IRF Executive and are being discussed with the IRF Council.

In turn, the ARA has outlined to the IRF the benefits that we can bring by being a member. These contributions, such as financial and knowledge support for a range of initiatives to assist overseas roganing associations, bring with it an added level of commitment and responsibility for the ARA.

Currently the suggested changes to the IRF constitution are being discussed in parallel with a high-level document outlining the positive changes that a new ARA / IRF partnership can bring to the international roganing community. It is hoped that these discussions will continue to the point where a vote can be held in the next few months for the ARA to become a member of the IRF.

The IRF publishes a regular newsletter. This is posted on their website at: [www.rogaining.com](http://www.rogaining.com). Notification of new newsletters is also available through the Topica ARA email service. A link to this can be found on the ARA Resources web page at: [www.rogaine.asn.au/ara/resources.html](http://www.rogaine.asn.au/ara/resources.html)

## **Technical Standards**

The review of the ARA Technical Standards was completed by the Subcommittee chaired by Mike Hotchkis in November 2005. These were ratified by the ARA Council by electronic vote in December. Representatives from the IRF were included in the review. However, this did not achieve consensus on one set of international rules.

The main changes were:

- All team members to approach to within 5m of controls (rather than previous 20m).
- Clarification of the “no punch, no points” rule and expectations for marking of intention sheets.
- Reflectors on controls banned at the Australian Championship.
- An under-23 Youth age category for the Australian Championship, to replace the Junior (under 18) category.

A full copy is available at [www.rogaine.asn.au/ara/docs/index.html](http://www.rogaine.asn.au/ara/docs/index.html)

At the 2005 ARA AGM, the ARA Technical Subcommittee Charter was expanded to conduct a review following each Australian Rogaining Championships.

The ARA Environment Guidelines were re-ratified at the 2005 ARA AGM.

## **Committee Roles**

The positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer were up for re-election at the 2005 AGM. The incumbents, Phillip Holman, David Rowlands and Richard Robinson respectively were re-elected unopposed.

## **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  
7<sup>th</sup> May, 2006