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Minutes for the Annual General Meeting of the
NEW SOUTH WALES ROGAINING ASSOCIATION **DRAFT**

Held on Sunday 25 February 2024
 at Newport Community Centre, 11 – 13 The Boulevard, Newport NSW 2106

Attendees: Graham Field, Mike Hotchkis, Robin Cameron, Julian Ledger, Pam Montgomery, Bob Montgomery, Salome Hussein, Stuart Warren, Chris Stevenson and John Clancy.	
Meeting commenced at 1.30pm. Meeting Closed at 2.10pm.	
1.	Adoption of the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting – Sunday 26 February 2023. Motion put forward by Graham Field. Seconded by Julian Ledger. Carried
2.	President’s Report to AGM Feb-2024, Graham Field 2023 Review I’d like to thank members and the Committee for their support during my first year as President. By all measures, it’s been a pretty good year. Membership and event participation was at a record high in 2023, thanks to a couple of stand-out events and an extra event compared to previous years. The only other year in which we have run 9 events was 2019 when we had the Paddlegaine, but this attracted a relatively small number of participants. Total event entries for the year was 2769 (up 562 from last year) and we currently have 1885 members. Thanks to Chris Stevenson for all the stats.

Item 2. cont

Our performance is not just about the numbers however, and we have identified that big attendances don't necessarily equate to good events - neither do low numbers, but that's another discussion. For this Minigaine, we capped entries at 400 – I'll reserve judgement on this strategy until after the event.

The highlight event of the year was the Australian Championships out at Goobang National Park – our biggest effort to deliver (as well as cost) to put on. It was money very well spent as it was an event that needed to be safe and of top quality. Special mention to the efforts of Event Coordinator Trev, Setters David & Ronnie and the multitude of helpers before, during and after the event.

I'd like to thank the 111 volunteers that helped us bring the 2023 events to fruition. We also need to acknowledge the people who work in the background to keep the wheels turning, but don't get thanked after events. In particular:

- Julian Ledger - a wise mentor and conscience on just about every aspect of this sport, plus keeper of the trailer.
- Chris Stevenson - who is our webmaster and IT manager.
- Gill Fowler – who looks after our interactions with NPWS, Forestry and other land holders that allow us access to the land for rogaining.
- Mark von Huben – who makes sure all our equipment is topped up and operational.
- Mike Hotchkis – who keeps the finances for each event and the Association

Warwick Marsden Award

We're setting the record straight and once again awarding the Warwick Marsden Award for outstanding Volunteering efforts over the past year – we skipped a year in 2023 and announced in the most recent newsletter that Richard Sage and Nihal Danis are the recipients for the 2023 award. Unfortunately, they are not at this current event so we'll make an official award at an event in the near future.

Strategic review and plan

I've previously made these comments to the Committee at the last meeting, but feel that it's important to revisit at the AGM.

The strategic planning session was well attended and all there engaged in the spirit of the exercise - I've distributed a document (Committee only) that summarises the discussions and attempts to refine the opinions and thoughts emerging from the session as to how we manage rogaining in NSW over the next few years.

Some of the key points to emerge from the session are:

We need to be planning events a bit further out and have a dedicated sub-group responsible for event management and planning.

Item 2. cont

We need to better engage with partner organisations, such as Bushwalkers, Orienteers and companies such as Paddy Pallin.

We need to eliminate some of the things that inhibit/discourage people from organising events or getting involved – make catering easier and more predictable, potentially outsource routine tasks, such as Event Coordination.

We need to tap into and draw on the great depth of talent and experience that we have in this organisation.

We now need to turn this into a document for comment and adopt as our Strategic Plan.

2024 Events and beyond

We're looking OK for having a full set of events locked in for 2024 and I thank the course setters for stepping up to get these in place. As with last year, there will be 9 events so it will be interesting to see whether the participation rates follow a similar upward trend. We'll be visiting a few new areas and a few recycled ones and there will be 2 new course setters (Glenn Downey and Stephen McKay) having a go. This is also an encouraging trend - it was the same last year, but before that, we had very few new setters coming forward each year.

We've also penciled in a few setters and areas for events for 2025 – which is a great start for the 2025 calendar.

2024 Committee

Aside from a few changes, I expect that the 2024 Committee will look very similar to the 2023 one and echo Trev's advice at this time last year that we need to get more young people engaged with the running of our sport. I can see some shoots emerging and I think that as we saw at the Strategic planning meeting, the young and dynamic members have a great contribution to make. Making this as appealing as actually doing events is our mission as mentors and custodians of the sport.

Thanks .. Graham.

3.	<p>Treasurer’s report: Mike Hotchkis: 2023 Financial Statements</p> <p>A loss of \$9,068 was incurred at year end. This can be attributed to additional expenses incurred in delivering and co-ordinating the 2023 Australian Rogainig Championships (ARC). The ARC event held at Goobang National Park near Parkes NSW between 30 Sept & 1 Oct 2023 attracted just over 200 entrants and was heavily subsidised by NSWRA. In summary, the remaining eight events in 2023 either broke even or in the case of metroplitan events continued to make a small surplus.</p> <p>Note: No funds were distributed to members.</p> <p>It should also be noted that NSWRA accounts are prepared on a cash basis as we do not use accrual accounting. Hence expenses are incurred on receipt.</p> <p>Overall our balance sheet Total Equity improved slightly after taking into consideration the purchase of a new satellite phones, new admin computers and items purchased for the Australian Rogaining Championships (ARC) during 2023.</p> <p>The aim of the Association is to maintain a float of \$60k and thus have sufficient funding to support ongoing operations, events, and to have a reserve for emergency or unpredictable incidents. The association’s cash assets as at 31 Dec 2023 consist of \$65,031 in the bank.</p> <p>Our aim is to continue to run all events with entry fees balanced to the nature of the event and expected numbers. If we charged more for entry to the NSW Champs say, we risk deterring people from entering, and we want more people to those bush rogaines.</p>
4.	<p>Motion that the 2023 President’s Report, presented at 2024 AGM and the Accounts incorporating the 2023 Financial Statements as approved by the Committee and tabled at this meeting be adopted</p> <p>Proposed by John Clancy; Seconded by Julian Ledger. CARRIED</p>
5.	<p>Election of Office Bearers for 2024</p> <p>Committee Changes in 2024:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trevor Gollan has resigned from the Vice President Role and the Committee. Robin Cameron nominated for the position of Vice President and this was agreed by the Committee.

2. A vote of thanks to Trevor for his years of tireless service to the Committee and the sport of Roganing was made and unanimously supported by the Committee and attendees.
3. Chris Stevenson has resigned from the Committee, but will continue to provide the services of Webmaster and IT operations for NSWRA.

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5. cont Election of Office Bearers for 2024				
	Position	Nominee	Proposer	Second
	President	<i>Graham Field</i>	Chris Stevenson	John Clancy
	Vice-President	<i>Robin Cameron</i>	Chris Stevenson	John Clancy
	Treasurer	<i>Mike Hotchkis</i>	Chris Stevenson	John Clancy
	Secretary	<i>John Clancy</i>	Chris Stevenson	Graham Field
	Public Officer	<i>Andrew Duerden</i>	Graham Field	John Clancy
	Event Manager	<i>Vacant</i>		
	Volunteer Coordinator(s)	<i>Robin Cameron</i> <i>Katherine Cameron</i>	Chris Stevenson	John Clancy
	ARA Representative	<i>Michael Watts</i>	Graham Field	John Clancy
	Membership Secretary	<i>Chris Stevenson</i>	Graham Field	John Clancy
	Equipment Officer	<i>Mark Von Huben</i>	Graham Field	John Clancy
	Safety Officer	<i>Michael Watts</i>	Graham Field	John Clancy
	Publicity Coordinator	<i>Vacant</i>		
	* Webmaster	<i>Chris Stevenson</i>	Graham Field	John Clancy
	* Archivist	<i>Julian Ledger</i>	Graham Field	John Clancy
	General committee	Andrew Duerden	Mike Hotchkis	John Clancy
		Richard Sage	Mike Hotchkis	John Clancy
		Pam Montgomery	Mike Hotchkis	John Clancy
		Bob Montgomery	Mike Hoptchkis	John Clancy
		Robin Cameron	Mike Hotchkis	John Clancy

		Katherine Cameron	Mike Hotchkis	John Clancy
		<i>Tristan White</i>	Mike Hotchkis	John Clancy

* Not on Committee

6. Other Business:

Proposal to run a Navigation Workshop in conjunction with the Paddy Pallin at Rydal in June 2024.

Proposal to incentivise the Scouts and Venturers to participate at Paddy Pallin Rogaine.

Finally, a **Vote of Thanks** (As proposed by Julian Ledger) to Trevor Gollan, All Members of the Committee and Volunteers who contributed to the success of NSWRA in 2023.

AGM closed: 2.10pm