



**Australian Rogaining Association Inc.**  
**2013 Annual General Meeting**  
21<sup>st</sup> June 2013  
Stratford Library, Cairns  
**Minutes**

The meeting was opened by the President at 2:30pm.

**1. APOLOGIES AND NOTIFICATION OF PROXIES**

Apologies received: Mike Aylott (Treasurer), Simon Saunders (NTRA), Nick Bowden (RTas), Steve Cooper (SARA), Greg Robinson, Derek Morris (VRA), Paul Szijarto (WARA).

Proxies advised:

- Ella Robinson is proxy for Steve Cooper (SARA)
- Don Baker is proxy for Greg Robinson (VRA)
- Ron Frederick is proxy for Derek Morris (VRA)
- Lesa Muir is proxy for Paul Szijarto (WARA)

Delegates were in attendance representing all states and territories except RTas:

- Julie Quinn, David Baldwin (ACTRA)
- Gill Fowler (NSWRA)
- Jon Potter (NTRA)
- Tony Scott, Paul Guard (QRA)
- Ella Robinson, Mark Porter (SARA)
- Ron Frederick, Don Baker, Phil Giddings as an observer (VRA)
- Lesa Muir, Shane Lewis, (WARA)

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 4 MAY 2012**

No corrections were noted to the minutes of the 2012 ARA AGM.

<p><b>MOTION:</b> That the minutes of the 2012 AGM be accepted as true and accurate. Moved: Julie Quinn, Seconded: Jon Potter. Motion passed.</p>
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**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT DISCUSSED ELSEWHERE**

The meeting did not raise any items to be addressed.

**4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

2012 was another successful year for the sport. Across Australia, rogaing participant numbers continued to show modest but steady growth. State and territory associations again held around 60 rogaing events per annum.

A technically challenging 2012 Australian Rogaining Championship was organised by SARA in the scenic Flinders Ranges in conjunction with the Australian University

Championship. 43 Australians represented Australia in the 2012 World Championship in Czech Republic.

Insurance has been maintained at the same level of cover and about the same cost as recent years, through broker OAMPS.

The ARA Executive has been very actively involved in the International Rogaining Federation (IRF) and has worked within the IRF framework to take all practical measures to support the interests of ARA members at an international level. The IRF continues to be challenged by the wide variety of organisational/rogaing experience of its members, regional politics and language barriers.

Richard Robinson was elected as IRF President in early 2013. David Baldwin, the ARA's second delegate, has been actively involved in the IRF Technical Sub-committee. Other Australians serving on the IRF Executive are Treasurer Robin Gardner, Secretary Rod Phillips and Alan Mansfield as Promotion/Development Manager.

The ARA Executive meets at 6-8 weekly intervals, with activity and actions formalised in the ARA Executive Meeting Minutes, which are available from the Secretary.

## **5. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **a) Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report was tabled. The financial statement shows an operating surplus of just over \$1000 after taking into account accrued debts. Insurance remained stable at about \$3 per member, and no claim has ever been made. The International Development Fund levy was again collected, but with no expenditure.

<p><b>MOTION:</b> That the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Moved: Mark Porter, Seconded: Julie Quinn. Motion passed</p>
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### **b) IRF Membership Fee**

The IRF fee structure is still being discussed, but the latest proposal has Australia paying about US\$0.25 per member, plus a levy of \$5 per person competing in the Australasian championship. The Treasurer stated that the simplest and fairest way of providing this championship competitor levy is to include it in the fee structure and to make the payment from the championship budget. There is no need to shield the competitor from this direct expense by sharing it out across all ARA members.

### **c) Setting of Capitation Fee For 2013/14**

The Treasurer recommended continuation of the \$1 capitation fee. This has proven affordable by members and provides a buffer for any financial hit that the association or members may receive, such as a sharp increase in insurance costs. Richard Robinson pointed out that the ARA will need cash reserves should it be successful in the bid for WRC 2016.

<p><b>MOTION:</b> That the annual capitation be set at \$1 per member. Moved: Mike Aylott, Seconded: Paul Guard. Motion passed.</p>
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### **d) Insurance**

Cover for 2013 is in place and the levy will be approximately \$3.26 per member, which is a slight increase over the \$3.23 from 2012. Julie Quinn proposed that the renewal date be adjusted to January, when few events are impacted. Don Baker said that state membership is currently counted at the end of the year. Ella Robinson and Ron Frederick suggested this could be adjusted if required, or based on an estimate.

**ACTION:** The Treasurer should investigate an extension of the insurance for 6 months, then a change of the renewal date to the summer.

**e) ARA Grant Policy**

In 2012, QRA was the only applicant for a State Grant, paid to the value of \$2500 toward mapping costs of ARC2013. The ARA Grants policy was amended slightly in 2012 to provide more flexibility in the allocation of funds. The policy is on the ARA website. States are encouraged to apply for grants by 30 November each year.

**f) Appointment of ARA Auditor**

**MOTION:** That Brian Austin be re-appointed as ARA Auditor.  
Moved: Richard Robinson, Seconded: Lesa Muir. Motion passed.

**6. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

Richard Robinson had earlier flagged that on becoming elected as IRF President it would be best if he stood down as ARA President. Richard has served ARA on the Executive for 11 years, with 5 years as President, and was 2 years into his 3 year term. The ARA constitution does not explicitly accommodate a casual vacancy. Paul Guard has volunteering to join the Executive as Secretary. This has allowed David Rowlands to move from Secretary to fill the President role. This arrangement is proposed until 2014, when there will be the normal election for all Executive positions for 3 years.

**MOTION:** That the Executive appointments for a one year term be President: David Rowlands, Secretary: Paul Guard.  
Moved: Richard Robinson, Seconded: Julie Quinn. Appointments accepted.

**7. AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**a) ARC 2013 QRA**

- First Australasian Championship and first Australian Championship in North Queensland.
- Organiser: Mike Coleman, Course Planners/Vetters: Andrew Campbell, Rod Gray, Admin: Mike Coleman.
- 68 teams, 150 entrants.

**b) 2014 VRA**

- Date: 11-12 October.
- Venue in the Castlemaine/Maldon goldfields area, has previously been used for rogaining and orienteering more than 10 years ago.
- Organiser: Greg Robinson, Course Setter: Andrew Baker, Vetter: Derek Morris.

**c) 2015 NTRA**

- Date: late July/early August.
- Venue: 150km from Darwin with sealed road access.
- Organiser and course setter: Jon Potter
- An interstate Vetter is required.

**ACTION:** Julie Quinn will investigate a suitably qualified interstate Vetter for the 2015 Australian Championship.

**d) Next Australian Championships**

The planned sequence is: 2016 NSWRA, 2017 WARA, 2018 ACTRA.  
The 2016 Australasian Championship will be held in New Zealand.

**e) Trophies**

David Baldwin reported that the Open Mixed trophy has been expanded to provide space for another 20 years' worth of plaques. But the Mixed Veteran trophy will be full after the 2013 ARC. The "spare" trophy will be used for one of the new Ultra Veterans categories. Two more trophies are required for Ultra Veterans. Richard Robinson said that IRF will need Ultra Veteran trophies too. Gill Fowler responded that she has spare bases and maybe one spare trophy. The WARA representatives were unsure as to the supplier of the brass boots, which originally came from WA.

<b>ACTION:</b> David Baldwin to coordinate with Gill Fowler and WARA to organise replacement trophies.
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**8. INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION**

**a) ARA's Application to Organise WRC 2016.**

Richard Robinson clarified that it is an application from the ARA that is currently being considered by IRF, with the plan being that ARA (with assistance from NTRA and other states) will run the event. ARA's bid document is on the ARA's website and a decision is due by the end of June. If successful, there will be many tasks for which ARA will be seeking volunteers including website, promotion, merchandise and administration. All volunteers will be reimbursed for their expenses. Richard Robinson suggested that each state take responsibility for one aspect of the event. For example, WARA could bring their expertise in efficiently managing the hash house provision for a large championship. ARA's goal is to show the world how to organise a sensational championship rogaine.

**b) ARA Representatives for IRF Meeting at WRC Russia on 25th July 2013**

Richard Robinson outlined the urgent requirement for an ARA representative at the IRF meeting in July, because none of the Australians delegates are able to attend and Richard is now President. Julie Quinn said this would be an opportunity to listen to issues from other countries. Tony Scott believed that Australia would face more of such issues in future due to its isolation and as a consequence of the cost to reach an annual world championship from Australia.

<b>ACTION:</b> Richard Robinson will approach Rod Gray to see if he would be available to speak at the IRF meeting on ARA's behalf.
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**c) IRF Financing Policy Discussion Paper**

The IRF's recommended financing model was tabled. This is a hybrid of two opposing schemes: membership capitation, favoured by Australia, versus a levy on regional qualifying championships, better suited to orienteering federations. Richard Robinson stated that ARA has always favoured capitation in the belief that IRF Members should know their membership. David Baldwin believed capitation is simple for ARA because we have been accounting this way for decades. Ron Frederick asked whether Australia was unique in providing insurance. Richard said that in New Zealand, insurance was government provided, so no accounting of members is required by NZRA. Richard Robinson and David Baldwin noted that capitation provides a broad, steady base of

income for IRF, whereas numbers at qualifying events can vary significantly. Mark Porter asked “how is the rate determined?” and Julie Quinn questioned whether the levy rate could become a significant burden for ARA. This is something for the ARA’s IRF delegates to monitor.

The question whether an Australasian Championship levy should be added to the event, or amortised across all members attracted much discussion. Phil Giddings felt that ARA should consider this in the strategic context of whether rogaining is to be predominantly an elite or recreational sport. Tony Scott was concerned that a levy on the Australasian Championship is disproportionate for New Zealand who only host one in five events. Paul Guard wanted to keep the levy calculation simple, without administrative burden. Paul and Don Baker suggested that the “double dipping” clause be removed.

**MOTION:** The ARA supports the IRF Financing paper’s hybrid financing proposal, without the complexity of the “double dip” provision. Members should be required to move to a capitation levy within three years after joining. Moved Richard Robinson, Seconded David Baldwin. Motion passed.

**d) IRF World Championship Discussion Paper. ARA’s Response to the IRF Proposals**

The IRF’s WRC discussion paper and the ARA’s response were tabled.

The meeting reinforced the ARA’s position in strong opposition to annual World Championships. Paul Guard and Richard Robinson spoke about the expected regionalisation of the world championship. Don Baker said that the key success criteria will be the proportion of regional qualifiers who choose to compete. Mark Porter pointed out that Europe has greater competitor numbers which will inevitably skew the locations of WRC events.

The ARA proposal endorses the IRF’s paper, but recommends stronger regulation and more rapid formalisation. The major improvement recommended is a strategic review of the purpose of the World Championship.

The ARA proposal recommends that WRC hosts must be members of the IRF. David Baldwin pointed to the recent problems that occurred for the WRC2015 bid process because there were two competing bids from Finland, but no body to choose between them. The ARA’s response paper was strongly endorsed by ARA Council. The recommendations will be taken to the IRF Meeting in July.

**ACTION:** David Rowlands shall adjust the ARA response, changing the requirement for the World Championship to be hosted by a Member, to allow a WRC organised by a Member, where the host is not a Member. Submit the ARA proposals paper to IRF as soon as possible prior to the IRF Meeting.

**e) WRC Event Entrant Criteria, ARA Wildcard Policy and WRC 2014 Dakota**

At this stage, entry limits for WRC 2014, which will take place in South Dakota on 16-17 August 2014, are not known. ARA’s existing selection policies will be utilised if required for WRC2014 and future events.

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

The International Development Fund has recently been augmented by a donation from NAMSF and currently stands at over \$29,000. The Treasurer suggested that some strategic thinking is called for on how best to use this money to develop the sport.

David Baldwin has proposed that IDF could sponsor a tour by an experienced Australian to Europe or North America. There might be an opportunity to conduct workshops to train key administrators in course setting and event organisation. Julie Quinn said the organisers of WRC2014 might appreciate assistance beforehand, or workshops could be held after the WRC. Ella Robinson supported the use of funds for investment in equipment and long term resources. Paul Guard asked whether IRF has a view on the IDF, but Richard Robinson said there had been little feedback to date.

**ACTION:** ARA delegates to IRF will continue to promote the IDF within the IRF and work to develop potential bids.

## **9. TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE**

### **a) Review of Australian Rogaining Championship 2012 Organised by SARA**

David Baldwin gave a brief review of the 2012 Australian Championship. This was a superbly organised event, with brilliant terrain enabling many tactical route choices. Richard Robinson noted that water ran out at one site. There was one problem that some categories were not factored into the results presentation. In answer to a question from Phil Giddings, David Baldwin confirmed that the Navlight system performed without any problems.

### **b) Future Revisions of ARA Rules and Technical Regulations**

David Baldwin reported that there has been no action yet to conduct a formal review of the ARA's rules. Instead, there was a discussion about potential issues with planned activities for ARC 2013. David Baldwin was concerned by the proliferation of compulsory gear, but only 2 Navlights per team. Gill raised the issue of the official briefing planned to take place one hour before the start. Paul Guard mentioned that the organiser had not had the opportunity to run a state championship. Julie Quinn raised the need for an organisational manual for the ARC, which could be built from existing state documents.

**ACTION:** David Baldwin will conduct an open review of ARC 2013, in conjunction with state representatives.

## **10. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **a) Australian University Rogaining Championship and NAMSF Funding**

The 2013 Australian University Championship will be held on 17/18 August, organised by WARA. Gill Fowler in her role as University Convenor has again achieved Level 4 accreditation with Australian University Sports for the event. David Baldwin reported that a member of the winning team last year had been awarded a University Blue. NSWRA and SARA both advised that they did not have a team to send to WA, while Jon Potter noted that NTRA have only half a team. Don Baker said that VRA have a university category but it is just for beginners. The popular VRA schools event is not translating into University level participants, as might be expected.

### **b) ASC NSO Accreditation**

National Sporting Organisation (NSO) accreditation has been on the ARA's agenda for some time, but little progress has been made, particularly due to in recent times due to restructuring of the Australian Sports Commission (ASC).

**ACTION:** Julie Quinn will revisit ARA's objective for NSO accreditation with ASC.

**c) ARA Website**

David Baldwin is coordinating migration of the ARA website to a new host and Content Management System (CMS).

The Secretary explained that the ARA website has evolved as a rather static site containing major Australian news, the events calendar and ARC results. The meeting discussed potential improvements to the website and ARA's communication in general. Paul Guard proposed a presence for the ARA on Facebook. Mark Porter suggested a central role for the website be to explain the sport to beginners. Paul Guard said the Forum has potential that is not being fully utilised.

Richard Robinson said that the calendar must have links to the states running the events, to point the audience to entry information, thus reducing emails and calls to the ARA Executive.

<b>ACTION:</b> David Baldwin, David Rowlands, Paul Guard will work to improve the integration of the ARA website with Member sites.
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**d) Review of ARA Constitution Under Federal law**

The ARA constitution is in need of review and a revision is on the agenda for the ARA Executive.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

**a) Attendance Figures at 24 Hour Events (Raised by QRA)**

The ARC in North Queensland has attracted unexpectedly low entrant numbers, given the attractions of Cairns in mid-winter. QRA could incur a loss of \$13,500, but is not requesting assistance from ARA. Paul Guard suggested a survey be conducted using the online tool SurveyMonkey. David Baldwin proposed that the survey should address people who have been to the ARC previously.

There was general discussion of the current state of 24 hour events in each state. Tony Scott said that 24 hour events have historically been loss makers. Shane Lewis advocated the 15 hour event to attract those who think they cannot manage 24 hours. Gill Fowler said that NSWRA is running more concurrent shorter events and the 24 hour is under threat. Phil Giddings said that VRA is no longer running a second 24 hour event, due to lack of volunteers and declining participant numbers.

<b>ACTION:</b> Paul Guard will implement an online survey to obtain feedback from past ARC participants and regular 24 hour rogainers who did not compete in Cairns.
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**b) State Membership Records (Raised by VRA)**

Phil Giddings reported that VRA has discontinued its membership fee, but this raises the problem of how to ensure that entrants in the ARC are members, for insurance purposes. Most delegates reported that their states had also removed membership fees. Gill Fowler advised that NSWRA rely on an honesty policy. Whereas, Paul Guard checked all QRA entrants in the ARC to ensure they were compliant. Ella Robinson suggested that this is not really a problem provided that state membership numbers tallied each year for insurance are accurate.

**12. Next AGM**

The next AGM is planned to be held on Friday 10th October 2014, 2:00pm - 5:00pm. Location: Victoria, at or near the Australian Rogaining Championships event centre. The venue will be confirmed by VRA.

The meeting was closed at 5:20pm.

### **Tabled Documents**

- President's Report: **ARA Presidents Report 2012-13.pdf**
- Treasurer's Report: **2012 Financial Statement.pdf**
- Minutes of Previous AGM: **2012 ARA AGM Minutes.pdf**
- IRF Financing paper: **2013 ARA AGM - IRF Financing Rev 1.pdf**
- IRF WRC discussion paper: **130506 WRC Discussion Paper Final Draft.pdf**
- ARA Response to IRF WRC paper: **IRF WRC Discussion ARA Submission.pdf**

### **ARA Council (as at 31/05/2013)**

<b>President:</b>	Richard Robinson
<b>Secretary:</b>	David Rowlands
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Michael Aylott
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Phil Holman

#### **ACTRA**

President: Julie Quinn	Rep: David Baldwin
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#### **NSWRA**

President: Gillian Fowler	Rep: Alexa McAuley
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#### **NTRA**

President: Jon Potter	Rep: Simon Saunders
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#### **QRA**

President: Tony Scott	Rep: Paul Guard
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#### **RT**

President: Nick Bowden	Rep: Nick Bowden
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#### **SARA**

President: Mark Porter	Rep: Steve Cooper
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#### **VRA**

President: Greg Robinson	Rep: Derek Morris
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#### **WARA**

President: Paul Szijarto	Rep: Shane Lewis
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