

The Explorergaine

Sunday 29th March 2026

Team captains please make sure your team members read these instructions.

The Explorergaine

The Explorergaine is a 6-hour rogaine at Mt Victoria on the western edge of the Blue Mountains. Whilst it is in the Metrogaine slot on the calendar the rogaine is mostly on bush tracks. The event has a strong historical theme and is also a fundraiser for the Australian Himalayan Foundation.

The course explores the first routes off the mountains made by the colonists and dating back to 1813. There are outstanding views over the Megalong Valley, Hartley Vale and across to the Great Divide. There are complex bush tracks close to the Event HQ and longer tracks down to Hartley Vale. The event offers something for everyone. Access to the event from Sydney is not affected by the closure of the Great Western Highway at Victoria Pass.

Start time

The 6-hour event starts at 10:00am. Maps available from 8:00am. Arrive in good time to plan your course.

Event location

The Event Headquarters with registration is at the Mt Victoria Public School in Victoria St. There are limited benches suitable for planning. Bring your own tables/chairs. Note that to avoid start/finish crowding across the Great Western Highway there is an alternate start/finish triangle on the north side of the highway. Eg teams can choose to start at either location and finish at either location.

Weather

The current forecast for Sunday is dry and 17 degrees. Day before check the forecast for Blackheath and dress accordingly. Mt Victoria sits at 1000 metres and is the highest point of the Blue Mountains City Council area. It is usually a few degrees cooler than Sydney. Plan to carry at least two litres of water and fill up at home.

Getting there

By Car

From Sydney take the Great Western Highway past Katoomba to Mt Victoria. The school is accessed by turning left on Hooper St and right into Victoria St. About 1.45 hours from Sydney using toll roads.

From Lithgow, Victoria Pass is closed in both directions due to emergency road engineering (originally convict built in 1832). The alternate route is via Chifley Rd to Bell and then Darling Causeway (33 minutes).

By Train

The Blue Mountains train is a good option for this event. New D-set trains have recently replaced the old fleet. There are toilets and tables. No track work is scheduled. Rogainer Graeme Hill will be on board the 2nd last carriage to hand out maps from 8.00am (near Woodford). At Mt Victoria there is a 10-minute walk to the school. Cross Station St (now busy due the highway detour) at the traffic lights and use the northerly school gate off Great Western Highway.

06.24 Depart Central Station with stops at Strathfield, Parramatta, Blacktown and Penrith, then Blue Mountains stops to Mt Victoria arriving 08.48.

Return 17.18 Depart Mt Victoria arriving at Central at 19.41.

So that Graeme has sufficient maps to hand out, teams that are intending to take the train must text event organiser Julian Ledger on 0409 454 396 not later than 4pm on Wed 25th with their team number and the station they will be joining the train.

Parking and Carpooling

Please carpool to limit vehicles (and save on petrol). As it is a residential area be considerate of neighbours on arrival. Parking near the school is limited. Park sensibly on surrounding streets. And follow the directions of meet/greet parking attendants. Beware of soft verges which could get you bogged. The school main entry gate is on Victoria St but there also gates that will be open off Mathews Rd and Great Western Highway (see locality map). There is more parking space on the north side of the highway including a car park in the Memorial Park off Montgomery Street.

Timetable

08.00	Registration opens, maps available
08.45	Novice briefing
09.45	General briefings at the main start and alternative start (compulsory)
10.00	Event start
15.30	Catering open
16.00	Event finish
16.30	Results/Presentation

Registration

Before coming to registration, please make sure

- You know your team number (available on web site under Team List)
- You and everyone on your team have signed your indemnity form

Upon registering you will receive

- A Navlight tag and wristband (one for each team member)
- A map for each team member with control descriptions and course setters' notes
- One flight plan (intention sheet) which must be filled in and returned to the registration desk

Start procedure

There will be a mass start for all competitors at 10.00. Depending on your planned route you can choose to start at either the main start at Event HQ in the school or the alternative start located by the flagpole below the bandstand in Memorial Park (see blue triangle on map). If you choose the start location in Memorial Park allow enough time to cross the highway to attend the briefing there. You must be on your way from the school no later than 09.30. You may only cross the Great Western Highway at the traffic lights where there will be event marshals. There are toilets and water in the park.

Finish procedure

You can finish at either the school (red triangle) or the alternative finish in the park (blue triangle). At both locations there will be volunteers holding the Navlight "STOP" units to greet you. They will punch your Navlight tag and remove it.

Late finishers

Competitors will have ten points deducted from their total for every minute (or part thereof) that they return late. If you are 30 minutes or more late you will be disqualified and fail to record any points.

The Map

The map will be an A3 sheet printed on waterproof paper. The scale is 1:20 000 and contours are 10m. Water points (2) and toilets (4) are marked on the map. Thanks go to Graham Field for development of the map. **IMPORTANT: YOU MUST STAY ON MARKED TRAILS ONLY!**

Mt Victoria Locality Map



Checkpoints

Checkpoints are indicated by orange/white flags. You need to register your visit to the control by holding the Navlight unit to your personal tag. It should flash when punched. All tags for your team must be punched at each control. If the light does not flash at a control, you should take a photo to record your visit.

Gear List

To Carry

- Capacity for at least 2L of water per person, more if warm weather predicted. BYO water.
- High energy snacks (there are also cafes and a petrol station in Mt Victoria)
- **First aid kit including snake bandage, space blanket & whistle (compulsory)**

- Compass
- Sunscreen
- Raincoat if wet weather forecast
- At least one phone per team to double as a camera. Note the map will only be posted on the website after the event.

To Wear

We suggest you take the following clothing and equipment:

- Long sleeve shirt
- Waterproof jacket
- Shorts or light fitting pants
- Hat and Sunglasses
- Joggers or hiking boots – some track sections are steep and muddy
- Comfortable socks

To Leave at HH

- Change of clothes and shoes
- Highlighters, string, scissors, pens, paper, calculator for route planning
- Additional food for before/after event

Coffee!

We can recommend morning coffee available from 8.00 from Lisa at Beans & Bites or Jana at the Victoria and Albert Cafe which are opposite each other on Station Street. (Cross at the traffic lights). At the finish the School P & C are planning to have coffee and cold drinks for sale. Bring cash or card.

Post Event

Volunteers from the School P&C are providing sausage sandwiches, (and a veg option), cakes and plenty of fruit. **Please bring a plate, spoon and cup or mug. Our caterers cannot provide disposables as no more single use plastics allowed in NSW.**

As a fundraiser for the Australian Himalayan Foundation a part of the entry fee is being passed on. Also, organiser Julian Ledger and Course Setter Steve McKay are both taking part in the Trailblazer – hiking at least 130km in the month of March. Your (tax deductible) sponsorship, small or large, would be very much appreciated: [AHF Trailblazer \(March 2026\)](#)

At the event end we will also be joined by mountaineer and expeditioner Greg Mortimer to say a few words about the work of the Foundation and present prizes. Greg lives on the map and has assisted with communication with landowners and the RFS. Enjoy the food offering from the Mt Vic P&C and socialise with your fellow participants. Presentations will take place at approx 4:30 pm.

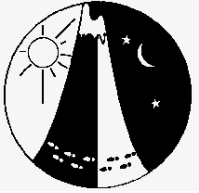
New to Rogaining?

For Novice teams, information is here: [What is Rogaining? - NSW Rogaining](#). There will also be the Novice briefing at 08.45 at the school and volunteers in Hi-Viz vests who can answer questions.

Acknowledgements

Huge thanks go to Steve McKay for his many visits and sterling work course setting; to experienced rogainer Ian Brown for local knowledge and course vetting; to Mt Victoria Public School for the Event

HQ; to Barker College for access to part of their Grange property; to the Mt Victoria community and the P&C for their support and to the Blue Mountains City Council for the event approval.



New South Wales Rogaining Association Inc.

ABN 15 314 080 648

DISCLAIMER / WAIVER

Event :

Team No.:

Car Rego.:

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

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

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.

Version: Sep. 2008