

NSW ROGAINING NEWSLETTER

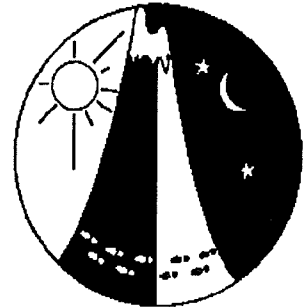
Number 68

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Madness is a Prerequisite

The front page news item for the September Rogaine Newsletter stated that preparedness is not a prerequisite for a Rogainer, however we will all agree that madness is.

I really think this is the opinion of our spouses when they see us setting off for another bout of punishment. And the course for the Bushwalkers Rogaine at Yalwal provided plenty of punishment. Very big and physical!

The team for the event was made up of Bob Embery, Geoffrey Price and David Cannings. David, a member of the Wollongong Bushwalkers Club, joined us late as his usual team had not entered. He had recognised us from previous NSW Nav Shield competitions. The weather for the event was hot and dry; yes, the rain kept away. This must be a first for a rogaine anywhere.

The Bushwalkers Rogaine at Yalwal provided plenty of punishment. Very big and physical!

Our preparations for these events usually follow a set routine. Panic! Followed by report to control and pick up maps, cover maps and control card, cook/eat hot meal and examine the map. We have found the easiest way to cover maps with contact is to use a flat surface such as your car boot lid or bonnet as a table, peel enough backing from the contact to establish a straight wrinkle free edge, stick this to the flat surface and slide the map in under the roll. Then draw the contact across the map.

Our route planning covered three possibilities, however the chosen one was to favour the eastern side of the course during daylight, and the centre over night. The high pointers of 150 and 100 were viewed as bait to draw competitors into otherwise low scoring areas.

From base camp to control 10 we followed the road adjacent to the Out of Bounds Area. By following this road we gained several minutes on competitors who went

via the lakeside road. We proceeded southeast over Jinkbilly Hill then across to Yarramun Creek for a break by the water. From here we proceeded north to the furthest control picking up all of the points on the east of Yalwal Creek along the way. The ascent from Yalwal Creek to Matson's Pass called for rock climbing skills.

We had planned to ascend this ridge via the spur, though we went up the wrong ridge and were faced with a cliff line.

Fortunately it was sufficiently broken to be climbed. The next phase of the course was to cross Yalwal Creek duck up the spur to the controls on the ridge above then south down the centre of the map towards 25. Our crossing of Yalwal creek was a protracted affair; Bob just plunged in and waded across. However Geoff and David chose to look for a dry crossing. Since the rain god was keeping away, we were going to do our utmost to keep our feet dry. Finally a crossing was found which required an Olympic standard long jump and a balancing act. Up the spur and along the ridge was through thick low scrub, and the going was very slow.

Our usual procedure for rogaines is to sleep for an hour just after sundown, work throughout the night and rest for another half hour before sun up. The evening rest stop near Matson's Pass was most welcome. Bob had a fairly bad dose of the flu that had been getting worse throughout the day. He found it very hard to get going again when we trudged off.

David took the lead from #34 through the thick bush up onto the plateau and #54. The descent to the saddle and #33 again called for rock climbing skills. We had proceeded to the southern end of the plateau and, following normal procedure, planned to just follow the ridge down to the saddle. But hang on you blokes these arrows are possibly the only way down. Yeah we will see. We got to the end of that ridge and boy what a drop, so it was back to find a more suitable and safer descent. The way down was via a long chimney in the cliff face. After #33 was easily found we decided

upon another rest stop which lasted until after dawn.

Bob's flu had really taken hold, so we decided to retire from the event, to set off towards #23 and base camp. But the path of least resistance led to the top of the next plateau. Then with Bob feeling better we continued on with the original plan.

Our advance at this stage was marked by Bob coughing, Geoff sneezing, and Dave saying bless you.

#57 proved harder than would appear by looking at the map. It was positioned in a basin that led into a creek. The checkpoint was found by following the plateau south past the point out to the northwest, establishing our position and backtracking to the checkpoint. It's amazing how other teams appear from the undergrowth when you find a tricky control. This find was no exception. From 57 through to 25 Geoff took the lead, plunging into the thick low scrub as if a man possessed, sneezing all the way. Our advance at this stage was marked by Bob coughing, Geoff sneezing, and Dave saying bless you. We were convinced we would be lucky to finish, or at best in the top third.

From 25 we followed the track along the cliff base to 36 and base camp. Time was lost when we descended a wrong ridge to 36. Luckily this error was discovered early. A check of the map at this time showed us to be about one hour behind schedule, time lost through the extra long pre-dawn rest stop. For the remainder of the event we had to push ourselves to make up this lost time.

After crossing the southern end of Danjera Dam Dave took the lead. At this stage we had just about had enough of the constant long ups and downs of the course. The climb back up two hundred plus meters to point 56 was no joy. This point was nearly missed, but Dave managed to jag it. Our last bit of fun was the jog down the ridge to base camp. To add to the fun, a ruddy great convoy of modified four wheel drives came

(Continued on page 3)

WHAT'S ON IN 1998

| Event / Coordinator | Course Setters (4) Vetters (2); Entries (1) | Admin (Total of 7 needed) | Hash House (Total of 10 needed) |
|--|--|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Metrogaine 6hr 8 March Sue Clarke Ph: 02-9816-2508 (h) | John Le Carpenter | | |
| | | | |
| | Simon George | | |
| | Annette Billinghamurst | | |
| Autumn 12/24hr 4 April Mike Hotchkis Ph: 02-4294-1363 | Mike Hotchkis | Debbie Hotchkis | Trevor Gollan |
| | George Collins | Bronwyn Monahan | |
| | Geoff Silburn | Peter Gordon | |
| | | Rachel Williams | |
| | Rollie Burford | | |
| | | | |
| Paddy Pallin 6hr Southern Highlands 14 June Stephen Castle Ph: 02-9557-7101 (h) | John Barnes | Julian Ledger | 1 st Waitara Scouts |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | Paddy Pallin | | |
| NSW Champs 24hr North of Maitland 8/9 August Alan Mansfield Ph: 02-9797-6773 | Nihal Danis | Anne Frances | Vicki Cooper |
| | Richard Sage | Russell Swanson | Margaret Hughes |
| | | | Jack Sinden |
| | | | Marley Sinden |
| | Graeme Cooper | | |
| | Anne Frances | | |
| Lake Macquarie 12hr 5 September Bert Van Netten Ph: 02-4975-3693 | Mike Hotchkis | Bill Pigram | |
| | George Collins | | |
| | | | |
| | Bill Pigram | | |
| Upside-Down 12hr 8 November ?? | Rollie Burford | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |



Metrogaine 6Hr 8 March 1998

The 1998 Metrogaine will be held in and around the centre of Sydney. The event includes streets, parks, foreshore, footpaths and even ferries for those Rogainers who prefer to take the weight off their legs for a while.

Be a tourist for a day and enjoy the sights of Sydney that you weren't aware existed!

[Ed: I hope they include the bonus point cappuccino stops like the Socialgaine!]

Sue Clarke



Autumn 12/24 Hr 4-5 April 1998

Note it in your diary today!

This will be an event for everyone to enjoy. If you haven't tried a 24 hour event before, this will be a great way to start.

There will be a pleasant mix of grazing land and forest, mainly free from scrub. Combined with clear contour features, the area will provide ideal country for those wanting to gain night navigation experience.

And we promise there will be plenty to challenge the more experienced.



We will also offer a split 12 hour event category, for those who want to be competitive, but prefer a shorter format, with the option of no night navigation.

If you're lucky you might see a platypus at this event. Coursesetters have recorded one possible sighting already. Anyway, it's a scenic area, and just 2 hours SW from Sydney.

Mike Hotchkis

Please add your name by contacting: Vicki Cooper phone: 02-6772-3584 (h)
Clunly Rd MSF2005, Armidale NSW 2350

No experience is necessary - detailed instructions are supplied. Join in the fun of working behind the scenes!



OZ Champs 9-10 May 1998

The event site is about 100km north west of Brisbane in the upper Brisbane valley and is approximately two hours

drive from Brisbane Airport.

The properties begin used for the Rogaine are generally open grazing country with 80% of the area gently undulating, lightly timbered spur/gully terrain offering very pleasant walking conditions. The rest is moderate to steep spur/gully which is

more heavily timbered with some scattered rock outcrops and a few small thickets.

The Rogaine located within easy driving of World Heritage listed Scenic Rim and the Darling Downs.

Bushwalkers - 10/11/12 October

Madness

(Continued from page 1)

up the hill and covered us with dust. The team arrived back at base with a few minutes to spare. We had followed the original planned route and apart from the extra long rest stop had kept to our timings.

The final phase is the attack on the hash house, get cleaned up and off home. It's then the true insidious madness of Rogaining makes itself evident when someone says, "Next time?"

Geoffrey Price

Stunning Vista and Marvellous Wildflowers

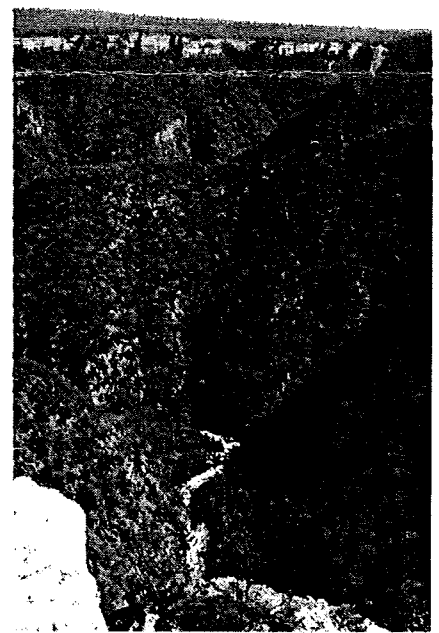
They say the older you get the wiser you get. So why would three rather wise gentleman with a combined wisdom of over one hundred and fifty years be doing putting up a tent at Yalwal on Thursday evening (9/10/97) at 11pm? Could it be that they are not as wise as they should be? Could it be that they are out for a bit of fun and frivolity in the bush? Or maybe they are Rogainers? The answer to all of the above questions is "yes they are".

One member of this group of noble individuals was Ken Simons. He had retired from twenty-four hour rogaines some time ago, but was willing to rogain for fifty hours on the grounds that it was not twenty-four hours. Another member was Ian Kentwell, who looks as old as he is. The third was myself.

Within the group there was some local knowledge. Ian had done extended walks that commenced from Yalwal on two occasions, both involving Possibility Point (the 150 pointer) and I had been on one of these.

With some trepidation we surveyed the map and, after discarding any thought of #150, selected a route that looked totally feasible, on paper at least (the hundred and fifty years of wisdom shining through here). Another very clever thing that we did was to leave the three maps in three separate pieces. This made for interesting route choices and decisions being made at the map joins (all that wisdom).

The start was rather relaxed to say the least. We were the second team to leave, about fifteen minutes after the starting rocket. We



A small part of the grand view from #150 Possibility Point; deep into Ettrema Creek

Lunacy Persevered

Jennifer Borrel (NSW) and I (ACT) started the Yalwal 24-hour near Nowra without much enthusiasm - too hot, too windy and too many hills - but by the end of the event we had enjoyed a memorable rogain.

We had planned to do a southerly route on Saturday and then a north easterly loop on Sunday. We never purposely stay out overnight because our brains become too tired and addled to navigate.

Anyway the big climb after checkpoint 10 had the usual effect - we missed the track to the southwest and blundered around for a while before forgetting the track and just navigating - we bashed through the scrub to 56, thus found the track to 63 then 24. We were by this stage having serious thoughts about making this event a Social-gaine and sitting in the creek.

Lunacy persevered, so down to 48 via a beautiful creek crossing. It would have been great to sit here for a while, but we chose the 200 metre climb to 41 instead of the planned 35/36/46. On top, between 41 and 51 it was amazingly windy on the narrow ridge but with great views. Then down, down through thick scrub to number 70 in the depths of Hell Hole Creek, reaching it at nightfall.

Our evening snack was followed by a 90 minute climb back to the ridge. We scrambled up over some cliffs only to find more "valleys" and cliffs just before the top. Then straight to the control at 50. We hadn't seen anyone for hours. After we spotted the control Sue Clarke and her partner - ever the competitor - turned on their torch. She'd been sitting eating just next to the control as we approached.

The next control at Hell Hole Point (40) was the most memorable especially since we arrived there at night; very windy, bright moon and the control on a ledge overhanging the valley - and the ledge had a huge "hole". We debated for a short while what the tactic should be if either of us fell "in".

We trudged along the road to 72 at which point Jenny suggested a strategic retreat. We abandoned plans for return via 43/53/71 because we were too tired, so walked to 56 and the grave at 10 again before food and sleep. Between 1pm and 1am we had seen only four people!

Sleep did marvellous things. From exhaustion/inability to move or think we were under way by about 7.30am. This time our loop along the creek seemed crowded! Everyone was doing the circuit - except the nasty climb to #11 to avoid the out of bounds before moving east. We hadn't counted on this climb until we got close and realised we hadn't recognised the extent of the prohibited area.

The loop was delightful, almost always in sight of the inviting river and Rogainers everywhere. As we neared the hash we were able to add #61 and #22 unexpectedly before visiting the grave (10) a third time - why were the course setters leading us to the grave?

After handing in our card it was off to the dam to cool off before a meal in the reconstructed hash (the first hash was destroyed on Saturday). Thanks for an enjoyable event.

Greg Dunstone

could see that the competition was going to be tough. Our basic technique was to treat this as a random bushwalk. Random in so far as we had only a basic plan and no self-respecting bushwalker would have followed our route.

The plan was to get over to Bundudah Creek for the Friday night and get back to the Hash for Saturday night. The route choice was easy. Climb up a hill, go down a hill and there you are. So off to Belmore Flat, then up the "track" to Morley Saddle. Just as well there is no consumer protection body for Rogainers: where on earth was that track up to Morley Saddle? (False advertising!) After the beautiful track to Belmore Flat the scrub-bash up to the Saddle was a surprise.

We also took the opportunity to climb up onto the plateau for #80. For me this was one of the highlights. The wildflowers on the plateau were stunning, water scarce, scrub thick and the views magnificent.

(Continued on page 4)

Bushwalkers - 10/11/12 October

50 Hour Event Course

| Team | Score | Time | O | M | W | X | V | J | F |
|--|-------|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 43 Ian Nerrie, Paul Sharp, Cora Wolswinkel | 1340 | 11.08 | 1 | | | 1 | | | |
| 36 Ian Kentwell, Noel Luff, Ken Simons | 1160 | 11.48 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| 21 Peter Fletcher, Andrew Pope, Belinda Pope | 920 | 10.42 | 3 | | | 2 | | | |
| 2 Sonia Kupina, Alan Mansfield | 900 | 18.20 | 4 | | | 3 | | | |
| 4 Chris Aiken, Jan pralits, Paola Ramirez | 420 | 11.52 | 5 | | | 4 | | | |
| 15 Graeme Cooper, Vicki Cooper | 350 | 11.38 | 6 | | | 5 | 2 | | |

24 Hour Course Course

| Team | Score | Time | O | M | W | X | V | J | F |
|--|-------|-------|----|----|---|----|----|---|---|
| 27 David Cannings, Robert Embery, Geoffrey Price | 1330 | 11.55 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| 42 Julian Ledger, Bert van Netten | 1230 | 11.38 | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | | |
| 34 Sue Clarke, Simon George | 1200 | 10.40 | 3 | | | 1 | | | |
| 5 Matt Chamberlain, Patrick Paynter, Carolina Roman | 1180 | 11.52 | 4 | | | 2 | | | |
| 44 Anthony Hunt, Martin Krause, John Morris | 850 | 11.23 | 5 | 3 | | | | | |
| 31 Jennifer Borrell, Greg Dunstone | 850 | 11.47 | 6 | | | | 3 | | |
| 1 David Jones, Warren Jones | 790 | 11.10 | 7 | 4 | | | | | 1 |
| 38 Rosemary Austen, Steve Garlick | 760 | 11.10 | 8 | | | 4 | 4 | | |
| 6 Daniel Marlay, Emma Murray | 710 | 11.52 | 9 | | | 5 | 5 | | |
| 41 Merv English, Anne Francis | 700 | 11.38 | 10 | | | 6 | 5 | | |
| 32 Kathy Herrmann, Kristiane Herrmann | 690 | 18.59 | 11 | 1 | | | 6 | | |
| 16 John Keats, Peter Wherry | 670 | 10.42 | 12 | 5 | | | 7 | | |
| 39 Debbie Hotchkis, Mike Hotchkis | 640 | 11.50 | 13 | | | 7 | 8 | | |
| 11 Nihal Danis, Richard Sage | 600 | 11.31 | 14 | | | 8 | | | |
| 30 Lynn Dabbs, Kevin Williams | 580 | 10.35 | 15 | | | 9 | 9 | | |
| 28 Malcolm Hughes, Ken Smith | 550 | 0.00 | 16 | 6 | | | 10 | | |
| 37 Michael Hutchings, Ron Hutchings, Rachel Hutchings, Tom Hutchings | 520 | 11.47 | 17 | | | 10 | | | 2 |
| 3 Michael Lawrence, Julian Lee | 510 | 11.52 | 18 | 7 | | | | | |
| 13 Kirsten Linneemann, Janet Steel | 420 | 11.38 | 19 | | 2 | | | | |
| 40 Lyn Berg, Tony Bond, Jon Marsden | 410 | 0.00 | 20 | | | 11 | | | |
| 12 Maureen Cavill, Denise Green | 310 | 11.50 | 21 | | 3 | | 11 | | |
| 24 Stewart Amery, David Brooks | 300 | 10.00 | 22 | 8 | | | 12 | | |
| 20 Jocelyn Booth, Ted Booth | 230 | 17.40 | 23 | | | 12 | 13 | | |
| 35 Anthony Lloyd, Justin Redmayne | 220 | 11.30 | 24 | 9 | | | | 1 | |
| 18 Danielle McNeil, Cassandra Nolan, Anne O'Brien, Kathlene Quartly | 160 | 19.30 | 25 | | 4 | | | | 2 |
| 19 Emma Hill, Jessica Leslie, Elizabeth O'Brien, Megan Wholohan | 160 | 19.30 | 26 | | 5 | | | | 3 |
| 22 John Hodsdon, Val Hodsdon | 140 | 15.00 | 27 | | | 13 | 14 | | |
| 45 Gary Brown, Sarah Lam, Mxran Lindsay | 140 | 11.45 | 28 | | | 14 | | | |
| 29 Julian Radom, Suzanne Schamschula | 90 | 11.46 | 29 | | | 15 | | | |
| 26 Christophe Stewart, John Stewart | 50 | 21.00 | 30 | 10 | | | | | 3 |
| 14 Nejdet Danis, Petrea Stuart | 40 | 10.24 | 31 | | | 16 | 15 | | |
| 25 Alicia Hodgekiss, Scott Penrose | 30 | 17.00 | 32 | | | 17 | | | |
| 17 Anne Driver, Andrew Duff, John Hall | 30 | 17.30 | 33 | | | 18 | | | |
| 23 S Anderson-Meehan, K Arnold, Frances Lee | 10 | 15.00 | 34 | | 6 | | | | |

(Continued from page 3)

Camp that night was on Bundundah Creek near #47. Perfect night. Just as well because we had no tents ... we were going to be in the "camping caves along the creek" (more false advertising).

The plan for the second day was almost the same as the first day (ie. climb up a hill, go down a hill). One of the mysteries of life is why the half bottle of rum that was in my pack had to do the same trip. (Answer: I was too stuffed the first night to drink any). Mind you, several cans of Guinness didn't suffer the same fate and were much appreciated around the fire on the previous night.

A good early start. And off down the Creek, meeting some of the other fifty hour competitors coming the other way. One team had suffered what could have been a serious injury - a sprained ankle. Fortunately it was not as serious as it first looked and they were able to take first place for the event.

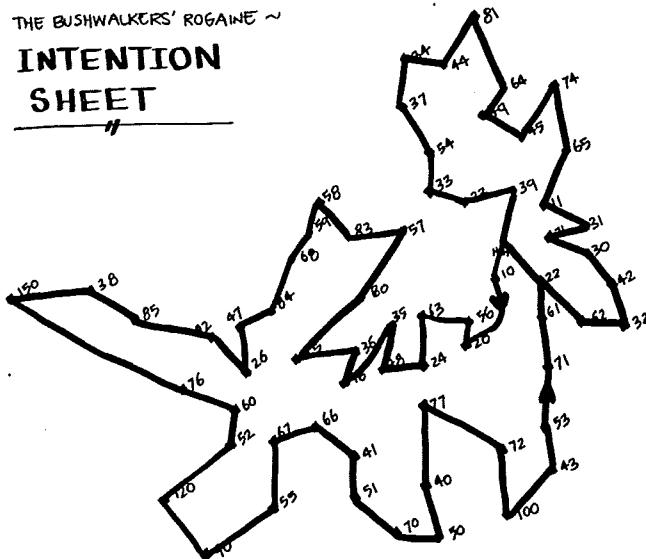
Another highlight of the rogaine was the passes. We went through a number of them on our way back to the Hash. The pick of the lot was the one to the north of the Saddle on the way to #54. A wide ramp, an amphitheatre and a final narrow slot leading up through the cliff line. All topped off with the biggest rock orchid I have ever seen.

We picked up a couple of controls in the dark, just to show that we could do it, and got into the Hash for a feed and a sleep.

Third day, and away we go again, this time for a quick lap round the loop to the east. This was where a single map

THE BUSHWALKERS' ROGAINE ~

INTENTION SHEET



Join the dots to reveal ... a dragon! The slightly ambitious intension sheet of 50 hr entrants: Ian Nerrie, Paul Sharp and Cora Wolswinkel.

(rather than the three pieces) would have saved a considerable amount of effort. We were almost up at #61 on Jinkbilly Ridge when we decided to duck down to #22, only to have to regain the height again for #61.

And so to the final half hour. At 11:30 we are struggling up the slope from #21 (the road to the east being non-existent). Now you would think that with all of the combined wisdom of the group and with fifty hours to do it there would be no need to run the last two kilometres, but that is what we had to do.

One of the advantages of getting on a bit is that the short term memory starts to fade. A few weeks on, as I pen this account, all my scratches have healed, the memory of pushing up hills through tea tree with a semi-full pack is non-existent, and I am once again in my nice comfy air-conditioned office. All that remains are the memories of stunning vista and marvellous wildflowers, plus a half bottle of rum which must await another trip up and down hills before its final consumption around a campfire.

Thank you very much to the organisers. I have decided not to pursue any false advertising claims. The rogaine was thoroughly enjoyable and the effort that went into setting it must have been huge.

Bushwalkers - 10/11/12 October

The Relaxed Risotto Rogainers

That's not the Budawangs!!

It was billed as a non-competitive rogaine in the Budawangs.

Non-competitive – what's that! And Yalwal's not the %%%\$%#&(*%# Budawangs? It appeared we had been deceived.

Thursday – Picked up Kempsey resident, Pete Fletcher from Sydney Airport. Enjoyed pseudo-Italian dinner with an exceptional bottle of red in Kiama after cruising the town for an Indian restaurant. Finally



Possibility Point (#150). Magnificent views, but unfortunately no entrants managed the trip.

arrived at the Rogaining campsite, Andrew still in his suit.

Friday - leisurely breakfast, whilst planning our usual outrageous guesstimates on where we were going – Control 150 here we come! After a really enthusiastic start (not!) we made our way across the dam and got our feet wet within the first hour. We climbed through open vegetation to #23 quickly realising that full battle gear was far too hot and changed into shorts and a T-shirt. Followed track to ridge and dashed down to bag #33. Climbing up to the plateau to #57 was slow going in thick head height scrub. Found the creek and the race was on to see who would spot the control first. Andrew decided the control was downstream, Pete thought it was upstream and I just went straight ahead. "Found it" said I, much to the guys' disgust.

We enjoyed a lunch of crackers, cheese and chutney on the edge of the plateau overlooking Danjera Creek then headed south-west through areas of open scrub, masses of pink flowers and past babbling brooks to #80. Our legs were starting to hurt, a lot, by this stage from the nasty scrub on the plateau – we were looking forward to Bundundah Creek. From here

we headed north to #83 through scratchy vegetation and descended through thick scrub to #58, very glad that we had chosen not to ascend this ridge.

We hit Bundundah Creek around 5pm and it soon became apparent that we were going to take the non-competitive nature of this rogaine VERY seriously. The creek was gorgeous. It would have been a pity to traverse it in the dark.

we continued and bagged 68, 84, 47 and 26.

"Anyone want to go for 150?" I don't think so! By this stage it was very hot and we just had to have a swim at the junction of Strike Creek before making our way up through open scrub to #25. We had another fine lunch of cheese, chutney and crackers on the ridge between 25 and 67 then sidled our way across to Pete's namesake "Fletchers Crown" (#67). Walking through the creek had been pleasant but the ridges were oppressively hot. Our legs ached from the scratchy scrub – it was time to get back to a creek for a swim. We thus descended to Danjera Creek claiming #66 along the way. Here we were greeted with another fabulous campsite and another waterhole for a swim.

"Anyone for pre-dinner drinks?" "Yes please", followed by vegie curry and rice. "Anyone feel like stumbling around in the dark for a while?" "Nah". Set up camp under a fly sheet for another great nights sleep after promising ourselves we would get up early so we could make it back in time.

Sunday - after a hearty breakfast of porridge we followed a cattle trail along the river and climbed up to #46 (where Pete realised he had lost his hat. Did anyone find a beaten up Akubra?) then to #48 and #35. Crossed Danjera Creek and followed the trail towards #24 where we started seeing more people from the 24-hr event. They looked rather clean. They went to exceptional lengths to keep their feet dry whereas the thought of taking off our boots for a creek crossing never entered our minds. We easily bagged 63, 56 and 10. After looking at the headstones of the Fletcher family in the graveyard we made our way back to the campsite for a yummy lunch (thanks to the cooks and helpers).

We had a fantastic time and really enjoyed the area we saw. What could be more enjoyable than spending time with friends, "throwing stones in the river in the afternoon sun" (Billy Bragg) and bagging a few Rogaining points on the way to make it all worthwhile?

Do it again? In a beautiful area like this, for sure. Congratulations on organising a top rogaine.

Did anyone find any camping caves???

*Belinda & Andrew Pope and
Pete Fletcher.*

A big thankyou to all the Hash House helpers at the Bushwalkers Event

Kerry Gilmore

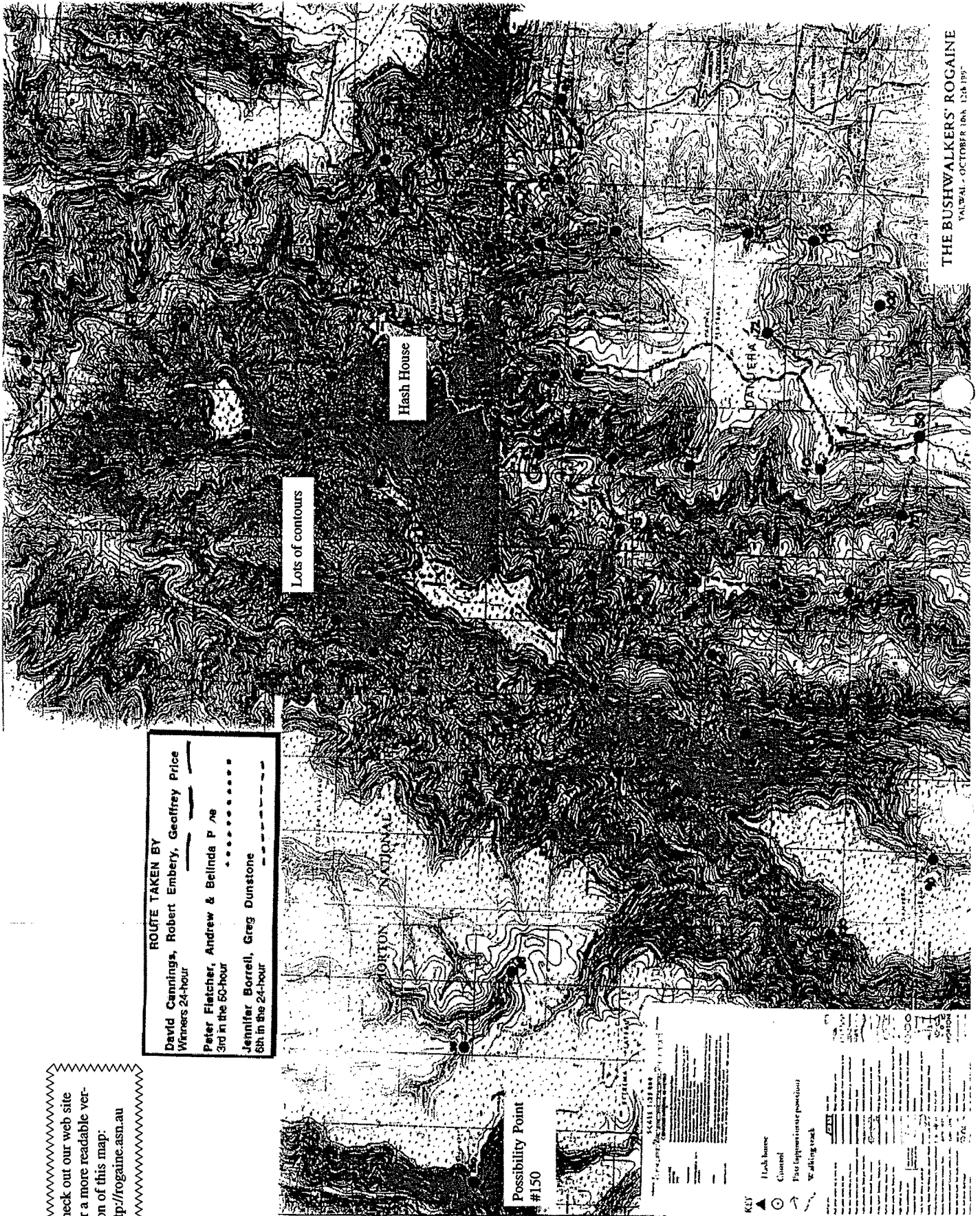
We found a superb campsite, grassy, with a spa and swimming pool next door for a much-needed cool down (nude of course!).

Pete kindly supplied (and carried) pre-dinner drinks (Baileys) which was followed by a dinner of risotto supreme (ham, rice, dehydrated vegies and parmesan cheese). Night was spent under a fly sheet with most of us having a good night sleep!

Saturday – whilst eating breakfast another group passed us (the first of the rogaine). They seemed impressed when we said we had stopped at 5 ... until we told them it was 5pm. They had walked until 3am. It was our turn to be suitably impressed. We got off to a great start when Pete decided he had lost his T-shirt and went in search of it!! Bagged #59 and passed a veteran team who were also carrying pre-dinner drinks... cans of Guinness.

We splashed through the creek abandoning all attempts to keep our feet dry and came across the Victorian team who had passed us earlier. One of the team members had sprained her ankle. Doctor Pete (after asking for a medicare card) offered advice. "Do you have bandages? Aspirin?" After establishing they were all right

Bushwalkers - 10/11/12 October



THE BUSHWALKERS' ROGAINE
TALWAI - OCTOBER 10A 12:30 PM

ROUTE TAKEN BY
 David Cannings, Robert Embery, Geoffrey Price
 Winners 24-hour
 Peter Fletcher, Andrew & Belinda P /s
 3rd in the 60-hour
 Jennifer Borrell, Greg Dunstone
 6th in the 24-hour

Check out our web site
 for a more readable ver-
 sion of this map:
<http://rogaine.asn.au>

Presidents Pontification

1997 was the year of seven NSW Rogaines and all of them dry - can any club historian tell me if this feat has been achieved before. The Committee has decided to take full credit and doesn't want to hear from anyone who got caught in the hail storm on Mt Sugarloaf at the Lake Macquarie event - they were dry hail stones.

We started with an outstanding event at Mt Werong south of Oberon where Rolly Burford and Jitka Kopriva had set a large and varied course requiring stamina and cunning. Panting up the hills following Walter I resolved to get fit. The hash house in the capable hands of Graeme & Vicki Cooper was a delight.

From there it was a May Metrogaine around the upper Lane Cove valley of Pennington Hills in the capable hands of 1995 Metrogaine winners Sue Kurlle and Ian Cameron where another astonishingly large piece of Sydney bush unravelled before us. Three weeks later we were wrapped up against the cold wind of Bargo for the 34th Paddy Pallin Rogaine. Course designer, Trevor Gollan with accomplices Geoff Silburn and Steve Cliffe kept organisers warm with a fine hall, trouble was it was a couple of km off the map resulting in an unprecedented number of late returning teams - sharpen up everybody this is meant to be a thought sport!

We then settled down for a winter sojourn broken for some by the trials of the Nav 97 Search and Rescue 29hr and for others the Aus Championships in the Flinders Ranges - by all accounts stunning scenery. By the way if you have never been to such a championship event don't be deterred. It is much the same as any other rogainie except for being more competitive at the top end. Our peace was broken by the restless energy of Andrew Wiz and Tony Maloney who organised the 'Spur of the Moment' Upside Down event on the spur of the moment. Quite how it all came together was a mystery to many who got roped into help. We revisited the site of a former Paddy Pallin Rogaine at Glenbrook national park. The rogainie was memorable for Uni of NSW students (people who make their first event one starting at midnight have a lot of potential), the great hash house crew and winners the Barnes brothers who arrived at the event by bicycle.

A Rogaining tradition in NSW has become the Lake Macquarie 12 Hr under the guidance of Bert Van Netten. This year I would have done better had I recognised that more than one control was the same as that in the same event in 1993 (but from the other direction) and also if I had managed to be as fit as partner Anne Francis. Congratulations to a number of the teams with high scores who did exceptionally well. From there we went to the Budawangs where Geoff Bailey had set a mega-course suitable for a 50 hour event which attracted 11 teams of pioneers. The rest of us tackled a challenging 24Hr. Bert marched me around a very satisfying route which included three brew ups on the course. Had we thought to put a few rocks in the backpacks of the only team we met during a long 10pm to 10am spell we might have won! Thanks go to the resourceful hash house crew led by Kerry (I'm going trekking in Nepal) Gilmore who repaired a wind gust ravaged situation with little fuss.

Finally to the Spit Roast Socialgaine in Newcastle where Arthur Kingsland's course showed off some of the best parts of the historic city. We are indebted to Newcastle Orienteers for helping make it all happen. My family team only made four controls in five hours due to the beaches in between.

Thanks go to all those mentioned above plus a whole lot more who helped coordinate, set, vet, hang and collect controls, cook, administer, organise water, transport, people Ours is a sport entirely run on a voluntary basis. We needed everyone who helped this year to make the events run well. Next year we will need some of the same and some different people. If you would like to help, make a phone call to a coordinator of an event and there will be a spot for you.

Thanks also to the 1997 Committee who have worked hard to make it all happen whilst also planning for the future. Especially your editor Stephen Castle who brings out this newsletter on a timely basis, has put our Assoc info on the Web (<http://rogaine.asn.au>) then follow the NSW link), and overhauled our how to organise an event manual. Secretary Sue Clarke for enthusiasm, hospitality and snappy minutes, Treasurer Tony Maloney for keeping the purse strings (tight!), Calendar coordinator Alan (I've been to Nepal too) Mansfield, Vice President Simon George, Membership Secretary Graeme Cooper with help from Vicki who have been awarded the Warwick Marsden Award for

1997 (see separate article) and other members Andrew Wiz, Trevor Gollan, Ken Smith, Nihal Danis, Mike Hotchkis and Anne Francis.

Every year the Committee needs new blood. Let me know if you would like to become involved in 1998. We would particularly like to hear from anyone with ideas for promotion of Rogaining - why should we not share the highs and lows with more people.

Julian Ledger

Warwick Marsden Award 1997

By unanimous decision the Warwick Marsden Award for 1997 has been given to Graeme and Vicki Cooper for their outstanding work for the sport of Rogaining in NSW during this and many previous years. Known to every Rogainer Graeme is the quiet achiever who creates our marvellous Hash Houses with skill and thoroughness whilst Vicki with her winning ways has convinced many members to put a bit back in by helping out at the hash house or in some other way - an experience most find very enjoyable. Oh yes, Graeme also keeps our membership records and has restored the Assoc trailer - all this from the considerable inconvenience of Armidale

The Award was founded in 1996 to commemorate the life and times of an outstanding man who a year earlier aged only in his forties had died from cancer. Warwick Marsden was for a number of seasons the biggest contributor to the sport. He was a cheerful, energetic, talented and inspirational man who extended his friendship to all he met. In presenting the Award to Graeme and Vicki, President, Julian Ledger, referred to the celebration of these qualities and said there could be no more worthy recipients.

Graeme and Vicki were last seen carrying their award (two canvas Director's chairs), assorted luggage plus a large box of flags for repair along the country platform at Central Station. Goodonya G & V!

Membership Renewal

It's that time of year when memberships lapse. This year the Committee resolved to send out a renewal notice to each member early in the new year to bring in renewals in good time and overcome the problem of people not getting around to renewing because the events available are not convenient, then falling off the mailing list and losing touch without ever intending to drop out of our wonderful sport! There will be a small increase in membership fees with the

goal of strengthening finances which are a bit thin for comfort. A couple of years ago the decision was made to reduce membership fees and rely more heavily on event fees - this has only been a partial success. The goal now is for membership fees (1998 - individual \$12, family \$15, household \$12 plus \$3 for each extra person) to at least meet the cost of newsletters, subscription to the Australian Rogaining association (per capita fee) and public liability insurance. Events then need to make money to replace equipment, meet one offs like subsidised transport as well as meet all their own

costs. Noone is paid for any work in the Rogaining Association.

Along with your renewal notice will be a simple questionnaire to ask you what you like and dislike about the sport. This will guide the Committee in planning future events and is a chance for you to have a say. (Not the only one - you are encouraged to speak up any time). Fill it out and wait with baited breath for a future newsletter with the results.

Mailbox

Your over-reaction (last Newsletter) about dropping packs on the course justifies a response.

Intelligent backpack depositing is a traditional, acceptable and tactical technique of Rogaining.

If you have an out-and-back-control, or a loop that can return you to a starting point, why carry that load unnecessarily? It's always physically and mentally uplifting to drop that burden, and kick up your heels for a bit.

There is nothing in the Rogaining rules against dropping your pack. The rules

sensibly state that you may not leave rubbish on the course ... so you must collect your pack before proceeding to the finish. NSW rules specify that you must always carry a compass, map and first aid kit ... so they need to be in your hand, or a bum bag perhaps?

It also makes sense to carry some water with you; George Collins and I tackled the grand loop at Hampton (1988 Champs - do you recall the 500m drop into the Cox's Valley farmland then return up to the forest?). We were parched by the time we completed the five hour trip without water.

As for the tactic of placing your pack in a

highly visual place so that you can use it as a navigational aid - it's probably quite legitimate. Perhaps we will see people with flashing beacons on their packs as a night-time aid? My fear would be that some diabolical competitor would relocate the pack and steer me astray.

And you never, never leave your pack in a visible position. With Bert Van Netten on the course (and he usually is!) a dropped pack tends to gain weight. Many are they who drag into the hash-house to find a few rocks in their backpacks, with Bert's compliments.

Trevor Gollan



Bill Pigram (Event Admin) and some of the Hash House crew at the Lake Macquarie Rogaine: Peter Tamsett, Vicki Cooper, Betty Stewart, Russell Taylor, David Scobie and Nick Quinsey

MAKE SURE YOU STAY ON THE RIGHT TRACK

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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

Upside Down Results

Bushwalkers

| | | | | |
|----|---|------------------|-------------------------|------|
| 14 | M | John Barnes | Barnes Barnes | 1060 |
| 35 | M | Matt Chamberlain | Chamberlain Chamberlain | 990 |
| 5 | X | George Stuart | Collins Ford | 930 |
| 23 | X | John Sue | Le Carpentier Clarke | 930 |
| 10 | M | Tom Peter | Cardingley Charleton | 900 |
| 11 | W | Netta Marnie | Holmes Holmes | 880 |
| 31 | M | Robert Geoff | Sloss Murphy Hughes | 870 |
| 24 | M | Brett Paul | Williams Foura | 840 |
| 8 | M | Brent Michael | Crowley Korompey | 770 |
| 39 | X | Daniel Danielle | Marlay Cole Devine | 760 |
| 17 | M | Rod Bob | Tracey Kimbrey | 720 |
| 16 | X | Alan Sonia | Mansfield Kupina | 710 |
| 18 | M | Michael Arthur | Burton Kingsland | 680 |
| 25 | M | Kevin George | Lloyd Hauswirth | 670 |
| 19 | M | David Peter | Dash Tamssett | 660 |
| 34 | M | Sam Stuart | Arnold Thomson | 660 |
| 20 | M | Roger | Austen | 650 |
| 38 | X | Brett Hideaki | Williams Takasageuwg | 630 |
| 21 | X | Merv Anne | English Francis | 620 |
| 6 | X | Andrew Belinda | Pope Pope | 570 |
| 37 | X | Martin Carolina | Hidas Roman Aiken | 570 |
| 13 | M | John David | Bowles Richards | 540 |
| 22 | M | Andrew Nick | Taylor Quinsey | 540 |
| 15 | X | Lynda Scott | Le Vaillant Smith | 530 |
| 28 | W | Marilyn Lesley | Ferris Taylor | 530 |
| 30 | M | Bill Wal | Pigram Mills | 460 |
| 2 | X | Ailsa Mark | MacKenzie Simons | 430 |
| 27 | X | Tracey Grant | Mitchell Maizels | 430 |
| 29 | M | Wayne Cameron | Heath Rae | 370 |
| 3 | X | Debbie Mike | Hotchkis Hotchkis | 330 |
| 9 | X | Grant Anna | Horrey Clarke | 330 |
| 12 | X | Stephen Rhonda | Castle Monahan | 320 |
| 7 | X | Glen Cindy | Downey Webster | 310 |
| 40 | X | Tomoka Stuart | Oyama Lessells | 310 |
| 50 | X | Debbie Jason | Buck Middleweek | 280 |
| 1 | M | Neil Peter | Glick Morris | 270 |
| 36 | M | Wayne Geoff | Scott Davis | 120 |
| 42 | X | Nick Claire | Coppins O'Brien | 60 |
| 32 | M | Phil John | Allen Guilly | -20 |

Too Big

I've been involved with the creation of two rogaine courses this year. Both of them too big. That is, if you use the Rogaining guidelines where the winners should reach 95% of the controls.

At Bargo, for the Paddy Pallin 6-hour, we deliberately set a large course so that the predicted 500+ participants wouldn't be overcrowded in the bush. Robert Preston and Andrew Hill collected 60% of the maximum score.

Yalwal was big for a different reason. When Geoff Bailey selected the area he was very keen to include a control at Possibility Point, a top spot that stretches airily into Ettrema Gorge. It is infrequently visited because of its remoteness, and it's one of Geoff's favourite places.

It was obvious that Possibility Point was an impossibility for a 24-hour rogaine, but given 50-hours ... it just might be practicable. Blame the VRA Endurogaine earlier this year for triggering the idea, and blame me for applying that idea here.

With the winning score being 41% of the available points on offer we had to question the course-setting effort. By the way, no-one went out to Possibility Point. Its remoteness remained intact and unviolated.

On the positive side, the reports reflected a true bushwalking experience, and that was one of our primary goals. Especially the spectacular terrain and lack of other people.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the construction of the event, especially:

Course Setting: Geoff Bailey

Coordinator & Admin: Geoff Silburn

Catering: Kerry Gilmore & Gail Roland

Equipment: Graeme & Vicki Cooper

and:

Course-setting:

George Takacs, Trevor Gollan, Rod Napier, Geoff Silburn

Hash-house, Admin and stuff:

Charlie Fenech, Hans Roland, Jim Meek, Geoff Bailey, Jennie Bond, Kerry Gilmore, Joel Roland, Gail Roland, Phil Allen, John Guilly, Margaret Hughes, Bob Bartle, Jo Parr, Mark Sutters, Bert van Netten

Flag Collecting:

Graeme Cooper, Mike Hotchkis, Peter Watterson, George Collins, Geoff Silburn, Trevor Gollan

Trevor Gollan

Looking Back

I still can't remember actually agreeing to coordinate the Bushwalker's event, but after a couple of weeks it gained a momentum all it's own. It turned out to be OK, as most of the hard stuff could be delegated, a bit frustrating at times, but ultimately rewarding with the feedback that we received from the teams that enjoyed the event.

I'm not going to enter the debate about the course, other than to say that in 10 hours I collected 580 points, and found this hard work. I'd still like to have seen more of the course.... The instructions and setter's notes did warn that the terrain and vegetation would force slow going in parts, though this did not deter some teams from aiming high. Team 43's intention sheet included every control (they were in the 50 hour event, after all), resulting in a 'join the dots' picture of a dragon (see page 4). Perhaps we should have talked to them about where they were *really* likely to go.

Special thanks need to go to Vicki and Graeme for their work with setting up and packing away, to Kerry for the catering effort, and to Charlie as the driving force for getting the hash house rebuilt.

And a definite "hats off" to Geoff Bailey as many of the teams commented - a special course in a special area.

Geoff Silburn

A True Socialgaine - 15 November 1997



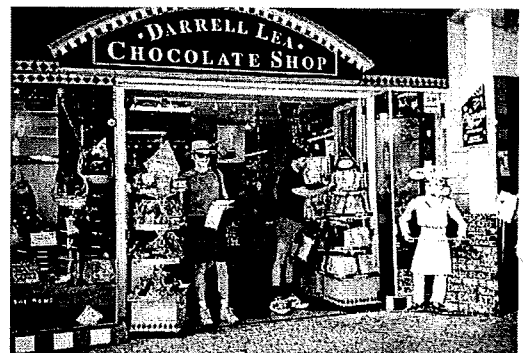
1. Guys, the event started an hour ago!
Rhonda Monahan & Stephen Castle with Admin Coordinator Geoff Peel



6. Lunch time siesta
(Our third team member, Robert Loader)



2. There's no time to shop - we are here to win!



7. Mmmm, chocolate!



3. Oh look! Tea! We'll just spend a few minutes in here ...



8. Just seconds to spare!
(Event Organiser, Arthur Kingsland)



4. Tap, tap, tap goes the shoe ... the clocks ticking Stephen



9. We did exceptionally well - see, just behind the winners
(Mixed winners: Judy van der Geest & Mike Garmont)



5. Ocean views, wine, good food, mobile gossip - what's this? A Rogaine map?



10. Reality check!

Socialgaine - 15 November 1997

An Analytical Approach!

The objective that Ross Barr and I had was to maximise our score, subject to the constraint of walking. We resisted the temptation of a "suck it and see" approach to route selection. This article explains our "analytical" approach.

With any rogain, the key decision is the route planned pre-departure. Once you have committed to an initial course away from the start, your options considerably narrow.

Our first step was to estimate our average pace for the six hours. 5km per hour seemed reasonable for walking, implying a total distance capability of 25-30km (including contingency).

The second step was to identify a conservative "core" route that seemed broadly to match this distance constraint: 10-11-5-30-28-32-41-50-51-81-100-46-47-13-37-35-36-44-45-64-60-56-40-27-31-23-57-27. This offered 1,035 points, implying a value for time of about 170 points per hour or 30 points every 10 minutes. This provides a benchmark against which to assess the profitability of variations to the core route. We hoped to have time to insert the loop 42-62-43-52-61-34-24 between 60 and 56. We would make this decision during the course.

Our core route reflected the identification of three routes west from the start - a northern "wharf" route (our departure choice), a middle "high points" route (our return choice) and a southern coastal route, eliminated because of its low points content. We set aside the option of an out-and-back to Nobbys Head - only 100 points for a distance of some 3.8km, which clearly failed the value of time.

We executed the initial portion of the core route as planned, except for the (wrong) decision to omit 28 (whose points value was worth the deviation). Conversely, we probably should have dropped 5, but when you're already at 11 and the control is merely up some stairs.....

When between 81 and 100 after only an hour it was obvious that we needed a substantial increase to our route plan. We

planned the following variation - from 13, now do 38-71 then 68-39-49-65-64 (then rejoining the original core route) and, if time permits, more Blackbutt Reserve controls and possibly 67,66 and/or 82.

We ended up doing 13-38-55-71-68-39-49-48-90-54-67-66-65-64-60. This reflected, in part, an absence of time losses at controls because the clue descriptions were invariably clear and precise. In addition, significant time could sometimes be saved by identifying the clue answer some distance from the control site. For example, at 32 the foundation year of the Wickham school could be read over 100 metres away. (We smiled upon seeing a team of runners orbiting the school, while the answer was in large letters above them!). Similarly, at 13 we smiled as another team of runners ran up to the group of posts whereas we counted them from the western edge of the reservation, saving over 200 metres.

Our revised target was to reach 60 with 2 hours remaining in order to add the north-eastern group of controls in Murdering Gully. We lagged by 10 minutes. Accordingly, we dropped the option of 82 but pushed through 42-62-43-52-61, reaching Hickson Street with one hour remaining, which was our target set at 60. With a sprinkling of light jogging, we then completed 34-24-56 and then the balance of the original core route with a minute to spare.

Our total score of 1825 points (incorrectly totalled as 1775 at the event) indicates that our pre-departure planning was grossly conservative. We travelled faster than assumed and virtually needed no time contingency for searches at control sites or route execution errors.

Some other tips for young players wishing to increase their score are:

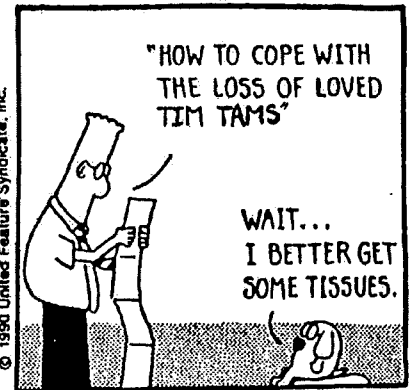
- all navigation planning should be conducted while on the move
- before arrival at a control site work out the exit direction so again you avoid stopping.
- navigation planning can be delegated so that one team member focuses on keeping the team on track for the current leg while the other reviews the merits of future route variations, to what extent you are in overall time

trouble or surplus, etc.

- optimise the planned route for each leg. For example on 81-100 distance can be saved by short-cutting through a school; similarly, 56-40.
- keep your eyes open for short cuts. On 41-50 we followed the example of Bert van Netten's team in availing of an unmapped footbridge over the railway line. On 61-34, Ross spotted unmapped steps that connected Hickson St to Scenic Drive. This both shortened the route and removed the risk of negotiability of the cliff-top at the eastern end of Hickson Street.
- pay attention to control site access eg. 82, approached from 60, requires significant extra distance than might first meet the eye.
- read the clue carefully in advance so that you unhesitatingly approach, say, the target side of a building control site.
- when walking alongside a busy road which you must ultimately cross, do not defer the crossing. A pair of runners who had overtaken us during the leg 100-46 lost their advantage because they delayed crossing Newcastle Road until directly opposite Karoola Road then had to wait minutes for a break in the traffic.

Finally, a powerful capability to develop is the accurate pre-estimation of the time necessary to complete each upcoming leg. This can add interest to the activity of rogain and provides an incentive to maintain pace by hitting/bettering your pre-estimate. By continually comparing your outcome time with your pre-estimate, you develop a skill that can be applied to ensure that you fully exploit, but do not exceed, the six hour time limit. Use of a compass with a 1:25,000 scale to measure the leg distance assists the pre-estimation task.

Ian McKenzie



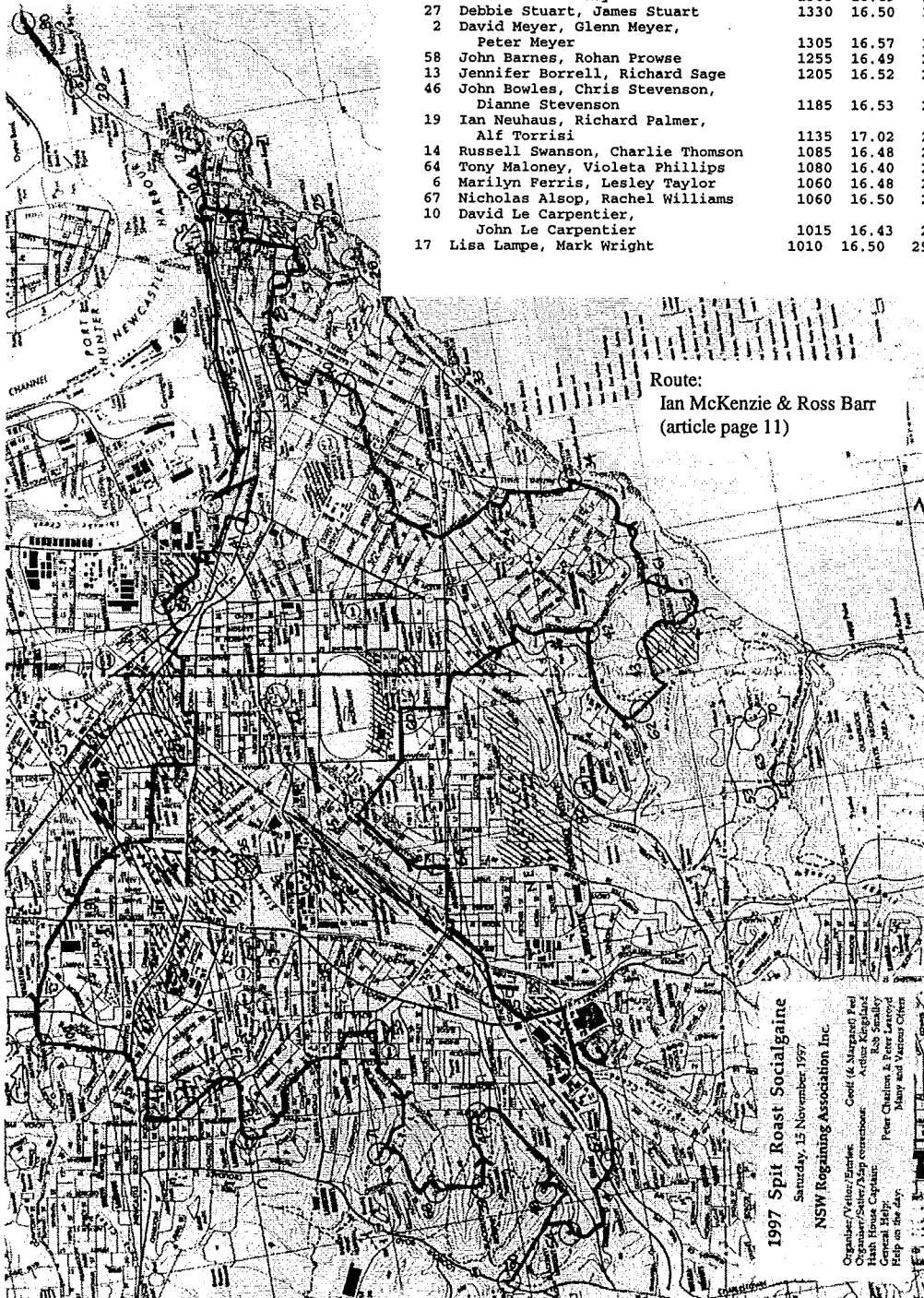
Socialgaine - 15 Nov 1997

We are on the Web!

<http://rogaine.asn.au>
then follow the NSW link

| Team | Score | Time | O | M | W | X | V | J | F |
|--|-------|-------|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|
| 111 Andrew Hill, Rob Preston, David Shepherd | 1900 | 16.48 | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| 63 Alan Garde, Brendon King | 1875 | 16.55 | 2 | 2 | | | | | |
| 15 Ross Barr, Ian McKenzie | 1825 | 16.59 | 3 | 3 | | | | | |
| 38 Peter Charlton, Peter Learoyd, Dennis Mayo | 1800 | 16.51 | 4 | 4 | | | | 1 | |
| 40 Paula Hawtin, Dawn Hinds | 1755 | 16.57 | 5 | 5 | 1 | | | | |
| 5 Warren Broadbent, Yvonne Fuller, Bert van Netten | 1685 | 16.56 | 6 | | | 1 | 2 | | |
| 65 Brent Crowle, Michael Korompay | 1655 | 16.58 | 7 | 5 | | | | | |
| 66 Shaun Dore, Peter Gordoñ | 1615 | 16.55 | 8 | 6 | | | | | |
| 36 David Dash, Peter Tamsett | 1535 | 16.52 | 9 | 7 | | | | | 3 |
| 62 Neil Chappell, Ian Dempsey | 1530 | 16.50 | 10 | 8 | | | | | 4 |
| 44 Annette Billinghamurst, Sue Clarke | 1480 | 16.46 | 11 | | 2 | | | | 5 |
| 42 Mike Hotchkis, Geoff Silburn | 1470 | 16.59 | 12 | 9 | | | | 2 | |
| 1 Liz Bunn, Tonia Lance | 1455 | 16.50 | 13 | | 3 | | | | |
| 9 Mike Garmont, Judy Van Der Geest | 1450 | 16.48 | 14 | | | | | | 2 |
| 32 Mark Burnside, Malcolm Stewart | 1440 | 16.52 | 15 | 10 | | | | | |
| 41 David Bonjer, John Herb, John Linich | 1430 | 16.42 | 16 | 11 | | | | | |
| 23 Gavin Doyle, Rachael Benton Doyle, Jonathon Rainey | 1385 | 16.49 | 17 | | | | | 3 | |
| 27 Debbie Stuart, James Stuart | 1330 | 16.50 | 18 | | | | | 4 | |
| 2 David Meyer, Glenn Meyer, Peter Meyer | 1305 | 16.57 | 19 | 12 | | | | | 1 |
| 58 John Barnes, Rohan Prowse | 1255 | 16.49 | 20 | 13 | | | | | |
| 13 Jennifer Borrell, Richard Sage | 1205 | 16.52 | 21 | | | 5 | 6 | | |
| 46 John Bowles, Chris Stevenson, Dianne Stevenson | 1185 | 16.53 | 22 | | | 6 | | | |
| 19 Ian Neuhaus, Richard Palmer, Alf Torrisi | 1135 | 17.02 | 23 | 14 | | | | | |
| 14 Russell Swanson, Charlie Thomson | 1085 | 16.48 | 24 | 15 | | | | | 7 |
| 64 Tony Maloney, Violeta Phillips | 1080 | 16.40 | 25 | | | | 7 | | |
| 6 Marilyn Ferris, Lesley Taylor | 1060 | 16.48 | 26 | | 4 | | | | |
| 67 Nicholas Alsop, Rachel Williams | 1060 | 16.50 | 27 | | | | 8 | | |
| 10 David Le Carpentier, John Le Carpentier | 1015 | 16.43 | 28 | 16 | | | | | 2 |
| 17 Lisa Lampe, Mark Wright | 1010 | 16.50 | 29 | | | 9 | | | |

(Continued on page 13)



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Ian McKenzie & Ross Barr
(article page 11)

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1997 Spit Roast Socialgaine

Saturday, 15 November 1997

NSW Rogaining Association Inc.

Organiser/Volunteer: Conit (6 Members) Fee
Organiser/Volunteer/Adap course: Arnie K...
Hath House Captain: Rob Stanley
General Help: Peter Charlton & Peter Learoyd
Help on the day: Many and Valere Officers

Hotchkis, Michael
<mah@ants.goo.au>

More Mail!

My First Rogaine

I have noticed that most of the articles in the newsletter seem to be written by Rogainers who are near the top of heap and compete very seriously. Well I think it's time the newsletter covered the other end of the scale (ie those near the bottom of the heap).

I began my Rogaining last year at the Socialgaine held at Yanko National Park. It was something of a baptism of fire. I went with my brother Robert who assured me that night time navigation was no problem. He had done it before in fog and rain. The daylight portion of the Rogaine went well. We found a number of high scoring controls and the area was lovely with lots of wildflowers in bloom and pleasant views of lush country from the ridge tops. We were feeling pleased with ourselves.

As dusk fell we were stumbling around on top of a spur looking for control 72, which more by good luck than management we eventually found. It was now quite dark as we went back along the spur to find the way down. We soon realised there was no way we would get back before 9.00pm and I was becoming increasingly suspicious

that we really were completely lost. "This is not bothering me" I was telling myself, "it is a warm night and I have my safety thermal blanket." By now the thought of curling up at the base of a tree was becoming appealing. I was heartily sick of the vegetation particularly *Lambertia formosa* - the Mountain Devil seemed a very appropriate name.

At about 8.45pm we noticed the headlamps of another team coming towards us. Thank Christ for that! They confirmed we had wandered off our bearing and pointed us towards the fire trail. At control 72 we had seen the hash house below. We now had a long walk back around the fire trail to get home - but it was easy going and the Old Jamaica chocolate certainly hit the spot.

Back on the main road a car came past looking for us. "Its still a couple of Kilometres back to the hash house" he said, "do you want a lift?" My brother was appalled - ending a Rogaine in car was a terrible embarrassment. "Too bad" I thought and hopped in, muttering Robert also accepted the lift.

We arrived back at the Hash House at 10.45pm and hour and three quarters late and to wide

smiles of relief from the organisers. The food was mostly gone and we were not hungry, over the road was a pub.

Two beers later and I discovered the truly best thing about Rogaining: Talking about Rogaining.

With a group of other Rogainers our adventures paled into insignificance and we were soon boasting about the delights of being lost with the best of them. At one point someone said the pub was about to close and we all lined up two beers against this event. However St Albans is a long way from the law and it was quite late by the time I stumbled to my tent.

Our families were unsurprised by these events. "I knew you would get lost" said my partner Martyn, "that's why I didn't go." "Typical" said my brothers wife Angela - "you always try and do too much." In spite of this I was surprisingly undeterred and talked about Rogaining for a week regardless of the glazed expressions of my workmates. I also found myself playing with the compass and only just resisted the temptation to take it with me and point it at landmarks from the bus.

I have since been to four more Rogaines. The Paddy Pallin in Canberra, the Metrogaine at Pennant Hills, the Paddy Pallin at Bargo and the Sugarloaf Range event in September - where we stuck to six hour event and watched the mysterious movements of headlamps long into the night.

Each Rogaine has provided a unique experience and taken us to places we would never have got to without Rogaining.

At each one we say we must come back here and do a leisurely day walk up that mountain which promised great views and had a 100 point control. We have not yet managed this but might some day.

In conclusion we think Rogaining is great sport and we hope to participate in many more events. Against his better judgement Martyn has now also joined the team. I may even be talked into entering another night time event - but this time I'll know better than to believe my brother's directions - something you would think any self respecting sister would have learnt long ago!

Lynne McNairn

(Continued from page 12)

| Team | Score | Time | O | M | W | X | V | J | F |
|--|-------|-------|----|----|---|----|----|----|---|
| 25 Richard Connors, David Green | 1005 | 16.23 | 30 | 17 | | | | | |
| 51 Robyn Fried, Karen Maund | 1005 | 16.48 | 31 | | 5 | | | | |
| 55 Peter Preston, Robert Preston | 955 | 16.02 | 32 | 18 | | | | | 3 |
| 47 Wal Mills, Bill Pigram | 935 | 16.12 | 33 | 19 | | | 8 | | |
| 18 Andrew Murphy, Kate Pigram | 905 | 16.43 | 34 | | | 10 | | | |
| 26 Samuel Dzwinek, Anthony Hunt, Melinda Hunt | 905 | 17.09 | 35 | | | 11 | | | |
| 56 Lynn Dabbs, Kevin Williams | 885 | 16.48 | 36 | | | 12 | 9 | | |
| 34 Lisa-Jane Garland, Susan Ley, Russell Taylor | 880 | 16.49 | 37 | | | 13 | | | |
| 35 Dianne van Netten, Kim van Netten | 845 | 16.22 | 38 | | 6 | | | | 4 |
| 4 Jocelyn Booth, Ted Booth | 845 | 16.42 | 39 | | | 14 | 10 | | |
| 53 Peter Garlick, Rosemary Garlick, Steve Garlick | 825 | 16.52 | 40 | | | 15 | | | 5 |
| 7 Merv English, Anne Francis | 815 | 14.39 | 41 | | | 16 | 11 | | |
| 33 Margaret Covi, Harry Goyen | 775 | 16.45 | 42 | | | 17 | 12 | | |
| 37 Debbie Hotchkis, Bronwyn Monahan | 760 | 16.54 | 43 | | 7 | | 13 | | |
| 29 Dan Crosby, Richard Koch, Cath Rousch, Emma Rousch | 745 | 16.49 | 44 | | | 18 | | | |
| 21 Sarah Heath, Carol Pearson | 725 | 16.47 | 45 | | 8 | | | | |
| 52 Rosyln Thomson, Stuart Thomson | 715 | 16.49 | 46 | | | 19 | | | |
| 3 Ian Hawkes, Melanie Mill, Trevor Nottingham | 705 | 16.48 | 47 | | | 20 | | | |
| 20 Tracey Ann Bonnie, Lynn Maure Gay | 635 | 16.39 | 48 | | | 9 | | | |
| 39 Marguerite Neuhaus, Regina Torrisi | 635 | 16.47 | 49 | | | 10 | | | |
| 43 John Oakley, Therese Oakley | 635 | 16.47 | 50 | | | | 21 | | |
| 12 Peter Le Carpentier, Sue Le Carpentier | 605 | 16.17 | 51 | | | | 22 | | 6 |
| 60 Mark Buxton, Basil Ellis, Edwin John Grant | 595 | 16.36 | 52 | 20 | | | | | |
| 57 Lynne McNairn, Martin Robinson | 585 | 16.53 | 53 | | | | 23 | | |
| 8 Jennie Bond, Tony Bond, Alan Egleton, Sue Egleton | 575 | 16.38 | 54 | | | | 24 | | |
| 11 Lyn Berg, Jon Marsden | 575 | 16.38 | 55 | | | | 25 | | |
| 49 Bob McNairn, Natalie McNairn, Scott McNairn, David Smith | 525 | 16.38 | 56 | | | | 26 | | |
| 54 Frank Grass, Alison Kearney, Anthea Kearney, Benita Kearney | 525 | 16.39 | 57 | | | | 27 | | 7 |
| 50 Gary Browne, Betty Chen, Sarah Lam, Kevin Murphy | 525 | 16.50 | 58 | | | | 28 | | |
| 22 Danielle L Campbell, Matthew Jo Pawsey, Deborah Turvey | 520 | 16.23 | 59 | | | | 29 | | |
| 16 Gail Barr, Sandra Souter, Vic Souter | 490 | 16.45 | 60 | | | | 30 | 14 | |
| 24 Peter Jame Mitchell, Geoff Murphy | 460 | 17.24 | 61 | 21 | | | | | |
| 31 Daniel Bateman, Brendan Buckland, Brian Wilson | 335 | 15.49 | 62 | 22 | | | | | |
| 59 ? Geretz, Adam Rowles | 320 | 16.14 | 63 | 23 | | | | | |
| 30 Jennifer Butler, Paul Litissianos, Glenn Waters, Garth Willmott | 295 | 15.49 | 64 | | | | 31 | | |
| 45 Stephen Castle, Robert Loader, Rhonda Monahan | 225 | 16.57 | 65 | | | | 32 | | |
| 28 Akiko Ledger, Julian Ledger, Luke Ledger, Selena Ledger | 130 | 16.06 | 66 | | | | 33 | | 8 |

Next Newsletter

Deadline for Articles: 1 Feb 1998

Articles and Photos needed for this issue include:

- Socialgaine participants reports

All contributions are most welcome

If you thought it was interesting - then its highly likely others will too! Send it in to us.

Format: It is preferred that copy be submitted on 3½" PC formatted floppy disks or sent via email as text or attachments. Microsoft Word 95/97 format is preferred, then RTF (Rich Text Format), Word Perfect and plain text. Too high tech for you? We also accept typewritten or handwritten material submitted via mail or fax.

Photos: We accept the original photo or its negative. We also accept scanned images, but only if they are scanned at a high resolution. Please indicate if you want the photo returned.

Send To:

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121 / 362 Mitchell Rd,

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Ph: (02) 9557-7101 (h)

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Email: stephen@cscd.toshiba.com.au

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