



Australian Rogaining Association Inc. 2004 President's Annual Report

2004 continued to be a busy and successful year for all the state associations. 10 months have passed since the 2004 Australian Rogaining Championships and Annual General Meeting.

Perhaps the most significant impact to the sport of rogaining during that period was the tragic death of Nigel Aylott during an outdoor adventure race in the United States in October, 2004. For almost 15 years, Nigel had been one of rogaining's most devoted competitors, volunteers and committee members.

Since his first event in March 1985, Nigel won a World Championship, 2 Australian Rogaining Championships and 6 state titles in Victoria, NSW and the Northern Territory. He competed in 133 rogaines, winning 54 of them. He put in countless hours behind the scenes helping to organise or volunteer at many more events. He held a number of roles on the VRA Committee since 1990 including President, Vice President and Competition Manager. As an ARA Council member he took on many tasks and was always a major contributor in council discussions. Nigel was also a great ambassador for the sport internationally, contributing to many IRF initiatives and promoting the sport wherever he went in Australia and around the World through his enormous knowledge and boundless enthusiasm.

He will be greatly missed. The VRA and ARA collaborated to put together a tribute newsletter in memory of Nigel. This was published in January 2005. Discussion will be held at the 2005 AGM about an appropriate way for the ARA to honour Nigel.

7th World Rogaining Championships, 2006

The New South Wales Rogaining Association has continued to plan for this event, to be staged on 13th/14th October 2006. The key organisers to date are:

- Course Setter: Mike Hotchkis
- Assistant Course Setter: Trevor Gollan, George Collins
- Vetter: Tony Maloney
- Sponsorship: Julian Ledger
- Catering (event): 1st Waitara Scouts
- Catering Information: John Keats

After some email discussion in March 2005, a new "standard" for describing the World Rogaining Championship event name was agreed on. The format is now: 7WRC 2006 Sydney. Updates on the event can be seen at:

<http://www.nswrogaining.org/WRC7/WRC7.htm>

2004 Australian Rogaining Championships

The 2004 "Black Hill" Australian Rogaining Championships were hosted by the South Australian Rogaining Association in the Flinders Ranges on 3rd/4th July, 2004. The event area covered landscape features typical of the Flinders from the impressive craggy bluffs, expansive views from the lofty hills, to the quiet pleasant valleys and undulating plains with extensive native pine groves and mallee scrub forest cover.

150 teams competed, including four from New Zealand and one from the USA. The weather was clear and windy on the first day, but the moon was fantastically bright and the night temperatures were not too harsh.

ACTRA won the interstate trophy narrowly from the VRA.

National Events

The 2004 events calendar is listed below. The year was bigger and better than ever before:

Type / State	24 hr	15 hr	12 hr	9 hr	8 hr	6 hr	5 hr	3 hr	Metro gaine	Tri gaine	Cyclo gaine	Canoe Foot	Canoe gaine	Total
ACT	1		1		1	2	1		1		1			8
NSW	1		2			3			1					7
NT		1		1	1				1					4
Qld	1	1	1		2	2			1	1	1			10
SA	2		2					1	1					6
Tas	1		1									1		3
Vic	2	1	3		1	5			1		1		1	15
WA	2		3			1								6
Total	10	3	13	1	5	13	1	1	6	1	3	1	1	59
%	17%	5%	22%	3%	8%	22%	2%	2%	10%	2%	5%	2%	2%	

Of note this year is the amazing variety of different types of events. QRA even staged a 'multisport' rogaine which couldn't be categorised in any of the columns above!

Information Systems

Web sites for all rogaining associations have continued to promote the sport and provide information and results to competitors. Entry / payment for events and final event instructions are also provided electronically in some states.

NTRA and RT have joined QRA in providing regular electronic newsletter to its members, rather than the traditional paper copy.

The rogaine 'yoyo' electronic mailing list, which was originally set up by Nigel Aylott in 1996 was discontinued in early 2005 as it had not been used for over 2 years. It is

hoped that the sleepmonsters.com website will soon provide the first 'rogaining forum' for World Rogaining Championships.

Thanks once again to Alistair Honeybun who has provided another year of service as webmaster of the ARA site, www.rogaine.asn.au. He has also maintained a website for the ARA Council containing relevant material for the functioning of the group.

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. Reprints of the popular colour rogaining stickers were produced and distributed in early 2005.

No other publicity initiatives were undertaken during the year. With record numbers in some states and numbers dropping in others, perhaps publicity should be targeted in regions in the future rather than being undertaken on a national basis. There is still a vacancy for a National Publicity Officer, although this was not actively advertised by the executive during the year.

Finances and State Grants

Over the year, the ARA incurred a minor deficit of \$366.80. The capitation fee was once again waived for the year as no applications for state grants had been received in 2003. The association is still in a very healthy financial state with a closing balance for 2004 of around \$22,800.

Two states applied for and received grants in 2004.

ACTRA applied for \$1,600 to purchase two satellite phones. These will be used for setting, vetting, checkpoint collection and at events. They will be used in the case of emergency or for important communication in areas where mobile phones or UHF radios do not work. The phones can also be borrowed by other states for use at Australian and World Championship events.

SARA applied for \$399 to assist in the purchase of two-way radios. This will provide improved competitor safety (particularly if searching for an overdue team) and better intra-event co-ordination.

Public Liability Insurance

The Insurance Subcommittee appointed in the wake of the dramatic increase in insurance premium and changes to our policy in August 2003 was officially closed in February 2005.

The subcommittee was formed to investigate the issues surrounding our public liability insurance. At the time the ARA had just been hit by a large rise in premium and a change in the conditions of our policy.

The work of this group was completed some time ago. Our 2004 premium was significantly lower. The insurance industry has stabilised and the ARA has formed a close working relationship with our broker: IEA Brokers – a division of OAMPS Insurance Brokers Ltd. The ARA Executive will continue to monitor and address issues as they arise and work with our broker to get the best insurance deal in the future. However current indications are that until the new legislation put in place by the state governments is tested in the courts, we are unlikely to see any dramatic drops in our insurance premium.

Some work is still required to: a) prepare clauses for introductory letters to landowners outlining our insurance cover and b) confirm wording of participant indemnity forms. As legislation varies in each state and territory, it is intended that each association should confirm compliance in their own jurisdiction.

One of the main areas of focus for the ARA over the next 12 months will be on risk management to continue the great safety record that rogaining has enjoyed over its 28 year history.

International Rogaining Matters

At the 2003 AGM, the ARA Council showed renewed interest in negotiating with the IRF Executive to become a member of the IRF. Prior to that, there has been no formal correspondence since the ARA's last response to the IRF on 21st March, 2002.

A meeting was held in February 2004 between Neil Phillips, IRF President, Rod Phillips, IRF Secretary and Phillip Holman, ARA President. Talks were also held shortly afterwards between Rod Phillips and Peter Taylor, the ARA Immediate Past President.

At these meetings the ARA was encouraged to accept the IRF's current position as there had been over two of years of successful governorship by the current IRF Council. However, this contrasts with some of the concerns expressed by the ARA prior to this period.

It is planned to hold further talks soon between the ARA and IRF Executives in the hope that the ARA will become a member of the IRF. The ARA will publicise the executive roles that are coming up for election in the near future.

Technical Standards

An ARA Technical Subcommittee, chaired by Mike Hotchkis, commenced a review of the rules and technical standards in January 2005. Some of the hot topics which

were debated include the junior age category, duration of 24 hour events if there is a delayed start and reflectors on checkpoints. Several representatives of the IRF were invited to observe and contribute to the discussion in the hope that the minor differences between the ARA and IRF rules could be standardised. It is anticipated that the recommended changes will be submitted to the ARA Council for ratification at the 2005 AGM.

It is also planned to re-ratify the Environment Guidelines at the 2005 AGM.

Executive Roles

David Rowlands was elected as Secretary at the AGM in July 2004. He has already proven a great asset to the role, contributing many hours and greatly improving the record keeping and communication within the ARA.

Richard Robinson began as Treasurer in January 2003. He has continued to provide his usual energy and great experience to the role.

The ARA Executive of David, Richard and myself have held bi-monthly phone conferences to manage the activities and administration of the association.

Conclusion

Over the past 10 months the individual state associations have continued to thrive. Although finding volunteers to run events and serve on committees continues to be a constant challenge, rogaining is now enjoyed by more people each year than ever before. Congratulations to each of the state committees and rogainers all over Australia that continue to make the sport grow and prosper.

I have now completed my second term as ARA President and am up for re-election at the next AGM. It has been both challenging and rewarding to have served in this role over the past six years. Having been a part of the rogaining community for nearly half my life since my first event in 1988, it has been privilege to have played my own small part in the success of such a great sport.

Phillip Holman
ARA President
1st May, 2005