

Vice President
Volunteers and
Events Coordinator
Publicity Coordinator

5. **General Business.**
There was no general business. The meeting closed at 8 pm.

President's Report for 2008

NSWRA President's report for 2009

Events

We kicked the event calendar for 2009 off with the February Metrogaine, held this year in the eastern suburbs of Sydney. Competitors were treated to great coastal scenery as they headed up the coast from Bondi to South Head – Richard Green and his team did a great job putting the event together. Our autumn event was held a bit further afield, in Nangar National Park, just west of Orange. It was no doubt the first time most of the 280 entrants had visited the park, which had some very nice native forest with relatively little understory in many places. Chris Hollingdrake and Alison Quin did a great job organizing and setting their first event, which came in 6- and 12-h flavours, and introduced the innovation of having a camera tied to one or two checkpoints, giving rise to plenty of team self-portraits!

The 6-h Paddy Pallin event in June again attracted just under 600 people and was held down in the Shoalhaven area west of Nowra. Trevor Gollan did his usual excellent job of running the show, and the setting/vetting/hanging were carried out by the Shoalhaven SES – training to retain their Navshield title no doubt. The river crossing that was required if you wanted a big score raised a few eyebrows, but there were some quite stunning viewpoints on the course where you could pause to dry off.

The annual Lake Macquarie event, ably organized by Bob Gilbert and his team, provided a number of challenges for the 360 people that ventured up into the Watagans, including a modicum of lantana and a few cliffs thrown in for good measure.

In September, we ran a repeat version of the Navigation Workshop that we held for the first time in 2008. It was again centred at Rydal showground, west of Lithgow and took in the Falnash and Lidsdale State Forests that are popular orienteering spots. This year the event was organized by Michael Watts and the 25 people that signed up got plenty of practice navigating in good open forest with an experienced rogainer there to help them out. We will hopefully run the third edition of this workshop in 2011.

On to the NSW championships. Well, the setting was superb and the forest was absolutely perfect for rogaining – a pristine part of the Blue Mountains National Park centred on Mt Werong. Unfortunately, the weather was fairly grim to say the least and my hat goes off to the many teams that persevered in the face of 4-5 degree temperatures and persistent rain. Still, it is a magnificent spot, and Graeme Cooper's high-quality digitized map is going to come in very handy when we go back there in a few years!

As usual, we rounded off the year with the Socialgaine – held this year on the shores of Lake Macquarie in Morrisset. Bob and Pam Montgomery put on a very scenic course and the weather was the complete opposite to the NSW champs, with at least one competitor suffering heat stroke.

The state of rogaining in NSW

Overall, we are getting good numbers of people participating in the events that we put on (I would say that numbers are neither going up nor down over a several-year window), and we are also getting enough people putting their hands up to set courses (the metrogainers are especially popular). One of the things that we have struggled with though is finding sufficient volunteers for the other jobs that are crucial to putting on events, such as event administration. This is an ongoing issue for most sporting organizations of our type, and we have been trying to think of strategies to counteract this. One thing we are putting in place for 2010 is a free entry to a future rogain for any volunteer who fills a major role at an event (setter, vetter, flag hanger, organizer, major admin helper).

We have also partly responded to this issue by contracting out the catering side of most events to external providers – the 1st Waitara Scouts (ably led by Keith Fone) have done a magnificent job of keeping rogainers fed at many recent events, and this arrangement is working extremely well for both parties.

We have also begun an alliance with Dug Floyd and the Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Service (BWRS), who are keen to provide safety patrols for bush events – this helps them with training their volunteers and means that we have experienced safety people on hand in remote areas – very reassuring!

In 2009, we also took the step of deciding to contract out the administration part of our events to a single person who would run the admin at all events in 2010. The idea was that this would have the advantage of not having to teach a new person how to use our event software every time and also having someone running things who had "been there before" and had an idea of what kinds of things could happen at an event and what to do about them. We advertised for someone to take this role on and were surprised to have four very good applicants – making it very difficult to choose one. After

much deliberation by the committee, Lindsay Young was taken on, and we are looking forward to his involvement in NSWRA over the coming year.

There is still a strong requirement for volunteers though to help stage our events so I encourage anyone who has participated in a few rogaines to think about putting something back into the sport by helping out at an event – we still need people for setting, vetting, flag hanging/retrieval and assisting Lindsay at admin.

Thanks

I would like to finish off by thanking a number of people. First, all of the people that have volunteered over the last year at one or more events – the sport cannot continue without you! Second, the committee members that have helped to keep things running relatively smoothly over the last year – many of whom have also volunteered at events. Third, the 1st Waitara Scouts who, as mentioned above, have come on board to provide excellent catering for the majority of our events, making our lives very much easier from the event organization perspective. Finally, a special thank you to Graeme Cooper who, from many miles away up in Armidale, does more than anyone to keep NSWRA operational – managing the website, the online entries, the event software, digitizing maps in his spare time and generally keeping a custodial eye on things.

I hope to see you out on a course or around the hash house in 2009!

Joel Mackay
President, NSW Rogaining Association

Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for 2009

The Association made a profit in 2008 of \$21,965.19 and now has accumulated assets of \$111,328.26 represented by cash at bank \$12,971.72 and cash management account \$98,421.54.

There are no known outstanding liabilities.

Attached are Association

- Balance Sheet as at 31 Dec 2008
- Summary level Profit and Loss for 2008
- Additional analysis of the Association's financial situation (discussed at following committee meeting)

Mike Hotchkis
Treasurer, NSW Rogaining Association

Membership Report for 2008

No report was provided by Neil Hawthorne, the Membership Secretary