

NEW SOUTH WALES ROGAINING

THE SPORT OF CROSS-COUNTRY NAVIGATION
Issue 87 September 2001



Photo: Andy Mein



www.nswrogaining.org

2001/2002 New South Wales & ACT Rogaines

	Date	Event	Location	Contact
NSW	27-28th October	NSW Champs 12 / 24 Hour	Southern Highlands	Mike Hotchkis (02) 4294 1363
	25th November	Socialgaine 6 Hour	South of Newcastle	Ian Dempsey (02) 4943 5790
	1st December	Spring 6 / 12 Hour	ACT	(02) 6251 6908
NSW	24th February 2002	Metrogaine 6 Hour	TBA	Trevor Gollan (02) 4226 5544
	10th March 2002	ACT Paddy Pallin 6 Hour	ACT	(02) 6251 6908
NSW	23rd March 2002	12 Hour	TBA	Paul Batten 0403 176 716
	27-28th April 2002	Australian Champs	ACT	(02) 6251 6908
NSW	16th June 2002	Paddy Pallin 6 Hour	TBA	Andy Mein (02) 9879 4464
NSW	July 2002	NavShield '02	TBA	Organised independently by Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue
NSW	24th August 2002	6 / 12 Hour	Lake Macquarie	Bert van Netten (02) 4975 3693
	August/Sept.	Cyclegaine	ACT	(02) 6251 6908

Rogaining in other States

Date	State	Event	Location	Contact
29th September	Victoria	12 hr Handicap	TBA	(03) 9438 6626
13th October	South Australia	Spring 6/12hr	TBA	(08) 8271 2712
27th October	Western Australia	6/12hr Schools Champs	TBA	(08) 9342 9213
27-28th October	Queensland	15/24hr Qld Champs	TBA	(07) 3351 6563
27-28th October	Victoria	15 hr	TBA	(03) 9438 6626

Next World Championships

25-28th July 2002 Czech Republic

President's Piece:

When you look at the list of Committee members in your newsletter, do you wonder what goes on in those Committee Meetings? Perhaps not - and the Committee has certainly done its bit to obscure the inner workings of your Association. Committee Meetings are open to all members to attend. They are held on weeknights, every couple of months in metropolitan Sydney. If you are interested contact a committee member for details.

At our last meeting (Late July), we discussed the following items:

The upcoming ARA AGM, including ARA membership of the International Rogaining Federation (IRF). There is a certain irony that the ARA has not yet joined the international body of a sport which was not only developed in Australia, but which also has far and away the largest number of participants. Much passion flies around the Internet on this topic. Suffice to say, the ARA seeks to have a peak international Rogaining organisation which embraces a simplicity of structure, democratic values and which will encourage the formation of national rogaining bodies in countries where the sport is still in its infancy. The debate rages.

Paul Batten from Macquarie Uni has been busy developing the sport of Rogaining at a uni level. It has enjoyed popularity with tertiary students in the past, however this has dropped off in recent years. Thanks largely to Paul's efforts, the NSW Champs in October this year will also host the Eastern Australian University Championships - open to all NSW and ACT universities. The NSWRA has decided to contribute trophies for each of the 3 classes; Mens, Womens and Mixed. Next year, at the Australian Rogaining Championships in the ACT, the University Challenge will be Australia-wide.

Another issue, which has taken much discussion over the years, is that of membership. The current membership is based on the calendar year, with renewals requested in the last newsletter of the year, and again in the first of the following year. People who join late in the year do not do as well out of this membership arrangement as those who join early in the year. The expiry of all memberships at once also gives our tireless membership secretaries, Belinda and Andrew Pope, a lot of work renewing memberships in an intense time period. The Committee has proposed to introduce a rolling membership for 12 months from whatever date the application is received. There are still details to be resolved, and much work, including writing of additional software code to support it, and no doubt more Committee discussions. You will be kept informed of the progress.

If you are interested in these or other issues, come to a Committee Meeting, or contribute your views through the pages of your newsletter.

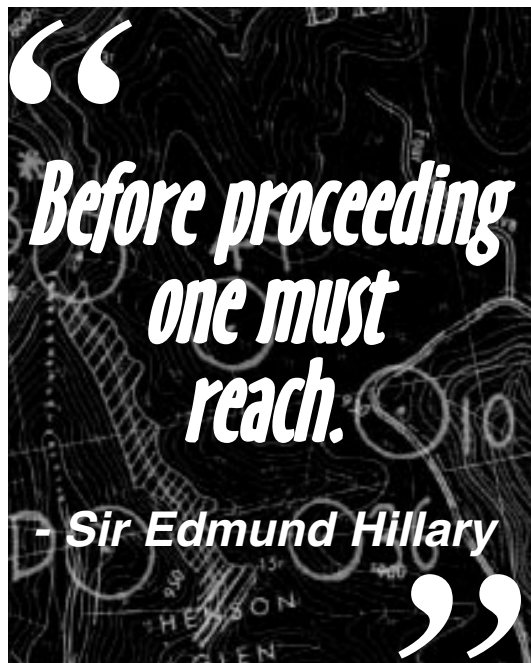
Richard Sage

President - NSWRA

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'NSW Champs':

Event name: **2001 NSW Rogaining Championships**
Date: **27 - 28th October**
Location: **Southern Highlands**
Event length: **24 hours with a 12 hour option**

The 2001 NSW Championships will be held in the Southern Highlands, 2 - 2½ hours SW of Sydney. This event incorporates the Eastern Australia University Rogaining Championships, reviving an old tradition of intervarsity competition which goes back to the origins of rogaining.

The event area is just beyond the limits of Sydney sandstone country, so expect a change of terrain compared to some recent events. It's mostly open forest with some steep areas and great views into deep gorges. Plenty of accurate contour detail to test your navigation skills. Also some open farmland, a Christmas tree plantation and old gaol for anyone who breaks the rules.

Those of you who attended this year's ACT Champs will have got a flavour of the kind of country we're talking about. They called it 'totally gorgeous' and I would agree. Well, that's enough clues to the location for now!

Mike Hotchkis



'Socialgaine'

Event name: **Speer's Point Socialgaine**
Date: **25th November**
Location: **Northern Lake Macquarie**
Event length: **6 hours**

Five good reasons to enter the 2001 Socialgaine:

1. **Variety of scenery.** The event takes in the foreshores of the northern part of Lake Macquarie in the Newcastle area. This includes pockets of remnant bushland, open parkland, wetlands, and suburbia.
2. **Bonus points.** Visit either 3-5, or all 6 of the foreshore checkpoints and you'll receive 50 or 100 bonus points respectively.
3. **Pukker tucker.** Charlestown Scouts are already preparing a sumptuous menu for your pleasure.
4. **Greed.** It's the last event of the year. Make the most of your 2001 membership and enter.
5. **Voyeurism.** A variety of cafes are scattered throughout the course for coffee, snacks, or just an opportunity to watch the passing parade.

Ian Dempsey



Did you see this sign at your last event?



As the sign states - the sport of Rogaining is run entirely by volunteers - **NO VOLUNTEERS NO EVENTS.**

Without those volunteers we would not be able to enjoy the many joys the sport provides us.

Please consider helping out at at least one event in the coming years calender. You can be of valuable assistance doing so many tasks big or small.

Contact the NSWRA Event Manager Mike Hotchkis or the contact person noted on either the years event calender or the volunteer schedule on page 13 of this newsletter if you can lend a hand at a coming event.



Never too young to be a volunteer!
Stephen Pope stuffing newsletters.

Photo: Belinda Pope

2001 Committee

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10th Annual Lake Macquarie Event

Finally a Lake Macquarie Rogaine without rain, cold or unusual heat. However the filthy weather did set in on Sunday afternoon. The event was also threatened by bush fires the day before. In fact one of the markers was burnt to a crisp - along with the attached chocolate bar that was to be a prize for the first team to reach it. Very few of the 370 competitors left without the tell tail marks of the resulting charcoal.

Robert Vincent set a top quality course as usual. The vettors spent many hours checking the accuracy of the markers. A hearty thanks goes to the Junior Orienteering Squad and of course their parents, especially Nick and Hillary Dent and Peter Orr for running a terrific Hash House. Much positive feedback was received about the food. Rumour has it that Peter and Robyn Sharrock won't be cooking pumpkins at home for a while. Thanks Robyn and Peter for your hard work.

It just wouldn't be a Lake Macquarie rogaine without the 'Tea and Damper' stop. This year our thanks go to the Watagan Wanderers. The admin helpers were worth gold. A huge thank you to Kim and Jamie van Netten, Margaret Peel, Margaret Hughes and Robert Preston all of whom worked tirelessly and in good spirits. Kim also helped in the hash house and Jamie spent many hours directing traffic.

Bert would like to extend his thanks to all the competitors for leaving the area so clean. The owners commented that the area looked like no-one had been there.

Carrying of mobile phones proved to be useful in a couple of situations, one regarding an injury and the other a lost team member. Thanks to the teams who spent valuable time giving support to these teams.

A successful event hopefully enjoyed by all.

Dianne van Netten

~

On behalf of all New South Wales rogainers our heartfelt thanks to Bert and Dianne for their continuing efforts year in year out with the Lake Macquarie event. Thank you.

~



Listening closely at the briefing.

Photo: Andy Mein



Decisions Decisions

Photo: Andy Mein



All that remained of Checkpoint 32's flag, intention board and chocolate bar.

Photo: Andy Mein



Ready to go at the 'clothesline'.

Photo: Harry Goyen



The Watagan Wanderers manning the much enjoyed 'Tea and Damper' stop.

Photo: Harry Goyen

Team Number	Lake Macquarie 12 Hour	Points	Time	Overall	Men's	Women's	Mixed	Vets	Men's Vets	Mixed Vets	Super Vets	Family
131	Ian Brown, Cale Brown	900	11:44	1	1							1
123	Gary Sutherland, Chris Bagley	850	11:55	2	2							
97	Andrew Scott, Marck Norret	790	10:45	3	3							
85	Rob Smalley, Glen Peters, David Williams, Nikki Brown	780	11:44	4			1					
111	Jordan Lefmann, Martin Lefmann	770	12:02	5	4							
6	Ian Dempsey, Dom Isberg, Wendy Scott, Virginia Reid	740	11:50	6			2	1		1		
9	Gary Ferris, Peter Dunn	720	11:38	7	5			2	1			
152	John Barnes, Geoff Peel, Peter Worrall	700	11:34	8	6							
133	Duncan Rayward, Anna Welbourne	690	11:48	9			3					
96	James Mathey, Innes McMannus	690	11:50	10	7							
127	Alex Debono, Scott Mills	660	12:02	11	8							
5	Andy Cairns, Malcolm Hughes	650	11:19	12	9			3	2		1	
14	Sari Lewis, Rudi Landsiedel	630	11:32	13				4		2		
55	Will De Sain, Carol De Sain	630	11:57	14			4					
93	A.Clarke, O.Vallee, A.Frisvoll, M.De Jong	620	11:49	15			5					
118	David Stuckey, Peter Good, David Jenkins	610	11:46	16	10			5	3			
86	Bruce Franklin, Chris Cowie, David Noble	590	11:50	17	11							
29	Carolyn Haupt, Paul Ettema, John Brayan	580	11:30	18			6					
39	A.Plaskitt, M.Liedvogel, J.Sayers, R.Winn	570	8:30	19	12							
141	Adrian Smith, Mike Devey	570	11:42	20	13							
77	Stephen Reynolds, Janelle White	560	11:14	21			7					
78	Graham Payne, Peter Dunne	560	11:35	22	14							
91	Peter Day, Philip Gibbs, Keith McReynolds	550	11:08	23	15							
147	Adam Hunter, Evan Hunter	550	11:28	24	16							
19	Debbie Cook, Robbie Mackillop	550	11:45	25			8					
18	Sue Clarke, Walter Kelemen	550	12:02	26				6		3		
8	Kevin Lloyd, Georg Hauswirth	540	11:06	27	17			7		4		
27	John Keats, Jennifer Borrell	540	11:27	28			9	8		5	2	
36	David Coysh, Dave Parkes, Steve Rampant	540	11:54	29	18							
59	Charlie Thomson, John Mackay, Russell Swanson	530	10:55	30	19			9	4			
114	Mark Nolde, Peter Boyce	520	10:40	31	20							
68	Nihal Danis, Richard Sage	520	11:22	32			10	10		6		
99	Noel Turner, Naomi Turner	510	10:25	33			11					
108	Nick Rose, Anita Gamon	500	9:50	34			12					
20	Neil Chappell, David Lilley	500	12:09	35	21			11	5		3	
11	Marilyn Ferris, Lesley Taylor	490	11:26	36		1		12				
104	Martin Howell, Nick Howell	480	9:40	37	22							
89	Dave Pettit, Jan Herrmann	480	10:48	38	23							
73	Debbie Hotchkis, Mike Hotchkis	480	11:15	39			13	13		7		
50	Ian Almond, Matthew Almond, Peter Almond	480	11:20	40	24							2
137	Matt Routley, Ben Gooden, Chris Jenkins, Peter Peach	470	10:23	41	25							
126	Kate Harper, Chris Mein	470	10:49	42			14					
83	Stuart Thomson, Craig Stewart, Rick Mumford	460	8:33	43	26							
30	Richard Smyth, Graham Millo	450	9:25	44	27			14	6		4	
109	Ben Schulz, Michelle Scott	450	12:22	45			15					
10	Robyn Charlton, Peter Charlton	440	8:40	46			16					3
105	Abigail Nield, Rachel Sandwell	430	9:58	47		2						
72	Cameron Schubert, David Graham	430	10:51	48	28							
95	Edward Yourds, David Porter, Sarah Newhlands	430	12:02	49			17					
149	J.Ku, B.Patel, M.Lee, D.McDonogh	400	11:27	50	29							
49	Phil Allen, Ted Booth, Bob Bartle	370	8:05	51	30			15	7			
42	D.McFarlane, J.McFarlane, J.McFarlane	370	8:27	52			18					
151	Ken Lee, Richard Wolfe	370	9:14	53	31							
31	Margaret Covi, Robert Cox	360	10:32	54			19	16		8	5	
12	Chris Montgomery, David Boswell	360	11:44	55	32							
35	Greg Rowe, Tim Heasman, Max Bradshaw	350	11:17	56	33							
107	R. Austen, C. Sharp	340	8:02	57	34			17	8			
103	Roland Knobloch, Elliot	330	7:36	58	35							
82	Carolyn Thomson, Kristyn Symons	330	11:24	59		3						
84	Greg Nash, Libby Rankin, Paul Lancaster	310	10:06	60			20					
54a	David Sigley, Tom Davis	280	7:48	61	36			18	9			
13	Robert Montgomery, Pam Montgomery	240	11:51	62			21	19	10	9		
4	Jenny Bond, Tony Bond	170	5:40	63			22	20	11	10		
2	Lyn Gett, Ron McMillan	120	6:42	64			23	21	12	11		
17	David Clayton, Narelle Clayton	110	6:26	65			24	22	13	12		
54	David Sigley, Tom Davis, Carman Attard	70	1:30	66			25					
66	B.Howell, E.Kenny, D.Cosier, R.Macumber	60	9:24	67			26					



Results



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Team Number	Lake Macquarie 6 Hour	Points	Time	Overall	Men's	Women's	Mixed	Vets	Men's Vets	Mixed Vets	Family
23	Mark Freeman, Georgianna Fien	560	5:53	1			1				
150	Jonathon Potts, Piers Truter	550	5:59	2	1						
125	Andrew Pope, Andy Mein	510	5:49	3	2						
102	Amanda Matheson, Vanessa Thomas, Alan Garde	510	5:57	4			2				
53	Michael Lilley, Alison Lilley	500	5:55	5			3				
121	Peter McConaghy, Wendy McConaghy	500	5:56	6			4				
98	Rob Parbury, Robert Casimir	450	5:53	7	3						
120	Robert Lewin, Christian Lewin	440	5:40	8	4						1
144	David Dash, Yvonne Dash	430	5:48	9			5				
113	Kerryn Thomas, Orla Murray	430	5:53	10		1					
47	Ross Duker, Eric Smith	430	5:58	11	5			1	1		
100	Brooke Cunningham, Jamie Cunningham	390	5:43	12							
148	Warren Keen, Lars Thomsen, John Li	390	5:55	13	6						
32	Roderick Smith, William Landers, Hamish Bell	390	6:22	14	7						
21	Ben Henley, Colin Reid	360	5:48	15	8						
142	Alan Edler, Andrew Farrelly, James Kelly	350	5:51	16	9						
51	Matt Collins, Damien Cann	350	5:57	17	10						
134	Andrew Collins, J Terkildsen	350	5:57	18			6				
34	David Graham, Hollie Graham	340	5:56	19			7				2
24	Anne Newman, Linden Marsh	330	5:40	20			8				
7	Danny O'Connell, Peter Figiel	330	5:50	21	11						
153	J.Menychart, A.Menychart, S.Burns, K.Burns	330	5:55	22			9				
28	Anthony Hunt, Jeff Mizzi	320	5:53	23	12						
128	Craig Findley, Omar Seychell, Felicity Smith	320	5:55	24			10				
129	Kha Phan, John Wenban, Amanda Morris	320	5:55	25			11				
112	Martin Spink, Angela Searle	320	5:57	26			12				
110	Melinda Basham, Henry Goodall	310	5:41	27			13				
25	Steve Halpin, Mary Ann Kulh	310	5:54	28			14				
41	Andrew Lumsden, Debbie Byers	310	5:56	29			15	2		1	
79	Melanie Oliver, Trent Oliver, Carl Mistler, Jeff Ayres	300	5:33	30			16				
81	Peter Waterhouse, Stephen Simonds	290	5:50	31	13						
26	David West, Leigh Sullivan	280	5:32	32			17				
80	M.van Der vist, M.Calleja, S.Cook, K.Knowles	280	5:33	33			18				
138	Michael Watts, Louise Oliver	280	5:33	37			19	3		2	
48	Alex Heath, Geoff Shoetrim	280	5:54	34			20				
64	Debbie Stuart, Hannah Sunderland	280	5:56	35		2					
58	Tony Dynon, Heather Dynon	280	5:57	36			21	4		3	
67	Robert Bradley, Jodie Griffith	270	4:17	38			22				
63	Symeon Bourd, Bob Morgan, Tarmo Raud	270	5:08	39	14						
94	S.Baldwin, G.Baldwin, L.Hickin, M.Smith	270	5:57	40			23				
62	Alan Scott, Manuel Velarde	260	5:35	41	15						
132	Christine Simpson, Kathy Loynes, Steven Clarke	250	5:31	42			24				
3	Peter Hardy, Bronwyn Hardy, Liz Hardy, Sharon Henstock	250	6:01	43			25				
22	David Chambers, John Cole	230	5:36	44	16						
154	David Horsley, Paul Corcoran, Jason Ford	230	5:47	45	17						
70	Gavin Doyle, Clarke Benton	220	4:23	46	18						
87	Paul Batten, Bronwyn Lawton	220	6:18	47			26				
119	David Seaton, Rob Seaton	210	5:41	48	19						3
65	James Stuart, Jessica Stuart	210	6:04	49			27				
90	W.Day, M.Murphy, S.Low, D.Laycock, W.Laycock	190	5:30	50			28				
60	Melissa Grant, Suzy Field, Francisca Matheson	190	5:48	51		3					
61	Norman Matheson, Tom Thomas, Geoff Ritchie	190	5:48	52	20			5	2		
74	Ben Maher, Luke Alexander	180	5:23	53	21						
101	Amil Nanayakkara, David Song, Steven Dal Mulin	180	5:54	54	22						
106	C.Morgan, F.Park, J.Basden, A.Lyons, K.Adorini	160	5:50	55		4					
15	Luke Brennan, Max Tong	160	5:53	56	23			6	3		
88	Maureen Fitzpatrick, Erica van Lennep, Morrie Donovan	140	5:12	57			29	7		4	
57	Peter Brandis, Sam Jude	140	5:35	58			30				
146	Micah Quinn, Paul Pallesen, Marte Johansen	140	6:23	59			31				
122	Penny Allen, Anna Clarke	130	5:25	60		5					
46	S.Moore, L.Low e, D.Polverino, L.Hey, K.Shoemark	130	5:43	61		6		8			
115	Mark Sliwinski, Janine McIlwrath	130	5:54	62			32				
116	Anna Park, Ivan Rosirb, Johann Labrooy, Kristy Clancy	120	5:46	63			33				

Team Number	Lake Macquarie 6 Hour	Points	Time	Overall	Men's	Women's	Mixed	Vets	Men's Vets	Mixed Vets	Family
130	R.McKelvie, D.Frank, J.Nolan, E.Miller, M.Lowe, T.Eu, L.Hood	110	6:00	64			34				
16	Elisa Arconi, Ed Muston	100	5:33	65			35				
117	Leslie Steinhaus, Bill Gribble	90	4:11	66	24			9	4		
76a	Lisa Lampe, Myee Allison	90	6:11	67		7					
1	Tony Merritt, Fiona Merritt, Joshua Merritt, Lauren Merritt	70	5:39	68			36				4
44	Julie Ross, Peter Morris, David Hodgekiss	60	3:00	69			37				
69	Joseph Fox, Graham Harness, Jason Babb	60	6:12	70	25						
143	Blanka Golebiowski, Andrew Pitt	40	6:32	71			38				
76	Mark Wright, Lisa Lampe, Myee Allison	30	1:24	72			39	10		5	
40	Bill Saxby, Stuart Saxby, Scott Saxby	30	4:25	73	26						5
56	Richard Harbury, Russell Furzur	LATE	7:46								
75	Annette Stewart, Lyn Jones	LATE	6:49								
124	Deanna Marland, Colin White, Angela Hordicek	LATE	6:26								
140	Nigel Hardiman, Dorine van Kampen, Torkel Cronholm	LATE	6:40								
145	Tim Anderson, Peter Stein, James Stevenson	LATE	6:26								



The Boy and 'The Bof' Go Skating Rogaining:

"Hey, would you like to try the Lake Macquarie Rogaine again?"

"Mmm...will it be in the dark?"

"Yep. After dark it will be anyway."

"Will it be as hot as last year?"

"No way."

"OK, but can I take my skateboard?"

I was surprised Cale would give up a weekend of kicking wheels so easily, but at least he was still happy to go places with the self-confessed Bof (boring old fart). He had been pretty chuffed with winning the Family category in 2000 and wanted to defend the title. Not that competition is tough, mind you. In fact its very limp. How can we drag a few more 15 year olds away from skateboards, music, videos and girl/boyfriends? After all, surely a bit of cross-training never hurt? And lets face it, if the rogaining population keeps ageing at the present rate we'll have to start adding age categories at the top end and cutting them off the bottom!



Paying close attention to Rob Vincent's course clues advice!

Photo: Andy Mein

The Hash House was in a beautiful quiet valley with good grass (thanks guys)...and steep hills jumping straight up. And the weather was blissfully cool compared with last year's shocking heatwave that had everybody melting down the hills. Just the memory of it gave me a nose-bleed as we pored over the 2001 map. As usual, our eyes were bigger than our legs, because we worked out a course that I estimated at 35 km but would have been closer to 40 and way beyond us in 12 hours.

The obvious route along the central road to the Tea and Damper had to be included, but as usual the opening hours constrained our options. The central stuff south of T&D was tangled in deep valleys so we opted for a line through the far west for that part of the circuit.

The northern end lent itself to two loops, either of which could be dropped or shortened if necessary. The only question that remained was the perennial clockwise or anticlockwise?

The Boy was keen to do the southern loop first, which seemed to offer good reward for effort and an efficient line between controls. We took off with the masses to 14 then 29, staying just far enough behind so we didn't have to think too much in the maze of tracks. I always hate the first couple of controls - they're mean and tricky and it takes a little while to get the feel of the country.

Then a rude grunt so early on - the first of four or five 200m climbs (according to our plan). A big steep spur led from 47 onto the Sugarloaf Range but with a lovely cool westerly and flowering Gymea lilies. We attacked 64 easily from above then cruised south along the superb grass-treed ridge of the Great North Walk.

Looping through the southern area pretty quickly, jogging the flat and downhill roads, we cunningly bypassed 34 to get the jump on several speedier teams and pick up two sticky prizes. In a brilliant ploy to handicap quicker teams, the organisers either stuck the goodies between the jaws of the clickamajigga (as The Boy calls it) or bound them with kevlar-reinforced tape to ensure maximum delay. We left one prize where it was.

Dodging Toyota-wallowing bogholes and burnt out cars slowed us down a bit. So did 45, with a scrubby approach and desperately steep exit to regain the crest of the range. 54 was a pleasant creek that seemed vaguely familiar, as did our third long climb up the spur towards 26. On checking my old maps later I discovered it was not just déjà vu but I had climbed that same spur in 1997!

By sunset it was obvious we would have to cut something adrift. We'd been going well, but harder than we could sustain after dark and The Boy was developing a raging headache - despite being so hydrated it was coming out his ears as we ambled north along the road, picking up 65 and 23.



Checkpoint 10 within the beautiful rainforest (Lawyer vine aside).

Photo: Andy Mein



The thankfully sedate fire burnt on much of the eastern side of the course throughout the event adding to the rogaine experience.

Photo: Andy Mein

All rogaines have a little adventure and 32 was ours - The Boy pyro was delighted with the active fire front, burning logs and falling trees, but we were less thrilled with the steep, burnt, scrabbling, time-consuming slope to get there. Half an hour for 30 points was a sucker. After years of firefighting I wasn't too worried about the hazards but I'm astounded Forestry allowed access into an active burn.

Getting tired and with The Boy's head banging bigtime, we wheeled into T&D at 7 pm for a half-hour rejuvenation (beautiful folks, thanks!) and re-assessed our end-game. Well pleased we'd gone anticlockwise and bagged the southern stuff, we decided to drop most of the north. The Bof consoled himself: "Oh well, I'm sure we'll still do well in the Family, but there's no way we'll get a place outright."

We pumped some drugs into The Boy's head (thanks Gary!), strolled out to 55 over Mt Vincent and back for another drink and lie-down. Then an unrewarding road trudge via 16 to Summit Point, the highest hill of the course. As we descended to 52 The Boy started raving about skateboarding again - he didn't need to say his headache was going.

We were taking a big risk with only two and a half hours to go, because The Bof knew there was going to be some tricky nav to get us home in time, and no tracks for a while. But hey! - all or nothing, what! Between 27 and 39 we got stuck in a maze of unmapped fencelines and tracks, logged areas and lan-tana, but muddled through in the end by trusting the trusty compass instead of misleading roads.

Over the hill from 39 then a long, long compass descent through foot-snagging vines gave The Boy something else to talk about. It was slow, and The Bof was beginning to fret. With 45 minutes to go we

finally stumbled out onto the creek and headed up towards 38. The Bof's happiest moment of the night came when a reflector showed up dead ahead. The Bof is still amazed we were able to hold the bearing so well. The Boy was cruising now, feeling better than ever. The Bof was wondering if he should give up running for skating.

A nip up the hill to 17 then we ran willy-nilly down the marked track to the HH with 15 minutes to spare. We debated momentarily whether to duck up to grab 10, but said what the hell! Besides, ten-pointers are always desperate and are the only controls The Bof has ever failed to find.

We were staggered that at least ten teams hadn't beaten us. The Boy reckoned: "It's a bit tut if an old bloke and a kid can win." I tried to explain. "The problem, Cale, is that too many people want to enjoy themselves."

Ahhh...the blessed joy of no regrets - the best thing about winning! Thanks Cale for a fun time and thanks to the organisers for another great event.

Ian Brown

Team 131 (with son Cale)

'Enthusiasm can overcome reason':

Thought you might like to hear how the Lake Macquarie Rogaine felt for a bunch of women all aged over 40 who decided to tackle the bush with experience which ranged from zilch (most of us) to just learning (a couple of us).

Our first lesson - arrive at the site with plenty of time to spare. Because we were short of time we didn't read the clue sheet carefully enough and missed most of the briefing (still covering maps down at the car), so we missed out on some very useful information, such as "beginners are advised to stay to the tracks where possible".



Pre-event planning is everything -
until your on course!

Photo: Andy Mein

Nevertheless, these intrepid travellers headed out along the marked track to #17 - man, what a heart-starter that hill was - and located it along with many other teams. We then headed north-west along the track, breaking off to the north to locate #38 without much trouble. Contouring east towards the next track, those who hadn't tried it before were starting to take a liking to this rogaining. Down the track to #24, and the rocky climb down and back was an indication of what was to come.

We took a cross-country bearing towards #65 and headed on our way. Thorny vines and thick undergrowth threatened to keep us on the side of the steep slope for ever and, as we perched half-way up for a brief lunch stop, I think some of my friends were seriously considering whether they could ever trust me again! Finally, after travelling upwards for what seemed an eternity, we finally reached

a track and came to realise that we were quite some distance downhill from where we had thought we would come out. So . . . onward and upward we travelled till we reached the tower and headed for the road from whence we were to tackle #65. We all now know what a "sloping cliff" looks and feels like, but it was well worth the 60 points and the sense of satisfaction we gained!

By now we were half way through our allotted 6 hours and very aware that we could simply head downhill along (now-familiar) tracks back to base, but #18 looked appealing and within our capacity so, after

ROGAINING - A LEXICON FOR YOUNG PLAYERS:

When I began rogaining not so long ago in pursuit of a PhD in aberrant anthropology, I found the sub-culture quite bewildering (just like the courses really!). I still haven't figured out all the nuances, but in the interests of smoothing the rocky road of initiation for other poor neophytes, the following explanation of terms commonly encountered in the literature and in the field is offered. I wish you luck. Find a good therapist.

GENERAL TERMS:

hash house

campsite

course

mass start

6 hour event

12 hour event

24 hour event

big event

entry fee

course-setter

course vetter

organiser

hash house cook

team

mixed team

partners

perfect partner

veterans

super veterans

juniors

novice

family

cyclegaine

metrogaine

cappuccino rogainer

socialgaine

capitalgaine

effective strategy

cunning strategy

winning strategy

champion strategy

winners

elite rogainer

night performance

high-scoring

compass

no house and no hash

not always wet and muddy (might be barren and windswept instead)

don't bother studying - it will be of no use whatsoever

stampede from the church of the faithful

painful sprint

extended suffering

eternal damnation / full-on masochism

any time the national champion wears a new hat

the price of your soul

sado-masochist

complete deviant

retired and/or cunning deviant

saintly altruist

loners and misfits forced together for mutual exploitation

are they human?

persons of roughly equivalent mental instability

intelligent, skilled, fit and strong, kindly, efficient, humorous, supportive, good-looking, amorous - and not the slightest bit interested in rogaining!

rogaining must be a breeze after Vietnam (be afraid)

not to mention the Boer War (be very afraid)

pity the poor innocents

victim

overbearing veteran plus innocents

the extra belligerence you pick up from every rogaining season

traffic lights, dogdoo and coffee shops

one good reason to introduce drug-testing

possible, but only if you hang around the HH wearing tights and looking cool instead of collecting sweat and filth in the bush

not likely either - its all for fun and the glory of something or other, apparently (watch "Chariots of Fire" again)

stay at home

enter and then stay home

spend the whole event gorging yourself at the hash house

go out, get all the controls, come back in time

last team standing when all the others have lost

so fit their faces ripple

there's no time for this in a rogaine!

refers to the alleged sexual magnetism of champions

an excellent show on the ABC - recommended alternative to rogaining on Saturday nights

magnetic variation
bearing
navigational error
route
contour
handrail
control point
flag
finished unscathed
power nap
endurance

why the compass is often wrong
a hazardous rogaining method used exclusively by Canadians
leaving your driveway
I refuse to be drawn on this one
a route you've been tricked into by your partner
don't you wish
try to stay in control at this point
useful to attract the attention of passing aircraft
none of the injuries were immediately life-threatening
a quick sleep between one footfall and the next
how many apple slices can you eat?

TERMS USED IN COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

(refer to definition of a course-setter above)

high point
saddle
watercourse
watercourse junction
challenging
quite challenging
very challenging
complex
scenic
Victorian
open forest
rainforest
scenic rainforest
bush country

a low point for you
see "handrail"
who could ever forget Lostock?
its all uphill from here
big steep hills
big steep hills plus impenetrable scrub
big steep hills, impenetrable scrub and continuous cliffclines
the course-setter has applied a malicious sense of humour
give up now
nothing but sheep paddocks, pine trees and roads
no views
rain, leeches, and still no views - vines will rip your flesh
Lake Macquarie
take gloves, a needle and a bottle of disinfectant - you'll be digging
the spines out for weeks
full racing leathers, face-shields, machetes and a paramedic
you'll wish they'd shown you the pictures instead
it wants to get into your pants
practice fence-vaulting and dung-dodging; carry battle dressings
get lost
get hopelessly lost
running with water
wrap a rope around your waist - you'll soon feel like a yo-yo
make sure the rope is suitable for abseiling
carry grappling hooks and parasails (and know how to use them)
surely this is obvious enough?
you'll need a metal detector and nightscope to find the flags
easily put in by car
the vetter couldn't find them
venomous reptiles and blood-sucking invertebrates in particular
more reptiles
with emphasis on the work
see "cliffs"
1. the only time some rogainers are seen
2. a technique used to put off other competitors
polite term for exhaustion incontinence

challenging ground cover
picturesque creeks
friendly vegetation
open grazing country
rolling terrain
gently rolling terrain
open running terrain
spur and gully
rock outcrops
cliffs
out of bounds
difficult navigation
easy controls
difficult controls
a variety of wildlife
gaiters
trackwork
steep
full moon

water drop

Compiled by *Ian Brown*
- a 'high scoring' 'elite roganer' and
known 'course-setter' (and 'vetter')!

Assistance from volunteers is essential to the sport.

No experience is necessary - detailed instructions are supplied.

 Volunteer Requirements	NSW Champs 12/24 Hour 27-28th October	2001 Socialgaine 25th November	2002 Metrogaine 24 February	2002 12 Hour 23rd March
Event Co-ordinator	Mike Hotchkis	Ian Dempsey	Trevor Gollan	Paul Batten
Course Setter/s	George Collins, Richard Smyth, Graham Miller, Maurice Ripley	Ian Dempsey	Ted Booth, Phil Allen, Bob Bartle, John Guilly	???
Course Vetter/s	Mike Hotchkis, Jo & David McFarlane	Ian Dempsey	Steve Cliffe, Stephen Thompson	???
Administration Team leader plus 5 - 6 others Team Leader indicated in bold	Lindsay Young, Debbie Hotchkis & others	Janette Dempsey ???	Trevor Gollan ???	???
Hash-House Team leader plus 6 - 12 others Team Leader indicated in bold	Sutherland Anglican Church ???	Charlestown Scouts ???	???	???
Flag Retrieval	???	???	???	???
Contact Details	Mike Hotchkis 4294 1363	Ian Dempsey 4943 5790	Trevor Gollan 4226 5544	Paul Batten 0403 176 716



If you are interested in organising your own event please contact our Event Manager, Mike Hotchkis (see committee contact listing), or if you are able to help on an existing event please contact the event organisers noted above.

The challenges of the 2001 EcoAdventure Race in FNQ:

Whose idea was this? A 3 day 260km Adventure Race in Northern Queensland. 260km consisting of approximately 75km of cross-country foot travel, 150km of grueling mountain biking, a disappointingly short 35km of kayaking, and a 50 metre rappel thrown in for good measure! This was to be only our second Adventure Race with our first being an achievable 18 hour journey from St.Albans to Mt.Ku-ring-gai in June of this year. While the multi-discipline format of AR racing was still new to us we had collectively enjoyed the challenges of years of rogaining, the 100km 'power-walk' of Trailwalker, the 111km paddle of a few Hawkesbury Classics, and many non-competitive outdoor activities.



'Couldn't have dunnit without him!'

Photo: Chris Mein

Our team for this event consisted of myself, my brother and regular rogaining partner Chris, and as our indispensable support crew fellow rogainer Andrew Pope. Initially we had started the 'project' as a team of three with another friend Nick Hudson. Nick unfortunately came out of the Trailwalker experience with a knee injury which persisted and he had to pull out two weeks before we flew north. For the event we competed as "Team Wildsports". Our thanks go to The Outdoor Life Group (Mountain Equipment, Snowgum, and Southern Cross Equipment) for their invaluable support.

With as much preparation as time, finances and the veil of secrecy that surrounds the details of these type of events had allowed us to prepare for, we flew into Cairns a few days prior to the race. Our limited instructions on the race took us north-west to Dimbulah on the Atherton Tablelands. In stark contrast to the coastal tropical environs of Cairns, the race area around the small town of Dimbulah was dry and dusty savannah with an occasional sprinkle of scrawny gums.

With all our fellow competitors we encamped on the grounds of the local soccer club, and began the task of preparing all our gear for the unknowns that were to present themselves over the next 3 days. The race briefing finally got underway a frustrating 2 hours behind schedule. With the substantial 'carbo' meal provided by the locals tucked away we poured over our maps and event instructions. The course was broken into 29 'legs' spread over the 260km leading us to the rainforested shores of Lake Tinaroo in the mountains above Cairns. With no clear indication of the leg by leg disciplines involved we made some guesses from the poor quality maps and less than clear course notes. Finally at about 11pm we managed to crawl into our sleeping bags for the last substantial sleep for three days.

In the cold first light of Friday all the competitors assembled in the main street of Dimbulah, in front of the only pub in town. The local mayor signalled the start with the drop of his arm and the pack hurtled on mass towards Checkpoint 1 some 15 kilometres away.

At CP1 we exchanged bikes for our runners. (We used the purpose-built Salomon 'Raid Wind' shoes - Our thanks to Salomon for their support). Off into the dusty savannah we trotted following the dry creek bed of Eureka Creek towards Stannary Hills. Navigation was straightforward in the open country. Recent fires had cleared large sections of the thick grass in some areas speeding our rate of travel.



A cold sunrise start on the main street of Dimbulah.

Photo: Andrew Pope

Our first impressions of the course rang true to some of our preconceived notions of AR. The images of EcoChallenge some five years ago and, while not specifically AR, the recent Survivor series both were

conducted through or in nearby areas. Tin mining was once a serious concern in the region. This was evident in the remnant of an extensive narrow gauge well engineered railway that ran through most of Day One's course. For many hours we traversed the rugged savannah using the old railway as the most direct route. Thoughts of American Wild West movies frequently came to mind amongst the debris of the mining activities.

Temperatures in the mid to high 20's and a cloudless sky made us think of a pleasant summer day in Sydney. This was further heightened by the lingering smell of bushfire. Towers of smoke rose from beyond nearby ridges. Upon cresting one such ridge via the old railway route we were greeted by recently burnt-out grasslands. Still on foot we continued towards the unchecked fires. On numerous occasions our race route was cut by advancing lines of flames. With little choice we literally leapt through the flames. Conscious of the thick smoke we did not linger to watch the other competitors do the same.

CP6 brought us to the rappel above the Walsh River. A speedy decent followed by a steep scramble deposited us deep in the gorge. A brief lunch in the cool shade of the eastern gorge walls allowed us to catch our breath. During lunch a helicopter carrying a film-crew hovered above the gorge taking footage for the Cairns news. From the lunch spot we rock-hopped for 2 hours upstream passing many spectacular and no doubt rarely visited falls. At CP7 we were welcomed as we had been at other checkpoints by two local characters from nearby towns and stations. Sitting in the cool shade of the trees on the river bank they signed us through the checkpoint. Envious of their relaxed situation we shared a few stories of our journey to date and asked a few questions about the area before reluctantly continuing onto the next checkpoint.

The next few legs brought us full circle back to CP6 (only now it was CP11) once again above the Walsh River. The next leg of 18km to CP12 followed the Walsh downstream. Unable to make use of the rappel ropes we slid our way down the scree into the gorge. The maps (surveyed in the mid 1970's) indicated a 4WD track some 4km further downstream. With less than an hour before the sun set on our first day we made haste towards that point on the map hoping the track hadn't become too overgrown. An hour later, sure that the track had been swallowed by the thick grass, we sat down to re-fuel our engines. While I watched the colours change on the surrounding hills as the sun set, Chris walked a mere 5 metres closer to the river to discover the well defined track running parallel to our previous course. For many hours we power-walked along the 4WD track, occasionally looking back to see the glow and flames of the advancing fires we had passed through many hours before. Eventually a well-illuminated campervan on the riverbank bearing the CP12 banner came into view.

The leg to CP13 appeared very straightforward - 1.5km following powerlines. What eventuated was our first (and only!) navigational blunder. A second line of powerlines not marked on the map running nearby threw us off-course. We wandered for over an hour in the moonless darkness trying to make sense of our situation. Chris was sure the powerlines were confusing the compass readings. For me everything had become confusing as I'd hit the wall HARD. Sleep was all that was on my mind. That and the severe chafing from a poor choice of clothing - cycle shorts (Note: Vaseline on raw skin tends to make things worse!). I sat down while Chris studied the maps, and in minutes I had curled up into a ball in the long dew covered grass. In hindsight not a smart thing to do as we were warned to avoid such situations due to the snakes. After perhaps half-an-hour I awake shivering to the sound of the voices of the Japanese team nearby. They had obviously made the same mistake as ourselves. Rather than endure the cold we pushed on deciding our only course of action was to re-trace our steps and try again. This time we located the correct powerlines and shortly after found the checkpoint (incorrectly marked on the maps).

CP13 through to CP14 continued to follow the powerlines. This time for 12kms. With no moon to highlight the wires above us we constantly peered up using our headtorches to ensure we were still on track. The ground under foot was prime ankle rolling territory. Dense waist high grass hiding many brick sized rocks made for slow going. Particularly combined with our fatigued state. Chris's suggestion of a few simple mind games provided much needed diversional therapy from the trudging. Before I could say "T for

Tanya" we emerged beside the irrigation channel with CP14 in sight two hundred metres away.

Finally at CP14 we were able to take a break from foot travel and return to the mountain bikes. By this stage it was about 2.30am. This next leg of 22km returned us to the town of Dimbulah where we intended to restock our food and water and enjoy a few hours of much needed sleep. Thankfully the ride was fairly straightforward simply following the irrigation channel. Only one mishap bears mention. Four kilometres from my sleeping bag I, in a vague fatigued state, momentarily lost control while crossing a wooden bridge. A few seconds later I was lying face down with my head and shoulders over the edge of the bridge peering down into the blackness of the creek beneath. Chris came running back to see if I was OK. Using his headtorch he lit up the creek below revealing the two or so metre fall onto the rocky creek bed below that I had thankfully avoided. Thanks to whichever entity was watching over me that night! My anger and frustration at the situation kept me alert enough to continue with only a badly bruised and bloody knee. Fifteen minutes later we reached CP15 to be greeted by a patient Andrew Pope with hot soup and a warm change of clothes. Sleep followed shortly thereafter.

Andrew shook the tent at about 9am after three hours sleep. A big breakfast while packing our fresh supplies and making a few quick repairs to our bikes prepared us for another long day. With 110km behind us we had another 115km to take us to the next transition point on the shores of Lake Tinaroo. Our study of the maps over breakfast led us to believe that the day was to be one long cycle.



Leaving Dimbulah on the 115km cross-country cycle to Lake Tinaroo.

Photo: Andrew Pope

The ride through CP15 to 21 involved simply following the irrigation channel that weaved its way amongst the dry country. Used to irrigate the variety of crops visible both sides of the 4WD access track (sugarcane, tea-tree, rice and pawpaws) it provided a fast and reasonably flat route. On sunset we started to approach the foothills of the rainforest-clad mountains of Mount Haig and Mount Edith. From CP23 (440 metres above sea level) we began the long slow climb to our highest point beneath Mt Haig (1200 metres above sea level). With energy levels once again at a low I could only manage to push the bike on anything resembling 'uphill'.

This section of the course was spectacular after the endless hours of dry rural land of earlier in the day. Unfortunately our energy levels combined with the darkness meant we weren't able to fully appreciate it. Part of the Great Dividing Range the climb was a formidable task. Contact with other teams had ceased. Unlike Day One when we frequently encountered other teams, on this day we only saw three other teams. Stories from checkpoint officials of high drop out rates and teams missing the cut-off times sparked our determination to keep going. Finally the lights of CP24 began to appear through the forest. Shortly after arriving I wrapped myself up in a thermal blanket and shivered myself to sleep. Chris reluctantly joined me knowing that he could not convince me to continue until I had recharged my batteries - however small an amount I could.

After perhaps 45 minutes of restless sleep we motivated cold muscles and low energy levels into the undulating decent to the shores of Lake Tinaroo. With equal amounts of long uphill pushes and downhill races, the leg to CP25 slowly weaved its way through the thick rainforest. We passed a two person mixed team we had seen throughout the day sleeping in a ditch at the side of the road. Wrapped tightly in a thermal blanket they looked beautifully tragic in each others arms. Having passed us as we slept at CP24 they had pushed on only to hit their wall forcing this desperate excuse for a bed. All seemed to be OK with them so we pushed on. Blackness blanketed either side of the track with only a thin band of star-studded night sky above appearing to glow in comparison. Fast flowing streams and our labouring breath were the only sounds. I noted to myself that I should return to this location another time under different circumstances. With the last mad descent on the moist windy road complete we reached CP25 on the fringes of a pine plantation. A quick change of batteries in our head torches and bike lights bought fresh

light on the final cycle leg. Now early morning, we were motivated by the close proximity of the last transition point and more sleep. On the now quality dirt roads we cycled the last 16 kilometres swiftly arriving at the mass of tents on the shores of Lake Tinaroo at 2.30am. Dinner and a shower (now that's Adventure Racing!) proceeded a solid well earned sleep.

With conditions considered too risky on the lake for after-dark paddling the last teams left for CP27 at 3.30pm the afternoon prior. By the time we arrived we had no choice but to wait it out till the mass start of the remaining teams at 7.30am the next morning. All the elite teams had finished while we were still cycling. We weren't here to win, we were here to successfully finish our first multi-day Adventure Race. The forced break suited us well as sleep was the priority at that time. Having reached that point we knew that we would finish.



The 'Brothers Mein'
satisfied with the result.
Photo: Andrew Pope

Excited by the prospect of an imminent finish to the two days of almost continual racing we downed a quick pasta meal for breakfast and prepared our double kayak. Hired locally we had secured a somewhat bulky sea-kayak. Accustomed to paddling faster kayaks we put our all into the paddle to CP27. Pleased to be finally on the water we powered past the other well rested competitors reaching CP27 first. While making no difference to the race positions we powered on, momentarily allowing ourselves to believe we were still in with a chance! CP28 was the last checkpoint on the course. A quick chat to the friendly volunteers that signed off on our race passport we returned to the lake to paddle the last 10 kilometres to the finish line. Tired well used muscles began to cramp and complain in the confines of the kayak. At this stage so close to the finish we weren't complaining (too much!!). The view when we rounded the last point and saw the finish line was superb. Support crews, finished competitors, race staff, and other well-wishers crowded the finish line. Many hands clapping signalled the end to our 47 hour 31 minute ~~race~~ 'self inflicted ordeal'.

As other teams each came into the finish we all congratulated each other on successfully completing the challenge. Of the 51 teams that had started the race only 26 finished. Looking at the final results we had finished 4th in our class and 11th overall. A good result for our first multi-day race. The winning team completed the course in a phenomenal 31hours 35 minutes. A close second place went to two local Cairns rogainers with 32 hours 18 minutes. After the race we had a chat to them both. One of the guys was in fact the local co-ordinator for the FNQ region of the Queensland Rogaining Association. It turns out rogaining was the starting point for their interest in AR. Now that sounds familiar!

Its almost a relief to write this account of those 3 days now that it's behind us. Life will perhaps return to some level of normality. No more training. No more poring over gear requirements and logistical arrangements. No more spending more money than I could afford on equipment and travel expenses. The odd thing is that I'm now looking for the next challenge although I do recall that I expressly told myself throughout the race 'never again'.

Andy Mein

**Do you have a story on a rogaine-related outdoor challenge you've been involved in that you would like to share with other like minded outdoor enthusiasts?
Send your story via email to: andy_mein@bigpond.com**

'Enthusiasm can overcome reason': continued from page 10

some more track-walking, we headed off down the spur and found our target. You would think by now that we would have figured out what "very steep" meant, but it would seem enthusiasm can overcome reason, and I remember looking down from this checkpoint and responding to my team-mates' queries with a comment something like "It's do-able."



So where do you think we are?
Photo: Andy Mein

Our descent was achieved with very little foot-work, as we spent most of our time on our backsides by choice rather than taking the risk of ending up on them by default! We found lots of palm trees, and yes, they were beautiful as the clue sheet suggested, but unfortunately we managed to by-pass #10. When we found a track and I assured my friends that camp was just out of sight on a bearing north of west, there was no stopping us. We were like a pack of ponies heading for the stables - our pace picked up and there was no way anyone could have encouraged us to change our course!

When we arrived at camp most of us still had the courage to cross the log bridge over the duck pond, although one traveller decided it wasn't worth the risk of getting wet at that late stage and took the

long way round. We were thrilled with our 130 points, earned at a cost of numerous minor scratches, tired limbs and much cursing and laughing. Our excitement was topped off when we learned that we had managed to win our category (Women's Veterans 6 Hour).

I would like to thank Sue, Kerrie, Lyn and Deb for accepting my invitation to participate, thereby providing me with the opportunity to share what is quickly becoming a passion for me. We are looking forward to learning more about this fantastic sport and joining in events in the near future.

Thanks to all the organisers, especially Bert and Dianne who patiently received my many phone enquiries leading up to the event, for making this a very memorable Saturday.

Lee Lowe

Team 46 with Sue Moore, Kerrie Shoemark, Lyn Hey and Deb Polverino

Newsletter contributions:

Remember to keep those contributions coming. Put pen to paper or snap a few photographs at your next event and share them with your fellow rogainers. Take note of the submission dates and send your contributions to newsletter Editor Andy Mein. Written word via email would be appreciated (PC Word '95 or 'text' file). Original copies of your photographs would be preferred and will be returned. See Committee listing for Andy's contact details.

Issue	Publication Date	Submissions Close
88	7th November	2nd November
89	23rd January	18th January
90	6th March	1st March
91	22nd May	17th May

'Keep your contributions coming all year round.'

A Fairway to Travel - Oz Rogaining Champs 2001 in WA:

After an hour's driving from Perth on the Albany Highway, the featureless bush country gave way to gently rolling farmland. A little further on, we turned into the Hashhouse site. We arrived early on the Friday afternoon, to attend the ARA's AGM. With several other interstate visitors, we contemplated our strange surroundings. We were in a paddock of fine grass, cropped close by sheep, as smooth as a bowling green. To the west, the ground rose imperceptibly towards a bush-covered knoll. The area was a patchwork of paddocks with bush on the low knolls and ridges. The occasional fence seemed to be the only impediment to rapid progress.



Imagine our surprise when, in the morning, we were presented with a map covered in contours, reminiscent of last year's Champs at Gundy in NSW! Were we in the right place? The answer lay in the scale: 1:50 000 and 5m contour interval! (Without any indication of vegetation boundaries).

This was going to be a new experience for us. My partner Richard Robinson and I are both used to good steep country with plenty of rocks and wiry vegetation to slow down the runners. Now we could see our rivals, limbering up for a 110km sprint. I could feel the trophy slipping from our grasp, and we hadn't even started! Oh for a bit of lawyer vine and a few sandstone cliffs!

At noon we tee-ed off for the first hole. Yes it was like a game of golf. We followed the fairways in as straight lines as we could. The only difference was that instead of the traditional greens, the flags were placed in small patches of bush. Like in championship golf, there were 72 of them.

In WA they never have more than 72 checkpoints, numbered 1 to 72, but scoring anywhere from 10 to 100 points. Something to do with their 12-bit computer system, I believe. Another of several WA peculiarities we had to bend our brains around.

For me, the other big difference was Richard, a new partner for this event. Richard's detailed plan allowed only for three one-minute stops, to fill up at each water drop. Richard is relentless. I'm more of a dash-and-rest rogainer. Actually it worked quite well: I pushed the pace when I dashed, and when I needed a rest, Richard dragged me on.



We knew that on a course like this, we would have no chance of winning; not with Nigel 'Tiger' Aylott around. He and his partner, John Jacoby, both from Victoria, disappeared over our horizon after a couple of holes. They had the course cleaned up in time for breakfast on Sunday morning. In the end we were one of three teams who did the full round, and we were 3rd. Second-placed were elite orienteers Craig Dufty and Andy Hogg, from WA, who finished at 10am, a full hour ahead of us, so we had no regrets. Actually it was very satisfying to cover so much ground and complete the course; also we had the men's vets trophy to take home.

My efforts earned NSW 2 points in the Interstate Trophy. Well that put us just ahead of the Northern Territory. As often occurs, the home state, WA, won the trophy, but Victoria and SA both put in a good effort. Next year the Australian Champs will be in easy striking distance of Sydney. It's time for us to get our act together and win the Interstate Trophy. Alert your best partner and start training now!

Mike Hotchkis

Visit <http://rogaine.asn.au/wara/results/2001/redroo> for full results

SYDNEY'S MINI ROGAINING SERIES POWERS ON 22 EVENTS - 4 NEW VENUES

The hugely popular Sydney Summer Series of mini rogain events backs up after the Olympics for another season of exciting navigational challenges. The programme begins BEFORE daylight saving on October 17 at Meadowbank and continues with a short Christmas break until mid March. A navigational challenge in some of Sydneys most spectacular harbourside park and bush locations - something not to be missed.

Many of our favourite venues are back for more action, several featuring new start areas. Four new maps debut this season and provide even more to look forward to. How about starting beside a pub (at Woolwich for event 18), dusting off the malibu (Turimetta Head for event 14) and getting really up the creek (Roseville event 19). And lastly get out the spinning wheel at Darling Mills (event 11).

We have retained the pre Christmas event at the spectacular Clifton Gardens and kept a beachside venue for all those sweaty rogainers that like a dip. Changes this season include moving the Wolstonecraft start to Manns Point (what a view!) and the Chiswick event to the equally inspiring Chambers Park. The Riverview map gets a different angle by starting in Longueville and the Manly to the Spit area returns to the top (Tania Park, again what a view!). The season builds to the final event in the mid March twilight at Macquarie Uni, where we will go out in fine style with prize giving and a celebratory BBQ. The snags and champers sounds good. All in all it promises to be another great programme.

If you feel like a bit of mental and physical exercise during the week we would love to see you at the Summer Series. Start working on those leaving early Wednesday excuses now. A full programme is included with this newsletter. And if you need any more information, direct all enquiries to the series coordinator Ross Barr 9489 4154 (h).

Letters to the Editor:

To the Editor,

Having completed my 2nd Championship rogaine in Western Australia, congratulations to you all. It was wonderfully organised, great tucker and speeches afterwards, congratulating all the participants and introducing us all to the local farmers who had extended their properties for us to rogain on with plenty of sheep and loads of fences for someone so small.

Having agreed with my rogaining partner to go out and do 3 sets of 7 hours with 1 hour break in between, even the best laid plans go astray. As to the dismay of my partner on arrival back at the Hash House after 8 1/2 hours, I had to admit that I was in pretty poor shape for a usually tough competitor. I have been recovering from a virus and not as well as I thought. I reluctantly could not go out for the next session but agreed to go out at 4.30 the next morning, which we did. Feeling slightly better, we finished at approximately 11.30am with a not too disgraced score of 1150 - even though my partner forgot to clip one of the check points worth 60 points "oops".

I have been competing for a little more than 12 months now, and consider myself a good team player, fit and I love the sport. So if there is anyone out there looking for a good team player in the vets or super-vets please contact me as my partner was disappointed in my performance in W.A. I am looking forward to competing next year.

Kind regards,

Maggie Hart

(02) 9953 1358

**Do you have something to
say about the sport? How about
writing to the Editor with your
suggestions, compliments or
criticisms.**

To the Editor

I would just like to say a very big thank you to the four people who came to my assistance at the corner of the Great North Walk and the Watagan Track on the recent Lake Macquarie Rogaine.

I am grateful for their assistance and willingness to assist me even though it meant lost time and points for their team, especially as they walked with me out to the main road.

I cannot remember their names except that it was three females and a male and one of the females worked for Ernest and Young.

Thank you once again,

Julie



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I/We the undersigned, who live at the address given below, hereby apply to become members / renew membership of the above named incorporated association. In the event of my/our admission as members I/We agree to be bound by the rules of the association for the time being in force.

Full Name	Date of Birth	Fee (\$)	Renew (Y/N)	Signature

My/Our address (for delivery of one copy of each newsletter) is:

Name:

Address:

Town: Postcode:

E-mail:

Phone: (home) (work) (fax)

Interested in being a volunteer at an event this year? YES ☐ NO ☐

The fee per annum is \$12 for the first person on this form and \$3 for each additional person. The membership year starts 1st. January. The maximum fee for a family is \$15. A family is defined as one or two adults plus any number of dependent children each of whom looks to one or both of the adults as a parent and who all live at the same address. Please send this form together with a cheque payable to "NSW Rogaining Association" to: **NSWRA Membership Secretary, 97 Norman Avenue, Thornleigh NSW 2120**



www.nswrogaining.org