NSW ROGAINING NEWSLETTER

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PETE'S PRESIDENTIAL POLICY SPEECH

At our recent Annual General Meeting, I was volunteered as President, and my first duty is to welcome you to the 1995 season. I'm happy to get more involved as towards the end of last year I realised what a nice bunch of people rogainers are. This is more obvious when you help organise an event and get time to be social. At the Oz Champs, for example, we had 31 helpers in all, several of whom competed as well. Two club heroes I will name, as we made them life members at the AGM: Warwick Marsden and Trev Gollan. In a brief but moving acceptance, Trev said he hoped to keep rogaining for life. This is Trev's first newsletter as editor and our fiftieth.

It looks a full, well-balanced calendar of events for 1995: 12 in NSW/ACT, 2 gone already. The Australian Champs (application form this newsletter) are very convenient to us, in the splendid Budawang Mountains, and all levels of masochism are welcome.

Before that, and the other form enclosed, is the Metrogaine around Sydney's lower northern suburbs - a fun family day out or training run for the Champs.

On your behalf, I'll close by thanking last year's committee members, many of whom have returned. This year we will be trying to shift more deliberations to sub-committees, and keep combined meetings for decisions, especially on spending your money. Send the Secretary any of your ideas, or the Editor anything you would like published. To volunteer help at any event ring either Warwick Marsden or the organiser listed. Can anyone offer or suggest an equipment store, preferably somewhere in Sydney, about 10 cubic metres plus parking space (inside or out) for our covered trailer?

Do keep coming to events and introduce newcomers! Ooroo,

Pete Watterson.

"Land of Oz" Video

Though his footage never made the TV News, Vern Liles has put together a quality 30 minute VHS video on the '94 Australian Rogaining Championships. It's not a thriller, but includes shots of many competitors - at the clothesline start, checkpoint 47, the hash-house, waterdrops, Nigel Aylott being escorted into a police van, etc.

Anyone wanting to buy a copy, send a cheque for $25 (including postage) to Vern Liles at 73 Sutton St, Cootamundra NSW 2590, (Ph (069) 421414). Obviously include a brief cover note with your address. Ring Peter Watterson (02) 804 6091 for more info or to borrow his copy.

OBITUARY - BRAD MAUND

Brad Maund was probably not widely known in rogaining circles outside of Newcastle. Nevertheless, he competed in rogaines fairly frequently over the past seven years or so. One reason for Brad's lack of notoriety was his manner. A distinguishing characteristic of Brad that impressed me most was his unassuming and modest personality. This, in large part, contributed to him being liked by all who had the opportunity to know him.

Brad's main passion was triathlons, but he made time to rogaine and orienteer as a means to keep fit and to enjoy the navigational and physical challenges that the sports offered. Brad was both fiercely competitive, as evidenced by the many trophies for endurance sports he accumulated, and he was grateful for the camaraderie offered by those sports. He had many genuine friends.

Brad and a friend were tragically killed in a cycling accident near Singleton late last year. Brad is survived by his wife Karen and two young daughters.

Ian Dempsey.

NSWRA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Position	Name	Address	Phone
PRESIDENT	Peter Watterson	13 Driver St, DENISTONE 2114	02 804 6091
VICE PRESIDENT	Stephen Castle	61 Florence Ave, EASTLAKES 2018	02 667 4491
SECRETARY	Marnie Holmes	11/10 May St, EASTWOOD 2122	02 874 0226
TREASURER	Tony Maloney	25 Kiparra St, WEST PYMBLE 2073	02 499 2369
EDITOR	Trevor Gollan	5 Buckle Cres, WEST WOLLONGONG 2500	042 26 5544
EVENT ORGANISER	Warwick Marsden	34 The Glen Cres, SPRINGWOOD 2777	047 51 6797
MEMBERSHIP	Graeme Cooper	Cluny Rd MSF2005, ARMIDALE 2350	067 72 3584
PUBLICITY	Julian Ledger	108 Cressy Rd, EAST RYDE 2112	02 888 1954
ARA REPRESENTATIVE	Alan Mansfield	94 Greenhills St, CROYDON PARK 2133	02 797 6773
COMMITTEE	John Keats	109 Mississippi Rd, SEVEN HILLS 2147	02 636 2364
	Anne Francis	62A Delmar Pde, DEE WHY 2099	02 982 4836
	David Sigley	34 Howard Rd, PADSTOW 2211	02 773 0868
	Debbie Cox	7/104 Pacific Pde, DEE WHY 2099	02 981 1795

NSW & ACT CALENDAR

DATE	HOURS	EVENT	LOCATION	ORGANISERS	PHONE
8 Apr 95	6 Hour	ACT Cyclegaine	West of Canberra	Malcolm Leslie	06 247 3873
				Geoff Farrar	06 247 7634
23 Apr 95	6 Hour	Metrogaine	Lower Northern Suburbs of Sydney	Julian Ledger	02 888 1954
				Marnie Holmes	02 874 0226
13-14 May 95	24 Hour	Aust/n Champs	Budawangs/Braidwood	Darryl Erbacher	06 258 4108
4 Jun 95	6 Hour	Paddy Pallin	North-west of Sydney	Stephen Castle	02 667 4491
24 Jun 95	24+ Hour	S&R Nav 95	Blue Mountains	John Tonitto	02 528 6174
12 Aug 95	12 Hour	Lake Macquarie	Watagan Mountains	Bert van Netten	049 753 693
				Arthur Kingsland	049 526 278
9-10 Sep 95	24 Hour	NSW Champs	Lithgow	Gareth Prosser	02 315 8985
7 Oct 95	12 Hour	ACT Spring	to be announced	Gordon Nightingale	
11-12 Nov 95	24 Hour	Interstate Challenge	Albury	Tony Perrott	060 208 654
25 Nov 95	6 Hour	Socialgaine	to be decided	Trevor Gollan	042 26 5544

THE METROGAINE

The third annual Metrogaine is rapidly approaching and an entry form is included with this newsletter. On Sunday April 23rd you can be enjoying 6 hours of some of Sydney's attractive terrain on the lower north shore. Don't delay and enter soon (closes April 11th) for an event which involves so little travelling for most, yet contains some great bush that few cities of the world could offer so close to their heart.

Course setter Julian Ledger has had vetters Peter Watterson (our new youthful President) and Marnie (I'm not tired, are you?) Holmes out vetting the controls which, as in previous years, will all be questions of the treasure-hunt variety ... it saves the worry of control flags getting nicked in populated areas. The course will contain plenty of scope for the very fit along with some nice short walks for the athletically challenged.

As a Metrogaine experiment the map is a normal 1:25000 topographical, having the advantage of showing contours and being cartographically a bit more reliable than the street directories, which are after all designed for drivers. It will also have a number of bush tracks added to help get participants off the roads and into the best areas. The goal has been to achieve a course with a large proportion off-road.

After the feast of Sydney history incorporated into the first Metrogaine around Homebush in 1993 and the picture postcard stuff of the Eastern Suburbs in 1994, this year is something different again although something of both the aforementioned elements has been creeping into the course.

The event will suit novices as well as experienced teams. If you have friends who have shown interest in your tales of this weird sport then this could be the one to bring them along for the first time. The event runs from 10:00am to 4:00pm so there is not too much chance of them getting lost at night. It will end with the traditional hash house feed in a location with plenty of space and tranquillity (well, except for the odd plane overhead).

Julian Ledger

EDITORIAL

With the introduction of the Socialgaine in November and the Upside Downogaine in February, the "off" season for rogaining has virtually disappeared here in NSW. So I was pleasantly surprised to have several ardent people ask, "When's the next event?" as February unfolded. And a fine turn-out for the Upside Down, with a bare three weeks promotion, reaffirmed the enthusiasm of our membership.

The uncertainty associated with the Upside Down was due primarily to the very late establishment of the 1995 calendar. Alan Mansfield, Sonia Kupina and Andrew Wizniewski answered the call and provided an excellent start to the year.

The current NSWRA schedule provides:

2x 24-hours (NSW Champs plus one other);

2x 12-hours (Lake Macquarie plus the Upside Down);

3x 6-hours (Paddy Pallin, Metrogaine plus the Socialgaine).

This year we aren't offering a second 24-hour event because the ACTRA-organised Australian Champs will be readily accessible and the Albury Orienteers are offering a 24-hour on NSW soil.

When you include the four events run by the ACTRA plus the Search & Rescue (Nav'95) extravaganza, there remains a glorious smorgasbord of rogaine delicacies in the near future.

What do you think of our current mix?

Warwick Marsden is still working hard to recover from his cancer operation last August. Send him a cheerio card.

A big thankyou to all the contributors to this newsletter. I've had to really squeeze to fit into 12 pages.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMPS

The ACTRA ran a 25-hour rogaine in the Budawangs 7 or 8 years ago. (Why 25? it coincided with the end of daylight saving, so an extra hour just crept in there ... it was billed as "the world's longest rogaine".) It ranks as one of my all-time favourite rogaines, because it is just such a special area.

This newsletter includes the entry form for the event and it's probably the only one you'll receive. Don't lose the form, and mail it off before the 28th April closing date.

Trevor Gollan

THE PADDY PALLIN 6HR 4 June 1995

And one for your diary ... it's one of the worlds most popular rogaines - the annual Paddy Pallin 6-hour. Features will again include the best of NSW's winter weather, a great atmosphere and catering, prizes courtesy of the Paddy Pallin organisation, and not to mention the course - this year being set by Stephen Castle and friends. This year's location has been described as north-west of Sydney and not too far. That is, a little bit long way ... just like the next control! See you there.

Julian Ledger

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reply to Phil Creaser's "Fair's fair" article

As chief course-setter of the '94 Oz Champs, I feel I should respond to some of the issues Phil has raised. Firstly, I want to defend our decision to make the course navigationally difficult. I had heard comments that rogaining was becoming simply an endurance sport, with too much reliance on roads. So I planned the course to make road use unprofitable, and we sought out interesting minor features, spurs and gullies, so that competitors would have to do more than run along major features till they spotted the control. But of course, setting such controls is risky, and despite 3 visits and a quality control 'history sheet', we stuffed one, 75, the flag being 70-100m down the spur from the dot, whereas we aimed at an accuracy of 30 m.

Concerning safety, I would call the area benign, with Gardiner's Lookout the only "potentially dangerous location" to which Phil alluded. Yes, I should have mentioned the drop below the high boulders, but walking around them was pretty straightforward.

Organisers must obviously not set controls in places which demand rock-climbing, and the map or clues should warn of cliffs blocking approach from certain directions, but I think we have to accept a few cliffs, especially when a control location capitalises on a good view from them (without putting the control at the cliff edge).

Finally, I didn't intend to "insult competitors by saying 'clear walking'". I counted up the controls and found almost precisely half in the bush and half in grazing land (occasional tree), so advertised: "The course combines grazing and native bush land (esp. cypress and wattle), with few roads but generally clear walking". I included the adjective "generally" to imply that it wasn't clear walking everywhere. Perhaps I could have described the bush thickness more fully, though I did advise (in the course-setters' notes): "Leg and arm protection - not essential but helpful in cypress forests". Enough said.

Peter Watterson
Sydney

More Fair's Fair

In your last newsletter, you printed a letter from Phil Creaser commenting on:

* fairness in course setting,
* the element of luck in rogaining,
* the standard of the 94 Aust Champs course, in particular checkpoint 75,
* the appropriateness of the map used at the Champs.

Phil quotes the Orienteering newsletter's assertion that the element of luck needs to be excluded from rogaining if it is to become a "serious sport". I question every element of the argument ... luck, "seriousness" and what it has to do with orienteering.

Luck! Luck is an inevitable part of most sports and they probably hold more interest as a result of it. Think of that most ponderous of sports ... cricket. Wasn't Brian Lara dropped early in his all time record innings? In a sense, his side shouldn't have won the match, but what can you do about it? What would you *want* to do about it? Probably nothing. Think of the world's most serious game, soccer. Does the team which seems to play best on the day always win?

But let's not get luck mixed up with fairness. If all competitors in a sport are given the same parameters to operate under, the competition is fair. What Phil wants is a competition where the results are true to the relative merits of the participants. That's a good objective in itself but it can't be achieved in any sport, let alone rogaining. I'll explain in a moment, but let me point out that our results must be pretty true anyway because the same people keep winning and others are very consistent in their placings.

In effect Phil is asking for certain outcomes, that is, that any decision made by a team on the course should be demonstrably right or wrong even prior to its implementation. Uncertainty is inevitable in a sport that is about clever navigation because the most subtle and hard-earned skills involve all sorts of subjective judgements. Over 24 hours, the best navigators will take countless calculated risks with their use of time. Once in a while they will get it wrong. Bad luck! But on balance they will save time. Take away the opportunity to use that expertise and you will get rid of the luck factor but you will be left with a relatively boring sport.

An example Phil gives is of checkpoints on spurs, or worse, *broad* spurs. But checkpoint 66 on the Champs was part way down a broad and obscure spur and it was the most interesting checkpoint that I visited. It was possible, but not easy, to pinpoint it even without a moon by knowing what elevation you were at and having a feel for whether you were on the left, right or centre of the spur. A point on that map could be expected to be accurate to about 25 metres (the size of a dot you'd make with a biro) and that narrowed it down to one or two trees. Actually *we* found all this quite difficult partly because we took the *calculated risk* of winging it by the easiest line to walk, rather than, say, finding a nearby feature and taking a bearing. Better navigators might have winged it successfully or might have realised that this was a place to be more cautious. Maybe luck played a part, but I prefer to think that it put a bit of time between the good and the poorer navigators with us somewhere in the middle.

It may take rare and acute skills to know *exactly* how far along a spur you are and to do this with precision every time, but that's great because it gives the rest of us something to work on and it rewards those rare competitors for their skills. (The only catch that I see is that these are the checkpoints most likely to be marginally misplaced.) The funny thing is that, knowing Phil by reputation, I know that he must have the skills to track his progress down a spur, so that it may be that our two arguments just come down to Phil enjoying the running and I the navigating.

THE FAR SIDE By GARY LARSON

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"Hey! I can hear the traffic!"

UPSIDE DOWN CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Alan Mansfield

After setting the Metrogaine at Bondi in 1994 I was keen to set a 'real' Rogaine. The opportunity arose when Andrew Wisniewski was unable to set the Upsidedown Rogaine course and Sonia and I offered to help out while Andrew, with assistance from Gareth Prosser, did the vetting. Andrew had an area in mind in the Newnes State Forest north of Lithgow and in early December he provided us with a couple of maps: Rock Hill and Cullen Bullen (the final course also included the Lithgow and Wollangambe maps).

Andrew had visited the Newnes State Forest and had marked some areas he considered worth using for control locations. Just before Christmas Sonia and I started course setting in hot and uncomfortable conditions, a series of day walks starting in the east then the north, the west and last of all the southern part of the map. Most controls were located at creek junctions or in watercourses. It was difficult to find other features because the spurs and high points were often too broad. We were often frustrated to find that features (including watercourses) were so indistinct that we could not even find them in the daylight or, on the other hand, the country was so big with unmarked cliffs that it would be dangerous at night. There were a few knolls but most of these had roads running near or over them so we tried to avoid using them.

We attempted to set the first control in the watercourse to the west of #63 but after thrashing through the vegetation for a couple of hundred metres we gave up when the watercourse got steeper and more overgrown. We decided to set control #63 on a spur with a view across the gorge country and a glimpse of the waterfall on Dingo Creek. The view made up for the shock of finding out how steep the country was.

The next control we set, #44, was apparently not enjoyed by many competitors as the vegetation was quite thick in this area (it had been some time since we visited this control and we probably forgot how thick it was). After taping #44 we left the control via Dingo Creek and this gave us another view of the complex cliff and gorge country that we would find downstream on all of the major watercourses. From Dingo Creek we could see the spur where #63 was located.

We then moved further east and set some controls in Wollemi National Park (one was in an aptly named place called Deep Pass, worth a visit). In the end we decided to drop the national park from the course and this allowed us to change the overall shape of the course and

include Carne Creek to the west and use areas from the Lithgow and Wollangambe maps. This put the Hash House in a more central location and allowed us to include more pine forest for novice night navigators.

We spent some time setting #24 - there were barely any distinct features for a square kilometre. The creek junctions were non existent. Our experience with this control was to be repeated many times on the course.

In the early days of setting the course we came across a map prepared for the Venturers by Dave Lotty of NSW Orienteering. We considered using this map but by the time we got our own copy we had set too much of the course based on the details of the 1:25 000 topographic maps. However, we did use the Venturers map to identify more distinct features in the flat wastelands of the pine forest. Thanks to Heather Black of the Venturers for tracking down the map for us.

We experienced dry hot summer weather, heavy rain and mist that reduced visibility to 50 metres whilst setting the course. We decided to set #91 on what, according to the map, looked like a nice spur. We approached it from #81 pace counting for a kilometre and walking on a bearing. We got to within a hundred metres of the spur and came across a road that lead almost all the way to the eventual control location from the Glow Worm Tunnel Road. Needless to say we used the road to walk out. It was mid-afternoon and the low cloud cut visibility to 50 metres. It was an eerie feeling. The spur seemed like a good spot and we were sure there was a great view through all that cloud.

THE HASH HOUSE:

We originally intended to use the Youth Insearch headquarters as the HH but had a change of plan at the eleventh hour (well, maybe the eleventh day) and decided to use an area in the pine forest which we had stumbled across during course setting. (Youth Insearch lease the former Newnes Afforestation Camp and run programmes for mistreated children). We thank John Black, Ron Barr and Paul Simpson of Youth Insearch for their help and for providing the water tank for use at the HH (also for forewarning us about the terrible road conditions following all the rain).

The State Forestry Commission originally offered a HH site near Cockatoo Hill which would, at the time of the event, have been dominated by the aroma of sewerage sludge from the pine forest fertilization project. We

would like to thank Chris Colley of the State Forestry Commission for allowing us to use the pine forest area as our HH.

HELPERS:

A special thanks goes to all the people who helped to make the event possible:

Gareth Prosser	Vetting
Neil Mansfield	Catering/Admin
Robyn Moloney	Catering/Admin
Michael & Julie Ryan	Catering/Admin
	Railway Pick-Up
David Sigley	Catering/Admin
Albi Arnott	Railway Pick-Up
Brendan la Burghout	Hashhouse Help

And to all the people who helped us to pack up after the event and who collected flags.

SOME MORE FACTS:

- Andrew Wisniewski and Gareth Prosser finished vetting the course a fortnight before the event.

- We received the map from the printers at 16:45 on the Friday before the event - due to technical problems with the printer.

- We hung 47 controls on the day of the event between 8:45 and 23:30, the event started at 24:00 - the last control to be set and vetted was done at 22:00, i.e. #51, centre of compartment block.

- We also stopped during the evening for the AGM and to start the administration. A BIG thank you to whoever put up the administration tent while we were so busy hanging out flags.

The above was a recipe for disaster only avoided by luck and the clearing up of the miserable rain that came down during the preceding week.

We hope that the winners, Andrew Darr and Shane Trotter, who covered 80% of the course, and the novice night navigators got equal pleasure from the course.

> Come a little bit closer
> Hear what I have to say
> Just like children sleepin'
> We could dream this night away
> But there's a full moon risin'
> Let's go dancin' in the light
> We know where the music's playin'
> Let's go out and feel the night
>
> *Neil Young, Harvest Moon*
> *©1992 Silver Fiddle Music*
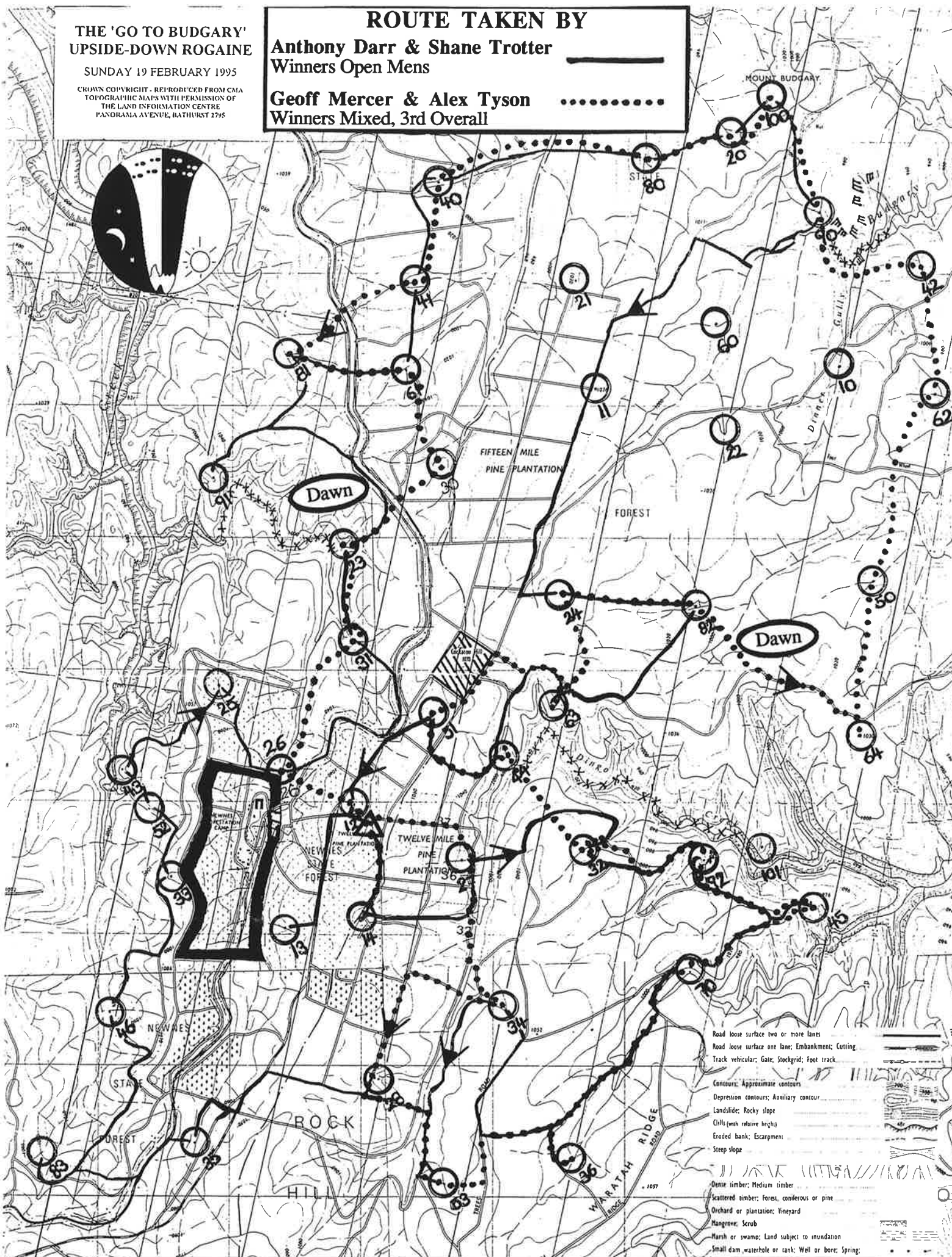
A PAIR OF VETERANS 'GO TO BUDGARY'

JOHN KEATS (with IAN PAYNE)

I found the start of my first 'Upside Down' rogaine to be quite disorienting. I felt very strongly that I should still be in bed! Walking in the bright moonlight with a good score rate soon put those thoughts aside.

After #31, 23 and 30 all being in semi-marsh vegetation we became somewhat wary about how we approached controls. We also found a big difference with starting out fresh for night navigation. It was that much easier.

It was particularly eerie, walking out along the track towards #100 just on dawn. The western side of the ridge was bathed in moonlight whilst the eastern side was starting to light up with the dawn.

We were surprised as we progressed how few rogainers we saw, being first to quite a few controls - a most unusual occurrence for us. We did meet and chat with an ACT team at #90 just after dawn, having scrambled down through scrub covered with dew. We paused half way, thinking it can't be this far down ... fooled by 20 metre contour lines!

We were pretty close to our time limit when we got to the turn-off for #100. We'd already made the decision that if we were running late we would have to skip it, but we took the chance anyway, and what a fantastic view it was up Dingo Creek. The cliff structure from the lookout was a really stunning sight.

Our great moments were:

* always being where we expected to be (for a change!),
* walking through forest with wispy cloud scudding across the sky,
* tranquillity near #82, for breakfast,
* walking up the track past #11, with the mist blowing in our faces.
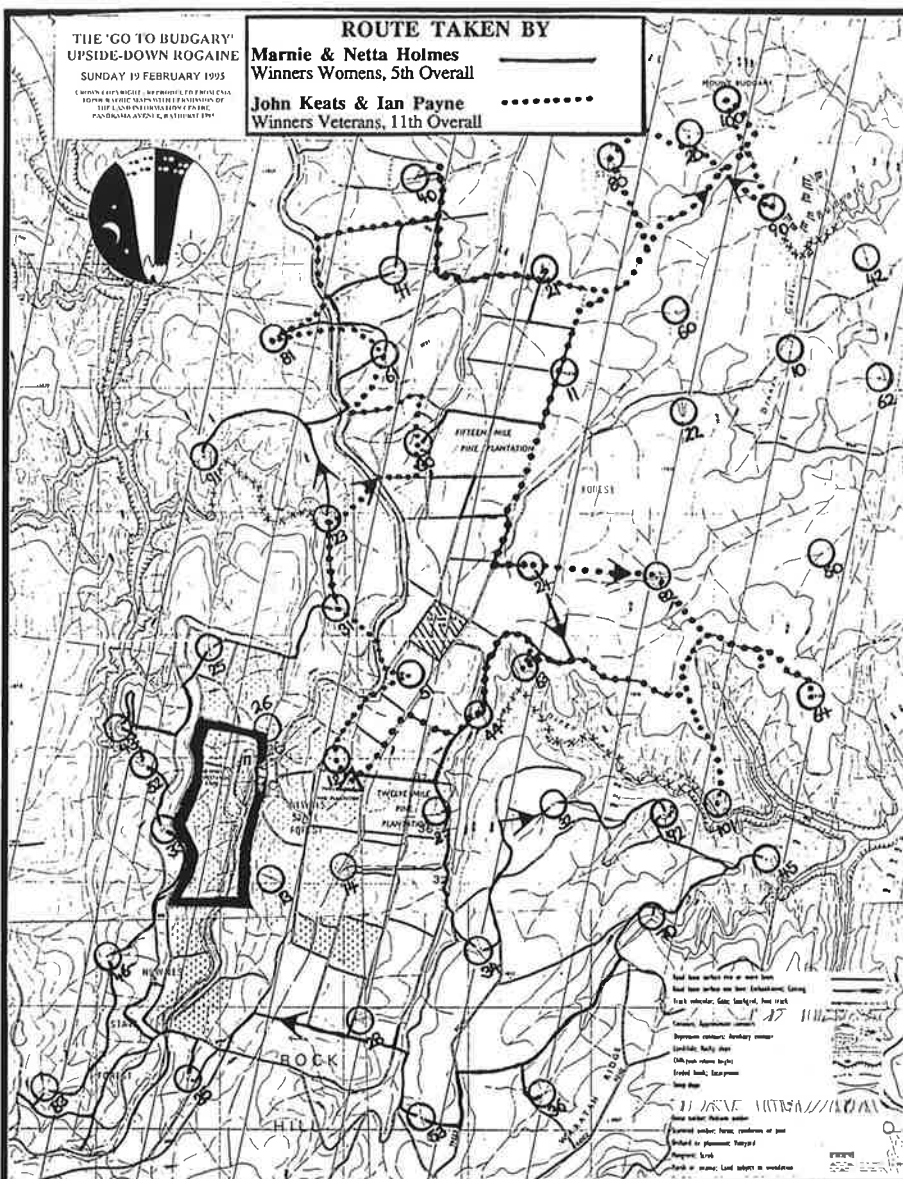
The mixture of vegetation was not difficult and with a clear moonlit night walking in the bush was a very pleasant experience. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and got back to the Hash House, as usual, with tons of time to spare and a top meal to cap it all off.

Thankyou very much to Alan, Sonia and crew who helped organise the event.

RESULTS: UPSIDE-DOWN ROGAINE

(Newnes Plateau - 19 February 1995)

Team		Finish	Score	O	M	W	X	V
1	Anthony Darr, Shane Trotter	11:50	1630	1	1			
30	Trevor Gollan, Maurice Ripley, Peter Watterson	11:58	1540	2	2			
31	Geoff Mercer, Alexandra Tyson	11:49	1470	3			1	
10	Tony Maloney, Rowan Wiltshire	11:34	1230	4	3			
19	Marnie Holmes, Netta Holmes	11:49	1190	5		1		
36	Lathe Jones, Peter Gordon, Geoff Peel	11:39	1160	6	4			
42	Brad Newcombe, Damian Welbourne, Jeremy Welbourne	11:51	1100	7	5			
3	Andrew Black, Neil Prosser	11:50	1040	8	6			
25	David Dash, Paul Davey, Ian Deck, Janelle Deck	11:35	980	9			2	
5	George Takacs, Andrew Warner	11:33	910	10	7			
43	John Keats, Ian Payne	11:57	900	11				1
16	Frazer Batts, Calum McLeod, Frank Stewart	11:30	870	12	8			
49	Bruce Fenton, Mark Piercy, Stephen Thompson	11:55	870	13	9			
55	Cathy Liggins, Andy Simpson	12:01	860	14			3	
22	Jim Meek, Steve Harrison	11:32	850	15	10			
27	David Evans, Paul Fowler, Ray Palmer, Stephen Palmer	11:36	840	16	11			
48	Eric Metzke, Rodger Austin	11:13	830	17				2
46	Jonathon D'Arcy, Walter Kelemen	11:53	820	18				3
8	Albie Arnott, Sharon Arnott	11:28	800	19			4	
34	Nihal Danis, Richard Sage	11:36	760	20			5	
37	Dean Morison, Jamie Richardson	11:40	760	21	12			
17	John Learoyd, Peter Learoyd	11:44	760	22	13			
50	Heide Fisher, Sabina Hamaty	11:44	750	23		2		
39	Tom Jansen, Frank Rosser, Russell Taylor	11:16	700	24	14			
45	John Bowles, Chris Stevenson	11:52	700	25	15			
4	Grant Maizels, Tracey Mitchell, Tim Richardson	11:33	660	26			6	4
54	Jim Croft, Sharon Johns, Jenni Marsh	11:48	660	27				
28	Graeme Carter, Phillip Carter	10:25	650	28	16			
26	Helen Atkins, Roz Atkins, Gail Roland	11:27	640	29		3		
32	Rosemary Austin, Peter Garlick, Steve Garlick, Anne Goonan	11:30	630	30			7	
15	John Biddiscombe, John Bishop	11:31	580	31				5
23	Katrina Charles, Henry Roberts, John Roberts	9:09	510	32			8	
12	Phillip Allen, Bob Bartle, John Guilly	11:55	490	33				6
20	Stephen Castle, Nila Sarma, Paramuir Thind	11:43	460	34			9	
41	Lynda Le Vaillant, Chris Mlynarik, Scott Smith	11:27	450	35			10	
13	Rosemary Seberry, Joanne Vanderstok	11:42	430	36		4		
29	Henry Freiburg, Jennifer Neil-Smith	11:29	420	37			11	
33	Richard Price, Murray Robertson	11:58	420	38	17			
14	Richard Connors, David Palmisano	11:17	400	39	18			
44	Anna Bray, Jillian Eales, Mary Ann Graham	11:50	320	40		5		
53	Duncan Forster, Paul Forster	7:27	280	41	19			
35	Warwick Brennan, Peter Prendergast, Cathie Savage	11:57	280	42			12	
24	Merv English, Anne Francis	11:32	260	43			13	
7	Marian Coppins, Nick Coppins	11:46	250	44			14	
38	Phuoc Hua, David Johnson	11:46	250	44	20			
18	Bill Pigram, Mark Pigram	8:00	240	46	21			
52	Stephanie Baldwin, Alan Garde	11:51	220	47			15	
56	John Power, Natalie Vu	11:54	180	48			16	
2	Julian Ledger, Selena Ledger	10:00	160	49			17	
51	Glen Byrne, Denise McIntosh, Betina Wrightson	11:56	140	50			18	
6	Gary Joyce, Paul Morgan	7:06	100	51	22			
40	Phil Brammer, Glenn Strkalj	11:52	60	52	23			
9	Brendan Berghout, Angela Durie	9:45	30	53			19	

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Even) More Fair's Fair

I've noticed that the sort of map that you can buy off the shelf, whether at a scale of 1:25,000, 1:50,000 or whatever, favours the best navigators for the very reason that it will not be enormously detailed nor immaculately accurate. This imprecision allows good navigators to use more cunning in their interpretation and route choice, for example by guessing that two dead-end tracks will actually join. It follows that the sort of map used in the Champs was vastly better for our purposes than an orienteering style of map even though it necessarily retains elements of luck. In fact, less sophisticated maps than that have been used very successfully in championships.

Anyway, what aspects of "seriousness" is Phil aspiring to? Does this mean professional? larger? with television coverage? or what? Not everything that comes to mind is important and appropriate. I'm probably not against rogaining becoming in some sense "serious", if only I knew what was meant by it. I just think it is better to pursue more specific objectives. Then you are more likely to know *why* you are pursuing them.

True, the orienteering bodies tend to organise and present their events more slickly than we do, so let's learn what we can from that. But there is no sense I can think of in which orienteering in this country is a "serious" sport either, so let's not look to orienteering for a lead if seriousness is indeed what we're after.

Even *I* won't take rogaining seriously while its enthusiasts continue to heed the gratuitous criticism - even malicious insult - that it receives in the publication of another sport.

Undoubtedly I saw different parts of the Champs course from Phil and less of it, but I enjoyed it very much. In most respects it was excellent. OK, it wasn't perfect - I fell foul of checkpoint 75 myself and I agree with Phil's assessment of its effect, but the organisers were so contrite at the time that there can't be much point on dwelling on it. I don't know whether they concluded in the end that it was technically correct or not, but I'm sure they wish now that they'd set it somewhere else. So I don't think Phil should worry about anybody mimicking it.

But I agree that the checkpoints should be made luck-free in that it should be possible to navigate accurately to the spot, and once you have done that you should be able to find the marker straight away. This leads me into a point that is not in direct response to Phil's letter nor a criticism of the Champs - just a point I like to make... A few years ago I wrote the IRF/ARA event organisers' manual (which I am now revising). In it I recommended certain procedures for setting a checkpoint - procedures which some associations were already following. They involved three stages of preparation: setting and checking, performed by any number of people dividing the work any way they liked, and a third independent process of vetting, ideally performed by one person who had not previously been involved. Despite my extensive consultation during drafting of the manual and the compromises made by some associations, the finished product received criticism from several people in SA and WA because they believed the three stage process was a waste of resources. Subsequently the ARA has developed Technical Standards for the Aust Champs which require, as a compromise between the states, only the first two stages. Naturally I have made allowances for these criticisms and for the new standards in my revision of the manual, but what checkpoint 75 has shown us once again is that perfect course setting is difficult to achieve even by the most expert rogainers.

My conclusion is that the most important way to make a course "honest", "fair" and just plain enjoyable is to be extremely rigorous about each checkpoint. If resources are a problem you should set the minimum number of checkpoints required to make the course large enough and do this with "extreme" rigour, rather than set sixty or seventy checkpoints with only two visits each. This is a point that I will continue to make in the manual. *I* think it is the *course setting* that we need to take the luck out of, not the sport itself!

Meanwhile, congratulations to the NSWRA on what I thought was a terrific event.

Rod Costigan
Melbourne

Talus

"We really got 'em this time eh Trev?"

"Sure did Pete! He he!"

"Are you sure it says "TINSHED"?"

Ye Olde Illawarra Road

George Collins

In the last newsletter, Ian Carr wondered about the Old Illawarra Road that was an important feature of Ripley's Believe-It-Or-Not Rogaine. The road gets a whole chapter in Frank Cridland's 1924 book, 'The Story of Port Hacking, Cronulla and Sutherland Shire'. While the first road to the Illawarra district ran via Campbelltown and Appin (through the middle of the 1993 Paddy Pallin course), in 1843-45 Thomas Mitchell surveyed and superintended the construction of a 'new' Illawarra road by way of the Lugarno Ferry, Menai, Woronora Ford and Heathcote. Mitchell claimed that this road 'would enable the mail cart from Wollongong to come to Sydney by a route at least 20 miles shorter than that now followed via Appin'. From Heathcote to Bulli Pass, Mitchell's road is now the Prince's Highway but the section of the road from Menai to Heathcote that featured on the rogaine was never used to any great extent and, with the establishment of the Tom Ugly's punt in 1880, fell into disuse as a route to the South Coast.
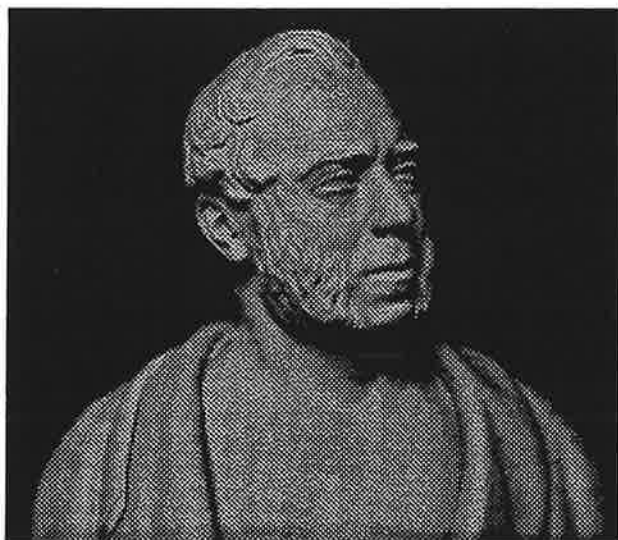
Sir Thomas Mitchell

Cridland records that around 1890 the unemployed of the day were engaged in reconstructing the portion of the road on the eastern side of the Woronora Valley, 'by blasting stone out of the hill on the upper side, packing the centre and building a retaining embankment to the lower edge. This embankment in places rises to a height of over forty feet'. He also records that 'no sooner was it built than nature started to reclaim it. The she-oak trees began to take possession of the roadway, closing in from the sides but leaving a shady avenue down the centre'. (Not so shady nowadays - particularly on a hot Saturday afternoon last November!). By 1924, it was impossible to get right down to the

river and the original stone weir had long since been washed away. A note in the 1950 edition of Cridland's book states that it still remained in that state 'and now with the splendid road constructed for military purposes during the recent war from Heathcote to Liverpool, it is unlikely that the old Illawarra Road will be reconditioned in the future'. Not many who travel Heathcote Road regularly would call it splendid but the Old Illawarra Road was probably rebuilt when the electricity line to Menai was put along its route or when the Woronora pipeline was constructed.

The crossing is just above the tidal limit of the Woronora (known as 'The Needles' or control point #60) which Cridland describes as 'a still wild and inaccessible spot' where John Lucas has established a watermill in 1825. While rogainers might concur with the description, it is generally believed that Lucas's Mill was in the next valley to the west - also on the rogaine course and named Mill Creek. Cridland notes that Mitchell named the Woronora Ford 'The Pass of Sabugal' after a town on the coast in Eastern Portugal where the Duke of Wellington led his men in 'one of the most glorious fights that British troops were ever engaged in' (Wellington's words). Cridland reckons that Mitchell's choice of name was 'probably due to a resemblance in the scenery'. My atlas does not show <u>any</u> east coast of Portugal and I wonder if Mitchell had ever seen the scenery there!

After Mitchell's initial survey, he sent his son, Assistant-Surveyor Roderick Mitchell to make an exact survey. The instructions given to him in March 1843 warned of the extreme roughness of the surrounding district, 'rendering it unwise to allow his men to go far from camp into that intricate country'. The rogaine instructions should have carried a similar warning! All did not go well and the records note the dismissal of young Rod and Overseer O'Hara (O'Hare?), leaving it to Assistant-Surveyor Darke to complete the job, joining the Appin Road just above Bulli Pass. Long time rogainers will recognise these names from Andy

Blakers' Darkes Forest rogaine back in March 1986. Even Darke had his problems, reporting in May 1844 'that one of his party ... fell over a cliff and was seen dashed from rock to rock but his body has not been found'. The leasee of the Lugarno punt forced the road gang to pay fares even though they were building the approaches to his ferry (an early privatisation scam for the NSW government!) and in November 1845, Darke reported the loss of his tent in a bushfire. This loss he seemed to have regarded as more significant than his note in the same report that 'two mounted policemen, travelling along the new line of Road were, with their horses, consumed - one literally to ashes - the other lies at the point of death'. Seems that the Highway Patrol have never been popular in NSW. Fortunately, the reports of last November's rogaine were less dramatic.

(Another Letter to the Editor)

Damage Control

Phil Creaser (Jan '95) spent considerable time labouring his point about fairness, referring mainly to the Aust Champs '94. Even the course setters for this event admitted there were problems with at least one control. They apologised, took appropriate action, learned from the experience, and passed on what they learned to others. No doubt our Australian Association has, or is developing, a code of ethics on fairness in course setting, and that is surely the correct place for people to raise areas of concern.

Another response to problems with controls on a course is to develop "damage control" techniques. You need these strategies not just for what Phil calls "unfair controls" but (perhaps especially) for times when you have simply got it wrong or are lost. "Damage control" could consist of:
a) ditching the control, either immediately or after a set time;
b) going to a point you know, then either using linear references or using line-and-length;
c) systematic searching of appropriate features;
d) systematic grid searching of all features;
e) any combination of the above.

Making the best of the situation demands sound and practised problem solving techniques, clear and rational thinking, and cooperative and careful teamwork. Which, of course, is part of the challenge of the sport.

Peter Merrotsy
Kyogle

McRogaining at the SARA Champs 1994

Neil Melville (mainly from Scotland, temporarily from New Zealand, Tasmania, Nepal...)

Dear Scotland, this correspondence was intended to be a warning against the sinful Australian sport of Rogaining which is ideally suited to the Pommy love for masochistic self-denial and which I am surprised has not made an earlier migration. But alas my Compassport tells me that I'm too late. The first U.K. rogaine will be held in Galloway on Sep.1st. I can only pray that it is not too late to drive it from our proud island nation just as we repelled the Hun and Jason Donovan before.

Rogaining (derived from the Aboriginal word meaning 'to be sad while being impaled on a spiky thing') is easiest described as a twenty-four hour score event. It is delightfully low key. It attracts orienteers, and bushwalkers with no desire to ever orienteer. Entry fees are largely spent on food, winners are rewarded with a cloth badge and the knowledge that their helping of soup was eaten by some needy soul. Teams of any number can return to a central hash-house / campsite for big hearty platefuls of hot tasty food, a good nights sleep, or the mug of cheap port for which rogainers seem to have an unnatural lust.

These of course are all the sensible options. As a tourist, 23 hours and 58 minutes non-stop would be the minimum for me to have the full-on experience. Knowing that Drusilla Patkin was tracking down partners, I had this period of time in mind when I prepared a list of excuses why I shouldn't do it. Against this barrage of logic I came up with a single reason in favour: "Because I should'.

OK Scotland, you too got talked into your first rogaine ... here's how you do it. Our map was a 1:50,000 National Survey map specially adapted for rogaining by writing 'South Australian Rogaining Champs' and the name of the sponsor on it. Lack of map detail is compensated for by "A" (not mapped but we promise it is there, eg. A knoll) and "The" (mapped) control descriptions. I see you are getting one of those pretty Harvey maps specially produced. Well that's a good start but what will you do about "Bush".

Bush can be beautiful open orienteering forest. You could make some eucalyptus by spray-painting some scots pine silver, but rogaining bush isn't a single bush at all - it is forest containing a multitude of spiky shrubs, ideally planted as close as possible on what might have been lovely fast spur/gully orienteering terrain that Australia grows so well. Criticism is blasphemy. Rogainers are proud of their bush and the challenge it poses to the sleep deprived competitor in dead of night. They despise imported species for which me and my ancestors (not theirs) get the blame. I am viewed with suspicion lest my pockets are filled with Scottish Bluebell seed and a breeding pair of haggis. In fact the nature of the bush determined that my lack of fitness was not a problem and thus destroyed one of my ten excuses.

We usually jogged on the flat and downhill during daylight, but it is obviously not possible to maintain a mountain marathon style pace over 24 hours - especially after dark in thick scrub. The challenges of this event were largely psychological; since I remained blister free, I only had pain resulting from a hard weeks work at the pie factory, and dehydration.

Water was a difficulty. Although the map was covered in rivers, I suspect the cartographer had drained them and used the water to make some rivers on another map! That left a few stagnant puddles. The wiggly things beneath the oily surface thrived on the iodine I added but my bush guide insisted it was drinkable as long as there were no goats around. I hadn't seen any goats but I had seen a load of sheep, and with Dru being conversant in sheep breed names (apparently picked up at boarding school!) I feared she might be protecting her ovine friends. Incidentally, baked potatoes are the answer to anybody wondering how you can eat the mountain marathon staple of jelly-babies for 24 hours.

Bending your head around a rogaine is the hard part. I can only explain to junior doctors and the overnighters after Sept 1st how painful it is to think for 24 hours. Large portions can be very dull. Map detail is scarce and hidden by the trees and so many controls are collected that conversation is reduced to that about navigation for much of the time; but you can't lose concentration. We covered several extra miles yakking away happily! To beat the boredom I became a fanatical clockwatcher, trying to collect a hundred points an hour. The change of scenery come nightfall was at first a relief from this tedious regime. We were led to our first night control by mating frogs. We spiked the second too, but pretty soon the drop in temperature (from 18° to just above freezing) and the mental effort required for night navigation started wearing us down. I drifted in and out of periods of euphoria without the help of the drugs which Dru kept pushing.

"Dru, have you been navigating? I haven't". Come midnight, in the thickest crap on the map, the answer to this was obviously "No". We wandered off 45° wrong; then 90, then 45. Add that up. Much, much later (and still no points) Dru prescribed a cure for the resulting depression - pain killers washed down with a strong solution of caffeine dissolved in liquid food. She is a splendid partner that Dru Patkin. Take note all of you cynics who scoffed and led me to fear her transformation during the full moon. But the prognosis was still bad and worst of all, you have to pretend to your partner that you feel just great as she laughs down into your pit of despair. Having aborted the search for that elusive control I still felt shockingly low for the next hour and longed for the arrival of dawn, which is undoubtedly the best part of a rogaine.

With a mere six hours left, the end seems in sight. You are blessed with the miraculous ability to run which we used for a frenzy of last minute bagging. Meeting the first people is magnificent, even though, since almost all but eight of the 75 teams had been to bed, they can't understand the maniacal look in your eyes. These things, and the relief of finishing and getting fifth place, are the worst things about rogaining, because they make you forget what a horrible time you had.

I now know that I will say "yes" to the next person looking for a partner. But I can no longer think of a single reason why - so just don't ask!

[from the SARA newsletter]

IF YOU'RE TRAVELLING...

25 Apr 95	6 Hour	Cyclegaine	SA
29 Apr 95	12 Hour		WA
20 May 95	8 Hour		Vic
10-11 Jun 95	24 Hour	WA Champs	WA
17 Jun 95	6 Hour		Vic
17 Jun 95	6/12 Hour		Qld
15 Jul 95	8 Hour	Metrogaine	Vic
5-6 Aug 95	24 Hour	SA Champs	SA
12-13 Aug 95	24 Hour		WA
13 Aug 95	3 Hour	Maxi	Vic
19-20 Aug 95	24 Hours	N.American Champs	Wa, USA
19 Aug 95	5 Hour	Snogaine	Vic
9 Sep 95	12 Hour		Vic
7 Oct 95	12 Hour		WA
7-8 Oct 95	8/24 Hour	Qld Champs	Qld
15 Oct 95	8 Hour		Vic
28 Oct 95	12 Hour		SA

Interstate   Contacts

ACT	Judy Jenkinson	06 248 7142
QLD	Eric Andrews	07 268 3338
VIC	Tineke Sydekum	03 890 4352
SA	Gary Jackson	08 258 5696
WA	Bryan Hardy	09 342 7692

MEMBERSHIP 1995

The address label for this newsletter indicates your current membership status. If the letter in the top right corner is:-

"F"   then you're financial for the current calendar year, thanks a lot.

"N"   then you are non-financial for the current calendar year; your fees are due. You can pay your membership at the next event, else send in the following form to keep receiving the newsletter.

"C"   then this is a complimentary newsletter.

The fee for 1995 is $10 for Individual membership and $10 for Household membership. Yes, they're the same.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION

N.S.W. Rogaining Association Incorporated
(incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984)

I, ...(full   name   of   applicant)

of .... (address)

.... (town   &   postcode)

.... (home   phone)   .... (work   phone)

hereby apply to become a member of the abovenamed incorporated association. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the association for the time being in force.

I also nominate the following persons, of the same address as mine, as members of the abovenamed incorporated association.

1. ....   2. ....

3. ....   4. ....

5. ....   6. ....

Signature of applicant ....   Date ....

Make cheque of $10 payable to NSW Rogaining Association and send to

Membership Secretary NSWRA
Graeme Cooper
Cluny Rd MSF2005, ARMIDALE 2350

If the name and/or address on the label is incorrect, please fill in this form and return to
Graeme Cooper, Cluny Rd MSF2005, ARMIDALE 2350

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