

## President's report for 2006

### *Events*

2006 was an historic year for the NSW Rogaining Association. In October 2006 we hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> World Rogaining Championships. This was the biggest 24 hour event we've ever held, with nearly 700 participants, from 16 countries. The event was held in the Warrumbungle National Park, one the finest natural areas in NSW. Thanks to many of our members who volunteered as helpers, the event was a great success.

In addition to the World Champs, we held our normal round of rogaines. The Metrogaine last year took us to Sydney's north, at Cherrybrook. The NSW Championships (24 hour) was held out west, for many of us to new terrain, in Goobang National Park south of Dubbo. The annual Paddy Pallin six hour in June, ever popular, catered for nearly 800 participants, our biggest yet. At the annual Lake Macquarie event in August, participants were introduced to the convenience of electronic scoring. To wind down after our big event in October, we had our socialgaine up in Newcastle.

Access to land is vital to our sport and we strive to ensure good relationships with land owners and managers. During 2006 we entered into a memorandum of understanding with State Forests which we hope will assure continued access to forests in future. As in the past, we have held events in National Parks this year. The assistance and full cooperation of Warrumbungle National Park staff was especially important to the success of the World Championships. Private landholders are key to many events; while many give us a warm welcome, there are also many who are less accommodating and find our requests hard to understand. We need to take care to maintain our reputation as a sport with minimal impacts for landowners.

### *Membership*

The membership secretary, Ian Almond, has provided the committee with a detailed report for 2006. Association membership numbers remained strong through the year, close to the 1000 mark, and participation numbers reached a new record at just over 2500 for the year.

At the beginning of 2006, we introduced a simplified membership system. All adult participants in rogaines are required to be members of the Association, and their membership fees cover the insurance and some other fixed costs. Participants under the age of 18 are no longer required to be members to participate in rogaines. As most juniors were previously covered by family memberships, this has little impact but simplifies administration for us.

Members now have the option as to whether or not they wish to receive a printed newsletter. Information about events, entries and news stories are available through our website. People can also download the newsletter from there if they wish. However, there remain a good number of members who like to receive the newsletter through their letterbox, to read at their leisure. For this privilege they pay an extra \$10 per year.

We are now using a commercial provider for on-line event entries. This is convenient for participants and event administrators alike.

The treasurer has provided a report and financial statements to the AGM. These have been approved by the committee. The report shows the Association's finances to be in a healthy state.

### *NSWRA volunteers and committee*

All our activities are run 100% by our members who volunteer their time to make it all happen.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have served on the Association committee this past year. These were:

*Treasurer, Tony Maloney*  
*Secretary and ARA Representative, Alan Mansfield*  
*Membership Secretary, Ian Almond*  
*Public Officer, Julian Ledger*  
*Newsletter Editor, Peter Cox (following resignation of Julie Bacon)*  
*Events Manager, Paul and Debbie Stein*  
*Equipment Officers, Bert van Netten*  
*Safety Officer, Richard Sage*  
*Archivist, Paul Batten*  
*Publicity, Graham Millar*  
*Web Master and Volunteer coordinator, Graeme Cooper*  
*General committee, David Sigley*

Also I'd like to thank **all** those who volunteered to help at events over the past year. Too many to name here, except that I especially acknowledge key roles played by the following: Alan Mansfield (WRC co-ordinator), Janet Morris, Simon George, Graeme and Vicki Cooper, Michael Watts, Carolyn Haupt, Belinda and Andrew Pope, Bob Gilbert, Bert van Netten, the Almond family, and Rob Vincent.

It's been another great year of fun and challenging rogaines.

Mike Hotchkis  
President, NSW Rogaining Association