



Australian Rogaining Association Inc. President's Annual Report 2009/10

Consistent with last year this report will again be brief and to the point

Again I believe that Australian rogaining has had another excellent year in 2009. Participant numbers remain strong although the shortage of volunteers remains an ever-present concern for many States. Probably the highlight for me this year has been the rapport the ARA has able to build over the nine months since the last AGM with key overseas rogaining organisations, particularly those, in Czech, Estonia and New Zealand and the opportunity this has given us to influence the direction of international rogaining.

2009 Australian Championships

The 2009 Australian Rogaining Championships held near Wandering in WA was a classic superbly organised WA event with great participation rates, wonderfully subtle terrain and a course that used the terrain to its fullest advantage. It was unfortunate that the event clashed with the Australian MTBO Championships and a major eastern states adventure race as this probably robbed the event of some potentially strong competitors.

The setters for the 2010 ARC Julie Quinn and David Baldwin won the event to make it two in a row.

World Championships

The next WRC is planned for the Canterbury area of New Zealand in November this year (2010) with the following event in Czech in 2012. The 2010 event saw the need for selective entry criteria to be applied to the event due to the ever increasing popularity of the World Championships.

Based on the experience gained with the 2010 event entries a paper has been recently circulated within the worldwide rogaining community regarding proposed updates to the WRC entry criteria. This will be essential for the 2012 event given the extremely high popularity of rogaining in Eastern Europe. Interested ARA members are encouraged to comment on this paper.

Finances and State Grants

No State grants were made in 2009 but one grant application is currently under review and is likely to absorb the full allocation available from 2009.

The International Development Fund that was established to permit the ARA to become more active in the promotion and development of rogaining outside of Australia is now standing at just over \$7,000-. The Executive has discussed a mechanism for determining appropriate projects for the use of monies accumulated in the fund but unfortunately this has not been documented for review by Council. It is recommended that the levy of US\$0-50 remain in place,

but be waived for 2010 pending finalisation of the allocation process and the possible change in the IRF Constitution mentioned below.

Information Systems

David Baldwin and David Rowlands have continued to develop and populate the ARA main website www.rogaine.asn.au and the Council website www.rogaine.asn.au/aradocs. This has been a major effort and I thank them both sincerely for their perseverance and time commitment to this activity.

Insurance

As noted in the Treasurer's Report we were able to secure Public Liability Insurance and Association Liability (or Directors & Officers) cover at lower premiums again in 2009.

Technical Standards

There has been no major activity in the area of technical standards since the last AGM. The key technical issue that has been discussed by the Executive is the potential to mandate electronic punching with one tag per entrant for Australian Rogaining Championships. The practice varies widely between States with many States already doing this for all or most of their events.

David Baldwin, Technical Committee Chair will shortly be reactivating the Committee to deal with this and a range of other technical issues that are currently on the table.

Intersarsity Rogaining Championships

With the enthusiastic and material support of the Nigel Aylott Memorial Sports Foundation (NAMSF) 2009 saw the Australian Intersarsity Rogaining Championships held in conjunction with the ACT Championships in early August. This allowed maximum participation by having the event well away from university holiday periods and relatively central to the major areas of population.

The NAMSF has agreed to provide the same form and level of sponsorship again this year and it is planned to agree the event to be used for the 2010 Intersarsity Rogaining Championships at the 2010 AGM so that publicity can commence immediately.

International Rogaining Matters

It is very pleasing to report that over the past nine months the ARA has been able to establish an open and constructive dialogue with key IRF members regarding the matter of progressing towards a representative and democratic international peak rogaining body that is comprised of national peak rogaining bodies. Open communication has been had with particularly the national peak bodies in; Czech, Estonia and New Zealand with lesser but none-the-less positive and constructive communications with representatives of the USOF. There has also been correspondence and discussion with the IRF President but this has generally been unproductive.

However, I am very pleased to report that the IRF President has advised that there is currently a motion before the IRF Council for substantive changes to the IRF Constitution and that voting on this motion will be complete by the end of March 2010. Whilst the IRF Executive declined to provide a copy of the motion to

the ARA or to comment on its contents discussions with others give me confidence that should this motion be passed without amendment all the material objections that the ARA has raised historically about the constitutional structure of the IRF will have been addressed. If this is the case I intend recommending to Council that the ARA apply for membership of the IRF.

The ARA Executive will continue to watch on progress and provide an update to Council as soon as one is available.

Executive Roles

At the 2009 AGM there were no new candidates for the position of Treasurer and thus the undersigned retained the role in addition to the President's position. Following the 2009 AGM a broadcast was put out across all States for potential candidates to fill the Treasurer's role and a number of possible candidates emerged. I encourage Council to confirm Michael Aylott in the role of ARA Treasurer at the 2010 AGM

Over this past year I have been very strongly and ably supported by; David Rowlands as Secretary and David Baldwin as Technical Committee Chair (and IT guru). I sincerely thank both of these gentlemen for their support during the year.

The Executive has continued to have telephone hook-ups at approximately six week intervals which have assisted greatly in keeping key items moving forward.

Conclusion

Overall we should rate the last year as very positive for the ARA. We have seen:

- Continued strong participation rates in our sport
- A further reduction in the cost of our insurance with no reduction in cover
- Material progress towards a representative and democratic international peak rogaining body that is comprised of national peak rogaining bodies
- The continuation of the conduct of high quality events by the affiliated State Associations

I thank Council for their support during the year.



Richard Robinson
President