

President's Report

SA Rogaining Association AGM 18 March 2023



Dear Fellow Rogainers,

Firstly, I'd like to acknowledge that we meet on the land of the Peramangk people and acknowledge their ongoing connection to country. I do this in the spirit of reconciliation.

Welcome to the start of the rogain season for 2023.

It has been a privilege to again serve as President for the last year. While it can be a considerable task to try and keep up with all the association is involved in, it is also a pleasure to be part of the SARA committee; a friendly and competent group of like-minded people who I have come to regard as friends.

Our main reason for existing is to run rogain events, so here is a review from last year:

1. Our season opener was the Twilight 4-hour, 'Lakes District Rogaine' at Mt Barker and surrounds, held on 19 March. This was very well attended with 145 teams. It was set by our hard-working SARA Secretary, Jo Powell, who went above and beyond to find a range of interesting control locations. My favourite course leg was using the pedestrian tunnel under the freeway, coming out near a beautiful gum-lined dam, neither of which I previously knew had existed.
2. Hot on the heels of the Twilight event was the 'Woodside Wheelers' 4-hour Velogaine, set by velogaine setting specialist and SARA Treasurer, Doug Gillott. This was well attended by 49 teams, from the cycling and regular SARA community, including five in the e-bike category.
3. The SA State Championships 'Wilkatana for Wily Wanderers' on 14 and 15 May, was on a new map all on the one property north of Port Augusta. This was very tough terrain and many teams found they had to shorten their original plan as the rocky and steep ground was slow going. The event was set by experienced setter Andrew Murphy and newer setters Des Norman and Marcus Herderich. All teams did well to come back in one piece, with the overall championships taken out by a pair of Victorians, Paul Monks and Alaster Meehan, well ahead of the locals.
4. Next up on 25 June was the bush 6-hour 'Another Pine Mess You've Got Me Into' on an old time favourite map, Kuitpo Forest. This was set by experienced setter Bruce Greenhalgh with Kathy Stockdale and Steve Sullivan. This was a popular event close to town, which

encouraged teams new to bush navigating to have a go. This was very well attended with 116 teams, including many families. All were back before dark to enjoy hot soup and rolls.

5. Following an unusually wet winter, the 15- or 8-hour bush roving event 'Ngadjuri Roaming' at Bundaleer on 10 – 11 September, brought particular challenges to event Coordinator Richard Sprod and setters Vince Loye and Andrew McComb and their team of hardy volunteers. Exceptionally heavy rain in the days up to the event led to a last-minute postponing of the event start by two hours to give the access road a chance to dry out (a little) in the Saturday morning sunshine. Nonetheless, several cars including 4WDs were bogged, some for days. On course, it was a remarkable experience to see every gully sporting a creek and the 'real' (usually dry) creeks flowing strongly. (See Bruce Greenhalgh's account 'Waterworld' on our website under 'Conversations'.) I am sure none of the teams (26 in the 8-hour, 38 teams in the 15-hour) will forget this experience. Despite squelchy conditions the weather was clear, and the moonlight was strong. It was a balm to traverse the sparkling green terrain. Three teams managed to clear the course adding to the excitement at the pointy end. The well rationed Hash House was a highlight.
6. The Australasian Rogaining 24-hour Championships, 'Pyrenees Ponder', were held near Avoca, Victoria on 8 – 9 October. The steep ranges were a challenge for many teams. SA was well represented with our two intervarsity teams taking out 1st (Toby Cazzolato, Jack Marschall and Max Grivell) and 2nd (Joe Milne and Josie Smernick), and Philip and Sue Hearnden winning the mixed ultra-veterans class. In the accompanying 6-hour event father and son team of Ben and Marcus Cazzolato came an impressive third overall. Well done to all the SA teams in what looked very tough terrain!
7. The final event was the 3-hour Minigaine, 'West Side Story' set by new setters Shanti Osborne and Sef Van den Nieuwelaar based around St Clair on Saturday 5 November. This event was enjoyed by 129 teams with many families joining 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.

2023 events - Planning is well underway for another full calendar for 2023. In particular, we have two exciting bush events planned for this year, firstly an 8- or 15-hour roving event, 3 - 4 June, in the Southern Flinders Ranges set by experienced setting team Sue and Peter Milnes and Rob Tucker. We also have the long anticipated 12- or 24-hour State Championships in the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park (I-FRNP), on 5 - 6 August, again with experienced setters, Mark Corbett, Evelyn and Craig Colwell and Stephen Grey. A big thank you to committee members Rob Tucker and Peter Milnes, who successfully applied to the Ikara-FRNP Co-Management Board, for permission to use this area. This was a lengthy process, and we were very pleased to get approval. We hope that we will continue to develop our relationship with this group of National Parks and the Adnyamathanha traditional landholders.

We also have our 4-hour Velogaine in the Southern Vales with experienced velogaine setter (and terrific Treasurer) Doug Gillott assisted by Emma McCambridge and Jason Morton, and the 6-hour bush rogaine in Para Wirra in September set by newer committee members Shanti Osborne and

Keith Humphris. The location of our final event, the 3-hour Minigaine in November is to be confirmed but is being set by our friends from Scouts SA.

Financial status - As you will see in the Treasurer's report, we have recently been independently audited with the conclusion that the 2022 account has been properly drawn and maintained, so it is a true and fair view of the state of affairs of SARA as at 31 December 2022.

General - On other matters, the committee met in January to do some planning and risk management. We were very fortunate to be led by David Powell, husband of our Secretary Jo Powell, in updating our risk management strategy. Thank you, David. Another exciting development is that we are having a purpose-built rogaining trailer made for us using a local company. Our long-standing Equipment Officer, Peter Milnes, has designed this with ease of manual handling in mind. The inclusion of side panels will allow for more volunteers to help pack up simultaneously after an event. Our national body, the Australian Rogaining Association (ARA), have generously assisted SARA with the purchase price of this with a grant. Incidentally ARA also funded 50 % of the purchase of our defibrillator in 2022. We appreciate their support.

At the national rogaining level, at last October's AGM, which I attended via Zoom, a technical change was voted in to use more inclusive terminology with regard to gender. The new national rule T17 (which the states will now follow as well) is that the gender categories are:

1. Men - all team members are men,
2. Women - all team members are women,
3. Mixed - everyone else. It is positive that Rogaining is keeping up with broader culture as we all learn about the importance of using inclusive language, so that all feel seen and included.

This is currently also under consideration by the International Rogaining Federation, along with some other changes such as increasing the age of the Veteran Category from 40 to 45 years. The latter is in response to recent evidence about rates of decline of speed and endurance performance with age, being less than previously thought in the early 40s.

In 2022, three talented young SARA members, Meredith Norman, Abigail George and Joanna George, surprised and delighted us by winning the Junior Women's category, against tough competition, in the 2022 World Rogaining Championships in the Czech Republic. This tenacious trio, also known as the "The Dream Team", plan to defend their title at the 2023 World Rogaining Championships in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California USA in July. The SARA, along with the ARA and the Nigel Aylott Scholarship Memorial Foundation (NASMF) are pleased to be able to offer sponsorship support to these young women, and we wish them all the best.

I must conclude by 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.

As I hope is well known, Peter Milnes is the quiet achiever and superglue of rogaining events. Peter Milnes is entering his Silver Jubilee (25 years) in this role. He deserves a special mention of recognition, and we plan to properly acknowledge Peter at our end of year volunteers thank you afternoon tea.

Before I go through his credentials, any mention of Peter must include mention of his life partner, Sue Milnes, who has supported him in this role for many, many years.

Peter has an exceptional knowledge of all aspects of equipment from satellite phones to gps units, trailer maintenance, tents, lights, first aid supplies, average consumption of cheese toasties per

person over 24 hours, tea, coffee, cordial supplies to name a few. He takes loving care of the famous orange and white controls (a welcome sight at any time in a bush rogaine, especially after midnight). He also has a thorough knowledge of many other aspects of rogaining such as risk, safety, and search and rescue, from his many years of involvement in rogaining and on the committee.

I would also like to make mention of newer committee members Joe Milne, Meredith Norman, Shanti Osborne, Sophie Carmichael, and Ruth Ambrose, who are all adding significantly in different ways already, adding fresh perspectives, with Sophie taking on social media posts and Shanti leading the website subcommittee.

Thank you also to:

- Jo Powell, Secretary, enews, coordinator, setter and certificate designer.
- Doug Gillott, Treasurer, event coordinator and mapper.
- Craig Colwell, Vice President, mapper, coordinator and maker of scones.
- Evelyn Colwell, Volunteer Coordinator, setter and past Treasurer.
- Steve Gray, Navlight, anything IT and common sense and mapping.
- Bruce Greenhalgh, setter, coordinator, meeting timekeeper and teller of stories.
- Keith Humphries, hash house logistics and landholder liaison.
- Peter Milnes, Equipment Officer extraordinaire, and setter.
- Richard Sprod, coordinator and setter of many events, hash house, voice of experience.
- Rob Tucker, setter of bush events, orienteering SA and National Parks liaison and voice of experience.

I also wish to formally thank Kate Corner, immediate past president and our first ever female president, who is stepping down from the committee as she takes on new responsibilities. Kate came from a trail running and bush walking background and took to rogaining with a bang, and soon joined the committee bringing her enthusiasm, drive and organisational skills. Kate, we thank you for your years of service, and wish you all the best for your future endeavours. We will miss you but hope to see you at the events.

To finish I'd like to thank all of you, the rogaining community, for your ongoing support of our great sport. See you out there!

Zara Soden, SARA President
18 March 2023