

President's Report –

SA Rogaining Association AGM 19 March 2022



Dear Fellow Rogainers,

Firstly, I'd like to acknowledge that we meet on the land of the Peramangk people, and pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. I do this in the spirit of reconciliation.

Welcome to the start of the rogaine season for 2022.

It has been a privilege to again serve as President for the last year. I have continued to have a steep learning curve, as I sought to understand more fully the behind-the-scenes tasks that go into running this association. This has been made much easier due to being surrounded by an incredibly competent, hard-working, and friendly committee.

Firstly a review of last year's events:

1. The Twilight 4-hour, 'Rogainers of the Last Park' was held on 13 March, and was very well attended with 152 teams. It was a fantastic season opener, based in Belair, set by local Rhys Foggarty. Rhys make good use of the many local parks and hills-face reserves with the added twist of a mystery to solve for bonus points.
2. The bush 6-hour 'Pine-ing for Points' was held on Saturday 17 April in the Second Valley Forest on the Fleurieu Peninsula. This was set by a younger setting team led by second generation rogaing, Josie Smernick, Joe Milne and team, and again was very well attended. There were two versions, 6 hours in the day, with 88 teams, or 6 hours starting late afternoon, with 29 brave teams getting some night navigation practice.
3. The long awaited Australian Rogaining Championships, 'Deceptive Lands' was next, on Sat 29 – Sun 30 May 2021, held in the mallee covered ranges to the northeast of Hallett in the Mid-north. After being postponed due to COVID in 2020 this was an event years in the making. A huge thanks to all involved and especially lead setter Jenny Casanova. Jenny applied her extensive experience in navigation sports and an innate precision to detail to ensure a course worthy of a national championship. A special mention also to coordinator Craig Colwell who managed this enormous task with his usual thorough approach and calm nature. This was well attended despite the loss of Victorian teams 3 days beforehand due to SA closing the border to Victoria, with 26 teams in the 8 hour and 80 teams in the 24-hour. We now have an 8 year rest before we host the nationals again!
4. The State Championships (Take 2) was held on Saturday and Sunday 18 and 19 September 2021. 'Take 2' because we had to cancel this event at the last minute after our state went into lockdown in the days before the original date in July. The setters had to hang controls twice! The event was held on the beautiful Almerita Station in the Southern Flinders and the large setting team was led by experienced setters Stephen Warren Smith, Adam Kilpatrick and David Ottway. 58 teams enjoyed this event across the 8-hour and the 24-hour event. It was exciting to have a junior team win the 24-hour event overall.
5. The annual 4-hour Velogaine 'Tour De Mt Torrens' set by Bruce Greenhalgh was held on Saturday 16 October in perfect spring weather and enjoyed by 51 teams (including 5 in the ebike section). The velogaine continues to grow in popularity.

6. The final event was the 'Parkland Promenade' 3-hour Minigaine, based in the Adelaide parklands, and set by Kate Corner and Michelle Bringham. This event was enjoyed by 135 teams and was a great way to finish the season.

On behalf of the SARA committee I sincerely thank all who volunteered to help organise these events, representing many hundreds of hours of volunteering. This association exists primarily to run rogaines, and it could not be done without the collective effort of many.

A side note is that running events, with all that involves, is time consuming and takes most of the committee's focus during the year, leaving little time for big picture planning. As a result our committee met on 2 occasions over the summer to discuss and plan around risk management, and the future of the sport. This included various measures to run events more efficiently, which you will see some evidence of, such as trialling not printing results on paper to save time and paper, with an electronic version being available via email soon after the event; not catering at shorter events and working bees the weekend after bush events for a team effort to clean up after the longer events. We also hope to keep encouraging new volunteers, so if you have done a few events and would like to give back, please let us know. We plan to make this easier for you by having suggestions for volunteer tasks needing doing as part of the entry form.

It is important to me to make a formal acknowledgement of the committee, who put in many hours of volunteer effort with competence and good humour. All are involved in different ways at different times (and apologies for those tasks that happen that I may have missed). I highlight a few key roles below, from the committee members of 2021:

- Jo Powell, Secretary, enews, 4-hour setting specialist.
- Doug Gillott, Treasurer, mapper, social media
- Craig Colwell, Vice President, coordinator, mapper, scone maker, many other miscellaneous tasks
- Kate Corner, immediate Past President, Volunteer Coordinator, admin guru
- Steve Gray, Navlight, anything IT and common sense, mapping
- Evelyn Colwell, stepping into Vol Coordinator, host, setter, coordinator, past Treasurer
- Richard Sprod, coordinator and bush setter, voice of experience
- Rob Tucker, various roles over many years, voice of experience
- Bruce Greenhalgh, coordinator, new role of meeting timekeeper
- Kevin Humphries, new role Landholder liaison
- Peter Milnes, Equipment Officer. Peter Milnes is the quiet achiever and superglue of rogaining events and deserves a special mention for his 24 years of service in this role. He has an exceptional knowledge of all aspects of equipment from satellite phones, to GPS units, trailer maintenance, tents, lights, first aid supplies, tea, coffee, cordial supplies and loving care of the famous orange and white controls (a welcome sight at 2am in the morning on a bush rogaine.) He also has a thorough knowledge of many other aspects of rogaining eg safety, catering after many years involvement in rogaining and on the committee. This guy is a living legend.

Thank you to Anton Steketee, Kathy Stockdale and Maria Krahling who are stepping down from the committee. Thank you for the different ways you have contributed.

Welcome to new committee members Joe Milne, Meredith Norman, Shanti Osborne, Sophie Carmichael, and Ruth Ambrose. They will help bring down the average age of the committee and help us have a broader representation.

We have another full calendar planned for this year's events, with the Velogaine just 3 weeks away, so we look forward to another full and fun year.

To finish I'd like to thank again all members of the 2021 committee for their enthusiasm and hard work. I'd also like to thank all of you, rogaining community, for your ongoing support of our great sport. See you out there!

Zara Soden
SARA President

