



Australian Rogaining Association Inc.
2017 Annual General Meeting
Friday 5 May 2017
Bredbo Community Hall, NSW
Minutes

The meeting was opened by the President at 2:05pm.

1. APOLOGIES AND NOTIFICATION OF PROXIES

Apologies received: Nick Bowden, Mark Porter, Steve Cooper, Paul Szijarto, Andrew Baker, Ron Frederick, Gill Fowler, Jon Potter, Mike Dunbar, Mike Aylott

Proxies advised:

David Symons is proxy for Paul Szijarto, Ken McLean is proxy for Nick Bowden, Craig and Evelyn Colwell are proxies for Mark Porter and Steve Cooper, Vic Sedunary and Merv Trease are proxies for Andrew Baker and Ron Frederick

Delegates were in attendance representing all states and territories except NTRA:

- ACTRA: Julie Quinn, David Baldwin
- NSWRA: Trevor Gollan
- NTRA: Nil
- QRA: Paul Guard, Tony Scott
- RT: Gary Carroll, Ken McLean
- SARA: Craig and Evelyn Colwell
- VRA: Vic Sedunary, Merv Trease
- WARA: Paul (Wil) Williams, David Symons

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Each delegate was invited to introduce themselves and to describe briefly one top priority issue that their state/territory association is currently facing (max 3 minutes each).

Vic Sedunary (VRA Event Treasurer) and **Merv Trease**

- Vic and Merv are a regular competitors in Australian and World Championships.
- The top issues for VRA are event volunteers and committee volunteers. Key positions in catering and equipment can be difficult to fill.
- For the last year, VRA has no longer produced a regular newsletter. Instead, regular event emails are sent using "Mailchimp". Late entry response is good. Attendance at events remains steady.
- The VRA 2 x 6 hour events are popular, with Saturday and Sunday events on the same course. This year, to encourage more night navigation, the Saturday event was started later.

Tony Scott

- Tony is former QRA President.
- Tony noted the trend in Queensland towards more multi-discipline rogaines (hybrid with adventure racing) being organised each year.
- QRA has implemented a reward system to recognise the efforts of volunteers who make a major contribution to a QRA event. Volunteers are offered a free entry to a QRA event of their choosing within the following 12 months.

Paul Guard (QRA President and ARA Secretary)

- Volunteers are the biggest issue for QRA.
- A new male and female “Rogainer of the Year” competition is being trialled in 2017. A Member's best 50 hours of rogaining competition/volunteering count towards their annual score.
- A challenge for QRA is to convince more of the new rogainers and those coming in from adventure racing to try the 24hr foot events.

Trevor Gollan (NSWRA President)

- Trevor is the new NSWRA President, following from Gill Fowler.
- The most significant organisational issue for NSWRA is volunteers. One approach is that the committee sends a targeted email to people who haven't yet volunteered.
- NSWRA have outsourced the event catering - \$1000 per event and use the local Rural Fire Service for safety – costs about \$500 per event.
- The trend is that land access permission is becoming more difficult.

Richard Robinson (IRF President, Immediate Past President ARA)

- Within the IRF, succession planning is the main issue. The President's position expires in two years' time, and Richard hopes to move on.
- The IRF Executive remains mostly Australian dominated. Europeans are mainly younger and more focussed on their own countries.

Gary Carroll (RTas President)

- Gary is an ex WARA President and Life Member.
- Gary observed that there should be more rogainers in Tasmania, given the high levels of outdoor activity. One problem is the weather, which narrows the date options and leads to clashes with other events held in autumn or spring.
- Some RTas difficulties stem from being a small community. But there are roughly 400 people on the email list, and 200 on the Facebook group.
- RTas now has about 10 people on the Committee, mostly based in southern Tasmania. There remains a lack of technical experience on the committee.
- A problem in the past has been an irregular event program. The committee has now settled on a regular calendar of 3 events per year.
- Gary identified that there are too many single points of failure (lack of backup) in the organisation teams and is taking steps to address this.
- The recent Ross Rummage and Maria Island rogaines were very successful.

Paul (Wil) Williams (President of WARA)

- Wil is the incoming President of WARA replacing Paul Szijarto.
- Land access permission has become a major issue for WARA, which lead to cancelling of an event. The water authorities have placed a blanket ban on camping on most public land within 200kms of Perth, despite past assurances.

- WARA runs a reliable calendar of 6 events per year. Notably 2017 is the first year in many years that WARA will not run two 24 hour events. Some event numbers are down on previous years.
- WARA has a small keen committee, but succession planning remains an issue.
- Several key roles have changed and WARA has lost some very long serving volunteers. There are a few event roles which still rely on key individuals.
- WARA has a good membership database for volunteers. But they do not wish to pressure people into volunteering because it may affect participation.

Craig Colwell (SARA Vice President)

- SARA has implemented a new “Rogainer of the Year” competition.
- Peter Milnes has developed new course setter guidelines including water plan calculations.
- Volunteers are not a significant problem for SARA, in particular course setting is very popular.
- A problem for SARA is the need to travel a long way for suitable terrain.

Evelyn Colwell (SARA Committee member)

- The SA audience is identified as two separate groups: one doing short events and one doing the longer events.
- SARA is marketing the longer rogaining (24 hour) events as a “bush camping weekend” and a “Rogaining Good Time”.
- SARA works with local fundraising groups such as Asthma Foundation, for which the fundraising group provides publicity for the event (eg radio advertisements).

Julie Quinn (ACTRA President)

- There are many good rogaining areas near Canberra, which makes it hard to convince committee/members to travel further for interstate events.
- The ACTRA committee is strong at the moment, but is trying to get new young people involved. Succession planning for the President position is a problem.
- The membership database and IT systems need an upgrade.

David Baldwin (ARA Technical Committee Chair and ACTRA webmaster)

- Time constraints are an issue due to large rogaining-related workload.
- ACTRA has a good breeding ground through ANU and its annual “Inward Bound” adventure footrace.

David Rowlands (ARA President)

- Similar to the IRF, succession planning is becoming a significant issue for the ARA Executive.
- The Executive is managing the necessary tasks to support Australian rogaining. But there are a many initiatives that the ARA could be undertaking, which provide an opportunity for new personnel with energy and enthusiasm to step in.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 2016

<p>MOTION: That the minutes of the 2016 AGM be accepted as true and accurate Moved: Richard Robinson, Seconded: Julie Quinn. Motion passed.</p>

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT DISCUSSED ELSEWHERE

The meeting did not raise any additional items to be addressed.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President's Report was tabled. The President noted that the Australasian Championships was held in New Zealand for the first time. It was an excellent and successful event, but numbers were down compared to expectations due to a date clash. He also noted that the ARA has purchased 20,000 wristbands to be used with Navlight tags. The President thanked the other members of the Executive for their efforts during the year.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was tabled. The President noted that the balance is healthy due to the successful organisation of the WRC 2016. Insurance costs have remained stable and outgoing grants have been low.

b) Setting of Capitation Fee for 2018

The proposal for the 2018 Capitation fees was presented as part of the Treasurer's Report. The proposal is that the capitation fee for 2018 remain at \$1 per member/participant, but that collection of the fee for 2018 be waived.

MOTION: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.
Moved: David Rowlands, Seconded: David Baldwin. Motion passed.

MOTION: That the capitation for the calendar year 2018 be set at \$1 per participant/member.
Moved: Craig Colwell, Seconded: Julie Quinn. Motion passed.

MOTION: That the collection of the capitation fees for 2018 be waived.
Moved: Richard Robinson, Seconded: Craig Colwell. Motion passed.

c) IRF Levy and IDF

The IRF levy remains low and the IDF currently has a healthy balance with few current proposals for expenditure. Given the ARA's surplus it was proposed by Richard Robinson that collection of the fee for 2018 should be waived.

MOTION: That the IDF capitation fee for the period 2018 be set at \$0.50 per participant/member.
Moved: David Rowlands, Seconded: David Baldwin. Motion passed.

MOTION: That the collection of the IDF capitation fee for 2018 be waived.
Moved: David Rowlands, Seconded: David Baldwin. Motion passed.

d) Liability Insurance

The liability insurance arrangements were discussed in the Treasurer's Report.

e) **ARA Grant Policy and Status of 2016 Grants**

There were no applications in 2016. Grant applications for 2017 are due by end of November, State and Territory associations are encouraged to review the application guidelines on the ARA website and submit proposals.

Richard Robinson suggested that investment in a shared online entry system would be a very good use of the accumulated ARA funds.

f) **Appointment of ARA Auditor**

No audit has yet been undertaken for the accounts for the last three years. Brian Austin used to audit the accounts. The ARA Executive will take responsibility for recruiting an auditor. Two persons were suggested by delegates as options to pursue.

ACTION Mike Aylott: Recruit an auditor and arrange auditing of the outstanding ARA Accounts.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The President suggested that the ARA will move to staggered elections for Executive positions, which will be achieved by one person standing down from their position each year, and a new person being elected to that role for three years. This will not require a constitution change. Mike Aylott has advised that due to family commitments and taking up residency in Kenya, he would like to step down at next year's AGM.

All positions were declared vacant.

MOTION: That David Rowlands be elected President for a three year period. Moved: Richard Robinson, Seconded: Paul Guard. Elected unanimously.

MOTION: That Paul Guard be elected Secretary for a three year period. Moved: David Rowlands, Seconded: David Baldwin. Elected unanimously.
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MOTION: That Mike Aylott be elected Treasurer for a three year period. Moved: David Rowlands, Seconded: Craig Colwell. Elected unanimously.

8. AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

a) **2017 Australian Championship: ACTRA**

Course Setters: Jean Douglass and Ron Simpson. Vetter: David Singleton

The event Water Plan was circulated with the AGM documents, and will serve as a template for future championships. It was noted that the event information provided to competitors was comprehensive and also could be utilised as a template.

b) **2018 Australasian Championship: QRA**

Date: 25-26 August 2018. Organiser: Paul Guard, course setter: Richard Robinson, vettors: Tim McIntyre and Paul Frylink. Location will be north-west of Brisbane. Land access liaison is ongoing. This event will also be the 2018 Interschool Championship.

c) **2019 Australasian Championship: RTas**

The event is planned to be held on 9-10 November 2019. The event currently does not have an organiser. Setters: Gary Carroll and Bernard Walker, vetter: Nick Bowden.

d) 2020 Australasian Championship: SARA

Location is planned for an area north of Burra in the lower Flinders Ranges. Course setter: Jenny Cassanova.

e) 2021 Australasian Championship: NTRA

The 2021 event is reserved for NTRA, which was the deferred from the original slot in 2015 or 2018.

f) Trophies

Arrangements have been made to deliver all the perpetual trophies to the ARC organisers. The only outstanding issue is the replacement for the Interstate Trophy. David Baldwin is transferring the historical information to the new trophy. David Symons asked if there is an Overall Winner trophy and was advised by the President that in the past it would duplicate the Mens' section. However it was noted by Julie Quinn that Women and Mixed teams were capable of winning overall. It was felt by the meeting that ARA has enough trophies to manage as it is.

9. INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION

a) ARA representation at next IRF Meeting August 2017

Richard advised that the IRF AGM Agenda will be distributed in the next few weeks. David Baldwin and Julie Quinn will represent ARA at the IRF Meeting in Latvia in August.

b) IRF Capitation

ARA currently pays about AUD \$280 in capitation per annum to the IRF. Richard informed the meeting that there have been no plans for change to the IRF capitation formula.

c) IRF Technical Regulations

David Baldwin reported that a recent development for the IRF Technical Regulations was discussion in Europe as to whether teams can visit controls after the finish time of an event. The IRF rules have been clarified to confirm that this is permissible.

d) WRC Event Entrant Criteria, ARA Wildcard Policy

The ARA has policies in case all places at a WRC are expected to be filled. But this scenario has not been enacted to date.

e) ARA's International Development Fund (IDF)

David Baldwin reported that there was not much interest in the proposed Course Setting Workshop at the WRC in Latvia. It is likely to be cancelled.

The ARA Executive is actively investigating further opportunities to invest the accumulated IDF funds.

f) ARA Motion for WRCs to be Held Every Second Year

The ARA's motion was submitted to the IRF Secretary in February, but has not yet been put to IRF Council. The President will follow up with Rod Phillips to ensure a comprehensive discussion and debate with IRF Council prior to the IRF AGM.

<p>MOTION: That the ARA Council supports the WRC Frequency Motion as tabled. That the motion be put to the IRF Council for voting as soon as possible. Proposed: Paul Williams, Seconded: Evelyn Colwell. Motion passed.</p>

g) Other IRF Matters.

Richard noted that IRF need WRC Event Advisors for both the 2019 Spanish WRC (requiring Spanish language skills) and the expected 2020/21 USA WRC.

10. TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE

Convenor: David Baldwin

a) Review of Australian Rogaining Championship 2016 organised by WARA

The Technical Committee examined issues the 2016 ARC experienced with WARA's purpose built electronic punching system. Some teams recording 'missed punches', with several having used a punch which subsequently failed later in the event.

A fundamental weakness is that the WARA hardware appears to give some 'false positives': a beep signal that a control visit has been recorded when it actually has not. Wil said that a better design would ensure that the beep occurs after successful writing to the device.

Tony questioned whether such dispute should be decided by a jury. The Technical Regulations specify that all involved need to adjudicate in the spirit of fair play. David Baldwin stated that the ARA's learned experience was that it took 7 years to gain full confidence in the Navlight system. Unfortunately the way the scoring dispute unfolded did lead to some loss of goodwill between WARA and ARA due to entrenched positions. The ARA's official results give teams the benefit of the doubt in the case of a missed punch.

The President thanked David Baldwin for his work in bringing the technical issues to conclusion.

b) Compulsory Water Plans For Future ARCs

David Baldwin provided a discussion document at last year's AGM on water planning. This year's ARC Water Plan was presented to Council and will serve as a template for future ARCs. David noted that a call for water containers with local groups got very positive results, he would recommend this idea.

c) Future Revision of ARA Rules and Technical Regulations

There have been no changes to the ARA's technical regulations, nor are any changes currently planned.

11. INTERVARSITY

Convenor: Gill Fowler

a) Australian University Sports (AUS) Accreditation

Convenor Gill Fowler arranged for the 2017 ARC to be accredited with AUS as a Level 3 "Endorsed Event". The Intersarsity gained a page on the AUS website and the AUS logos were displayed on the ARA and event websites.

b) Location, Date for 2018 Intersarsity Championship

In 2018, the Australasian Championship to be hosted by QRA will also be the 2018 Intersarsity Championship.

c) Future NAMSF Funding

NAMSF funding since 2007 has been very successful in re-booting and supporting the Intersarsity competition. NAMSF have previously flagged plans to close the fund in the near future. Continued funding for Intersarsity cannot be assumed. The Executive will continue to develop proposals with NAMSF to support the growth of Intersarsity.

d) Appointment of University Convenor

Unfortunately this matter was not discussed at the meeting as time became short, but will be pursued by the Executive.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

a) ARA Website Upgrade

The Executive is in the process of completing the website upgrade with the assistance of Andre Morkel's company Openwire. A plan for this upgrade was tabled. The ARA website continues to publish important news and ARC results. David Baldwin suggested that the website calendar task should be delegated to the states.

b) National Rogaine Entry System Proposal

David Baldwin presented a proposal for a national entry system at the 2015 AGM. This is being planned in conjunction with a number of state associations. Implementation has been delayed, but is expected to move forward through engagement of Chris Stevenson from NSW.

c) ASC Recognition

RTas requested that ASC recognition of the sport of rogaining be added to the AGM agenda. RTas previously missed out on a \$3000 grant from their state sports body due to the fact that ARA is not recognised by ASC as a sport. This is in anticipation of securing a grant for the 2019 ARC.

The ARA Executive has examined this and concluded that there is one mandatory requirement that ARA cannot meet. The ARA must be recognised as the pre-eminent body in Australia by an International Federation which is a member of the international body SportAccord. This remains an objective which the IRF may be able to pursue. Gary Carroll suggested an avenue through orienteering, but this would also preclude ARA as the pre-eminent body. In conclusion, the meeting encouraged RTas to apply to ARA through the State Grants process.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

14. NEXT AGM

The next AGM is planned to be held at 2pm, Friday 24 August 2018. This is prior to the Australasian Rogaining Championship, to be hosted by QRA in South East Queensland.

The meeting was closed at 4:55pm.

Tabled Documents

- President’s Report – **2016-17 Presidents Report.pdf**
- Treasurer’s Report – **2016 Treasurers Report.pdf**
- Minutes of Previous AGM – **2016 ARA AGM Minutes.pdf**
- IRF Motion – **WRC frequency Motion 2017 v3.pdf**
- Water Management – **ARC 2017 Water Plan.pdf**
- Website Development – **Revision of New ARA Website 2017 v3.pdf**

ARA Council as at 5/05/2017

President: David Rowlands
Secretary: Paul Guard
Treasurer: Michael Aylott
Past President: Richard Robinson

Delegates:

Julie Quinn	ACTRA	President
David Baldwin	ACTRA	Representative
Trevor Gollan	NSWRA	President
Gill Fowler	NSWRA	Representative
Jon Potter	NTRA	President
Mike Dunbar	NTRA	Representative
Paul Guard	QRA	President
Tony Scott	QRA	Representative
Gary Carroll	RT	President
Nick Bowden	RT	Representative
Mark Porter	SARA	President
Steve Cooper	SARA	Representative
Andrew Baker	VRA	President
Ron Frederick	VRA	Representative
Paul (Wil) Williams	WARA	President
Paul Szijarto	WARA	Representative