

# NSW ROGAINING NEWSLETTER

Number 77

October 1999

## PRESIDENTIAL PIECE

For me this has been a good year. 7 rogaines so far, and at least one more to go. I have enjoyed them all, if not necessarily all of them (as the red Queen said to Alice, "say what you mean" is not the same as "mean what you say"). There have been many different experiences - and partners - which is part of the joy of rogaining.

Nav Shield '99, the annual Search & Rescue event, was well-supported by rogainers despite the results showing only 4 rogain teams in the full event, plus 6 in the 1-Day, with many more rogainers taking part incognito as members of bushwalking and various emergency service groups.

Then there was the inaugural NT rogain in Litchfield NP, where crocodiles were added to the list of features. With temperatures in the 30's, the organisers assured us that this is as good as it gets, but they had a good turn out for a great event and are planning more in the future. I wish them all the best and I would encourage anyone heading up that way check out their calendar. It was a rather different experience to most NSW rogaining - bone dry ground, spectacular running creeks and 8ft high buffalo grass.

Back on home ground, and Brickman's Backyard. Many thanks and congratulations to Bert and his team for yet another enjoyable event. The lack

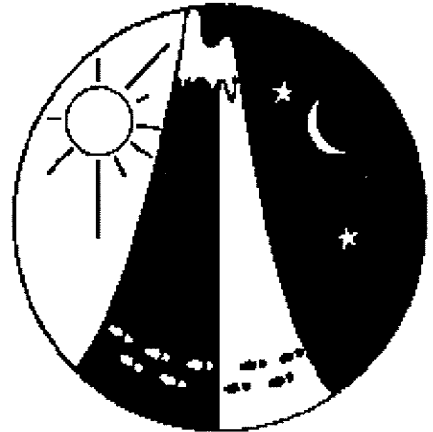
of water on the course anywhere other than at the HH meant virtually everyone returned there at some time, and received a good feed into the bargain. We came in minutes before the rain, much to the chagrin of a certain team who had left their footwear on the other side of the creek to keep them dry. But more of Brickman's elsewhere in this issue.

Only 3 weeks later and it was Lake Macquarie time. The head course-setter, Rob Vincent, is better known as an orienteer, until he met Mike Hotchkis (check out the NSW Champs results), who did a terrific job.

What next? The Aus Champs somewhere near Albury, courtesy of the VRA, then our final event for the year, the 1999 Socialgaine in and around Hornsby in early December. Come along and take part, even if you don't feel like serious rogaining at that time of year. Its a great opportunity to meet your fellow rogainers, go for a run or a stroll (today I spoke a young lady, 4 days old, who assures me she will be there) and have a good, sociable time.

Ya'll be there now

Sue Clarke



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### Entry Forms:

Socialgaine  
Daylight Saving Rogaines

## BRING A FRIEND - December 5<sup>th</sup>

### SOCIALGAIN 1999

is the ideal event to introduce a friend to the great sport of Rogaining:

- Very close to Sydney
- 6 hour daytime event
- Interesting course with great scenery
- No bush bashing required
- Special event only cheaper end of year membership of NSWRA

Suitable for family, friends and work-mates

Entries close 19 November 1999 - enter early to help the organisers

Another 6 hour date for diaries is the 2000 Metrogaine to be based on the Homebush Olympic site.

Remember Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> 2000 - you too can compete at the Olympics!



# WHAT'S ON IN 1999/2000

Event/Coordinator	Course Setters (4) Vettors (2)	Administration	Hash House
<b>NSW EVENTS</b>			
5 <sup>th</sup> December Socialgaine Hornsby Sue Clarke (02) 9816-2508	Chippy' Le Carpenter	Peter Leroyd Herb Lippmann	
5 <sup>th</sup> March 2000 Metrogaine – 6hrs Homebush	Ian Cameron (02 9482 2454) Sue Kurrle		
15-16 April NSW Championships Colo	Andy Mien & Friends		
18 <sup>th</sup> June Paddy Pallin Capertee	Ian Brown Tony Garbellini Geoff Luscombe	Stephen Castle Rhonda Monahan	
1-2 <sup>nd</sup> July Nav Shield 2000			
15-16 <sup>th</sup> July Australian Championships Upper Hunter	Graeme Cooper Peter Waterson	Richard Sage	
7 <sup>th</sup> October Lake Macquarie	Robert Vincent		
25-26 <sup>th</sup> November Upside-down 12 hr	UNSW Bushwalkers		
<b>INTERSTATE/OVERSEAS EVENTS</b>			
15-16 <sup>th</sup> January 2000 4 <sup>th</sup> World Rogaining Championships Canterbury, New Zealand	Website & E-mail: www.chch.school.nz/dhs/ rogaine2000 rogaine2000@hotmail.com—	—	—
18-19 March 2000 ACT 24Hr Championships			
30 <sup>th</sup> April ACT Paddy Palin 6 Hr Event			
10 <sup>th</sup> September ACT Cyclegaine			
11 November 12hr event – ACT			

*Join in the fun of working behind the scenes*

**HELP** always needed, contact:

**Vicki Cooper**

**Phone: (02) 6772-3584 (h)**

**Cluny Rd, Armidale NSW 2350**

**No experience is necessary - detailed instructions are supplied.**

**AGING VETERAN GOES TO EXTREME TRAINING LENGTHS**

*We forced Ian Brown to tell us a little about his unusual Antarctic training program and upcoming book.*

*When Ian was offered the chance to walk to the South Pole, he figured it would be a good way to get fit and improve his rogaining performance. Dragging a 160 kg sled through 1300 km of ice, snow and blizzards for two months sounded similar to a normal 24 hour event, except there was only one control to find.*

*"I was a veteran before I even started rogaining and turned 43 in Antarctica. But it felt more like 63, so I still can't keep up with Tony, my regular partner," he later confided to close rogaining colleagues (his only friends). "If Tony ever does fall over during an event, I reckon I'll just lash a strap to his feet and try to haul him round the controls." Ian figures that Antarctica gave him at least one advantage over the veteran opposition: "I know more about frostbite than they do." But he warns that if Peter Treseder (also a veteran) ever takes up rogaining, the champs will be looking like chumps!*

*In spite of the abject failure of his extreme polar weight training, Ian still feels that the technique has potential and he would like to try again. He wants to hear from anyone interested in funding further research in the high Arctic or participating in a group training camp.*

*In the meantime those who are more interested in the theory of Ian's innovative fitness methods can read his book of the South Pole expedition to be published by Australian Geographic in November, and available from AG outlets or mail order. Possible titles still under discussion include "Teams of Three Never Work", "Rogaines On Ice Are Nice", "If You Can't Run, Limp!", "Aussies Lose Control in Antarctica" and "Vets Get Wet (and Frozen)".*

*Along with the brain damage, Antarctica has influenced Ian's broader philosophy of life. "Rogaining for me is not just about searching for the lost power of youth, but harnessing the dark forces of middle age," he explained to the media on his return.*

**CONGRATULATIONS**

*At last she has arrived - 12 days past the magic 40 weeks..*

*Aylin Noonée Kaner (Aylin sounds like Eileen) is what Kerem and I will probably name our little daughter and she is lying in the crib beside me while I sit in the hospital bed (so uncomfortable!) sending out email around the world!*

*Imagine the looks that I've been getting from the nurses as I type with my TP on my lap... The other mothers are much more understanding.*

*Baby, mother and father (except for crushed bones in left hand) all happy and doing very well.*

*In case you are interested - here are some further details of the birth. (I don't know why, but people always seem to ask for these things!!)*

*9:40pm Sunday 26th September 1999*

*3.6 kg (7lb, 15oz), 53 cm long*

*no gas, no pethidine, no epidural, no stitches, no problems!*

*I've known a good few rogaines that were more difficult!! See you all in the bush again soon.*

*Regards,  
Marnie*

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# DON'T GET OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

## Services

**Surveying:** Control surveys for natural resource and construction projects, Global Positioning System surveys and services. Project management, geodetic and mapping control surveys as well as survey control information.

**Graphics:** Design, planning, layout and proofing, electronic publishing (MacIntosh and IBM), image scanning, camera contacts, dyelines, printing, bookbinding, planmounting and framing services are all provided for in-house and contract work.

**Scanning and Digitising:** collection of digital information from source data. Production of working copies from original documents. Data conversion and reformatting.

**Aerial Photography:** State-wide Photographic coverage, photomosaics and special purpose aerial photography and digital imagery.

**Thematic Mapping:** Thematic maps for any purpose using the Centre's base mapping or Client-supplied base.

**Image Processing:** Digital image processing analysis, Landsat sales.

**Information Systems:** Advisory services in information management and systems development



## Products

- Digital cadastral information for NSW
- Digitally derived cadastral map products
- Digital topographic data
- Aerial photography coverage of NSW
- Satellite imagery of NSW
- Topographic maps covering NSW
- Parish and county maps covering NSW
- Orthophoto maps
- Property maps
- Touring maps
- Tourist maps
- Historic map reproductions
- Geographic names gazetteer
- Special publication including: Official Road Directory of NSW  
Map Reading Guide  
Atlas of NSW
- Special use maps including:  
NSW base maps  
Aboriginal map of NSW  
Lord Howe Island Colour Photomap  
NSW Local Government Areas map  
Sydney CBD colour photomap
- Digital boundaries such as local government, suburb, electoral etc.

## CONTACT



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New South Wales

SURVEYOR-GENERALS DEPARTMENT Panorama Ave., Bathurst 2795  
 Phone (02) 63 328 200

Please send me  2002 NSWRA NEWSLETTER  NSWRA MEMBERSHIP GUIDE

Send to: Name: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Phone No: .....

## Application for Membership or Renewal of Membership

I/We the undersigned, who live at the address given below, hereby apply to become members / renew membership of the above named incorporated association. In the event of my/our admission as members I/we agree to be bound by the rules of the association for the time being in force.

Full Name	Date of Birth	Fee (\$)	Renew (Y/N)	Signature

My/Our address (for delivery of one copy of each newsletter) is:

Name: .....

Address: .....

Town: ..... Postcode: .....

E-mail: .....

Phone: (home)..... (work)..... (fax).....

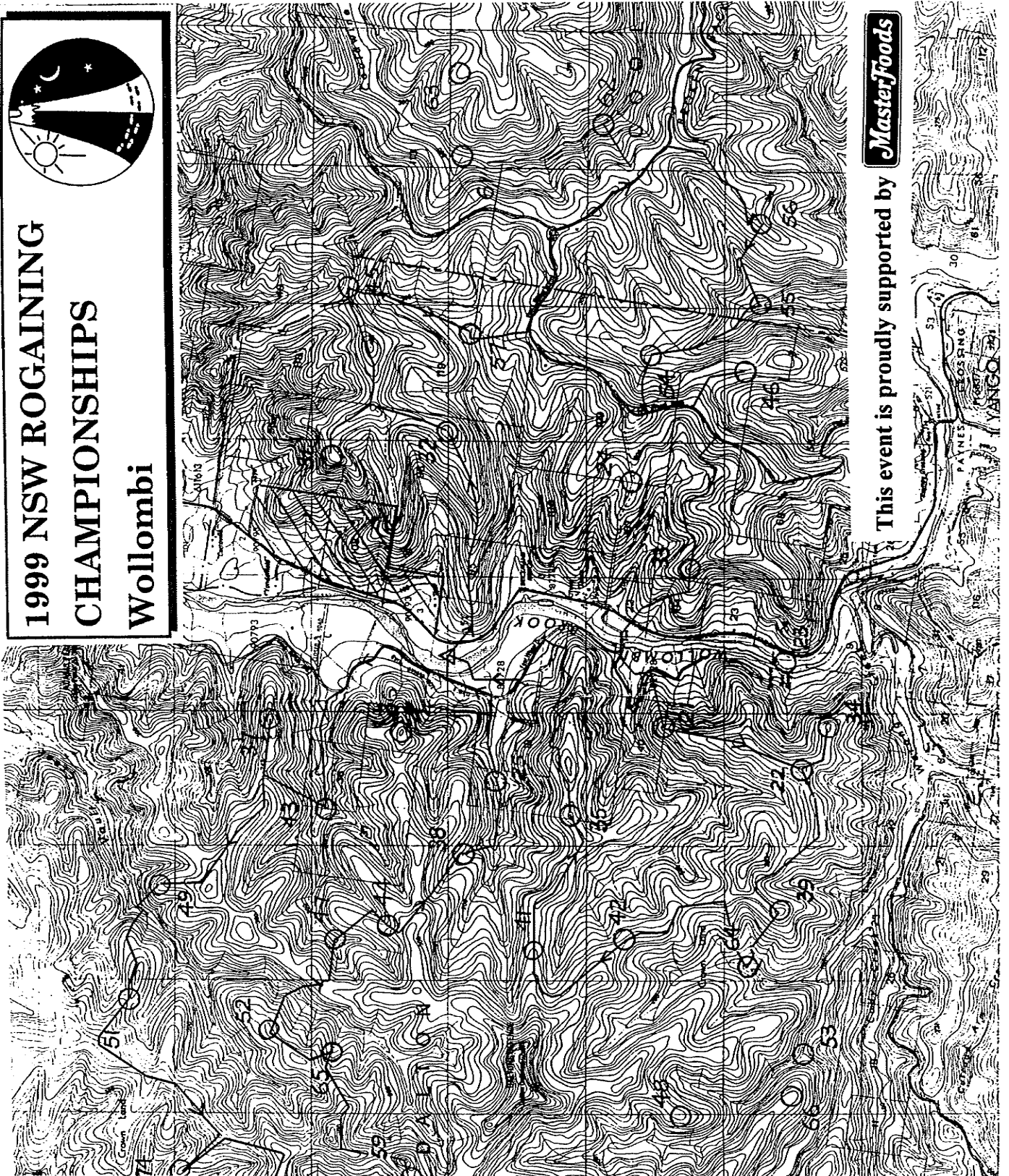
The fee per annum is \$12 for the first person on this form and \$3 for each additional person. The maximum fee for a family is \$15. The membership year starts on 1st January. A family is defined as one or two adults plus any number of dependant children each of who looks to one or both of the adults as a parent and who all live at the same address.

Please send this form together with a cheque payable to "NSW Rogaining Association" to:  
Membership Secretary NSWRA, Graeme Cooper, Cluny Road, ARMIDALE 2350

BRICKMANS BACKYARD  
1999 NSW CHAMPIONSHIP - RESULTS



1999 NSW ROGAINING  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
Wollombi



**MasterFoods**

This event is proudly supported by

The route of Sue Clarke & Walter Kellerman, Winners 24 Hr Mixed

**BRICKMANS BACKYARD  
1999 NSW CHAMPIONSHIP - 24 Hr RESULTS**

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**24 hour Course**  
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Team	Score	Time	O	M	W	X	V	MV	WV	XV	J
49 Mike Hotchkis, Robert Vincent	2000	11.32	1	1							
25 David Baldwin, Adrian Sheppard	1920	11.11	2	2							
68 Geoff Mercer, David Singleton	1770	11.16	3	3							
53 John Barnes, Richard Barnes	1680	11.56	4	4							
32 Ian Brown, Tony Garbellini, Geoff Luscombe	1560	11.24	5	5			1	1			
21 Will de Sain, Shane Hansen	1410	8.22	6	6							
13 Geoff Bailey, Trevor Gollan, Julian Ledger	1410	11.53	7	7			2	2			
34 Sue Clarke, Walter Kellerman	1370	11.55	8			1	3			1	
45 Dom Dowling, Andy Mein, Chris Mein	1310	11.47	9	8							
7 Peter Dunn, Garry Ferris	1280	11.41	10	9			4	3			
65 Chris Arnison, Tim Munro	1270	11.56	11	10							
88 Andrew Smith, Darren Smith	1270	11.56	12	11							
54 Charles Blaxland, Neil Lefevre	1220	11.18	13	12							
84 Belinda Bright, Ben Lohse, Philip Whitten	1220	11.45	14			2					
5 Steven Halpin, David Klineberg	1210	7.07	15	13							
83 Matt Chamberlain, Jonah Duckles	1170	7.54	16	14							
40 Peter Charlton, Dennis Mayo	1160	11.36	17	15							
35 Nihal Danis, Richard Sage	980	11.47	18			3	5			2	
87 Jane Hall, Andrew Hislop, Tim Smallwood	970	22.00	19			4					
81 Bruce Chessman, Carl Chessman	970	11.58	20	16							
6 Marilyn Ferris, Lesley Taylor	890	11.41	21		1		6		1		
62 Clare Roediger, Tim Roediger	880	10.06	22			5					
41 Ian James, Vickie James	840	10.14	23			6					
85 Sigurd Bjoerke, Magne Halvorsen	810	22.00	24	17							
57 Steve Ahern, Steve Rogers, Rob Smalley	780	11.12	25	18							
18 Russell Swanson, Charlie Thomson	740	10.00	26	19			7	4			
50 Bob Barber, Rudi Landsiedel, Diann MacKenzie, Michael Sawatske	730	11.32	27			7	8			3	
63 Jennifer Borrell, John Keats	660	7.50	28			8	9			4	
70 Roslyn Atkins, Margaret Duguid, Renate Griffith	640	11.23	29		2		10		2		
79 Chris Aiken, Paola Ramirez	630	11.45	30			9					
24 Neil Chappell, David Lilley, Michael Lilley	620	0.48	31	20							
47 Philip Allen, Ted Booth	610	11.37	32	21			11	5			
36 Ray Robison, Peter Wherry, Paul Wherry	600	11.47	33	22							
66 Kacy Davidson, Torsten Schmiot-Benden	590	11.47	34			10					
29 Ben Austen, Nick Howell, Mark Sstrom	560	10.45	35	23							1
48 Bob Bartle, John Gully	560	11.37	36	24			12	6			
33 Rodger Austen, Rosemary Austen, Steve Garlick	520	10.51	37			11	13			5	
77 Chris Ernst, Daniel Marlay	500	11.51	38	25							
16 Anna Clarke, Paul Johnston, Melissa Johnston	490	22.00	39			12					
22 Wal Mills, Bill Pigram	490	1.02	40	26			14	7			
71 Glen Sussman, Rod Tracey	460	6.40	41	27							
17 Vaughan Clayton, Joel Daves	360	22.00	42	28							
14 Hannah Goodchild, John Leard	330	2.11	43			13					
74 Peter Boyce, Mark Nolde	330	7.38	44	29							
60 Belinda Foster, George Foster, Debbie Stein, Paul Stein	320	11.25	45			14					
72 Dominic Yager, Peter Yager	300	11.52	46	30							
4 Amy Spark, Benjamin Spark, Edwin Spark, Joy Spark, Laura Spark, Phil Spark	260	11.50	47			15					
1 Graeme Cooper, Vicki Cooper	20	11.46	48			16	15			6	

(Continued on pa.

**BRICKMANS BACKYARD  
1999 NSW CHAMPIONSHIP - 6 Hr RESULTS**

(Continued from page 6)

**12 hour Course**

Team	Score	Time	O	M	W	X	V	MV	WV	XV	J
73 Peter Gordon, Rachel Williams	870	11.51	1			1					
61 Geoff Peel, Margaret Peel	840	11.07	2			2					
37 David Cannings, Andrew Forsyth, Ross Hamilton	840	11.48	3	1							
52 Andy Cairns, Ken Smith	800	11.58	4	2			1	1			
86 Roland Knobloch, Iain McKenzie	740	5.52	5	3							
27 Lynn Dabbs, Kevin Williams	740	10.55	6			3	2			1	
80 Jules Bros, Christine Hill, Liz Phelps, Vanessa Richardsen	740	11.32	7		1						
75 Mark Booth, Natasha Lees, Sarah Matthews	730	11.51	8			4					
30 John Le Carpentier, Sue Le Carpentier	700	11.30	9			5	3			2	
69 Robert Casmir, Rob Parbery	680	8.57	10	4							
2 Ian Cameron, Sue Kurrle	680	11.27	11			6	4			3	
78 Mike Devey, Adrian Smith	630	0.02	12	5							
82 Carol Baglin, Ed Castro	610	11.22	13			7	5			4	
26 Ken Bright, Gary Christensen, Karsten Skovmand	590	11.59	14	6							
9 Stuart Bouveng, Tania Sulan	580	9.32	15			8					
23 Jesse Clarke, Oscar Clarke, Paula Clarke, Ry Clarke	570	11.27	16			9					
39 Richard Hackett, Anna Hackett	490	9.45	17			10					
8 John Biddiscombe, John Bishop	480	10.33	18	7			6	2			
3 Karen Darby, Tony Murphy	460	9.27	19			11					
15 Ian Hawkes, Melanie Mill, Glen Wallace	430	11.38	20			12					
67 Daryl Kay, Karen Kay	370	6.54	21			13					
55 Michelle Brear, Peter Forder, Peta Young	370	11.23	22			14					
10 Max Clayton, Roderick Smith	360	6.51	23	8							
44 Patty Correll, Barry Drake, Stephanie Seaton	360	11.32	24			15					
20 Alison Curtin, Christine Curtin	350	11.49	25		2						
46 Nikki Fredsall, Sabina Hamaty	330	6.03	26		3						
56 Graham Bruce, Lester Nation	270	6.44	27	9							
59 Cynthia Coleman, Bronwyn Monahan	270	8.23	28		4		7		1		
51 Doug Denning, Nola Thompson	260	7.55	29			16	8			5	
11 Nicholas Henschke, Christophe Henschke, Philip Henschke	230	8.04	30	10							
31 Sarah Newlands, John Warburton	220	6.34	31			17					
12 Bill Gribble, Rik Pauw	190	9.53	32	11			9	3			

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

☆ **WANTED!** ☆

☆ Equipment Officer for the Rogaining Association ☆

☆ Duties include keeping track of the Association's equipment which ☆

☆ is mostly stored in the NSWRA trailer - a customised unit which ☆

☆ allows a lot to be fitted into a small space. If possible the Equip- ☆

☆ ment Officer should host the trailer at their home and have a vehi- ☆

☆ cle suitable for towing it - however this is not essential as there is ☆

☆ are other vehicles available. ☆

☆ Main regular task is to ensure gas bottles refilled between events. ☆

☆ Interested in helping the Assoc in this way? Please call President ☆

☆ Sue Clarke or Secretary Julian Ledger. ☆

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## BRICKMANS BACKYARD

### NSW CHAMPS - WOLLOMBI

The NSW Champs were recently held on the Brickman's property, Yengo National Park and the Pokolbin State Forest North of Wollombi. I was involved in some course vetting and the admin side of the event. The course vetting was fun - I tagged along with my better half and spent most of the

the tabbing and function keys were foreign, but easy to pick up). Once into the swing of things it was pretty easy and produced all the things you need to run an event from an admin point of view.

Probably the most enjoyable side of

their feet dry).

Midnight was the next stressful time - worrying about 12hr teams who might be in trouble - luckily they all came in. You do feel a fair degree of responsibility for people out there on the course. We had discussions about



Check in time at the 1999 NSW Championships

time thinking how glad I was that we weren't actually competing in the event. We weren't in a hurry, so we had plenty of time to enjoy the views and explore a bit of the area. We also had time to try to find a not-so-horrendous way through the sometimes thick and usually prickly bush. Bert had told us it was an 'open' course - I guess it was open-ish on the ridges, but that's about it. We saw lots of different types of flora and only some fauna (an old wombat, some cows [do they count?], and some lire birds) and hoped that the flowers would still be out to take peoples attention away from rogaining aches and pains.

I found the admin side of the event pretty interesting (being a first timer). I'd like to thank Graeme Cooper for the use of his database and for answering my vague questions. As warned - it did take me a little while to get used to the database (I am a windows girl -so

admin was getting to know some of the faces and names in rogaining. The day of the event is exciting too. There are a couple of hectic hours before the event sorting out entries and handing out maps. Being on the other side of the admin table gives you a totally different perspective of things and I swear that I will always ensure that the correct paperwork and fees accompany any future event entries. Thanks to Nick Greenhalgh, Alan Scott and Ian Deck for their help during Saturday morning.

The start saw the great sight of a procession of people crossing the Wollombi River and Walter's dry feet crossing with the aid of a lilo. After the start there was a bit of checking to be done and then swanning around the campsite relaxing and helping Andrew construct a dodgy bridge across the river (which Ian Cameron and Sue Kurlle were the only ones to use to keep

not putting a checkpoint on Dalton (73) or making it out of bounds at night-time, but ended deciding that it was just as difficult walking around Dalton, so it stayed in and we warned competitors to be careful. There were a couple of minor injuries during the event, but nothing serious. The SES were on hand for any problems. Their duties included identifying a helicopter landing site and providing first aid assistance. It was assuring to have them on standby and I would like to thank them for volunteering their services for the event.

The end of the event at 12 noon on Sunday saw all competitors back to the Hash House (another cause for relief). Mike Hotchkis and Rob Vincent finished at 11:23am, having made it to all of the checkpoints - great effort! I think they could have made the effort to

*(Continued on page 20)*



## HOLLY WHEN IT'S NOT CHRISTMAS &amp; WHERE ARE THE ROADS?

Here we go again, setting off to another Rogaine and of course it's raining. I've had the morning to pack so I was sure I had everything – clothes, shoes, compass, torch, food, and wine (yes, we stayed Friday night as well). As a bonus I was allowed to take the beloved dual-cab under strict instructions about how to drive the flogging thing, etc. Compliment number one: "You're not a very experienced driver on the highway" (I've only had my license for 24 years!!). I set off to pick up my team mate and her husband and his team. We struggled to get everything into the back of the ute. At one stage my mattress was going to be left at home. Compliment number two: "Only a blouse would need a mattress". Needless to say the mattress went in – after all it was my vehicle!

About Tea Gardens I had this horrible thought – I left the trophy sitting on the bar at home.

Compliment number three: "That was pretty silly, I reminded you last week to pack it". Well, at least I picked up the wine which was sitting beside the trophy and we would just have to defend our title successfully (or I could post it to the winners). Besides, I had become fond of that lovely trophy which Marnie and Netta had remodelled.

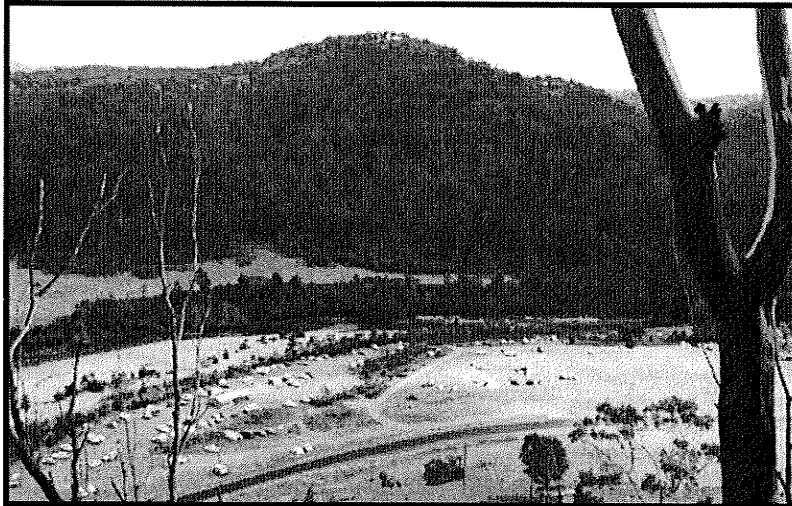
We were among the first to arrive and set up a very comfortable camp but where were the showers like Lostock? Some of the organisers arrived and decided our site would have been a good spot for the hash house. Some quick talking persuaded them that a more central site would be better. We wined and dined and hit the sack only to dream of doing a Rogaine and waking feeling exhausted but clean.

The next morning we had lots of neighbours. Pete spotted the eventual winner and paid him compliment number four: "He looks fast just standing still in ugh boots".

Maps were given out fairly early and we had lots of time to dwell on the fact of very few roads. Navigation and landform were going to be critical. The setters had not been unduly kind and lots of ups and downs would need to be covered. This was another comforting factor for my partner with a recurrent thigh problem. OK, plot a course and see how we go. If we get lost either head east to the main road or south to Cody Creek.

Standing at briefing, half the field had their shoes and socks off ready to cross the river. I decided against this as I figured my feet

would get wet soon enough in some creek. I hadn't reckoned on the ton of sand that also came in with the water. Heading for our first control we were already confused as the position of the Hash House was out. Anyway, things went fairly smoothly after that and we picked up controls 25, 38, 44, 47, 52 and 65 with my partner saving us once when I was heading into the wrong



creek. From 65 I was heading off down the wrong spur and was again stopped by my partner who was having an exceptional day. Normally we would have been geographically embarrassed by now. Back up to the high point and get some bearings and head for 59 and the lovely climb to 73. Yours truly does not like heights and the legs where shaking severely by now. Now for the point we'd been worried about, could we find the spur to 58? Yep, just follow the holly bush. Hey, it's not Christmas and this stuff is cruel when it's green and even worse when it's dead and decides to accompany you in your clothes and shoes!

Getting to 66 was more of the same holly and then some more. What a long spur! The drop to 53 put us into the dark. Up to 64 and try for 39. Came up the spur and the flag was right there – beaut. We thought about 22 but decided it wasn't worth getting lost in the dark. Back down to Cody Creek via the sting nettles and then the long trek home. At this point it started to rain. After all, you can't have a Rogaine without rain. Control 23 proved to be a real problem and after several dips in the river we called it a day and returned to camp for a feed and a few hours rest.

Whilst at the hash house we met our opposition. Three lovely ladies who were well groomed, clean and certainly smelt better than I did. OK, I made compliment number five: "These ladies look the smell-the-wild-flowers type". How wrong was I, they'd been to nearly all the controls we'd been and to 23!! Don't know how they

achieved that and still looked immaculate.

Up really early and cross the river again. I decided to remove the shoes and socks this time only to find I had dropped a sock somewhere. Of course, it was back on the camp side of the river. It could have been worse – it could have been floating down the river! Next for the ups and downs 36, 43 and 37 and back along the road to go up again to 21, 22 and 34. Heading back to the river we found 23 laughing at us. I still haven't seen the river gauge but the flying fox was very visible and we hadn't looked for it last night.

We crossed over into the state forest and headed up to 33. This again proved challenging with some serious rock-hugging going on. At one stage I had my face in wombat do but it was preferable to falling off the rock. After leaving 33 we met another team and came compliment number six: "You girls look really

bedraggled!" Gee, thanks I thought and then chuckled to myself as I knew they had to go down where we'd just come up. Some sadistic b..... had put control 46 in a saddle full of my favourite holly bush and lost of scratchy egg and bacon just for some variety.

I'd lost the plot at this stage and we headed down the track to 24. I don't know what sort of vehicle made this track but my guess it was out of control and had no breaks. We were hard-pressed just to remain upright on the steep decent. My legs really needed this.

Back to camp, a very refreshing dip in the river and a great feed as usual at the Hash House.

Again, more ribbing at the presentation about the team that was so sure they'd win, they didn't even bring the trophy back. Marnie and Netta will be back in action after the birth of Marnie's baby, so I'd better remember the trophy next year.

Pack up, happy to have competed despite all the compliments and whingeing. Ready to do it all again in three weeks time.

P.S. I got the car back un-dinted too!

*Lesley Taylor*

## BRICKMANS BACKYARD



Photo courtesy of Nicole Haigh

### THE MYSTERIES OF BRICKMAN'S BACKYARD

We should have started to worry when we drove right past the Hash House on Friday night, nothing visible in the swirling mists of the Wollombi Valley. And as for Bert's smiling agreement the next morning when we said the East looked like a good place to be at night....

But if we were the type of people who let little things like that put them off, we wouldn't still be rogaining, would we ?

Midday and the omens, for the moment, were all good. A chance conversation at the pre-event briefing and we change our entire plan. The majority of controls being on the far side of Wollombi Brook meant wet feet at the start - unless of course you just happen to have a lilo handy. So I splash through and get wet feet, while Walter paddles and get wets arms, knees AND feet.

Up the creek to #43, then climb through the scrub to the top of the first ridge. (Bert was right the creeks & ridges are fine, but the slopy bits in between....) Turn left instead of right, and meet several teams coming the other way as we back-track. Spot an abandoned pack - on Bert Van Netten's very own event too. Some people are just asking for trouble. Donate a few rocks to the

owner, and on we go.

A scenic anti clockwise foray round the north-west, tracking Julian, Trev & Geoff a few minutes ahead. Somewhere around the top of Dalton we meet the Clockwise Mob, and it gets pretty busy for a while, with a very fortunate encounter when Walter drops his prime navigation device which is spotted by Ken Smith. The large green die is retrieved and on we go, back towards the HH, picking up the lilo on the way. This time Walter decides to wade across, and suffering from a (brief) attack of chivalry, offers me a piggyback. Acting tough, I decline, fully intending to accept when he declines my declination, but alas, its too late. A once-in-a-lifetime offer, so we both get wet feet. Dry socks and dinner - just as Thor comes out for a little sport, and treats us all to a downpour. But with good old Cooper Tents to protect us, we eat out soup & slurp our coffee in comfort.

Once more into the fray, the rain has stopped, and our spirits are high. Climbing the hill to #32 these spirits gradually evaporate and merge with the enveloping mists. By the time we hit the top you can hardly a hand in front of your face, which is not surprising really, given that most of the time we

don't actually have a hand in front of our faces.

Some bushbashing for an hour or two, then a stroll along the track to #56. Heading down the spur, the mists get thicker, the pace gets slower, and the team gets ever so slightly geographically embarrassed. In an almost unheard of fit of bad temper (believe me - you don't need to check with any of my (ex) partners about what a cheerful soul I normally am in all adverse circumstances), I declare that the only solution is to hike a kilometre back to the track and start again. Not keen on this plan, Walter finds the control instead. Spirits once more restored, its down into the creek on our merry way to #55. Where we meet a bicycle. 1½ km from the nearest track, in the bottom of a steep and rocky creek bed, an old, rusty child's bicycle. Another of Life's Little Mysteries.....

Straight past the junction, so an about turn and this time we spot the flag. Up on the track above #54, and we meet the first rogainers since the HH, so stop for a chat. Its starting to get light as we emerge from #46, where we meet Mike & Rob on their way in. Give them a few tips, set them back on course, and

*(Continued on page 11)*

## BRICKMANS BACKYARD

(Continued from page 10)

away we go. Although the sun is now awake, it seems our brains aren't. Back to #25, turn around & waste an hour and a half getting #33, and eventually down to the road on our way back west.

Now we start to motor - up to #21, and the fastest circuit of the course. Bump into Chippy & Sue, then Ken & Andy (last seen on the top of Dalton's 16 hours ago) and take a rash decision to include #64. Rushing back up the hill, I lead us straight into a dead end. Or so I think,

but to Walter there is no such thing as an unscalable cliff. Not for the first time, I walk all over him in the absence of alternative footholds, and we are off again. With time running out, it's a fast & furious pace around the ridge. We've heard there's a track from #35, which we gratefully find and start our sprint for home. Maybe not a sprint by Cathy Freeman's standards, but after 23 1/2 hours anything faster than our usual half a mile a fortnight seems fast. We jog down the hill, splash through the

river for the last time, and into the HH with a couple of minutes to spare. Can we get to #36? Perhaps not this time.

*Sue Clarke &*

*Walter Kelermen -*

(only he doesn't know yet!)

\* how do other teams decide whether to head east or west, north or south, up hill or down dale?

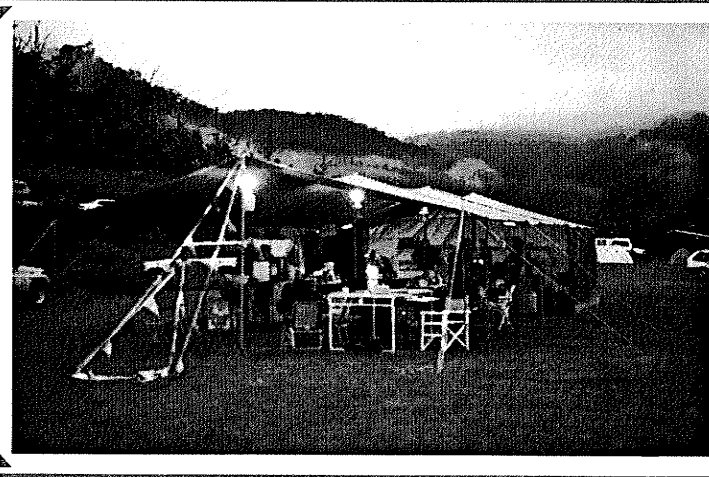
## THE UNEXPECTED .....

Our plan was to loop around the perimeter of the western half of the course, have dinner, fill in some of the other points on the west side of the course and/or have a sleep, and then do the eastern part of the course after breakfast on Sunday.

37-49-51-74. Nice to be among the first few to get these. 52 and we're in pursuit of another Span Outdoors club team, Charles Blaxland and Neil Lefeure who have taken a more direct route. Down to 65 with the steep rock face to climb back out. As Rick said, just the sort of checkpoint I would have set. Contour around to 59. Quite an effort, but we overtook the Span team going along the summit. Then the sensational sandstone crete to 73. Afternoon tea on the western cliffs of Dalton around 4pm, looking out over our next 5 checkpoints, and planning our routes around the steep sections.

Out and back to 67. 68, 58. Our first creek walking up to 72 was quite pleasant. Round to 71. The small cliffs facing west on the hill above 71 were beautiful in the setting sun, so it was a delight to traverse below them twice. 71 was probably the most difficult navigation so we were glad to do it in the light, but by 69 we definitely

needed torches. Afternoon tea 2 at 69 and with our torches out we



A Welcoming Site - The Hash House at dusk

surprised another team coming down the main creek. Up to 66 and down to 53, helped by the torches of the team travelling in the opposite direction. 64, 39, contouring around peak 303 to 22 we overshot our saddle and did a deeper crossing. A heavy burst of rain just when we were off course dampened the spirits, but was cooling. 34. The great views from 21. How do we get down this cliff? This looks like a road says Rick. We deduced which way it went and headed back to the Hash House. An eel (or worse?) as we prepared to wade across the ford. HH around 11pm for great story telling and food.

Away around midnight up 36. Down to 43, 37,44. Just a few

hundred metres of contouring and then down to 38. This isn't as steep near the ridge top as I thought Rick, but that's got to be the creek over there. Steep enough over near the creek where Rick first sled ~2m and I slid ~5m! Good landings both. Doesn't it take a long time to go down a creek at night? Finally, we make the flag. Our 3am stop. The course setters have put the wrong number on this flag. Silly, course setters. Punch the right box.

Munch, munch.

**Time to fill in the intention board. That's our team number as the last visitor! That's us 2 hours ago!! We've gone in a circle back to 43!**

I thought it was a great joke and was actually encouraged by the break in routine. Rick thought it was discouraging. Up onto the ridge. Along it and down into the creek of 38. At least that was the plan. What happens at 3am in the morning? This creek is taking a long time. It can't be right. What have we done? Don't know. Just keep going down and we'll get somewhere. Out into an open valley. Only spot that might fit is

(Continued on page 20)

PHOTO GALLERY – Peter Dunn



12 Hr Womens – Jules Bros, Christie Hill, Liz Phelps, Vanessa Richardsen



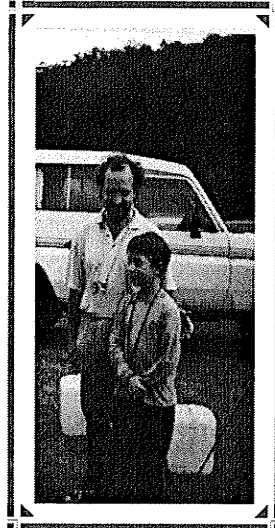
24Hr Mens Vets – Ian Brown, Tony Garbellini, Geoff Luscombe



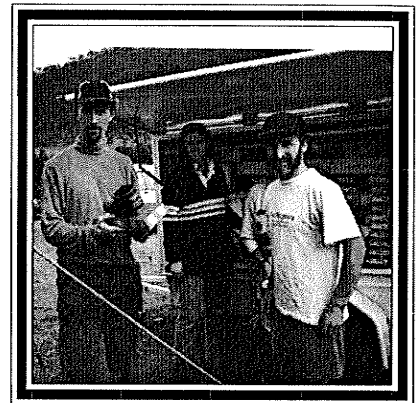
24 Hr Womens – Marilyn Ferris, Lesley Taylor



24Hr Mixed Vets – Sue Clarke & Walter Kellerman



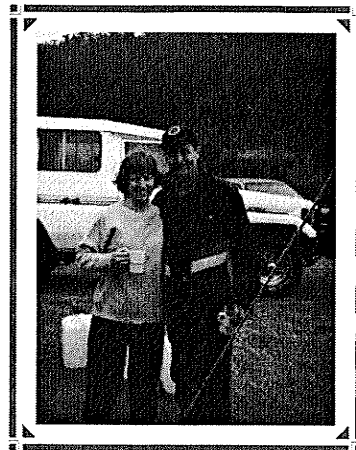
12Hr Family – The Clarkes



24Hr Mens – Robert Vincent & Mike Hotchkis



12Hr Mens - David Cannings, Andrew Forsyth & Ross Hamilton



12Hr Mixed Vets Rachel Williams & Peter Gordon



24Hr Mixed Vets – Vicki & Graeme Cooper

**Lake Macquarie**  
**18th September 1999**

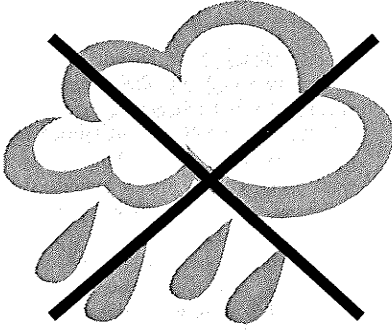
12 hour Course

Team	Score	Time	O	M	W	X	V	MV	WV	XV	J	F
83 Rob Kimbrey, Paul Stein	930	0.-1	1	1								
69 Chris Arnison, Andrew Smith, Darren Smith	860	0.-5	2	2								
38 Will de Sain, Shane Hansen	830	0.-1	3	3								
79 Peter Dunn, Garry Ferris	830	0.-9	4	4			1	1				
31 Dom Isberg, Wendy Scott, Bert van Netten, Dianne van Netten	820	0.-1	5			1	2			1		
52 Ian James, Mark Phillips, Gary Young	810	0.-2	6	5								
94 Neil Chappell, David Lilley	780	0.-3	7	6			3	2				
96 Julie Hall, Andrew Hislop, Tim Smallwood	740	22.00	8			2						
63 Marilyn Ferris, Lesley Taylor	720	0.-2	9		1		4		1			
42 Peter Forder, Mal Haskins, Jim Richter	690	-1.-1	10	7								
18 Mick Ferris, Novak Thompson	640	-3.-3	11	8								
58 Sue Clarke, Anne Francis	630	0.-4	12		2		5		2			
39 Nihal Danis, Richard Sage	620	0.-5	13			3	6			2		
12 M Huury, Stephan Wagner	610	0.-3	14	9								
75 Rebecca Chipman, Annette Dowd, Keith Porter	590	0.-3	15			4						
90 David Klineberg, Doug Moore	580	0.-3	16	10								
41 Andy Cairns, Ken Smith	580	0.-2	17	11			7	3				
98 Roger Mayhill, Jamie Richardson	580	23.19	18	12								
81 Shane Cox, Phil Kempers, Scott Seymour	540	0.-5	19	13								
60 Ray Robison, Peter Wherry	480	-1.-1	20	14			8	4				
40 Brett Carfoot, Michael Forsythe, Tim Grootenboer, Anthony Hooper, David Johnson	480	0.-2	21	15								
4 Ben Evans, Geoff Silburn, Ashleigh Smith, Bob Smith	460	-2.-4	22			5						
55 Margaret Covi, Bob Cox, Rudi Landsiedel, Diann MacKenzie	450	0.-2	23			6	9			3		
56 Mathew Booth, Alison Flanagan, Anthony Gibbins, Ashley Judd, Mathew Quigley	440	-1.-4	24			7						
7 Ian Hawkes, Melanie Mill	430	0.-4	25			8						
20 John Biddiscombe, John Bishop	410	-1.-3	26	16			10	5				
61 Ken Bright, Karsten Skovmand	380	-2.00	27	17								
9 Colin Fenning, Danny O'Connell	380	0.-1	28	18								
10 Samuel Dzwinek, Anthony Hunt, Melinda Hunt	340	-1.-6	29			9						1
67 Henry Roberts, John W. Roberts	330	-3.-5	30	19								
73 Kylie Conway, Jenna Scollen, Paul Sillato, Natasha Yollard	330	-1.-3	31			10						
32 Elena McGarry, Peter McGarry, Glenn Mills	310	-1.-2	32			11						
17 Pam Montgomery, Robert Montgomery	300	-3.-4	33			12	11			4		
74 Kirsty Breckenridge, Sean Clunial, Lucy Hill, Michael Ward	300	-3.-3	34			13						
48 Alison Maher, Janet Sted	290	-3.-8	35		3							
19 Lyn Berg, Jennie Bond, Jon Marsden	280	-4.-4	36			14	12			5		
13 Benjamin Spark, Phil Spark	260	-2.-5	37	20								2
97 Judy Greenwood, Shae Greenwood	230	19.23	38			15						3
2 Tim Naden, John Waddell	170	-5.-4	39	21								
1 Graeme Cooper, Vicki Cooper	160	-5.-2	40			16	13			6		



## Lake Macquarie

### WHAT?! NO RAIN, NO LEECHES ?



Was it a portent of things to come? Just trying to get to the event we couldn't make up our minds-turning around because we thought we'd passed the turnoff, driving back for ten minutes and then changing our minds again. We did however reach the Hash House with plenty of time left. However, something was wrong. It was a fine cool day with no forecast of rain. This was the Lake Macquarie. If it wasn't going to rain, then what about the other Lake Macquarie 'constants': leeches and lawyer vine. Rob Vincent was good, but could he give us an event without those either?

This event was to be a change in our routine. Our friends Paula Clarke and her 15-year-old son Ry would be joining us. They have Rogained for a couple of years now with Ry's brothers in the family category and have been doing well. Paula wanted to come out with us on some night Rogaining to see how we did it. She would find out.

We coloured our maps, plastered our feet, ate and ate. We discussed routes and planned an anti-clockwise loop, which was looking good until it seemed we wouldn't get to tea and damper before it closed at 9.15. So, in typical form we made a last minute change and settled on a modified clockwise loop. And we were off.

Carried along by the crowd, we went to 29. Then to get a little space down and back to 22. So far so good. We were on our own and the creek had been open and flat. Attractive even. Back up to the track and then out and back to get 14 and 36. Then onto our clockwise loop we headed to 17. On our way we passed our car so Paula took the opportunity of swapping one pair of borrowed shoes for another. Hopefully this would avoid any serious foot deterioration. The description for Control 17 was 'an indistinct old 4WD track'. We found a 4WD track at about the right location, decided there was nothing indistinct about it and kept walking until we knew we'd gone too far.

Then around on the road to 24 and 28. The only challenge being the cars on the road. 56 was nestled in 'nasty vegetation' with 'Thick impeding scrub along this ridge'. We proceeded along an overgrown forestry track without too much difficulty. Rob Vincent's psychology was working well. Mark it up as

tough, describe it as awful and it can only get better! Control 56 was not as difficult as we had expected, but 31 gave cause for apprehension. More 'nasty vegetation' and a steep drop down to the creek. The apprehension proved unfounded, the rainforest creek a delight.

Down the creek and up to 18 and then on to the Tea and Damper. Instead of worrying about getting there too late, we arrived too bloody early! Fortunately the hash house crew were well organised and after a short wait were serving delicious tea and damper right on time.

Well fortified, we crossed the 'cataracts' below Boarding House Dam to get 16. Time was marching on- we'd spent more than 40 minutes having afternoon tea and getting in and out to control 16. We had a little over 2 hours of daylight left. Of course what you need after tea and damper is a toilet stop, so back into the picnic area to recycle it all. Then up the road and down and back out to 34. We were playing it cautiously, minimising our excursions off tracks-this was the Watagans. Then through the quarry and down to 37. Ry was carrying the control card and descended the last 20 metres to punch the control. Nihal said she'd race Ry back to the top. Like a kangaroo taking off, Ry just leapt up the hill, passing Nihal and was waiting for her at the top. And not even puffed! Youth is wasted on the young.

53 and 62 we collected with an increasing sense of urgency as the day was departing. Control 35, a dam, was shown further down from the road than it was. Fortunately we were able to see it, even though we weren't heading in the right direction.

We had planned our course to be a loop by going down through the pass below 42 and onto the track below. Rushing out along Rope Road as the sun was setting, we were confident. We had found every control we'd looked for, and none with any real difficulty. That was about to change.

In our excitement we dropped off the road too early. When we couldn't find 42 we scouted along the cliff line, heading west until we came upon it. Just as we came upon the control darkness settled. The need to look at maps, and the cliff line we were above quickly brought out our torches. Trying to find the pass down, we slowly worked our way eastward. We made contact with a team below the cliff line that could not find the pass. Several times we'd scrambled down what seemed like hopeful routes, only to be blocked by 10 metres of impenetrable cliff line. The team below said they were going east to try and get up at the creek. We told them it was a waterfall at the top. If they were stuffed, so were we.

We decided to go due south, over the ridge and down. We should hit a track, which would take us down to 46 and back under the pass at 42. This was what Paula and Ry

had come for! A quick revision of the course and headlong into Rob Vincent's 'nasty vegetation'. We should have known better. Down and down we pushed through scrubby, dense, prickly shit until we reached a creek. This wasn't the plan. It was supposed to be a track. Without careful assessment of our situation, we forged off in a north west direction, back up through the horrible shit thinking we would find the track. Well we did. But not the one we wanted. 2 hours after finding our last control (42) we were back on the Rope Road. There was no way down through the pass. We'd stuffed up finding an alternative. All we had left was a long walk back to Tea and Damper passing controls we already had. And we only had about 4 hours left.

And then we met Ken Smith and partner. They had had the same problem as us. They couldn't find the pass below 42. Like us they were going south to find the track around past 46. We would find out later in the Hash House that it all went to plan for them.

We arrived back at Tea & Damper at 8.50, just as it was being packed away. Closing up early because they had nothing else to give away. We couldn't even collect the points again. Then it was a fair hike up the hill, collecting 15 and 27 on the way. Nihal impressed the team by stopping on the track in the middle of nowhere and saying, "19 is just in here". And sure enough it was. After collecting 47 we headed back to the HH with about an hour to spare. Would we go out and get 11,12? Nah! What about running out to the edge of the cliff to the north? Let's just get into the HH early.

Finding Rob Vincent in the Admin we questioned him about the pass down from 42. Rob assured us he'd used it twice, but not at night. Perhaps if some of the excellent control reflectors had been placed there we would have found it. We'd been warned about the locals sharing the HH picnic area. We had a good feed, and as we were leaving, one of the Rogainers pulled out his didgereedoo and started blowing. This brought out a second instrument from the locals. It looked like a little 'reconciliation' might take place. All up we found the 99 Lake Macquarie challenging and like all good Rogaines, enjoyable in hindsight. Rob set a high standard for next year's event: no rain, no leeches. Now for the real challenge: lawyer vine! Paula wasn't deterred by our night-time antics-she's coming with us to the Auschamps.

Richard Sage

# Lake Macquarie

## THE CHALLENGE WITHIN

**Bert Van Netten is known for three things apart from his legendary Rogaining exploits:**

- (1) Packing opposition backpacks with rocks**
- (2) Conning lesser teams out of lottery tickets**
- (3) Pushing partners over cliffs**

Bert's superfit professional team 31 consisted of wife Dianne and triathletes Wendy Scott and Dominic Isberg. The lesser team of rank amateurs defending the lottery ticket was team 94 of David Lilley and Neil Chappell missing their usual long striding pace setter and navigator Michael Lilley.

The start instruction was given on a perfect day for Rogaining, abnormal for the Lake Macquarie Rogaine.

Bert's bush Bloodhounds confidently raced off on the north-western anti clockwise route for controls 11, 13, 26, 23, 33, 43, 64 and 54 hitting them with pinpoint accuracy. That route took advantage of the faster travelling along roads.

David's Dawdling Ditherers, trying to impress, jogged off to control 29 the usual strategy was put into action – follow someone who appears to know what they are doing. This did not work at 29. The back-up method was put into use – spiralling out in ever increasing circles until the control was found. The method was used successfully again at 14. On jogging past several teams to 36 one team was heard to comment on the old men jogging. After 36 the Dawdling Ditherers fell back to strategy no. 1 and followed a couple of other teams down and up to Ironbark Ridge Road, the to control 47 which wasn't easy to find. Their original plan was to proceed to 43 via the pass at the end of Ironbark Ridge Road, then to pick up 64 and 54. However after Robert Vincent's novice briefing a change had been made to go from 47 to 43 via 52 and 64. The alteration had been prompted by the description of the cliff descent. David suffered a broken wrist a Bargo a couple of years ago when assisted by a partner, who shall remain nameless, to descend more quickly than he was doing. The revised route meant a loss in time and a gain of 50 points but navigation was needed. They "sort-of" zig-zagged toward 52 until the cliff north west of 52 was encountered. Open Women's winners Marilyn Ferris and Leslie Taylor caught them there and showed the way to 52 and 64 but were faster at creek bashing and quickly got out of sight. David insisted on getting out of the creek so they went height only to find the track to the south a little closer than marked. On the down hill part of the road heading north toward 43 voices were heard so the pair started jogging again. A comment followed "It's the old

blokes and they're still running". Neil was convinced it was really David who was attracting the comments.

Neil, who at that stage, had not tripped, fallen or even slid on his seat remedied that when he tried to break a rock with his thigh in the creek just short of 43 (a very spectacular fall). On exiting 43 they met Marilyn and Leslie going in – it just goes to show what difference luck and a road makes.

Not being satisfied with the previous fall, on leaving 54, Neil and a lawyer vine combined for a forward one and a half somersault with twist ending with face 3.5cm below ground level.

At 54 Bert's Bloodhounds had a 240 points while David's Ditherers had 250, but who was there first? Bert, Di, Wendy and Dom had made good time and had already been to 46 and 64. Bert's lottery ticket was looking safe. They picked up 42 via Roper Road as the scrub looked too thick to take the direct route from the 4WD track south of Rope Road. From 42 it was mostly easy road and track work to T & D via 35, 62, 53, 37 and 34. Lights were turned on after 53 with 520 points in the bag. The two teams passed each other near 62. The professionals were leaving 62 with 470 points while the amateurs were approaching on 400 points.

The amateurs had also traveled 54, 46, 63 and reversed the order to get 62 ahead of 35. They later regretted skipping 42. They could have hidden their packs, dashed in, returned, checked for rocks in packs and then pressed on. The sun set on them, with 490 points, on the track to 53 which they easily found due to the lights of another team that were there. They also went to 37 and 34 but from there they went cross country until stumbling across the Boarding House Dam walking track. Before reaching T & D they caught team 31, who had finished their break, and had just gone out and back to 16. Bert talked David and Neil into getting 16 before going to T & D.

The Bloodhounds, on 640 points, lost one navigating wheel (paddle) when they left T & D for 18 and 31 and found themselves up the wrong creek. They gave those two controls away and headed for 15.

At T & D David and Neil had their packs inspected to see that all the essential equipment was being carried, eg. space blankets, first aid kit, etc. Also their drinks were inspected for illegal substances. Eventually they were given the tick of approval although Neil's anti-cramping formula attracted some unsavoury comments. Was any other team subjected to this? Had Bert done a deal to cause a delay to protect the lottery ticket he was now worried about? Also at T & D Neil's assumption that the "old blokes" tag was due to David took a nose dive when Yvonne Puller remarked how grey his hair had become. Gail Ryan stood by him and said it

had always been that way.

David's Ditherers had intended to go from T & D, where they had 660 points, on to 16 through the bush to meet the road to 45, then 15, 27, 19 and HH. David refused to bush bash so the route was modified to travel the track from T & D to 15 and then to 45. However, just to out do Bert, three of the four navigating wheels fell off. Concentration was not turned on before leaving T & D and sometime later they realised they were north east and not north. They pressed on to 28, 24, 17 and HH before 9:45pm and then headed south to get the missed controls. 19 was picked when given away by torches in the bush, 27 was reached with two other teams, 15 was accidentally ignored and 45 was stumbled onto. The return to the HH was a long way without points having again forgotten about 15 – the torches were on but nobody was at home. The HH was reached with just over half an hour to spare. David ignored Neil's pleas to dash out to at least 10 and 25 so they booked in as club house leaders on 780 points. Within ten minutes the lead had gone.

Out in the bush the Bloodhounds team believed the lottery ticket was safe and dropped their pace as they proceeded to 15, 27, 19, 47, 14, 36, 29, 17, 24 and HH. The last of their team ran in less than one minute late to give back 10 points but picking up a bonus 30 points for a total of 830 points and first place in the Mixed.

Without their usual third team member the Ditherers had entered the Men's Veterans but were posted under the Supervet label. No doubt there was an obvious reason for that but the judges bowed to their protests and they were awarded second place in the Men's Vets. As a result of their placing they would like to thank all of the teams they encountered who pointed them in the right direction or were standing near controls with their lights on after dark. Special thanks are given to Marilyn and Leslie for showing the way when some real navigation was needed.

And from all of us, an extra special load of thanks to all of the organisers for putting on such good weather, good drinking water en route and clearing the course of leeches and ticks.

*The Roving Rogainer.*



**The Croc & Rock Rogaine**  
**31 July-1 August 1999, Litchfield National Park, Northern Territory**

**24 Hour Results**

Team	Team members	Score	Open	M	W	X	MV	WV	XV	SV	Fam
16	Nigel Aylott, Eric Morris	2200	1	1							
34	Freddy Warren, Lochie Macdonald, Andrew Lowe	1210	2	2							
23	Peter Slade, Michael Slade	1200	3	3							
9	Bett Koch, Andrew Cagney, Andrew Murphy	1190	4			1					
20	Sue Clarke, Walter Keleman, Gareth Prosser	1100	5			2					
12	Phillip Holman, Stewart Anderson	830	6	4							
13	Geoff Mackay, Alan Kerr, Kim Hazeldine	800	7			3					
1	Peter Philpott, Susi Bertei, Jon Potter	760	8			4					
2	Kathy Herrmann, Kristiane Herrmann	660	9					1			
3	Rob Anderson, Philip Strickland, Alan Moy	620	10	5							
15	Meredyth Sauer, Trevor Guthrie	600	11							1	
8	Michelle Karas, Norm Schram	600	12						1		
33	Stuart Miller, Greg Valler	480	13	6							
30	Jeff Hunt, Peter Henry	480	14	7							
26	Wayne Bennett, Leanne Bennett, Steve Biggs	300	15			5					
31	Rob Wise, Mike Waters, Bhavini Patel	300	16			6					
7	Gary Carroll, Di Challen	280	17			7					
17	Gabriele Driver, Aaron Driver	270	18								1
35	John Sullivan, Tanya Sullivan	220	19			8					
6	Richard Robinson, Cameron Plant	170	20	8							
28	Marg Phelan, Glenis Harris	40	21		1						

**6 Hour Results**

Team	Team members	Score	Open	M	W	X	MV	WV	XV	SV	Fam
22	Chris Slade, Sharon Slade	290	1		1						
19	Sarah Huffam, Susan Jacups, Dana Fitzsimmons, Dennis Fitzsimmons	260	2			1					
25	Joel de Carle, Nicola Mandile	250	3			2					
27	Lynda Prior, Mary Anderson	240	4					1			
29	James Farrone, Matt Tucker	110	5	1							
21	Hilary Bloomfield, Chris Binks	110	6			3					
38	Andrew O'Loughlin, Ingrid Bucens	20	7			4					
36	Peter Barton, Andrew Barton	0	8	2							
5	C.W. Goh, Xiang Goh, Huan Goh, Rae Goh, John Wu	0	9								1
18	Larissa Fitzsimmons, Joan Fitzsimmons	Late *									

\* Team 18 scored 410 points but finished slowly, sensibly and over 30 minutes late with a mild case of hyperthermia. An honourable effort!

## The Croc & Rock Rogaine

31 July-1 August 1999, Litchfield National Park, Northern Territory

"Just because we live in the Northern Territory doesn't mean we can't have a rogaine."

This idea motivated us to organise the croc and Rock rogaine, and relaxing now in Kakadu it all seems great. At times though we wondered whose crazy idea was this!

This first rogaine was born at a meeting between Cath Love, David Palmer and Andy Black in about October 1998. After getting excited about the idea, we sat down to find a site. Southern Kakadu, Litchfield, Hayes Creek were all mooted. The Gunlom area showed great promise in many ways – map, hash house, and beautiful area. It was rejected as too far for the first event and too difficult to get permission??

Litchfield was next. On the first trip there in December, the three of us took an unpublished 1:25000 photogrammetry sheet, supplied by NT maps, that offered challenging navigation. Further trips confirmed the site. The rangers were approached and, at a meeting on 15/2/99, approval was granted.

There was then a period of publicising the event while the wet season raged. The NTRA was informally born and the ARA and all state rogaining associations advised of the event. John Ulrichsen and Annie Whybourne emerged as the other keen rogainers in Darwin and formally joined the team at the first NTRA meeting on 24/3/99. We also knew we could depend on our friends – Taree, Cameron, Jo, Monica, and Michelle to help with the task.

The course setting began in earnest after the Wet. Litchfield Nark is a popular destination, however, once David and I ventured off the sealed road, we never saw another person on the course. Even the rangers referred to us as the guys with the funny map! We were not deterred. As we explored more of the area, we discovered pockets of rainforest hidden in the creeks that arose from the Tabletop Plateau. The ridges and summits provided sweeping views across the seemingly endless wilderness. I was excited about the rogaine being set in an area that offered such an experience of nature.

We knew that the availability of water would hold the key to the course. The

first time David and I tried to cross Aida Creek, it was a swirling foaming cascade of brown water. This settled down to a gentle, clean creek over the months of the course setting. As we explored the drier eastern half of the course we realised that Aida Creek would be the lifeline.

The eastern boundary of the course was the fenceline marking the boundary of Litchfield NP. We had decided that there had to be a water drop down this fenceline. The rangers assured us it was driveable. David made the first trip – the first major creek crossing, which was completely washed out, stopped him. He proceeded on foot and ran the 6 km to the course and also saw a small crocodile in that creek while crossing. I was lucky enough to have one of the rangers show me the way through the creeks so I didn't have to walk to the course. So David and I ventured down again 4 days before the event to put out the water bottles. On the way out I managed to get the car bogged properly, with one wheel down a deep hole and the other in the air! After trying futilely to get it out, the two of us set off running the 11km back to the main road. Our only consolation was that we got to see the full moon rise and the lunar eclipse that night.

Every aspect of the rogaine was an adventure, with no local precedents to guide us. Maps NT took some convincing, but once they realised what we wanted they eventually went out of their way to help us. They even joined ARA as the only two sponsors for the event.

There is a great Darwin tradition of leaving everything to the last minute. Thus, it was not surprising that entries continued to arrive until the day before the event. I sadly had to turn people away on the last two days as we had reached the limit agreed to with Parks and Wildlife.

The hanging of markers was completed at midnight on Friday night when David, Taree and I hung the marker on the knoll at 11 and put out the minties at 39. It was a beautiful clear night and everything was finally set.

On the morning of the rogaine those of us camping at the Hash House emerged to find that the solar panels didn't provide enough power to run the fridge

and freezer overnight. We had also survived the sprinklers coming on overnight although David and Dana did get completely soaked in their Mozzie Dome. I made a flying trip into Batchelor to alert the rangers of the sprinklers and the power failure and get those inevitable last minute things. The Hash House was a brand new group camp-site, so we were the guinea pigs. It proved an ideal venue with a covered area and tables and chairs for everyone to prepare and plan their routes. The flurry of eager competitors peaked around 10.30 am and there was even a queue for maps! I got so excited at the final briefing I forgot to introduce myself. The emphasis was on the need to carry and drink enough water. We had to restrain some of the novices from taking their control cards from the clothesline prior to the start. Midday saw everyone disappear in all directions and some of the organisers could have breakfast.

Around 1.30 pm we were just starting to enjoy the quiet, when Richard Robinson came running back into the HH with the alarm that his partner Cameron had impaled his leg on a stick and was bleeding profusely. John, Annie and Andy quickly prepared and then drove with Richard to the nearest point. Armed with first aid equipment we raced past 36 to the fallen Cameron. There he was, relaxed with his leg up and no blood dripping through the bandage. After an assessment and bandage change, it was decided that he could hobble gently back to the car. From there, John and Annie took him to Batchelor clinic. A careful exploration of his leg revealed only muscle damage. Everyone had survived the first challenge.

Sunset brought the return of the 6-hour teams. Most returned easily before 6 p. m., however, the top scoring team of Joan and Larissa Fitzsimmons had to be disqualified as they returned at 6.33 p. m. Larissa had suffered heat exhaustion and had to rest by the creek below 36 for an hour. Another team rendered assistance and that contributed to them finishing after 6 p.m. This spirit of co-operation was evident throughout the rogaine.

The catering was always going to be

*(Continued on page 19)*

## The Croc & Rock Rogaine

### 31 July-1 August 1999, Litchfield National Park, Northern Territory

*(Continued from page 18)*

special, as the catering team is more into fine food than rogaining. We kept telling them the most important elements are to make sure the food is ready and plentiful. The dinner was delicious and in keeping with N.T. tradition there wasn't a cheese toastie in sight. There were many happy, tired faces around the fire in the evening.

As the last people drifted off to bed, a quick count of control cards showed that there were 11 teams out of 25 in the 24-hour event that had preferred not to return for the night. Where were they and what were they up to? Only one team returned during the 1-4 a.m. shift, Trevor Guthrie and Meredith Sauer from Queensland and they were impressed that there were hot showers to accompany hot food. The moon was high up in the sky and as promised the cloudless July night made for great night navigation. A run down the road to the Termite Mounds did not yield any distressed teams looking for a lift back to the HH. By this time several teams had become disoriented in the far southern parts of the course and were slowly making their way back home along Aida Creek valley; as we would discover in the morning. It was very difficult to reorient yourself once you became confused amongst all the ridges and gullies, as there were no tracks or major creeks to aid you. Several Teams were not helped by a faulty mapping of 51, showing it further up the gully than it really was. This was a trap for novice course setters, next time I will pay extra attention to where the circle is printed for imprecise features.

The dawn came all too soon. David, Cath and I had agreed to take Richard Robinson to the water drop. From there he planned to begin collecting controls from the whole of the southern half of the course. He set off about 8.30 a.m. We found only about 25 litres of water gone and all of the bananas. The nicely piled skins had been scattered about widely by some enthusiastic animals.

Back at the hash house, the excitement built as the minutes ticked away and most teams remained out on the course. The scores were quickly calculated as soon as the teams returned. Most of the top teams had managed to score around 1200. The most memorable team was Sue Clarke, Gareth Prosser and Walter

Kelemen. They came in absolutely filthy and proceeded to tell us in animated fashion of their trials at night between 45 and 100. It sounded truly horrific.

By 11.50 there were only 3 teams still out there: Two competitive and one definitely social. Nigel Aylott and Eric Morris returned next – Eric looked absolutely wrecked, while Nigel looked dirty but ready for more. Eric summed it up with the words "Never again!" I wasn't quite sure whether he meant rogaining or partnering Nigel. They had amassed 2200 points and visited all but 5 controls.

The last team ran in at 11.59, having spent too long down swimming in the beautiful plunge pools around 36. It was all over and we didn't have to go out searching for anyone.

The results were finalised and showed that Nigel and Eric were NT rogaining champions, having won by nearly 1000 points. However, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places went to local teams who defeated far more experienced interstate rogainers. The rocky course, the grass and the heat made it very tough. We didn't particularly set out to make it tough, I think it is always going to be the nature of NT rogainers.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Even the Goh family, who didn't manage to find any controls, really enjoyed themselves. Eric thanked us at the presentation, but assured us he would not be back to defend his title next year. However, many of the locals are very keen to participate in future rogainers.

Future rogainers are only possible with help from many people. This rogainer was made possible through the efforts of Taree Brearley, John Ulrichsen, Annie Whybourne, Cameron Main, Jo Wood, Nina Stupples, Michelle Fitzgerald, Monica O'Kane, Kirsten Blair, Mark, Rhys Challenger and Neville Driver. They joined David, Cath and Andy to turn the idea into reality. Thanks particularly to those who had never actually participated in a rogainer.

The event concluded with the Annual General Meeting. The purpose of this was to elect a committee. This was successful thanks to John Ulrichsen who quietly lobbied the happiest

looking competitors. Dana Fitzsimmons, Jon Potter, Peter Slade and Paul Sharp joined John, Annie, and David on the committee.

Eric and Nigel made it even harder for themselves by only taking one 600 ml waterbottle each. They seemed surprised when they found no water on the eastern half of the course, despite having it written in the course setter's notes and discussed at the final briefing.

The problem with hyperthermia and dehydration were unfortunately emphasised when Richard Robinson returned on Sunday evening. He had pushed himself through the heat of the day, attempting to finish the ambitious circuit he had set himself, when he should have rested. He became progressively worse: initially hot and thirsty, then nauseous and suffering from leg cramps. These cramps became so severe they prevented him from filling his waterbottle at creeks. Finally he gave up collecting controls and staggered to the road. During these final stages, he felt that if he lay down to rest, he may not ever get up again. Even after receiving intravenous fluids and resting at the HH for 2 hours, he remained so nauseous he couldn't drink freely. So for the second time, John, Annie and Andy took him into Batchelor Clinic and poured in more intravenous fluids. This soon improved his condition and we felt happy to bring him back to the HH after he started telling jokes and passing urine. These issues will certainly be paramount when planning for future events.

I enjoyed the opportunity to be a part of the inaugural NT rogainer. It is an amazing group of people who came together to make this happen. I have confidence that N.T.R.A. has a future and am sad that I may not be directly involved.

*Andy Black*

THE UNEXPECTED .....

*(Continued from page 11)*

downstream from 25. Let's see if 25 is there. Yes. Relief. Let's ignore 38 for a while. 35, 42 (thick bush going up and down the creek following warnings about thick bush NW of 42). 41. Light just in time to get 38 finally, and back for breakfast a little later than planned, but with everything on the west side bar 48 collected as planned.

Up to 33. Great view. After that climb, going across to 24 seems a bit hard so we drop it. Head to 46. (Fortunately we have another team to follow in here, as we get confused). Up to 54. Down to 55. Up to 56. Running out of time so we won't get the 60's. Down to 57.

An hour to go. Going up the creek to 45 our progress to the first creek on the right seems very slow. Decide to head up the ridge to the left and go along the ridge to 45 if we have time. That's surprising, there's a bit of a track up here. Below 42 and we decide to head back towards the HH.

**What's that flag in the saddle below? 45. Another unexpected flag!**

We must have gone far further up the creek than we expected. Who knows where we would have reached if we'd headed east towards where we thought 45 was (at 11:30am!). No time for 31. Just

straight back via 32. Whoops we're at the end of the spur and we are not at a checkpoint. 32 is south of us! Too late now! Back with 4 minutes to spare.

A great event. Without our luck in finding 2 unexpected markers we certainly wouldn't have finished 4<sup>th</sup>!

*John Barnes.*

NSW CHAMPS - WOLLOMBI

*(Continued from page 8)*

look a little more tired and strained at the end. The rain made announcing the scores a bit of a rushed and difficult time, but we were glad so many people stayed around for the announcements.

After everyone had left, we had to clean up the mess. I would like to thank Graeme and Vicki Cooper for their help in setting up and dismantling the Hash House and Admin tents and in packing the trailer. I think the trailer is a bit like Dr Who's Tardis - it is amazing what fits in with a bit of overseeing from Vicki and Graeme. Also on hand were John Clancy and Alan Scott. Thanks - much appreciated.

Thanks also need to go to the CMA for allowing us to reproduce the 1:25000 map, National Parks and State Forests for letting us walk around on their land. Thanks to Masterfoods for all their donated food (yum) and the caterers who put it all together to make some very tasty, hearty and sustaining meals (unfortunately I never got around to having a turkey burger, but Andrew had my share - claiming a total of

6). Special thanks to Nev and Snowy Brickman who let us camp on their lovely river flats and who also supplied us with drinking water and tales of how, before the 1949 floods, the Wollombi River could be crossed by laying a plank across it (now it is over 40 meters wide).

Thanks should also go to Ian Dempsey who printed the maps and collected some flags, Carolyn Willetts who generally helped during the event, Peter Dunn the event photographer and Matt Chamberlain who competed and also collected some flags after the event (when 24hrs of rogaining just isn't enough). Special thanks to the organising team who were fun to work with - Arthur Kingsland who vetted, stayed awake for 24hrs during the event and collected some flags, Andrew Haigh who vetted and helped with processing of entries and of course Bert van Netten who chose the location, set the course, did the vast majority of the organisation and held us all together.

Lost during the event were a petzl and a green sports watch. If anyone

picked them up and is wondering how to return them to their owners, please ring me on 4959 8840.

I would just like to finish by saying that helping with organising an event was very rewarding. It was a good chance to meet a lot of rogainers, to put something back into the sport and I guess an indirect way of saying thanks to others who have done the same. I would definitely help out in the admin area of an event again.

*Nicole Haigh*

