

# Wombeyan Wamble

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*NSW Spring Rogaine 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> October 2012*

This year's event is named after one of the national parks comprising the course – the Wombeyan Karst Conservation Area. The others are Mares Forest National Park and a section of the southern part of Blue Mountains National Park.

## Getting There:

The hash house site is Wombeyan Caves campground, which is well signposted on both ways in – east and west.

From the east, the turn-off to Wombeyan Caves Rd is from the Old Hume Highway just south of Mittagong. Take the relevant turns off the Freeway, coming either south from Sydney or north from Goulburn.

From here, it is 66km of narrow, winding dirt road through Woodlands, High Range, Bullio, across the Wollondilly River at Goodman's Ford and on to Wombeyan Caves. If the sign says the road is closed, please believe it and come in via the west route.

You can expect this section to take a good 90 minutes. The daylight views from the road are spectacular and one can only admire the determination of the old road builders – the road, including the sandstone tunnel through Nattai Ridge was put through in the 1930's; unconfirmed local hearsay has it that this road may not continue to be maintained from Goodman's Ford to Talleygang Mountain Road/Langs Rd intersection.

This route is ok for 2wd vehicles, but not for vehicles with low ground clearance or for any sort of towed vehicle – trailer, caravan, etc.

Although one does, initially, feel silly doing it, please beep your horn (as directed by the signs) when going around blind corners.

From the west, the turn off onto Wombeyan Caves Road is approximately 10k north of Taralga. Again, it is well signposted whether you are coming from the south (Goulburn) or north (Oberon). This is a much easier route in and is also suitable for 2wd vehicles, caravans and trailers.

From Sydney, it is much the same timewise to come in from the east, turning at Mittagong, as it is to drive down to Goulburn and then back up through Taralga and come into Wombeyan Caves from the west.

If you are doing the trip at night, I would recommend the west route. If you have the time and the patience to take it easy, the east route has its compensations.

## Camping:

The hash-house site is at Wombeyan Caves campground. We are sharing this site with other campers/holiday makers, and there will be quite a few of them as this is the last weekend of the NSW school holidays.

For those of you camping, you will need to fit in the spaces available – we do not have a reserved area. For those of you in the dorm, see Admin for your room/bunk allocation.

## Program:

Daylight saving comes into effect on Sunday night. For the purpose of the rogaine, it will run for 24 hours from noon Saturday.

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> – Admin will be open for registration and dorm allocation from 6:00pm until 9:00pm

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>

8:00am	Registration opens – maps available
11:30am	Briefing for novices
11:45am	Final briefing
12 noon	Start
6:00pm	Hash house opens
	All Night Cafe opens

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> – using Eastern Standard Time (not daylight savings time)

7:00am	ANC closes
12 noon	Finish (this will be 1:00pm daylight savings time)
1:00pm	Presentation (this will be 2:00pm daylight savings time)

## The course and its hazards

The terrain varies from some flat to undulating to steep. While there are few actual cliffs on the course – at least that we've found – gully heads and spur ends can be very steep.

The setters/vetters /hangers didn't climb anything, and neither should you. Invariably, there is a passable, safe route not very far away.

There are only two patches of impenetrable scrub that we've found and marked on the map – for these, don't bother trying. Where there is thicker scrub, generally there is easier walking terrain only a few tens of meters away.

Undergrowth on the course is highly variable, from clear rocky ridges and slopes, to scree, scattered knee high bracken, thicker waist to chest deep bracken, to patches of spiky scrub, to grassy areas along stream beds so manicured I'd be happy to have them as lawn.

In all cases, there is a lot of deadfall. This can be a particular trip hazard in the bracken areas – keep your eyes open.

I strongly recommend a good set of gaiters, long pants and long sleeves. Your shins and forearms will thank you.

There are feral pigs and goats and wild dogs in the course area. Usually they will get out of your way. There are baiting programs for both pigs (poisoned carrots) and dogs (1080 baits). Most of the course is isolated, rugged terrain. If anything goes wrong for you and your team, it is going to take us quite some time to (a) realise this and (b) find you. You will need to be prepared to do the waiting. Even if you are planning to be back at the hash house overnight and especially if you are not so planning, please ensure you take sufficient warm clothes and wet weather gear to make it through what could be a cold/wet night.

## The map

The map has a scale of 1:25000 with 10 metre contours. While the map has been developed from Lands Department topographic maps, aerial photographs and some field checking, we can't guarantee that we haven't missed a few features.

The map is printed on A1 gloss paper and has been coated both sides in matte celloglaze to make it water resistant. It can be written on in ball-point, but highlighter and even permanent marker will rub off.

## Notes

1. There is water at the campground, in the amenities blocks and kitchen. But these can get crowded, particularly with everyone trying to fill water bottles/bladders before the off. A bit of planning will pay dividends.
2. We recommend that you carry 3 litres of water on the course if you are contemplating staying out for an extended period. Apart from the hash house and All Night Café, there will be 3 water drops on the course. There is flowing water in the major creeks and it has been drunk by setters and vettors with no reported ill effects. Even so, we still recommend water purification tablets if you're doing this.
3. Fires in Wombeyan Caves campground are only allowed in designated fire pits. No wood is provided, and is at a premium for some kilometres around the campground – if you want your own fire, bring wood.
4. Fires are absolutely prohibited in the course area, regardless of the level of fire ban. This is a specific condition of the consent we've been granted to use the National Parks.
5. Use the toilets to avoid fellow rogainers having nasty surprises. On the course, please do not go to the loo in water courses/gullies or directly on ridge lines.
6. You have paid for your camping fee for Friday night/Saturday night as you have elected in the entry process. If you are camping earlier or later, you will need to pay for additional camping at the Caves office.
7. Nearly all the area is National Park, except for one access route across private property.

## Event Registration:

### Prior to the Event:

Before you register please ensure:

1. You have your team number
1. The Indemnity form completed and signed by all team members
2. All fees etc paid
3. **Compulsory equipment – whistle, space blanket, bandages**

At registration you will be issued with :

1. Map and control descriptions for all team members
1. Course setters notes
2. One punch card – you do not need to return this to registration before the start
3. One NavLight tag and wrist band for each team member
4. One Intention Map

### Start Procedure

A pre start briefing will be held at 11:45am for all competitors during which time **all team members must use the "Brief" punch.**

A mass start for both the 24 hour & 15 in 24 hour events will be at 12 noon

## **During the Event**

At each check point, punch the NavLight tag, if it doesn't work then punch your card manually

Whenever you return to the Hash House the entire team must report to Administration for your tag to be punched with the "Finish" punch

When you are ready to continue you need to report to Administration to have tag punched with the "Depart" punch.

## **Finish Procedure**

At the Finish all competitors must have their tag punched with the finish punch, your finish time will be calculated when the last team members tag is punched. Tags will then be removed and processed at administration

## **Scoring**

Points for each checkpoint are worth ten times the value of the first number of the checkpoint eg Checkpoint 62 is worth 60.

Penalty for late finish will be 10 point per minute or part thereof. Zero score will occur if a team arrives over 30 minutes late.

NavLight will be the primary scoring system, however as a backup if the navLight system malfunctions at a control then punch your card and present it at the finish.

## **Novices and Inexperienced:**

If you are at all unsure about any aspect of Rogaining please ask us. We will be happy to provide advice on navigation, planning your course, route choice, equipment etc. By remaining behind for a few minutes after the start of the event we can give you tips and send you in the right direction.

## **Hash House**

The Hash House will serve hot food continuously from 6pm Sat until 1:00pm Sun.

Your team may return to the hash house at any time during the event but you must register in and out at administration.

15 in 24 participants must spend a total of 9 hours at the hash house. And no, time spent at the ANC does not count as time spent at the hash house.

## **All Night Cafe**

An All Night Cafe will operate from 6:00pm Sat to 7:00am Sun. Hot and cold drinks and a limited selection of food will be available. Its location is marked on the map.

### **What to bring to the Event (check each item as you pack it )**

- Plastic bag or clear contact to protect map and control card
- Indemnity form signed by all members
- Pens, scissors, string, sticky tape for map work
- Your own cutlery, mug, bowl and plate
- Camping gear
- Change of clothes, towel
- Chairs, picnic table
- Food for Friday night and Saturday morning
- Basic first aid kit
- Spare water ( 5 litres )

### **What to take on the course (each participant should have these)**

- Small backpack
- First aid kit (crepe bandage, elastoplast, “space blanket” )
- Compass, watch, whistle
- Gaiters or other leg coverings (full body cover recommended)
- Shoes with good grip
- Sunhat, suncream, insect repellent
- Wet weather gear and warm clothing
- Headlamp/small torch (with spare batteries and globe)
- Snacks for on the course (staminade, muesli bars, dried fruit, chocolates)
- 1-2 litre filled drink container

### **Safety**

- Your team is required to stay together **at all times**
- Stay within voice contact of all your team members.
- Stay hydrated
- If an injury or sickness occurs stay together as a team. If able try for the nearest track or checkpoint to wait for other to arrive.
- Whistles should be carried by all team members. Six (6) whistle blasts at 10 second intervals is the distress signal. Any person hearing this signal should render assistance.

### **Emergency Phone**

Phone reception is only available from along ridge lines to a satellite phone at the Hash House. The emergency number is 0147 162 433

### **Intention Map**

Your safety is very important and we try to ensure that if an unfortunate circumstance arises then we can provide assistance for you. Completing the Intention Map will help us in providing such assistance. This is an intention only and not a final route choice for you. Please return it to the information desk.

# Using NavLight

## Scoring

This event will use NavLight electronic punching. NavLight has two main components, the punches and the tags. A tag is strapped to the wrist of each person in your team. A punch hangs from a cord at each control near the flag.



A Punch.....



A punch and a tag.....

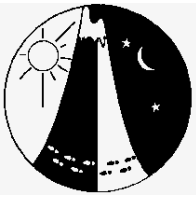
When you visit a control you record your visit by inserting the punch into the tag. You must hold the punch in the tag until the red light flashes to indicate that your visit was recorded.

A “Test” punch will be hanging beside a flag near Admin. You can use this to try your tag and see how the system works. It has no effect on your score.

## Fitting the wristbands & testing.

The wristbands are made from a rugged vinyl material and cannot be removed from the wrist without breaking them. Wear them quite loosely. You should be able to fit two fingers comfortably between the band and your wrist. Over a long period, a tight strap will cause irritation. Thread the band through your Tag, wrap it around your wrist, then close the clasp through one of the holes in the strap. There is a loose end which you can pull off carefully.





# New South Wales Rogaining Association Inc.

ABN 15 314 080 648

## DISCLAIMER / WAIVER

Event :	Team No.:	Car Rego.:
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We acknowledge that the Australian Rogaining Association Inc (ARA), with whom the organising body for this event (NSW Rogaining Association) is affiliated, holds Public Liability Insurance to the value of \$20 million in respect of all rogaining events conducted by ARA affiliated bodies. This insurance covers: organisers, landowners and other third parties for any damage caused by the organisers of, or participants in, any rogaining event in connection with that event. We also acknowledge that the ARA does not hold any Personal Accident Insurance in respect of participants in rogaining events conducted by ARA affiliated bodies. We accept that any personal accident cover required is our responsibility and entirely at our discretion.

Rogaining is an activity which can involve risk of personal injury or property damage. While it is acknowledged as a challenging activity, the risks ought not be discounted particularly navigating through potential dangers in a bush setting in daylight or darkness. Other, but less obvious, risks will occur because of the nature and type of terrain through which the activities are conducted. The NSW Rogaining Association (NSWRA) requires all participants to carry equipment such as suitable clothing, food, torches, compasses, water, first aid kit and any other allowed devices which will limit the inherent risks in the activity.

By participating in the activity, each participant acknowledges that the sport of Rogaining involves considerable risk and agrees that by entering this rogaine they do so at their own risk. The NSWRA does not accept any responsibility for death, injury, loss and damage to the participant and agrees to allow the participant to participate in the activity only on that basis.

The participant binds themselves, their executors, administrators, heirs, successors and assigns as follows:

a) The participant agrees to discharge and release the NSWRA, their volunteers, the owners and occupiers of land used in the event, event sponsors and producers, community organisations, State Federal and Local Authorities in which the event may be held and their (its) representatives from all liability for death, disability, personal injury, damage to property, theft, and all foreseeable risks, claims or actions of any kind, howsoever caused, resulting from their participation - directly or indirectly - in this event.

b) The participant agrees to further indemnify and hold harmless all entities and persons mentioned in the above clause (a) above from all liabilities, claims or action, as mentioned above, irrespective of whether the NSWRA or its employees or agents may have been negligent.

In particular, the participant agrees to indemnify the NSWRA for any loss or damage arising from participating in the event and agrees that this indemnity may be pleaded as a complete defence to any legal proceedings or any right the participant may claim against the NSWRA, its servants, agents or any owner or occupier of land used in the proceedings.

By the signing of this document, I acknowledge the risks of rogaining and agree to participate on the conditions as described above (participant must be 18 years or older to complete this section):

Participant Name (Please print clearly)	Participant Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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This section to be completed by a responsible adult where participant is under 18 years of age. If more than one responsible adult signing please photocopy & submit separate forms.

Name(s) of junior participant(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge the risks of rogaining as described above and agree to indemnify the NSWRA for any injury or loss arising from the abovenamed minor(s) participating, and agree that by signing this indemnity or by permitting the minor to participate, I will accept complete responsibility for any injury or loss caused.

Relationship to participant (please delete whichever does not apply): Parent / Guardian / Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please print clearly)	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____

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**NOTE: This is a legal document. You should seek legal advice before signing if you do not fully understand the meaning and effect of this document. If you do not accept these conditions of entry you will be unable to participate.**



# Australian Rogaining Association Technical Regulations

## Competition Rules:

Rogaining is the sport of long distance cross-country navigation for teams travelling on foot. The object is to score points by finding checkpoints located on the course within a specified time. Checkpoints may be visited in any order.

## Definitions

"The course" means anywhere a team travels during the time of the rogaine but specifically excludes the access road and areas in the proximity of an administration area designated by the organisers for non-competition use, for example for parking or camping. "Event site" includes the course and any administration, access and non-competition areas.

## Entries

- R1. A team shall consist of two, three, four or five members.
- R2. A team that has a member under fourteen years of age shall also have a member eighteen years of age or over.
- R3. Competition placings are awarded in several sections based on the age and gender composition of teams. Each team shall be deemed to be entered for all sections of the competition for which it is eligible.
- R4. No member of a team shall have been involved with the organisation of the rogaine so as to have a prior familiarity with the rogaine course or the fieldwork of the rogaine map.

## Respect for Land and Property

- R5. Competitors shall respect public and private property.
  - (a) Competitors shall not cross newly sown ground or growing crops, except if specifically permitted by the organisers, or any area deemed out-of-bounds by the organisers and shall keep a reasonable distance from dwellings and stock with young.
  - (b) Competitors shall take due care when crossing fences, crossing at corner posts, solid posts or between wires wherever possible. Each team shall leave gates in the same state as they were found.
  - (c) Competitors shall not discard litter or light fires at the event site nor smoke on the course.
  - (d) Competitors shall not unduly damage or disturb native flora or fauna.
  - (e) Dogs and weapons of any kind, including firearms, are prohibited at the event site.

## Conduct of Competitors

- R6. Competitors shall not enter the course until the official start is signalled.
- R7. The only navigational aids that may be carried on the course are magnetic compasses, watches and copies of the competition map. The possession of other navigational aids, including pedometers, altimeters and GPS receivers on the course is prohibited. The possession, at the event site, of maps that provide additional information not shown on the competition map is prohibited.
- R8. The use of computers for course planning is prohibited.
- R9. Competitors shall travel only on foot.
- R10. Members of a team shall remain within unaided verbal contact of one another at all times whilst on the course. A team shall demonstrate compliance with this requirement to any event official or other team on request.
- R11. Organisers shall issue checkpoint recording devices, which shall be a scorecard &/or an electronic recorder to one or more members of each team. Electronic recoding devices shall be attached to the competitors by a tamper-proof device, such as a wrist band, before the commencement of the event. Tamper-proof devices shall only be cut or removed by event officials.
- R12. A team shall surrender its recording device(s) to any event official, and shall advise their team number to any event official or other team, on request.
- R13. A team shall not accept assistance from, nor collaborate with, other people, nor deliberately follow another team.
- R14. No food nor equipment shall be left on the course before the event for a team's use, and no food or equipment shall be discarded on the course unless retrieved by the team during the event and brought by the team with them to the finish.
- R15. Competitors shall carry a whistle at all times whilst on the course. In an emergency a competitor shall give a series of short blasts on their whistle.

## Checkpoints

- R16. All team members shall simultaneously approach to within 5 metres of each checkpoint for which points are claimed.
- R17. In order to gain points for a checkpoint teams must record their visit to that checkpoint using the recording device provided by the organisers in the correct square, where a scorecard is used. If a team punches an incorrect square, they must notify the organisers of the details of this immediately upon returning to the administration to be eligible to be credited with that checkpoint.
- R18. Where more than one electronic recording device is provided to a team, all devices must record a visit to a checkpoint to gain points for that checkpoint.
- R19. Teams shall fill in any intention sheet at the checkpoint with the time of arrival, the team number and the number of the checkpoint that they intend to next visit.
- R20. If a recording device is lost, a team may present in its place a record of punch marks or a record of the electronic "punch" human readable back-up codes on any single sheet. The organisers will accept this single sheet from the team provided that the punch/record marks are discernible, and the team can identify to the organisers the checkpoint number for each of the marks.
- R21. Competitors shall not deliberately rest within one hundred metres of a checkpoint unless the checkpoint is also a water drop.
- R22. Competitors shall not adversely interfere with a checkpoint, water drop, any other facility placed upon the course by the organisers, or the equipment of any other team.

## Administration Areas

- R23. Whenever a team visits an administration area, all team members are required to report together to the organisers and surrender their team's scorecard and/or "check-in" their electronic recording device(s). The team shall only collect its scorecard and/or "check-out" their electronic recording device(s) immediately prior to leaving that administration area.
- R24. A team shall finish by all of the members reporting together to the designated finish administration area and surrendering their recording device.
- R25. If a competitor wishes to withdraw from a team for any reason the entire team shall return to an administration area and notify the organisers. The original team shall be deemed to have finished the event. If a new team is formed it may be admitted to the competition at the discretion of the organisers but no points shall be credited for checkpoints already visited.

## Penalties and Protests

- R26. The penalty for breaching these rules is disqualification except for rules R16, R17, R18 and R19 for which the penalty is the loss of points for the checkpoint under consideration. Any team disqualified under this rule shall be recorded as **DSQ**.
- R27. A team may voluntarily withdraw, by advising the organisers immediately upon their finish, if they have breached any rule for any reason and shall be recorded as **W/D**.
- R28. Within forty-five minutes of the nominated finish time, a team may report in writing to the organisers about any team thought to have breached these rules, or may protest in writing to the organisers about any actions of the organisers that they consider made the competition unfair.

## Scoring

- R29. The event shall end at precisely the set number of hours after the actual starting time, both times as defined by the organisers' clock. Where multiple timing devices are in use, the organisers shall ensure all clocks used to record finishing times are synchronized. Teams finishing late will be penalised at the rate per minute or part thereof specified in advance by the organisers. Teams finishing more than thirty minutes late shall be deemed ineligible for a placing and their result shall be recorded as **LATE**.
- R30. A team's score shall be the value of the checkpoints visited and correctly verified in accordance with these rules, less any penalties. The team with the greatest score, or in the event of a tie the team that finished earlier, shall be awarded the higher placing.

## Australian Rogaining Association Technical Regulations

R31. In the event of a checkpoint being damaged or deemed misplaced or missing by the organisers, teams shall be awarded the checkpoint score:

- a) If the punch is missing or damaged but the team has a correct record on the intention sheet.
- b) If the punch is missing and there is no intention sheet, but the team can satisfy the organisers that they visited the correct site.
- c) If a checkpoint is missing or misplaced but the team can satisfy the organisers that they visited the correct site.
- d) For a correctly recorded visit to a misplaced checkpoint.
- e) If an electronic "punch" fails but the team has either (where applicable) a punch on a backup control card or record of the human readable back-up code for that checkpoint.

### General

R32. Any team hearing a distress signal must abandon their course and help in any way needed. No team shall be penalised for any rule breached in the course of giving such help.