

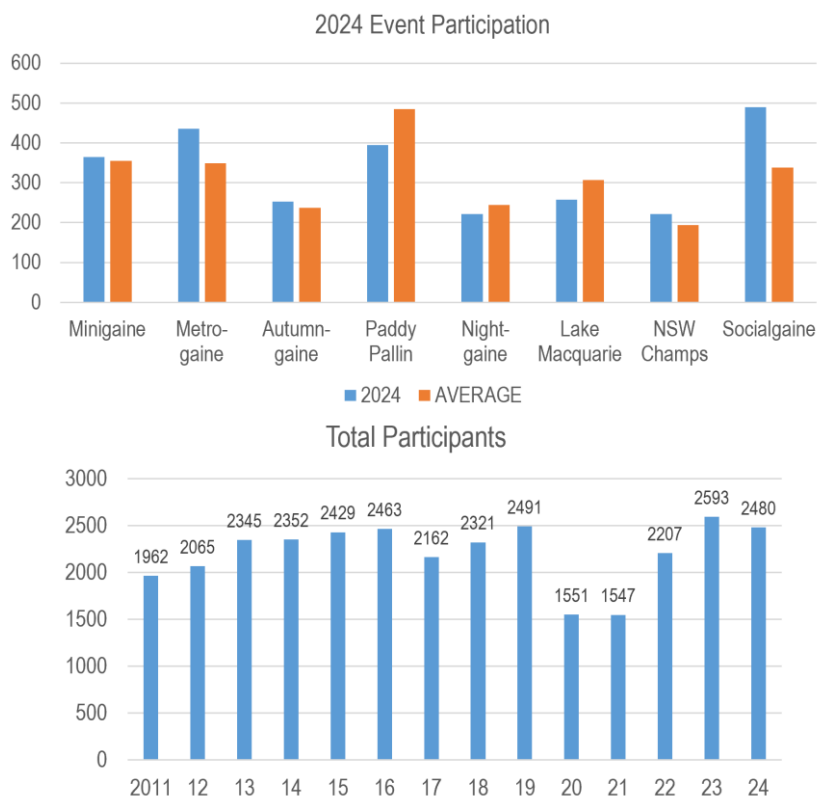
President's Report – NSWRA AGM 23/02/2025

Graham Field, Feb 2025

2024 Review

I'd like to thank members and the Committee for their support during my second year as President.

2024 has seen membership and event participation at a continuing high trend. We had 8 events (1 fewer than 2023) and total event entries for the year was 2480 (down 104 from last year, where we had 9 events). NSWRA Membership in 2024 was 1709.



There was an even mix of bush and urban events, plus a well-attended Navigation Workshop in conjunction with the Paddy Pallin event at Rydal. The Festival of Rogaining incorporating the NSW Championships at Capertee stood out as a classic rogaine that delivered a great mix of events and a world standard 24hr course that combined fantastic rogaining country, great weather, food and camaraderie. The penultimate Lane Cove Rivergaine VI was the other bookend showcasing the magnificent Sydney Harbour with a few rule few twists to exercise the minds of creative rogainers.

Rogaining in NSW exists and goes forward through the time and effort that our volunteers give to the sport. I'd like to thank the 125 volunteers that helped us bring the 2024 events to fruition and make special mention of the people who work in the background to keep the wheels turning, but don't always get thanked at events. In particular:

- **Robin Cameron** – our Volunteer Coordinator who ensures that all events have the right people in place.
- **John Clancy** – the NSWRA Secretary who keeps the Admin of the Committee in order and who's advice on governance and Committee matters I value immensely.
- **Gill Fowler** – who looks after our interactions with NPWS, Forestry and other land holders that allow us access to the land for rogaining.
- **Julian Ledger** – who lends his considerable experience to the Association, manages the Marketing Group and is keeper of the trailers.
- **Mark von Huben** – who looks after all the equipment making sure that its operational for every event.
- **Mike Hotchkis** – who controls the Associations finances and works with event organisers to set and manage a budget for each event.
- **Arthur Day** – our newsletter editor who's setting a very high standard in effective communication.

- **Hamish Mackie** – for taking on any mapping challenge and building quality maps for many events.
- **Martin Dearnley** – who coordinates the Events Group and provides support as a mentor across the board.
- **Chris Stevenson** - our webmaster and IT manager who's kept our website innovative and up to date and the IT infrastructure reliable and safe. Chris will be stepping down from this position after the 2025 Metrogaine after more than 10 years volunteer service. I'd like to formally acknowledge his contribution to NSWRA with a special vote of thanks from the Committee.
- **Salomé Hussein** and **Stu Warren** from North Sydney Scouts for their work in encouraging new rogainers and providing quality catering for our events in the past years. Stu is stepping away from catering services this year and will be very much missed.
- I'd also like to acknowledge the service of our Event Admins **Vivien de Remy de Courcelles** and **Anita Bickle** and our dedicated Newcastle team including **Bert van Netten, Anita Bickle** and **Pam and Bob Montgomery** – they are always there to lend a hand.

Working the Plan

In line with our Strategic Plan, we implemented two new subgroups to focus on Event Planning and Marketing – two areas that have previously required the hard work by dedicated individuals. That was not a sustainable model.

The **Events Group** is headed up by Martin Dearnley and aims to ensure that all events are planned well in advance and that the teams organising them have all the resources and information they need to deliver the event confidently.

The **Marketing Group** is headed by Julian Ledger and aims to coordinate the marketing and communication activities of the association. The 2025-27 Marketing Plan has been accepted by the Committee.

It's relatively early days for these groups, but already we are seeing the benefits of utilising the considerable skills of experienced rogainers in managing the sport.

What you told us

The Rogaining Year End Survey was commissioned in late 2024 and open for all of January. We had a pretty low rate of response (125 out of a possible audience of over 2000), but there was a bit of effort required to complete it and the quality of responses was good. We'll publish a summary of the findings in the near future and some of the key messages are:

- That we are doing a lot of things right for a range of things, like event mix between bush and urban, quality of the catering and general value for money.
- Time pressures, family commitments and lack of a suitable partner inhibit people from attending events. Correspondingly, there is a desire for more solo events.
- People enjoy volunteering but we can be doing more to make volunteering less daunting for the uninitiated by having well described roles.

I take all these observations as an indicator that we're doing OK but need to keep adapting with some of the changes that people need to maintain interest in the sport, such as considering more Solo events.

2025 Events and beyond

We're looking good for having a full set of events locked in for 2025 and I thank the course setters for stepping up to get these in place. There will be 9 events this year, including a couple of challenges designed to tap into some interstate rivalry and add a new dimension to the sport. The Australian Championships are in our backyard this year, hosted by ACTRA in the Snowy Mountains and we hope that NSW Rogainers can once again take a some of the top places in the state rankings.

2025 Committee

I expect that most 2024 Committee members will continue to be a part of the 2025 Committee. This is welcomed, but we really need to get more young people engaged in the running of our sport. Our survey highlighted the challenges that rogainers have in managing time and family commitments, so it's doubly hard to encourage people to further contribute to the administration of the sport.

Thanks .. Graham.