

2012 President's Report - Gill Fowler

2012 has been a busy year! Both on and off the course. Since the Minigaine at Lindfield Public School last March there's been almost 2000 sets of feet on route (or on a slight detour) to find the elusive orange and white markers. Those that put their hands up to course set and help organise these rogaines have hosted some stellar events!

Of note:

- Rob Vincent sent us west to Clandulla for the popular Paddy Pallin rogaïne, with a fantastic 1:20,000 detailed map.
- The Newcastle contingent with Bob Gilbert and Bert van Netten at the helm brought us not 1 but 2 Rogaines. Helped by Rob and Marg Cook and some new faces (Thank you Orrs for putting a few swims in the mix at Swansea!)
- Mike Watts put his hand-up again to organise a grand spring bush course and even with a course change at the 11th hour he found some fantastic countryside for us to navigate through at Wombeyan Caves.
- Ted Woodley has brought his successful Minigaine tally to three.
- We learnt many new jokes from Martin Dearnley who set his first event at Umina.
- Welcome Belinda McLean who has quickly mastered the event administrator role.

I would like to say a big thank you to the committee this year (Mike, Joel, Graeme, Jason, Alexa, Peter, Mark, Ian and our newest member Dale. (Everyone's welcome to challenge Dale for this title in 2013). They have all given up many hours to ensure NSWRA continues to run smoothly and most importantly 'provide quality events'. Because, did you know this is the committee's "Mission" in the 5 year NSWRA Strategic Plan (2012-2017)... Yes, we finally finalised this early in the year.

The 2012 event surveys have been a great way to find out what you as members think of our events. The feedback is so valuable:

- Encouraging words of praise to volunteers; and
- A few suggestions to the committee to help us improve events.

Ian Dempsey has compiled all the survey results, and a summary will go up on the website soon. If you take a look you may know why we are trialling Navlight at more of our events.

Finally a big thank you to Joel and Alexa who have been on the committee a number of years and are stepping down today to recharge. Joel may take up a new hobby in journalism after his feature article for Rogaining in WILD magazine. While Alexa has a very important job to focus on, raising soon-to-be Rogainer – Xanthe.

I can describe my first year of presidency akin to a roller coaster ride! Just as out on course there are highs: aloft scenic knolls and lows: stumbling across creeks blanketed with blackberry and nettles. This role has been a rewarding challenge and the time has flown by, some weeks all too quickly. I look forward to 2013 and I hope you join us on a few events- we have some exciting locations lined up.