



# AGENDA

## Australian Rogaining Association Inc.

### 2024 Annual General Meeting

#### 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024, 7:30pm AEST

#### 1. Apologies And Notification of Proxies

Proxies advised:

**Liz Canning** is proxy for Kristin Raw (RT)

**Fiona Crossley** is proxy for Sue Clarke (QRA)

Executive: **Paul Guard, Peter Blyton, Stephen Gray, David Rowlands**

Delegates attending:

ACTRA: **Stephen Goggs, David Baldwin**

NSWRA: **Graham Field**

NTRA: **Shani Bryceson**

QRA: **Paul Guard (+ proxy)**

RT: **Gary Carroll, (+ proxy)**

SARA: **Craig Colwell, Shanti Osborne**

VRA: **Sue Noy, Richard Homburg**

WARA: **Andre Morkel**

IRF rep: **Julie Quinn**

#### 2. Introductions

Attendees gave a brief introduction.

#### 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held 11th September 2023

Motion: That the minutes of the 2023 AGM be accepted as true and accurate Moved Craig Colwell, Second: David Baldwin. Motion passed.
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#### 4. Matters Arising From the Minutes Not Discussed Elsewhere

Nil

#### 5. President's Report

President's report was tabled.

President thanked Richard Robinson and Michael Aylott for many years of service to ARA.

Also, thanks to Michael Aylott and the NAMSF for many years of generous support for intervarsity rogaining. NAMSF funds have now been handed over to ARA to manage.

President expressed desire to find a way to get more young people into rogaining. noting that the greatest success is occurring in the ACT where Inward Bound provides a useful entry point.

President noted that the sport looks healthy, numbers increasing again post covid.

President requested any proposals for what the ARA could do better.

President has prepared a draft Vision, Mission, Values proposal - requesting feedback

Suggested that the ARA should be helping each state achieve best practice. Assist bigger clubs to help other smaller clubs.

Sue Noy congratulated Paul on being a good President so far, fostering interstate discussions.

## **6. Financial Matters**

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

The Treasurer's report for 2023 was tabled.

Peter Blyton gave a brief summary of the report. Finances are solid. Expenses are covered by levy income. In 2023 the ARA supported a youth team to travel overseas and provided a grant to QRA towards purchasing a defibrillator. In early 2024 RT received a grant towards a new battery system. The residual NAMSF funds are now held by ARA. Majority of the cash balance has been moved to the savings account. John Gavens is currently reviewing our 2023 accounts and will continue with annual reviews. Insurance: all levies received. We will start negotiating for next year's insurance in November. Expect insurance levy increase of ~10%.

Applications are open for ARA grants now, close in November.

Thanks to Mike Aylott for helping Peter get up to speed.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted Moved: Peter Blyton. Second Paul Guard. Motion passed
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### **b) Setting of Capitation Fee and IDF Contribution for 2025**

Motion: That the capitation fee for the calendar year 2025 be set at \$1 per participant (same as previous years) Moved: Peter Blyton. Second: Sue Noy. Motion passed.
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No projects have been identified that will require a contribution to the IDF this year.

Motion: That the International Development Fund contribution for 2025 be set at \$0 per participant Moved: Peter Blyton. Second: David Baldwin. Motion passed
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The Treasurer's report included details of responses to the actions set out in the previous AGM minutes.

## **7. Australian and Australasian Championships**

### **a) 2024 Australasian Rogaining Championships: WARA, 7-8th September**

Location: 3hr South of Perth

Course Setters: Owen Horton, Ann Smithson, Will Blackshaw, Luke Van Baaren

Vetter: Paul Szijarto

Andre Morkel reported that the event preparation is progressing well. The volunteers roster has been filled. (Late) entries close Sunday before the event. 168 participants at this stage.

Final instructions are normally emailed on the Monday before the event. Request for final instructions from people travelling to the event: Can this be sent out early?

WARA will aim to send out early and put as much info as possible on the website.

### **b) 2025 Australasian Rogaining Championships: ACTRA**

Location: Long Plain, Snowy Mountains

Proposed date: 15-16 March 2025

Course Setters: David Baldwin, Julie Quinn

Promotional flyers to be distributed at WA ARC. Event timing is only 6 months after the WA ARC, but this is to avoid the potential of snow later in the year. Location is in the park / bushland not burnt in 2019/20.

c) 2026 Australasian Rogaining Championships: QRA

Proposed date: possibly 29-30 August 2026

QRA committee is currently looking at locations. Potential location is adjacent to one of the existing favourite maps north of the Bunya mountains, west of Kingaroy, with Ironpot Community Hall as the base.

NTRA has not had an ARC for some time. Potential for interstate assistance with NTRA hosting an Australian Champs. Open invitation when NTRA are ready.

General agreement for Australasian Champs is 4 out of 5 in Aus, then 1 out of 5 in NZ. To provide a regional championship for the purposes of qualification for the World Rogaining Championships.

## 8. International Rogaining Federation

a) International rogaining developments (Julie Quinn).

IRF Vice President, Julie Quinn provided a summary of international developments.

Recent activity was to review the sole bid for 2027 WRC. Awarded to ARA, location in SA.

Executive positions will expire at the end of this calendar year with positions to turn over.

Accounts for last financial year are complete, to be circulated soon. No details at this stage.

b) WRC 2025: Spain (WRC2025.org) 5-6 July

Two Australian course advisors - Jean Douglas, Rob Simpson (organised the 2017 ARC).

Wouldn't share many details about the event site, but they are expecting a good event. Only tip is to make sure you do some hill training!

c) WRC 2027: ARA bid was successful - northern South Australia.

Craig Colwell is contacting landowners and community groups preparing groundwork for the event (northern SA). Will talk to WA team (at the ARC) about providing assistance with the Hash House.

d) Other IRF news:

Australia abstained from the motion to exclude Russia. Close vote, but IRF decided to exclude Russians from WRC. No Russians at recent European Champs.

European Champs now has a coordinator position on the IRF. No communication to report.

Paul Guard and David Baldwin are ARA representatives on the IRF.

All should read Richard Robinsons debrief of the 2016 WRC to learn the lessons we should apply to the 2027 WRC.

## 9. Technical Subcommittee

Convenor: David Baldwin

a) ARC recap

David noted that the course was challenging course. Vegetation was a bit scrubby in places. Technically, the map was excellent. Water plan well done (weather in low 30's - important to get water right). Needed a lot of water drums. Bus arrangements were a bit chaotic – but everyone got there in the end. Course was well set.

PG: Good event. Impressed by scale and good turnout.

Graham Field: Vegetation variability on the course could have been better communicated.

Shanti Osborne: Some information must have been presented, as her team picked the 'easy side'

Craig Colwell: Winners picked up only about 60% of the max score. Possibly overset. Extra work for no real benefit.

David Baldwin: All controls got visited, up to setters if they put out too many controls.

Graham Field: abnormally hot weather possibly reduced maximum score.

b) Proposal to add a new under 30 category (trial in ACT Champs 2023-24)  
2 years of tracking teams in this category in ACT champs. Around 1/3 of teams. David Baldwin considers that it is good for younger teams to have a dedicated category, especially as veterans are now >45 yrs.  
Proposed to trial at next year's ARC (unofficially).

c) Potential rule change (R7) to clarify GPS watches are not allowed.  
Technology has changed since rule was written. Suggest embellishing part (b) - prohibited items. Clarified that 'adventure race mode' on watches will not be permitted at ARCs. ACTRA have cheap watches for sale at events that have none of the banned features. Proposal not ready for tabling at this meeting. David Baldwin to propose later and we will consider via email.

d) Proposed update to R2 to clarify U14 team membership requirements  
Motion proposed to update the wording for R2 to account for year of birth rather than date of birth, e.g. *A team that has a member fourteen years of age or under on 31st December of the year of the competition shall also have a member nineteen years of age or over on 31st December of the year of the competition*  
There was some discussion on whether a change is needed but couldn't come to a consensus. At present, entry systems are applying the modified rule so might be excluding some teams that meet the requirements of the tech regs. There was discussion about the safety of children, which was agreed should be in a child safety policy rather than trying to incorporate into the rules. No conclusion, item to be discussed at a later date

e) Discussion of rules to accommodate live tracking  
President noted that having live tracking has the potential to improve safety. Also noted that we might expect emergency satellite communication (from normal phones) in Australia in the coming years. Mesh radio systems or IoT low bandwidth could also be a potential solution.

Noted that we could use the IRF rules as a basis (they have used live tracking for a while) but that the IRF rule is not very well constructed. Action for the ARA Executive to continue discussing how to manage this.

MapRun tracking has assisted QRA obtain permits for some events. Replaying of live tracking can also be used to explain rogaining to people issuing permits (animation showing rapid spread of teams).

f) Navlight and other electronic scoring  
Stephen Gray has re-written the Navlight software. It is proving to be very successful. Peter Squires has developed a new set of punches ('yellow punches'). Advantages included: all can be programmed at once, and all punches can be easily located in their box for charging. New yellow punches have been used by ACTRA and QRA for testing. Peter Squires needs an income to maintain the system. ARA will work on developing a new costs agreement to improve transparency and fairness.

g) Discussion of map specifications for Australian Rogaining Championships  
Might be better managed using an ARA Mapping Policy than by any change to the tech regs. We want to move in this direction without being too prescriptive. Current best practice is the map specification to be discussed and agreed between the ARC mapper and Tech Sub Committee (David Baldwin) before map is produced.

## 10. Intersarsity

- a) 2024 Intersarsity Championship, 7-8 Sept 2024, WA

At least 3 teams are planning on attending. Could do better at attracting university teams. Would like to see a healthy university competition but we have difficulty attracting teams.

b) Proposal for 2025 Intersarsity Championship to be held with the 2025 ARC in ACT. March was felt to be too early in the year to get good engagement from University teams. One suitable option would be to hold the intersarsity competition at the NSW state champs in September, close to the ACT which tends to supply the most teams, so it is likely several teams would be able to travel there for reasonable cost.

Action: ARA Exec to determine the plan for the 2025 Intersarsity Championships event.

- c) Appointment of IV Convenor.

President noted that in principle each state managing recruitment of teams makes sense. ARA is open to suggestions on how to improve management of recruiting University teams.

## 11. General Business

- a) National website hosting and ARA website

Some work is being done on the ARA website, Joomla still needs refresh

- b) National Entry System hosted by QRA

In use by many states – still available for other states if they wish to use

- c) Working together on land access

Andre discussed the need for strategies and approaches to securing land access. Issues such as biosecurity and overly cautious management / councils is becoming more problematic.

- d) WARA looking for feedback for policy generation.

The President observed that each state is trying to solve the same problems, so we should share what we have. Especially good to take the best practice and share more widely. Especially around risk management.

All states should review risk management policies. Community expectations around risk management have significantly shifted since Rogaining started.

VRA can share policies. Will share via ARA council mailing list

Child safety policies (developed by QRA and VRA, possibly others) available for reference.

## 12. Other Business

- 1) Rule R2 (discussed in Technical Subcommittee agenda item).

- 2) Informal discussion groups have been set up for discussion:

- a) MapRun <https://groups.google.com/g/maprun-for-rogaining>

- b) Map making in QGIS (from QRA) <http://groups.google.com/g/rogaine-mapping>

- i) QRA have run map making workshops and aim to share more about this with other states

- c) Software development including Navlight enhancements.

<https://groups.google.com/g/navlight-users>

- d) AusRogaining mailing list <https://groups.google.com/g/aus-rogaining>

3) ACTRA shared an experience with a person who broke multiple rules. One person was excluded from ACTRA events for the remainder of the year. President encouraged all to share any other novel incidents and lessons learned and how they are managed amongst other states (via ARA mailing lists).

### **13. Next AGM**

It is proposed that we'll continue to hold these meetings online. Proposed Date:

- 18 August 2025 (12 months)

## Tabled Documents

- President's Report - **2023-24 President's Report.pdf**
- Treasurer's Report - **2024 Treasurer's Report.pdf**
- Minutes of 2023 AGM - **2023 ARA AGM Minutes.pdf**

## ARA Council as at 19/8/2024

**President:** Paul Guard  
**Secretary:** Stephen Gray  
**Treasurer:** Peter Blyton (Michael Aylott assisting)  
**Public Officer:** Craig Colwell  
**Immediate Past President:** David Rowlands

## Delegates:

Sue Clarke	QRA	President
Paul Guard	QRA	Representative
Mike Dunbar	NTRA	President
Shani Bryceson	NTRA	Representative
Stephen Goggs	ACTRA	President
David Baldwin	ACTRA	Representative
Graham Field	NSWRA	President
Michael Watts	NSWRA	Representative
Andre Morkel	WARA	President
Ann Smithson	WARA	Representative
Gary Carroll	RT	President
Kristin Raw	RT	Representative
Sue Noy	VRA	President
Richard Homburg	VRA	Representative
Craig Colwell	SARA	President
Shanti Osborne	SARA	Representative