



## **Australian Rogaining Association Inc. 2007/08 President's Report**

The balance of 2007 and first half of 2008 have continued to be a busy and successful for all state rogaining associations. 13 months have passed since the 2007 Australian Rogaining Championships and Annual General Meeting.

The main work of the ARA Executive during that period has been the updating of the ARA website, further discussions with the IRF about membership and negotiation of greatly improved public liability premiums and cover.

### **2007 Australian Rogaining Championships**

In 2007 the Australian Rogaining Championships were hosted for the first time by the Northern Territory Rogaining Association. The "Yeperenye Yaw" was held east of Alice Springs on 28th / 29th July 2007. 275 rogainers in 124 teams journeyed to the Red Centre with representatives from all Australian States and Territories and New Zealand.

Joel Mackay and Philip Whitten won the event narrowly by 20 points from last year's winner Julie Quinn who teamed up in this event with David Baldwin. The VRA won the interstate trophy ahead of QRA and ACTRA.

The event course was truly unique rogaining environment that normally would not be available to the public. The Co-ordinator and course setter, Jon Potter, put in an extraordinary personal effort to stage the event. Living over 1,500 km away in Darwin, Jon deserves an enormous amount of thanks for his dedication over almost 3 years in gaining permission to use the area, mapping the course and putting in many, many hours of course setting and organisational tasks.

### **8<sup>th</sup> World Rogaining Championships, 2008**

The 8<sup>th</sup> World Rogaining Championships will be held on 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> September, 2008 in the Karula National Park region of southern Estonia. The event has been fully subscribed with 796 competitors in 358 teams registered. An amazing 23 different countries are represented, making this a truly international event. Refer to the following website for more information: <http://8wrc2008.rogain.ee>

## Future World Rogaining Championships

The 9<sup>th</sup> World Rogaining Championship is scheduled to be held in 2010. In May 2008, Alan Mansfield the newly appointed IRF Promotion and Development Officer, published a new selection process for selecting the host of the event. Despite a previously announced rotational policy between Europe, North America and Oceania (which includes Australia and New Zealand), the IRF has opened the bidding to all regions in 2010. The deadline for bids is 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2008. To date a proposal has been received from the Ukraine and an expression of interest from Russia. The ARA's selection policy is to assess bids from the ARA states and allow the Council to vote on the best proposal, prior to putting it forward to the IRF. The ARA did not receive any formal bids from the states prior to its selection deadline of 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2008. However, there is some interest by some states in staging future WRCs which will be discussed at this year's ARA AGM.

It still remains a concern that the World Rogaining Championships are being conducted under different rules from the ARA. If the ARA and IRF can resolve their membership issues, one of the big benefits would be to form a joint subcommittee to develop a consistent set of rules in the future.

## National Events

The 2008 Australian events calendar is below.

Type / State	33 hr	24 hr	15 hr	12 hr	8 hr	7 hr	6 hr	4 hr	3 hr	Paddlo gaine	Metro gaine	Cyclo gaine	Multi Sport	Total
ACT		1		1	1		3				1	1		8
NSW		2			1		2				1			6
NT		1			1						1			3
SE Qld		1		1	2						2	2		8
N Qld	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	1	5				1	18
SA		2		2	1		1							6
Tas		1												1
Vic		2	1	2	1		5			1	1	1		14
WA		2		2										4
<b>Total</b>	1	13	2	10	8	1	15	1	5	1	6	4	1	68
%	1%	19%	3%	15%	12%	1%	22%	1%	7%	1%	9%	6%	1%	

The number, mix and variety of events compared to last year have remained relatively consistent. However, there has been a slight increase in the number of 24 hour events which is pleasing.

## **Finances and State Grants**

In 2007, the ARA made a surplus of just under \$2,900. A \$1 capitation fee was once again charged to each member state. After allowing for reimbursement of unused NAMSF grant money, the 2007 closing bank balance was \$30,175. A \$5,000 loan provided to NTRA as an advance for the Australian Championships was paid back in full.

Both ACTRA and QRA have applied for a level of underwriting support for buses to run from both of these states to the 2008 Australian Championships. However, no other grants were applied for.

One of the requirements for Australian University Sports accreditation, which the ARA is hoping to apply for shortly, is the auditing of the financial accounts for the previous 3 years. WARA member, Brian Austin, was appointed to the role of ARA auditor and undertook a successful audit of the 2005/06/07 accounts.

## **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 have continued to grow in popularity for the states who have implemented this facility.

A major change to the ARA website was forced in April 2008 when our web hosting provider Informed Technology (formerly Curtin University through Alastair Honeybun in WA) closed. David Baldwin, from ACTRA, came to rescue and moved the affected sites under the ACTRA's hosting arrangement with WebCity. The ARA ([www.rogaine.asn.au](http://www.rogaine.asn.au)), WARA ([wa.rogaine.asn.au](http://wa.rogaine.asn.au)), SARA ([sa.rogaine.asn.au](http://sa.rogaine.asn.au)) and NTRA ([nt.rogaine.asn.au](http://nt.rogaine.asn.au)) sites were affected. VRA, RT, VRA, ACTRA, NSWRA and QRA all have their own hosting arrangements.

Whilst the initial transfer of the ARA web pages enabled them to continue to be displayed, the site could no longer be updated and maintained. A major exercise was then undertaken by David Baldwin, with assistance from David Rowlands to configure the text in Joomla!, an open source content management system. The main site, [www.rogaine.asn.au](http://www.rogaine.asn.au), has largely been completed and made live. The ARA Council website, [www.rogaine.asn.au/aradocs](http://www.rogaine.asn.au/aradocs), will follow shortly.

The Joomla! content management system has enabled a range of new facilities for the rogaining community. There is a forum (with a few threads going already), Navlight electronic scoring software downloads (thanks to Peter Squires), an event calendar (the next 6 coming events are displayed on the home page) and a full moon calendar. Resources from the old website are also included: results from all Australian Championships, current insurance documents, rules and technical regulations, history, news and links.

An enormous thank you to David Baldwin for making this possible.

## **Publicity**

Nationally, the ARA did not place a high priority on publicity in 2007. Publicity for events has been continued to be undertaken very successfully at a state level.

## **Public Liability Insurance**

Increased competition in the insurance market allowed the ARA to negotiate an increased level of cover for 2008/09 (from \$10 million to \$20 million) at a further 25% reduction in premium. Our new cover is with Lloyds of London and their agent SLE Worldwide Australia through OAMPS Insurance Brokers. The ARA Council agreed at last year's AGM to drop Sports Injury cover which no longer has to be bundled with the PLI insurance. Most importantly we have been able to extend the PLI cover to include full coverage for landowners irrespective of the landowners' insurance position. This is a return to the policy wording we had in place for many years up until 2001 when the major shake up of the insurance market occurred. Many thanks to Richard Robinson for his work in securing this greatly improved insurance coverage.

## **Technical Standards**

At the 2007 ARA AGM, changes to the technical regulations covering electronic punching systems were discussed and agreed. These were made effective from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2007. The Navlight electronic scoring system has been used at several state, national and international championships since its inception approximately 3.5 years ago.

The Chair of the Technical Subcommittee, David Baldwin conducted a review of the 2007 Australian Championships which was recently published on the new ARA website. Items on the agenda for the subcommittee this year include:

- Revision of the new electronic scoring rules to include determination of a team's finish time. Discussion about the use of multiple electronic tags to assist in preventing teams from splitting up is a topic that may be discussed more widely at the AGM.
- Including state of allegiance in state association membership. This is required so that ARC results can include a state for each team member.
- Coverage of the interstate challenge formula in the Technical Regulations.

Mapping standards and Australian Championship protests are two items suggested for future review.

David is still in the process of investigating accreditation for the sport of roganing by the Australian Sports Commission. It is believed that most criteria for accreditation have been met. The items that still need to be confirmed are:

- Whether membership of the sport's international body (ie. the IRF) of GAISF is required.
- Adoption of a harassment and member protection policy.
- The adequacy of the ARA drugs policy.

## **Intersarsity Rogaining**

The 2007 Australian Rogaining Championships saw the reintroduction of the Intersarsity Category, launched in conjunction with the Nigel Aylott Memorial Sports Foundation. NAMSF provided funds for one university team from each state to travel to the event. This initiative will run for three years during which time it is planned to apply for Australian University Sports accreditation to make rogaining an official intersarsity sport.

Daniel James and Greg Jolley from the Australian National University won the inaugural Nigel Aylott Trophy. Overall 8 teams from 7 states and territories participated which was a great first up attendance.

## **International Rogaining Matters**

The ARA has still not joined as a member of the International Rogaining Federation. However, some progress has been made over the past 12 months. In summary, the ARA would be happy to become a member if a number of anomalies in the definition of voting members were amended in the IRF constitution.

Early in 2007 the ARA Executive canvassed the opinions of the ARA Council and their state associations in regards to the outstanding issues. In conclusion, there was unanimous agreement on the following:

- IRF voting should be restricted to Members, the President, Secretary/Treasurer and Immediate Past President.
- Members of the IRF (Member category) should comprise representatives of the National Peak Rogaining Body in each country, not individuals.
- The end of the transition period to reach this position will be June 2008.
- Observer category should be maintained where a country does not have a Peak National Rogaining Body, to ensure a wide scope of voices on the IRF. These individuals will have no vote.
- States, provinces and regions with IRF Member status through Peak National Rogaining Bodies will not have additional Observer status.
- Members will receive 2 votes per country, as per the ARA Constitution.
- The location of World Rogaining Championships will be rotated between the 3 world regions (Europe / North America / AsiaPacific) every 2 years. A bidding selection process should be determined in conjunction with voting members (and observers) and then used to select the host organisation.
- For the time being, an annual membership fee payable to the IRF from each Member national association will be approximately \$US1 per member of each national rogaining association, or less; the fee will take account of the individual circumstances of each country. Membership fees will be determined by Council in discussion with each Member and can be reduced or waived during the early years of development of the sport in a country.
- The ARA's IRF delegate(s) will be elected by ARA Council annually and consist of the ARA President plus any Council member.

A proposal outlining these items was documented and sent to the IRF Executive with a request to distribute it to the IRF membership. This was done in October 2007 but no further action was taken by the IRF Executive until February 2008 when an electronic mailing list was set up for the IRF membership to discuss the issues.

To date, this has resulted in three motions being passed:

- That clause 5F ("commercial operators") of the IRF constitution be deleted and subsequent clauses be re-numbered appropriately.
- That clause 5E ("founders") of the IRF constitution be deleted and subsequent clauses be re-numbered appropriately.
- That Clause 18 of the Constitution ("Alteration to the Constitution") be amended by replacing '75%' with 'two-thirds'. This clause will then be: "A special resolution is required to change the name of the Federation, the Constitution, or the aims. A special resolution requires 28 days notice in writing to all Members, and to be passed requires that at least two-thirds of Voting Members are in favour."

However, after 6 months of very slow progress, the major topics to do with the definitions of voting members have yet to be addressed.

## **Executive Roles**

Richard Robinson (Treasurer), David Rowlands (Secretary), David Baldwin (Technical Subcommittee Chair) and I have continued bi-monthly phone conferences to manage the activities and administration of the association. Richard and both Davids have both been very active and supportive in their respective roles. It has been a very productive team which I have greatly enjoyed working with. Thanks to Richard, David R. and David B. for their continuing contribution.

## **Conclusion**

After 9 years as ARA President, the time has come for me to retire at this year's Annual General Meeting. I have been actively involved with rogaining committees in Victoria and New South Wales, as well as the ARA, since 1990. Like any volunteering role the more you put in the more you get out of it. The time I have been fortunate enough to spend on rogaining duties over those 18 years have been enormously rewarding and enjoyable. A big thank you to each of the state committees and rogainers all over Australia that continue to make the sport grow and prosper.

Phillip Holman  
ARA President  
8<sup>th</sup> August, 2008