



# N.S.W. ROGAINING ASSOCIATION

(24 HOUR CROSS COUNTRY NAVIGATION)

VOL. 11 No. 12

APRIL, 1987

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## NATIONAL CALENDER

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>CONTACTS</u>
16.5.87	VRA 24 hour Champs	VRA, 5 French Court, Watsonia. VIC. 3087
23.5.87	NSW 12 hour	NSW, 2 Biloela Place, Gympie. N.S.W. 2227
13.6.87	MUMC 24 hour	VRA, 5 French Court, Watsonia. VIC. 3087
11.7.87	ACT 12 hour	ACTRA, 3 Paroo Place, Kaleen. A.C.T. 2617
11 - 12.7.87	WARA 24 hour Champs	WARA, P.O. Box 228, Cottesloe. W.A. 6011
8.8.87	VRA Snogaine (nordic)	VRA, 5 French Court, Watsonia. VIC. 3087
5.9.87	VRA Spring 12 hour	VRA, 5 French Court, Watsonia. VIC. 3087
5 - 6.9.87	*** Australian Champs ***	NSWRA, Lot 2, Cessnock Road, Freemans Waterhole. N.S.W. 2323
3 - 4.10.87	WARA Spring 24 hour	WARA, P.O. Box 228, Cottesloe. W.A. 6011
10.10.87	VRA Spring 24 hour	VRA, 5 French Court, Watsonia. VIC. 3087
5.12.87	STR 24 hour	VRA, 5 French Court, Watsonia. VIC. 3087
May, 1988	*** Australian Champs ***	VRA, 5 French Court, Watsonia. VIC. 3087

## DEMPSEY'S DIALOGUE

The coming events in N.S.W. this year are varied ones and, as such, should have something to offer everyone. The 12-hour event begins our season and is designed to ease you into the rogaining year. The event site is close to Sydney, so if you haven't yet organised your team, now would be a good time to do so.

An exciting aspect of the development of rogaining in this state is the collaboration of N.S.W.R.A. and the Paddy Pallin organisation in the staging of this year's Paddy Pallin event. The event has a long and illustrious history and N.S.W.R.A. is proud to be a part of its organisation. We hope the association proves to be a beneficial one for both parties in terms of attracting more people to the event, and in turn, to further rogaines.

The season culminates in the 1987 Australian Rogaining Championships. If you've not yet experienced a national championship I can recommend it to you for several reasons. Firstly, the camaraderie and friendship found in low-key events is just as evident here. Don't be put off by the "National

Championships" title, you're just as welcome to enter this event as any other. Secondly, because the event is a national championship, the overall level of organisation is very thorough. You will be assured of a well-run, trouble-free event and finally, events of this standard are usually staged in terrain offering both challenges and great scenery. I'm assured by the organisers that this year's event will be no exception. What more can I say? Start planning for September now.

See you at the 12-hour.

IAN DEMPSEY.

COMING EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>CONTACTS</u>
23.5.87	NSW 12 hour	Peter Wherry, 2 Biloela Place, Gymea. N.S.W. 2227 PH: (02) 525 4865. Entry form attached. * Note T-shirts.
11.7.87	ACT 12 hour	ACTRA, 3 Paroo Place, Kaleen. N.S.W. 2617 Details next newsletter.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

PADDY PALLIN EVENT

This is a 3½ hour score event. No pre-entry is required.

VENUE: 4 km north of Howes Valley (on the Putty Road). Signs will be placed.  
 START TIME: Registration opens at 9.00 am. Start times: 9.30 - 11.00 am  
 ENTRY FEE: \$5.00 per person  
 MAP: 1:25000 topographic  
 CONTACT: Terry Sharp PH: (049) 51 7098

N.S.W. LONG-O

To be held at Wagga Wagga on the 14th of June. Contact Wes Campbell (069) 22 3649 for details.

NEWS FLASH! ROGAINERS HAVE NO SENSE OF HUMOUR

Remember the cartoon competition in the January newsletter? Well, I have received a grand total of NO entries. This could mean one of two things. Either:

- i. Rogainers have lost their senses of humour.
- ii. Nobody is going to enter the Australian Champs this year (prize is free entry).

But then, I must remember that rogainers need plenty of time and you do have until the 30th M., to submit an entry, if you are interested.

THE SYDNEY SANDSTONE SAGA

Two interesting letters regarding Sydney Sandstone. The first was written by Peter Wherry and the second by Andrew Blakers (both keen rogainers).

SYDNEY SANDSTONE

Previous articles have outlined the pros and cons of Sydney Sandstone terrain. A number of points remain unmentioned.

Regular rogainers entering these events know beforehand (from experience) the conditions under which they will be competing. They realize there may be unmarked cliffs on their chosen route and can take an "educated guess" on their likely whereabouts via map information. They will therefore make route adjustments to exclude these areas, especially at night, or be prepared for the consequent struggle or loss of time if encountered.

Making the decisions is a rogaining skill - play safely and avoid doubtful routes or go for it and save time if OK, or lose time if you run into difficult terrain. The decision is always with the competitor.

Rogainers should be aware of their capabilities and they are never put in a position where cliffs must be negotiated. After all you can always go back or around. (Make route changes mid-event

as everybody else does.) Novice rogainers can be accommodated at Sydney sandstone events by providing a greater concentration of checkpoints near the hash house and avoiding areas where the above decisions must be made. If the vegetation is thick the closeness of the checkpoints will mean that they are still picked up on a reasonable time basis - which people find encouraging. By running a 6-8 hour event concurrently and combined with the above factors, novices can be well and truly catered for.

Bearing in mind that there have recently been a number of very successful S.S. events we can safely assume that some people actually enjoy this terrain and keep coming back on a regular basis. This is evidenced by the fact that there are some teams which consistently do well in this terrain and are prepared to travel from out of Sydney to events.

On a compromise basis perhaps sandstone country is more suitable for 12 hour rogaines where most people can handle it more comfortably than for the longer period of time of a 24 hour event.

#### ROGAINING NEAR SYDNEY

The past two newsletters have featured a discussion about suitable venues for rogaines. The points that emerge are:

- i. Organisers do not like the task of contacting dozens of landowners for permission to use their land.
- ii. National Parks, State Forests and Water Board Lands require permission from only one person, avoiding this problem
- iii. Many rogainers tend to dislike Sydney Sandstone flora because it can be thick and scratchy. In addition, Sydney sandstone has many cliffs.
- iv. Large areas of public land within reach of Sydney are usually located on Sydney sandstone.

How can these conflicting requirements be reconciled? My solution is to use small areas of land, have large numbers of controls, and issue pre-marked colour photocopy maps.

Suppose controls are located roughly on a grid pattern, with an averaged spacing of  $d$  km. It is easily shown that if there are  $N$  controls, then the distance that has to be travelled to collect all controls is given by  $d \times N$  km (approximately), and the area of the course is given by  $d^2 \times N$ . For example, if we expect the best team to manage 80 km, and we have 100 controls, then the average spacing of controls should be 800 m, and the area of the course will be  $64 \text{ km}^2$ . In contrast, if we have only 40 controls, then the area of the course will be  $160 \text{ km}^2$ , or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times larger. In most events (with the notable exception of O'Hares Cr.), around 40 controls have been used, and course areas have rarely been below  $160 \text{ km}^2$ .

The advantages of having small area courses include:

1. Having far fewer landowners to contact.
2. Being able to squeeze events onto small areas of good land contained within generally unsuitable regions.
3. Much increasing the number of controls found in the 8 hour event.
4. Much reducing the distance of the furthest control from the Hash House, thus increasing the safety margin and reducing the handicap of Hash House visitors.
5. Providing positive feedback to novices at frequent intervals.
6. Shifting the emphasis of the events towards tight, accurate navigation.
7. Making pre-marked, colour photocopy maps the cheapest (and most accurate) option.

I think the Association should invest in another 60 control markers as a high priority.

ANDREW BLAKERS.

#### 1987 AUSTRALIAN 24 HOUR CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

Make sure you keep the 5-6th September, 1987 free. Course setting is currently being carried out and the course setters are having a thoroughly good time doing it. The area which is close to Goulburn, is 50% open farmland and 50% open forest.

### FINANCES

All members are financial until the 30th June, 1987. Membership fee is \$5.00 per annum.

If you are competing in the 12 hour in May you could add the \$5.00 on to your entry fee, rather than trying to remember it at the end of June. Otherwise try to remember it at the end of June.

Fees are to be posted to the secretary.

### MEETING: The Future of Rogaining

A very informal meeting, with the above theme, will be held on Sunday morning the 24th May, 1987 (i.e. the morning after the 12 hour event). Venue will be the hash house.

*See you there!*

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## FOR DARK PLACES

*Paddy Fallon*

**THE LEADERS IN ADVENTURE**

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