

REVIEW OF NEW ARA WEBSITE

<http://rogaining.org.au>, rogaine.asn.au

D.Rowlands 23/3/2015, updated 15/03/2017 and 23/04/2017

Summary

The ARA website is the visible face of the ARA. It contains mostly news announcements, policy documents, calendar and results. It provides links to the states and the IRF and is linked from many rogaining sites. The website is accessed occasionally by rogainers and state committees as a source of reference, particularly for insurance information, technical regulations (rules) and Australian Championship (ARC) results.

Design

The style for the website should be simple, attractive, clear and consistent. The target environment for usage of the website is a landscape view on a computer PC monitor or iPad/portable large screen device. The tables of results will never be satisfactory on a small screen like a regular phone. Website display on a phone is less important. Rather, breaking news, announcements and feedback from rogainers are better served by the ARA's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ausrogaining>).

Status

The ARA allocated \$5000 towards a new website using Joomla CMS. As stated in the Presidents Report 2014-15:

“Of the original website refresh \$5000 budget, \$2378 has been spent to date. There is an opportunity to complete this task by utilising some of the skills amongst our broader membership.”

Recent Improvements

Of the issues identified in 2015, a number have been resolved or improved:

1. There is now a header image at the top of each page using an attractive picture from the 2016 WRC (**header_image.jpg**). This has been adapted by PG/DB to provide a suitable smaller image/no image on small devices.
2. The Sort Order issue has been fixed by changing the Creation Date of blog entries (eg Results, News), including those in the distant past.
3. Some of the excessive whitespace has been removed by: hiding Print and Email widgets, removing Tags, and moving author and date below the article.
4. The Number of Hits and Author previously shown on lists have now been removed.
5. The Moon Phase widget has been deployed.

Content Improvements

The content of most pages has been tidied up and standardised:

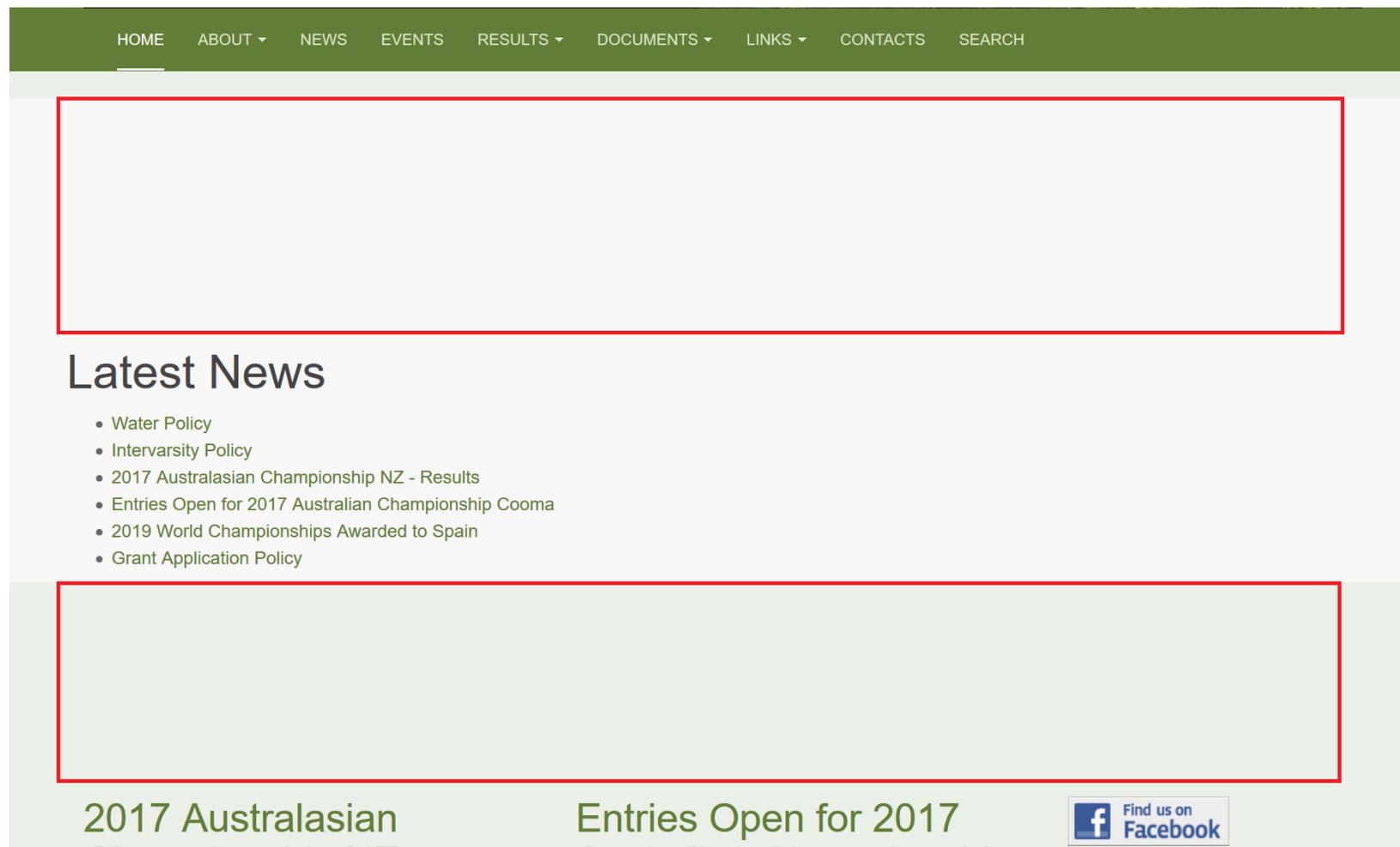
1. Headings on each page have been made consistent, with exception of Events (which is a JEvents module).
2. Results have been revised back to 2001 with a standard layout.
3. Layout of the Council Policies have been improved and new policies added (Water Plan, Intervarsity, Australasian Championship).
4. Blogs items and lists now show Created Date or Modified Date and Author consistently.
5. The homepage has been changed to a 2-column layout.

Issues to be Addressed

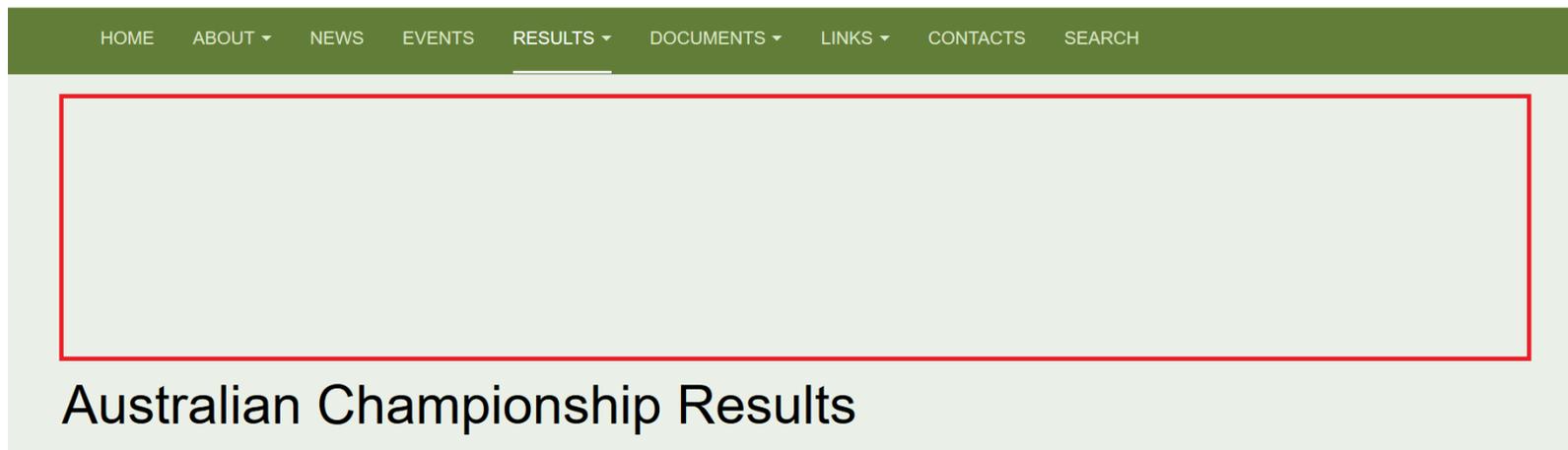
1. Whitespace.

There is excess whitespace on the Home Page. A module called “spacer” has been added to all pages, but its effect is to create a huge wasted area between the menu and the first heading. Removing spacer, however causes the menu to overlap the first heading.

There is also excess space between Latest News and the first News article, as shown in the screenshot below:



The screenshot below shows the excess “whitespace” at the top of a typical page:



2. **Whitespace in Blog articles:**

On every News item and Results page using the “Blog” style, there is too much empty space between the header and the body of text.

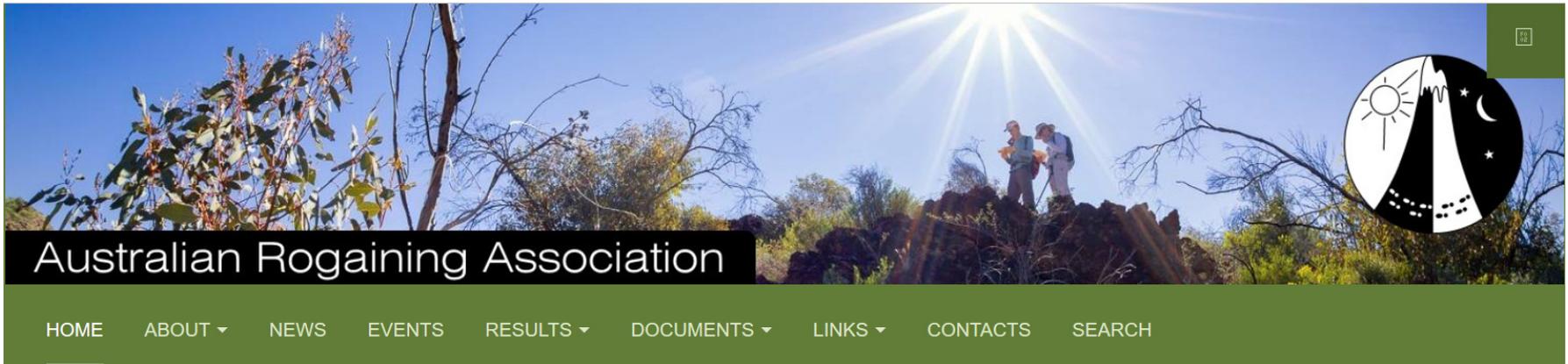


Remove the space below the header in the Global Template. This has already been achieved individually on most News Items and Results by setting the following Options in Joomla:

- Position of Article Info = Below (this puts author and date below the article)

- Show Print, Show Email = Hide (removed these widgets)
- Any Tags were removed

3. **Banner.** The Banner is at the head of all pages and hence is an important design element. The image should be larger and extended at the bottom (using the full original image **header_image1.jpg**) to better show the photo and merge into the menu. Below is the current layout:



Below is the full image that should be utilised:



4. **Latest News:**

a) The Latest News needs to be in a box, or with a different background colour to highlight it.

Latest News

- Entering the 2016 World Rogaining Championships in Central Australia
- Mapping Data for World Rogaining Championships 2016
- »»»» 2014 Interstate Challenge Trophy
- »»»» 2014 Intersarsity
- 35th 2014 11/12 October: "Fossiker's Dream", Malmsbury - Victoria

b) Currently the Latest News takes up the whole width of the page and the area to the right of it is wasted. This space is proposed to be used for **Featured Events** as shown in the section "New Features" below.

5. **Results.** The results pages are less attractive than the old ARA website.

The new website has visibly separate vertical pipe lines:

Place	Score	Time	Cat	State	Team	MO	MV	MS	MU	MY	WO	WV	WS	WU	WY	XO	XV	XS	XU	XY
1	4300	23:53	M	WA	Paul Williams, David Symons	1														
2	4220	23:59	X	NSW	Gill Fowler, Joel Mackay											1				
3	4130	23:45	XV	ACT	David Baldwin, Julie Quinn											2	1			
4	4120	23:50	MV	WA	Andre Morkel, Tim Sikma	2	1													
5	3520	22:34	X	ACT,NSW	Jackson Bursill, Tess Noble											3				
6	3430	23:47	MV	Vic	Jonathan Sutcliffe, Andrew Baker	3	2													
7	3420	23:56	MS	Vic,NSW	David Rowlands, Mike Hotchkis	4	3	1												
8	3360	23:04	MU	Vic	Merv Trease, Vic Sedunary	5	4	2	1											
9	3320	23:27	M	WA,NSW	Michael Loubser, Ben Greenwood	6														
10	3300	23:49	M	Vic	Paul Monks, Steven O'Connell	7														
11	3030	23:46	XS	Qld,NZ	Richard Robinson, Vivienne Prince											4	2	1		
12	2960	23:36	M	Qld,Vic	Paul Guard, Michael Aylott, Derek Morris	8														
13	2840	23:40	WV	Qld,WA	Tamsin Barnes, Janet Musker						1	1								

The old website had a 3D effect on all the table dividing lines (class = "table_events"):

35th 2014 11/12 October: "Fossiker's Dream", Malmesbury - Victoria



Written by David Rowlands

Place	Score	Time	Cat	State	Names	M	W	X	MV	WV	XV	MS	WS	XS	MU	WU	XU	MJ	WJ	XJ	I	
1	3450	23:47	X	NZ	Greig Hamilton, Georgia Whitla			1														
2	3430	23:40	XV	ACT	David Baldwin, Julie Quinn			2			1											
3	3170	23:47	X	NSW	Gill Fowler, Joel Mackay			3														
4	3090	23:54	MV	NZ	Robert Jarvis, Phil Wood		1		1													
5	3030	23:50	M	NSW	Ronnie Taib, David Williams	2																
6	2940	23:40	M	Vic	Ian Franzke, Serge Kurov	3																
7	2900	23:51	M	ACT,WA	Ben Corry, Shane Lewis	4																
8	2710	23:44	XS	NZ,Qld	Vivienne Prince, Richard Robinson			4			2			1								

6. **Breadcrumbs.** The old website had breadcrumbs that provided links through the hierarchy:



On the new website, Breadcrumbs are turned on in Joomla, but are not visible on the website pages.

7. **URLs.** The URL structure on the new website has duplication and incorrect hierarchy. For example:

<http://rogaine.asn.au/arc-results/results/arc-results>

This should be Results > Arc Results

<http://rogaine.asn.au/policy/documents/policy>

This should be Documents > Policy

<http://rogaine.asn.au/history/history>

This should be History

<http://rogaine.asn.au/ara-council/documents/ara-council>

This should be Documents > ARA Council

<http://rogaine.asn.au/ara-constitution/uncategorised/ara-constitution>

This should be Documents > ARA Constitution.

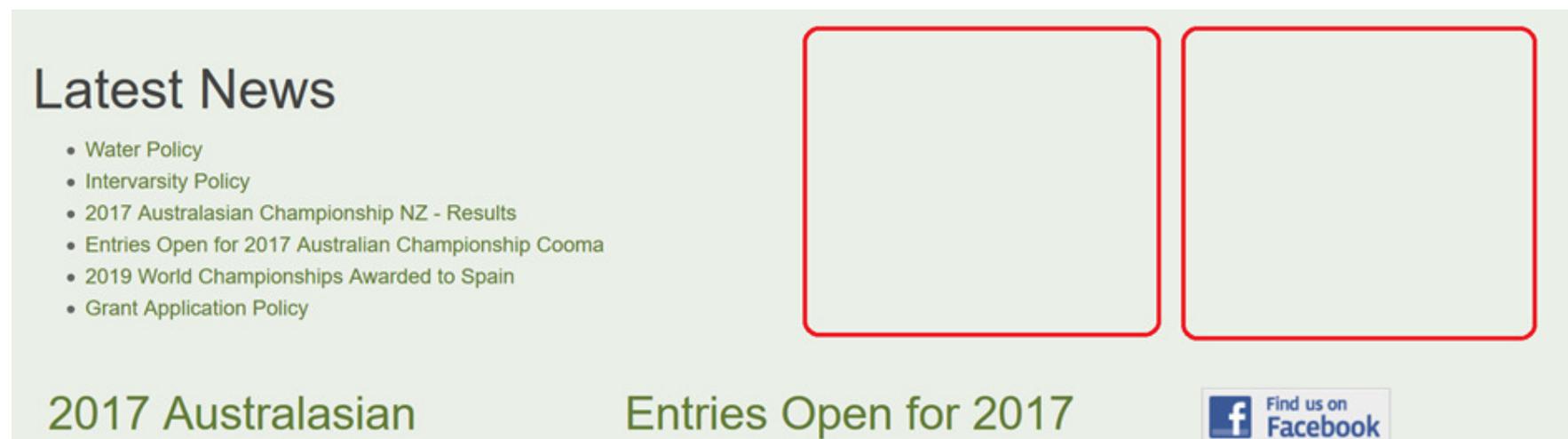
Some amendments may require aliases to overcome existing Category structures that have been setup in Joomla.

8. **Broken links.** There are a number of broken links and the "404 Error" is the most popular page. How can these issues be identified? One potential area for improvement is to find a suitable method to address pages that are subsets of other pages. For example, the references on the History pages.

9. **Pagination of lists.** The “number items per page” dropdown does not work correctly. If you change the number of items per page, the page numbers get confused and the number of items per page reverts back to the default position.
The pagination is used on the Results (50), ARA Council (10), and Policies (10).

New Features

10. On the home page right hand side at the top next to the Latest News, we need a **Featured Events** as a permanent box of preferably flexible, or fixed size.
a) This new feature would provide a brief description and link for the next Australian Championship and next World Championship.



A good example of this concept is on the NZRA website (<http://www.rogaine.org.nz>):

Offshore Championship Events

[12th World Rogaining Championships](#)
South Dakota, USA, 16th - 17th August 2014

The 12th WRC was run in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Results [are available](#) on the event website. Take a look at the New Zealand [results, articles, and pictures](#)

NEW! [Richard English's video](#) or download a [better quality version](#) (100MB)

11. **Find Us On Facebook** needs a widget that shows Facebook content, rather than an image. An example of this is on the Mt Burnett website (<http://www.mtburnettobservatory.org>).



12. **Font and template.** The current green-on-green style is very plain. A number of improvements are possible, which should be considered on a case-by-case basis, including replacement of the existing template.