## **NSW ROGAINING NEWSLETTER**

NUMBER 54

IN THIS ISSUE:

RESULTS: NSW Championships and many Reports

**ENTRY FORMS:** 

Interstate Challenge

Socialgaine

11/11/95 25/11/95

#### CLASSY CO-ORDINATION

The thin beam of light reached only a few inches downwards into the inky darkness. A rusty iron rod would reach further, and it did - almost 2 metres into the turgid brown ooze of the Capertee Public School South-West Septic Tank. Dennis Carey, school caretaker and local iron man, straightened up and wiped his hands. "No good mate - she's buggered!"

Dennis was one of the many key people behind the scenes at the 1995 NSW Championships, the Gardens of Stone Rogaine. Many memories will stay with me from this event, of the people as well as the place. Wouldn't Dennis rather be across the road in the cosy comfort of his lounge room at 10.30 on a Saturday night, than up to his elbows in poo? Did Pat the Policeman, whose backyard we were using as a carpark, realise as he walked down to the pub that same night he'd hardly be getting away from those crazy rogainers (see Visits table, Checkpoint 20)? Would the MacFarlane boys really drink a whole carton of beer on the midnight-to-dawn shift at the W2 Cafe? Was George T dawn shift at the W2 Cafe? Was George T the only one to spot the spooky numbering of checkpoints above Airly Mountain, all powers of three (apparently not - see Visits table for Checkpoints 27, 54 and 81)? Could we get any luckier with the weather?

Luck played little part in deciding the 1995 NSW Champions, with congratulations in order to the three years experienced and fit

in order to the three very experienced and fit teams who filled the top places. Overall winners were the veteran pair of Bert van Netten and Alf Britton with 1560 points, while a mixed veteran (and mixed interstate) team of Liz Wood and Eric Andrews took second place with 1510 points, 45 minutes ahead of the top women's team of Netta and Marnie

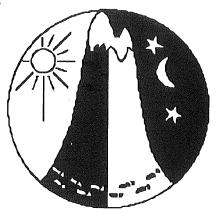
The results show only one non-veteran men's team in the top ten overall, and they came sixth. Is this a record low? Certainly came sixth. Is this a record low? Certainly there were quite a few sick boys early on Sunday morning, which I would put down to the unusually good rogaining conditions (which encouraged teams to go hard) combined with some very big climbs. Still, of the 137 teams entered (343 people), 128 teams (314 people) actually started and all but 3 teams finished, which I believe are but 3 teams finished, which I believe are good numbers for a 24-hour rogaine and was most gratifying to see. What! Are there 3 teams still out there? No, they just got crook and took the sad wagon home, meaning a DNF result.

It is a real shame that I did not have the time to talk to more of the teams that came through the hash-house throughout the day and night. I would love to know which way every team went, how they found each control, what were their favourite spots. My favourite places would include checkpoint 55 (the knoll with the apron of cliffs, and its surrounding countryside), 61 (the Crown, the view, and the clear section of forest immediately south) and 100 (for the views and the friendliest of landowners). grotto at 27 is another beautiful spot but was probably not worth the 300m climb, and the low number of teams visiting this area reflects the very late changes made to the course by the Out-of-Bounds area to the west. Did anyone get stuck on the ramp at 37? Did any team get to all 3 lolly controls (80, 81 & 74)? Does anyone know what happened to the flag at 80?

Checkpoint 36 created more problems than any other, and Julian Ledger kindly volunteered to check this one for me on Sunday moming. Julian's verdict was that the flag was on the correct spur, albeit a little lower down (south) than the map indicated. There were many similar spurs in this area which the map failed to show well or at all, and this would explain most of the problems reported to me by teams who could not find the flag. In retrospect this was not a good checkpoint site, particularly as, at 30 points, it looked pretty easy (the Glen Davis Rd was

not a very reliable attack point).

It appears that competitors gave an overwhelmingly positive response to the area, the course and the organisation of the event. This makes all the effort worthwhile, and I would like in return to thank all of you, as competitors, for participating with such a great attitude and for taking the trouble to pass on your compliments. I certainly enjoyed every moment of setting the course in such a lovely area. Credit for the success of the event must be shared by the many people responsible (whose Registration - hope you kept them!). In particular I want to thank again the group of friends who vetted the course and then backed up on the weekend of the event to staff the event centre around the clock; Andrew Wiz who took care of all the entries, pre-event administration and results (and then competed!); Bankstown Bushwalking Club for totally organising the catering (menus, shopping, preparing, cooking and cleaning up OCTOBER 1995



for nearly 400 people) and coming up with such terrific grub; and my partner Nic, for letting me use her car on all those trips to Capertee and doing much more than just putting up with me and the rogaine that moved in with us.

As a first-time organiser and coursesetter of a rogaine I waited all weekend in trepidation for the inevitable disaster to happen. Would it be a surging tidal wave of 345 competitors all wanting to register at 9.59 am? Well, the triple pile-up on the Great Western Highway took care of about 200 of those who otherwise would have arrived on time, and Andrew Wiz single-handedly registered another 80 or so on the train while it was re-routed along a goods line through Canterbury. So would it be the novice team an hour overdue after the finish of the 8-hour event? Well no, it transpired that they were happily settled in at W2 for much of their time, unable to drag themselves away from the fire and hot soup. Would it be the arrival at the hash-house of the mystery land-owner, the one whose name no-one could recall, the one who hasn't been seen for about 3 years, the one who they think might own that little piece of land in the middle of the course, the one who turns up on Saturday night to do some shooting and put a bigger padlock on his gate? Nope, he never showed.

The closest we got to disaster was the toilets, which had never seen anything like the action they did that weekend. Nearly 400 people and heaps of good food became a huge square peg that was, in retrospect, never going to fit into four little round holes. And that's where we return to Dennis and me, peering into the CPSSWST at 10.30 on Saturday night, truly in pretty deep s\*\*t. We tried stirring it, prodding it, pumping it and flushing it, all to no avail. By the time we had packed up on Sunday afternoon and were leaving for Sydney it was still chock-a-block. Dennis said he might need to get the council truck in to pump it out. He said he'd give me a call. I gave him Wiz's number.

Gareth Prosser (Co-ordinator, NSW Champs)

#### NSWRA COMMITTEE

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# NSW & ACT CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	CO-ORDINATOR	COURSESETTER	ADMINISTRATION	HASHHOUSE
11-12 Nov 95	24-hour Interstate Challenge Albury	Tony Perrott 060 208 654	Tony Perrott Leigh Privett Andrew Calder	Liz Wood Robin Cameron	Val Privett
25 Nov 95	6-hour Socialgaine	Trevor Gollan 042 26 5544	George Takacs Geoff Silburn	Stephen Cliffe 042 266 621	Kate Malfroy Geoff Bailey
9 Mar 96	12-hour Upside- Downogaine West of Lithgow	Sue Clarke 02 816 2508	John Le Carpentier	Rowan will, him	
Apr 96	Metrogaine Shaw	Lindsay Young 02 525 6403	Mark Hill	George Collins	Caringbah Scouts
<b>4</b> ∕ Jun 96	6-hour Paddy Pallin	Stephen Castle 02 557 7101	Mara In (Ustang)		
3-4 Aug 96	24-hour South Coast	Trevor Gollan 042 26 5544			
28 Sep 96	Lake Macquarie 12-hour	Bert van Netten Ian Dempsey	A A God		
26-27 Oct 96	NSW Champs like	E .			
24 Nov 96	Socialgaine & www				

#### INTERSTATE CHALLENGE, **ALBURY**

11-12 November

Tony Perrott, Leigh Privett, Liz Wood and Albury/Wodonga Orienteers are organising a full range of events, including 24-hour, a relay, and 6-hour, just north of Lake Hume in excellent forest/farmland country.

If you want a seat on the bus transport for the weekend, please call Trevor Gollan (042) 26 5544 very soon



#### **⇒** SOCIALGAINE 6-HOUR 25 November

A friendly outing in a spectacular location, between Sutherland and Nowra.

Entries close 15th November and will be limited to 250 people.

Trevor Gollan

#### **PROMOTING ROGAINING IN 1996**

I've been filling the Promotions role on the Rogaine Committee for a few years but in 1996 plan to be overseas at the beginning of the season. Is there somebody out there who would like to give me some assistance for at least part of the year? We haven't been doing too much and there is definitely plenty of scope for new ideas and energy. Basically our strategy has been to concentrate on having fun and run good events. Word of mouth, by far our greatest weapon, has taken care of the rest and 1995 has seen consistently well supported events and numbers at all-time records. However it would be nice to further develop the sport (who are we to keep the joys or rogaining to ourselves?) and raise its profile so that it is not quite so complicated to explain what you did on the weekend and why you are now lame and need help to even get out of the

chair.

We produce a simple brochure each January with the years events and distribute it to members and around outdoor gear shops and bushwalking clubs. We try to make sure that each event is promoted well in advance with an entry form distributed to all members through at least two copies of the newsletter. Our goal is 250 people to each event. In 1996 I would like to get organised to put results into the sports section of the newspaper and also get the odd journalist along to an event. We can always use some good close-up people photos, then there's sponsorship opportunities, talking to the odd group about Rogaining and the need for a

voice mail box because we are notoriously difficult to track down for newcomers.

So if you would like to join a small promotional group to encourage others to join the trials and tribulations of the sport you love then give me a ring on 261 1111 at work or 888 1954 at home.

Julian Ledger

#### PRESIDENT PETE'S PIECE

CONGRATULATIONS:

\* To Gareth Prosser, who was given the longest, loudest applause I've heard for an event organiser, at the end of the very successful NSW Champs. As co-ordinator and sole course-setter, Gareth consummately did the work of three, and introduced us to a new National Park.

\* To Bert van Netten, who at last joins

To Bert van Netten, who at last joins wife Dianne as a state champion, with partner Alf Britton.

\* To all teams who lasted longer than 6 hours (when I collapsed) on the 20m

contours.

\* To Lynne and me - this is the official press announcement of the birth of our daughter Tess Alana Watterson on 11th July

#### OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

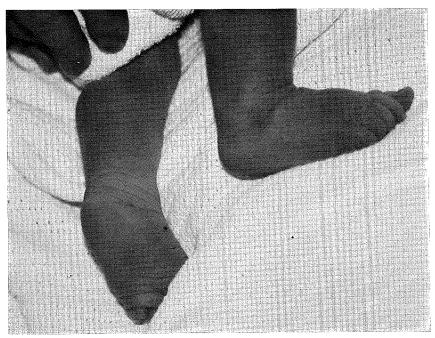
\* The trailer needs a home, preferably in Sydney. It is covered and can sit out in the yard (though some extra space for overflow would be helpful). Ideally, the minder would have a 6 cylinder car and could tow it to events, for which petrol money would be handsomely reimbursed.

NSWRA has built up a healthy bank balance, \$12,000, about a year's operating

costs, as planned.

\* The Interstate Challenge entry form is enclosed. The event will be this side of the border. Just as well - Victoria is barely big enough for a proper rogaine!

Peter Watterson



Tess Watterson's feet. Will they be as fleet as her fathers?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



#### IN PURSUIT OF KT's

Tell Julian that he can get his Dunlop KT26's at Target in Chatswood. I know 'cos I just got some!! The rule of thumb is cheap, unfashionable and daggy so no self respecting "sports" shop will stock them. Joanna Parr

#### WRC II & WESTERN **AUSTRALIA**

I went to Perth for a week and stayed for nine years. During some of that time I got into the emerging sport of Rogaining which took off like a rocket despite the fact that WA bushwalkers were considered some kind of lunatic fringe by your average Sandgroper. Indeed at that time there were only three walking clubs in Perth. Perhaps the most memorable rogaines were the 24hour events held each year in the Spring. I did three of these. There were never any concurrent events - everybody, novices included, did the 24-hour with many teams only regaining during daylight hours. only rogaining during daylight hours.

Spring in WA is a fantastic time due to often stable weather, warm days, cool nights and spectacular wildflowers. The kangaroo paws and the wattle are particularly memorable. Events were normally held in the Darling Range - a spine of low hills east of Perth, usually a nice mix of farmland and forest. Navigation was often challenging due to the low relief of a lot of the country, the bush reasonably open but also containing some nasties including the prickly parrot

bush.

The 2nd World Rogaining Championships are to be held in WA on the weekend of 31st August and 1st September in an area not previously used for rogaines around Mt Singleton about 400km north east of Perth. An old YHA guide-book says the following about the floral display in Spring in this area: 'One of the world's most spectacular wildflower displays. In good years you can walk for miles knee-deep in papery petalled flowers at over a 1000 million flowers per square km all the way. At their best late Aug-late Sep.

I did go to the area once but not in the wildflower season. We were actually in search of Halley's comet and got as good a view as was to be had. The area would I think offer some challenging rogaining from a navigational point of view with less relief than we are used to in NSW, ACT and Vic. One thing is for sure, the West Aussies will

run a good event and pride themselves on the quality of their course setting, catering, admin and atmosphere.

Entries are open to those coming from outside WA first (in Nov 1995) and we hope to see at least as large a team from NSW as we had at the first World Championships in Beechworth, Vic. I would recommend at least a week to 10 day holiday in WA. Apart from all that Perth and Fremantle have to offer, some of the attractions in a northerly direction include the Pinnacles, Kalbarri Gorge and, a little further up, Monkey Mia and its dolphins.

YHA Travel has quoted the following

APEX return flight \$529, involves a number of restrictions including advance purchase and limited seats;

- Group fare \$644 (need not all travel together but bookings need to be coordinated); fewer restrictions than APEX;
- Return Coach \$436;
- Return train economy class sit-up \$640;
  - with sleeper \$1358 (three days each way!)
  - Group min. 10 pax \$1780 first class sleeper and includes all meals.

    Driving is not a bad idea if you have

never done it but bear in mind wear-and-tear on your car and beware falling asleep on the Nullarbor. Assuming you don't drive then WARA are providing bus transport to the event or you could hire a car for around \$300 with unlimited km for the week. Finally the event looks like being a bargain as there is talk of an entry fee of only around \$25 per team member. Hope to see you there and give me a ring on (02) 261 1111 if you would like help with travel arrangements. More news in a later edition if the committee comes up with any further ideas for transport.

Julian Ledger

#### **WORLD RECORD CROWDS AT A** ROGAINE

The exact number that attended the VRA Autumn 12-hour event held on 28th May 1983 at Clonbinane was 643, a figure derived from the results list, including LATE and

DISQ. No one was turned away. I know because I entered on the day. I made the once-only error of sending my entry in the mail as usual - but with cash - and it never arrived. The organisers Christine & Martin Hall contacted me just before the event and asked if I was entering. Entries had mounted up but there was no principle in place to limit

entries, so I was allowed to enter.

Of significance is that the Bushfires of February 1983 caused the postponement of all events for the early part of the year - until

this particular event. So it was a special situation which caused the large numbers.

A limit of 400 was introduced - mainly to

ensure cooperation from landowners. But the limit has rarely been pushed since. Numbers have struggled to get above 300 in the last 10 years. Rod Phillips (at the time) proposed the concept of running the same event twice on subsequent weekends to reduce the congestion. It was noticeable at Clonbinane that every time you took a bearing for a control and looked up there was a light at the control and tooked up there to go.

David Rowlands

#### INTRODUCING... THE CAPPUCCINO **ROGAINERS!**

At Capertee there was the first positive identification of a species previously spoken about but not sighted - the Cappuccino Rogainers. In the best traditions of rogaining, competition is the furthest thing from the minds of these rogainers. They choose their routes for variety and checkpoints for views and rate their rogaine on the quality of the picnic spots found along the way. Their packs strain under the weight of patès and

quiches, carried to ensure the very best quality of life on rogaine. Cappuccino Rogainers like the bush but are not keen on bush-bashing. They set their routes accordingly and frown on undue exertion. They are blue sky sort of people and the earliest hint of rain will have them synchronising watches on the opening time of coffee shops in Blackheath. At the NSW Championships they were very impressed that Gareth Prosser had organised a team of oncourse caterers to provide coffee throughout the night at control #28 although they could see there was obviously room for improvement ... polystyrene cups and the coffee? not a cappuccino in sight. The meat pies at the otherwise macrobiotic Hash House also worried them and they are drawing up a

charter of CapRog catering etiquette.

CapRog's recognise that rogaining's strength as a sport is its social nature and that 8, 15, 24 hours is an opportunity to catch up on a lot, we mean a lot, of gossip. They like big teams - preferably the maximum five and there's nothing in their rules about meeting up with others on the course. They plan to be around for a while. Indeed there's a rumour that they have been investigating a Metrogaine course and talking with local landowners in Darlinghurst and Paddington. So, the next time you hear laughter and merriment in the bush, stop, it could be the Cappuccino Rogainers having a great time.

Julian Ledger

[Stephen Castle, the patron saint of CapRog's, provides a more personal view of Cappuccino Rogaining, on page 9.]

#### THE ROGAINERS PRAYER

Our rogainer, who art in Australia, Hallowed be thy navigation. Thy full moon come, thy checkpoints be found At night, as they are in daylight. Give us this day our daily carbo loading, And forgive those who don't train at all. Lead us not into poor route choice, but deliver us from errors. For thine is the map, the compass and the torch, Rogaining for ever and ever.

Amen

Bill Teahan and Nigel Aylott

## NSW CHAMPIONSHIP REPORTS

#### WINNERS REPORT (TRAVELS WITH MY BERT)

Well the pains from the Australian Champs had eased just in time for the NSW Champs at Capertee. With a second place in the Veterans at the Aus Champs my partner, Bert van Netten, and I had set our sights on

winning the Veterans.

Bert and I go back to about 1979, where we competed against each other in orienteering. I gave orienteering away in the mid-80s for various reasons, while Bert became hooked on rogaining. During the intervening period Bert has made repeated attempts to get me to a rogaine and finally succeeded in getting me to commit to the Aus Champs. His persistence is one of the qualities that makes him a good rogainer.

Our first run was in the 6-hour Metrogaine, to see how we went together and to enable me to get a feel for the sport. This gave us two valuable insights into competing together. We needed to maximise our course preparation time and Bert needed to lift his fitness level. The Aus Champs, which we found physically demanding, emphasised this

Bert, Dianne and family travelled to Capertee on Friday while I was there by 10am Saturday. Because of his long association with rogaining, Bert is our team tactician. He sets the goals, knowing where we should be at dusk and dawn and approximately how much distance we need to approximately how much distance we need to cover to stand a chance of winning our class. We designed a course that would give us about 1370 points with an option to pick up control 73 plus a few more if we had the time and energy. An anti-clockwise route around the course would allow us to score a lot of points while covering a lot of ground through the more open country, before dark. deliberately left out controls 47 and 48 as we would be there at night and considered them

"sucker" controls. At the pre-start briefing I felt much more relaxed than at the other events as we were prepared with time to spare. We had both eaten a hearty lunch of noodles, fruit, cheese etc. washed down with ample fluids. My one concern was that Bert was not carrying enough water with him. I had two litres in my pack plus a 750ml bottle on my belt, which I intended sipping from every 15 minutes to help prevent lactic acid build-up in my leg muscles. With the sound of the start whistle this concern was forgotten in the ordered

melee to get going.
Our first mishap occurred on the way to the first control when crossing the first fence. I caught my pants leg on the high tensile barbed wire, putting a tear in it. I had visions

of completing the course with one leg at half mast, all scratched and bleeding.

I was amazed at how quickly the crowd thinned compared with the Budawangs and believe the coursesetter deserves credit for the multiple choices they gave competitors. By the time we had reached the second

ontrol we were on our own.

I am more of a pinpoint navigator, checking off each feature as I pass it, where Bert is a more general lay-of-the-land navigator, rarely using a compass. On the way to our third control (#33) I lost contact with the map in the first 200m and failed to regain it, relying on Bert who was following me to pull us through. I think our first taste of the 20m contours brought us both unstuck and we finished up heading down Alloway Creek before realising where we were. John Waddell and the Worimi boys certainly showed us up, punching their card as we arrived.

We soon received another shock when we realised we hadn't noticed the impassable cliffline between #26 & #61. (I think we'll leave #61 out in our next rogaine. No doubt many people have memories of #61 in the Australian and the Paddy Pallin.) By cutting up to the cliffline earlier to make sure we didn't miss the ramp, we were lucky enough to find another ramp which wasn't marked. We almost altered our course to leave out 61. 34 & 45 but in hindsight are glad we didn't.

It may have saved us embarrassment at #28 if we had though. The couple we passed in the open paddock on the way to the highway must have had a real chuckle as they headed up the edge of the pines to the control. With "tunnel vision" we headed for the fence corner, right in the open under the railway embankment. To make matters worse Rollie Burford, "the water man" and his offsider saw the whole thing. We went nearly all the way to the fence corner thinking the control and water containers were in a small depression on the far side of

At #74 we caught up with an Austrian lad and his team mate. We all headed off to #38 together. After following the track to the top of the ridge, halfway to the control, we could see the power line crossing the knoll and made a beeline for it. As we went down the side of the next ridge we realised we were headed for the wrong knoll (never trust a course setter). The one we wanted was only 250m across the gully. We hurriedly decided on a meal stop to let the other team surge ahead, then slipped into the gully and up to the knoll. They caught a glimpse of us just before we were out of sight and corrected to come in from the back, so all our stealth was for nothing. We left them sitting on the top of

Jews Mountain (#100) watching the sunset as we tried to make #65 our goal before full dark.

By then I was having trouble with the big toe on my right foot and was afraid I would lose the nail if I didn't do something about it. I was walking in a retired pair of basketball

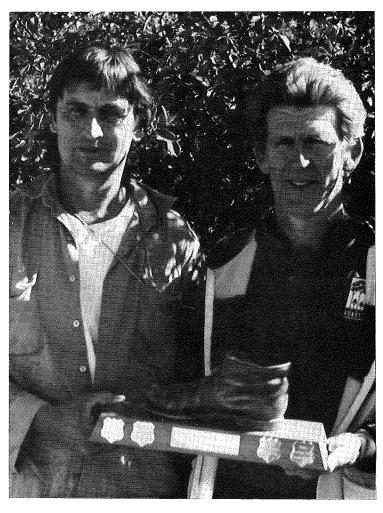
was walking in a retired pair of basketball shoes which were a bit small for a 24-hour rogaine. Out came the pen-knife and, taking care not to sever any stitching, I cut a hole in the top of the shoe. "Aaah", instant relief.

We left our packs at W3 and went for #39 where we spent 10 minutes searching on the end of the wrong spur. We arrived at #57 and slipped into the head of the gully we thought the control was in. The moonlight was so good we had only been using our pen. was so good we had only been using our pen torches to look at the map and for locating controls. Some lights on our left headed our way and Ron Junghans and Ross Barr dropped in. It didn't take us long to realise we were in the wrong gully and we all headed west to the next one. On arrival, I was just about to head upwards when Ross' headlamp slightly downhill. Headlamps definitely are handy sometimes. Thanks fellas.

It was such an easy walk into #64 we

decided to come back through the waterstop and take on as much water as we could. and take on as much water as we could. We'd have a dry run from then until we hit the pub. We did find water in Airly Creek but the car tyres and guide-posts in the streambed put us off drinking it. If we were to be critical, the lack of a fourth waterstop would be it. We felt there should have been creat the track investigate of #73. one at the track junction east of #72.

At #55 we were going so well time-wise that we decided we could pick up #73. Bert



Bert van Netten and Alf ("The Forester") Britton with their winner's trophy after the 1995 NSW Championships at Capertee.

## **NSW CHAMPIONSHIP REPORTS**

at this stage had started to and was well. We develop blisters suffering chafing as well. We went for #73 first, as to attack #63 from #55 at night seemed too much of a gamble with all the spurs spreading out like fingers on a hand.

We left our packs on the knoll beside the track, southwest of the track junction and arriving back there found another team almost sitting on them, boiling their billy. I sang out to Bert who was just behind to "Hurry up, the water has just boiled to put your noodles in. The two fellows weren't impressed at all and the early weren't morning turned decidedly cold. Bert wasn't impressed with me either. His mouth was watering, anticipating hot noodles. settled for three Glucodin tablets each, to keep our concentration up until dawn.

It seems we left it too late, because we bombed #72 rather badly, losing about an hour. Netta and Marnie Holmes passed us just as we made it back to the track to relocate and have another go. They commented cheerfully that they had no trouble with #72 and perhaps we were on the wrong spur.

From #80 through to #43 was really the toughest section of the course for us. Bert was pushing hard to keep up and his guts and determination can only be admired. We still had about 3 hours to go when we hit #43 and Bert calculated we could nail 42, 41 & 40 on the way in,

giving us an extra 120 points.

We met Andrew Lumsden and his team coming out of #42 and Robbie Preston and his mates going in without their packs, which we discovered at the creek junction on the way to

#41. Bert thought the boys shouldn't go home without a souvenir from the event and deposited a large chunk of quartz in one of their packs. He dismissed my protests when I said the organisers might not follow his line of thinking and disqualify us. Anyway, he said, they had youth on their side and he had a lottery ticket riding on beating young Robbie

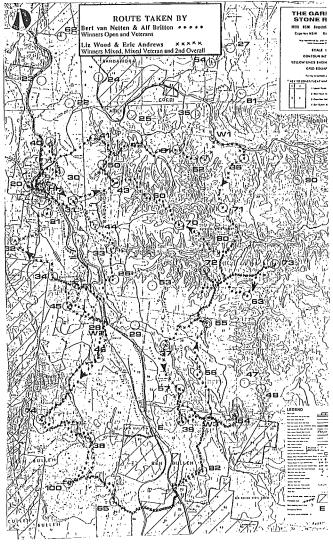
Leaving #40 we spotted Shane Trotter being lead by his veteran partner, Chippy, as they raced across the flat on their way to pick #40 up. Until then Bert had been thinking that we might have been going all right.

Like many others, we ran into insect trouble at the Royal Hotel (#20). The "barfly" seemed to have lost his sense of direction and kept insisting to every rogainer who came in that north-west was north. I very much doubt though that he would have any trouble finding his way back to the pub if

he was downwind of it.

With half an hour to spare we thought about picking up #21 but decided we had had enough and opted for a leisurely walk back to the finish. Bert's main concern was how Ian Dempsey and Ian Carr had gone as he considered them our biggest challenge for the Veterans title. One of my biggest challenges on the course was to keep Bert's socialising to a minimum, as he gathered intelligence on how other teams were going. From Bert's research we thought we had a chance at the Vets but not in our wildest dreams did we consider we could take the Open out.

As we walked up to the stage to receive our trophies I listened to the heartfelt



applause of the crowd, many of whom have known Bert for years. They were glad to be there to see Bert take out his first 24-hour rogaine.

To the organisers and people who made the NSW Rogaining Championships happen, we thank you for a wonderful event and can assure you your efforts were appreciated by

Alf Britton

Alf Britton
[Moral of the story: don't leave your
packs unattended where Bert can find them.
Ed]

#### A STROLL IN THE GARDEN

A quick examination of the map proved that Gareth had set us a real dilemma. Despite a methodical approach to planning, the ideal route was not obvious. From our lookout at the HH the valley looked quite undulating and the contours didn't really look steep did they?

After an hour and a half of discussion we agreed that a plan simply had to be made. It was decided that any plan would need to be more flexible than usual. A nightfall target was set, the map prepared, a final drink and we were off

At our third control (#50) we found that we were not reading the 20m contours very Decided to take well (lost 15 minutes). Gareth's advice and use the dry creek-beds. Arrived at W1 with 90 minutes to last light and had second thoughts about going out to #90 and then attacking #73 from the bottom ... trying to find the ramp in the dark. Discarded #90 and in the dark. Discarded #90 and headed to #71 instead. During our planning we agreed several times that #71 to #80 was not on, yet here we were doing just that. Climbing the spur to #80, the moon rose and silhouetted the clifflines and we stopped for oohing and aahing.

Darkness brought a change of attack. We would use the tracks and attack in and out along the ridges and spurs. From the number of people we met early in the night, many other teams had the same

#73 from the top should be easy. Wrong. We took the wrong spur and blundered about for 20 minutes or so with morale sinking, thinking that this could be a long and frustrating night. Teams we had passed were now in front of us. Found #72 OK but when it came time to head to #63 remembered our experience with #73 and convinced ourselves that it would be hard to find in the dark and that we might lose a lot of time (it was still only 10pm). We were not to know that the rest of the area was not as hilly as the northern

Liz fretted that we were dropping out too many controls; but we had always agreed that W3 would be decision-time ... do we go on to #82 and then west to #100 or do we start to work our way back towards the HH. After snaring 55, 37, 57 & 39 we were feeling quite pleased with ourselves but the trip from W3 to #64 and return took more than an hour so we dropped #56 off our list. At 2:30am we headed toward #82. We met a team coming north along the ridge and they were the last team we would encounter for 5 hours. (Makes you wonder if you have done something wrong.)

Coming down from #82 near the OOB was difficult in the dark. stumbled onto a track in some green and, when eventually we found ourselves out on the main road, we were temporarily misplaced. The fact that the road to the west had been realigned dented our confidence a little, but at 4am in the morning it does not take much to feel down.

With the first hint of dawn our necks were tilted back as we climbed Jews Mountain. At the precise moment that we reached the saddle to the north of the control, the sun appeared and the moon disappeared.

A memorable experience.

section.

W2 was to be another decision location. Did we plunge off east to 29, 53, 26, etc. or head north-west through Blackmans Crown. Our experience the previous day with all the climbs in the 20m contour area convinced us that the 10m contour route was much more friendly. By the time we reached #61 it was obvious that we had plenty of time so I started suggesting that we go through the HH to #20 and #30. Once this idea was accepted I then pushed to take in #40 as well. We still returned to finish with 44 minutes to spare and no close controls available.

In hindsight we were too cautious about our time. There is something special about extending just a little bit more and making it

(so long as one doesn't have to run).

A magnificent area for a rogaine, good organisation and a superb problem presented by Gareth. Thanks to my partner Liz for joining me for a stroll in the garden.

Eric Andrews

## NSW CHAMPIONSHIP REPORTS

#### IT WAS A PERFECT NIGHT...

Our route was a very hasty combination of Marnie's ideas on the train and my planning at Capertee ... mostly her ideas. It was somewhat disconcerting to start the event without any idea of the distance our potential route covered! The first five checkpoints in the north-west were the most efficient in terms of time to points-gained ratio. But then we got into the interesting country. I have often driven through Capertee, and Pearsons Lookout is a favourite spot to stop for a cup Pantoneys Crown does not give an adequate impression of how STEEP it is! We tried to minimise the climbing but still had a big down and up between #71 and #70 (at least, because it was dark, we couldn't actually see the depth!)

It was somewhere between #44 and #33 (around 10 o'clock) that we suddenly became a one person team. Marnie went to sleep. She has developed into a fine art the talent of walking a (reasonably) straight line while asleep. Unfortunately my map was folded so asleep. Unfortunately my map was folded so I didn't realise how close we were to #28, the All Night Cafe - some hot soup and especially some strong coffee would have been useful. By now we were on our night-time roadbash. I was pace counting all the way (it has the opposite effect to counting sheep for me and If felt bright and chirpy) and using compass bearings down the spurs - such a boost to walk onto the checkpoint just when you think you should!

And it was a perfect night. I particularly remember the view from the top of #80 in that splendid moonlight. At 1am we stopped to have a real sleep then got going again at 3am. A bit after that we came across the terrible sight of a rogainer prone with despair ... they had been looking for a checkpoint for two hours. Feeling sorry for them we told them they were in the right place. It was back at the HH that Bert thanked us and said they had another go and found it immediately. If only we had known it was them...!!

Other highlights were the colourful eastern sky behind Pantoneys Crown looking eastward from #55 and the golden sunrise when climbing up to #37. Also exciting, botanically speaking, the unusual leucopogon near #42 which isn't meant to be

found in this area, and the

From #80 and #73.

From #82 we were a bit worried about the time. We had slowed because of bad blisters. However, once we got to the railway line I started singing to Marnie all the songs from the musical I am currently in. was so much fun and we walked so fast that we almost went straight past #28. We suddenly found we had heaps of time (we possibly?? could have gone to #61 but it looked awfully steep) so headed off to the west and got those instead.

It was a great course in wonderful country. Thanks Gareth. A good mixture of open farmland, forest and tracks one of the special rogaines I will remember (up there with Murrumbo, Flinders Ranges and Wuuluman). However, could we have more intention boards please - it gets quite lonely out there not knowing when other people were around and where they were going!

Netta Holmes





Netta and Marnie Holmes, winners of the Women's section, and 3rd overall, at the 1995 NSW Championships.

## **NSW CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS**

CAPERTEE, 9-10 SEPTEMBER 1995

<u>24-Ho</u>	ur									ومتواصيت	
Score		Finish	O	M	W	X	VM	<u>vw</u>	VX	<u>J</u>	F
1560	Bert Van Netten, Alf Britton	12:23	1	1		_	1			ĺ	
1510	Eric Andrews, Liz Wood	12:14	2			1			1	1	
1510	Netta Holmes, Marnie Holmes	12:59	3	∥	1		_			ĺ	
1500	Glenn Bridgart, David Jones	12:13	4	2		2	2		2	ĺ	
1490	Ian Cameron, Sue Cave	12:42	5 6	<sub>2</sub>		2				ĺ	
1470	Shane Trotter, Chippy Le Carpentier	12:37 12:56	7	3 4			ł			1	
1430	Andrew Hill, David Shepherd, Robbie	12:30	l ′	4						'	
1200	Preston  Coorne Colline Maurice Pipley	12:46	8	5			3			ĺ	
1380 1270	George Collins, Maurice Ripley Jo Parr, Carol Osborne	12:56	9	'	2		′			ĺ	
1250	Ian Deck, David Dash	12:02	10	6	-		4			ĺ	
1230	Bill Proctor, Neil Watson	12:37	îĭ	ĬŽ			l '			ĺ	
1230	Bruse Fenton, Craig Paull	12:45	12	8						ĺ	
1230	Ross Barr, Ron Junghans	12:51	13	9			5			l	
1160	Ben Hall, Hal Simms	12:39	14	10			l			2	
1100	Geoff Peel, Melvyn Cox	12:41	15	11			İ			1	
1090	Robert Embery, Brian Hughes	11:58	16	12						ĺ	
1020	Andrew Wisniewski, Rowan Wiltshire	12:59	17	13			ĺ			ĺ	
1000	Dick Mountstephens, Rod Hislop	12:09	18	14			•			ĺ	
1000	Bruce Chessman, Carl Chessman	12:54	19	15			l			Í	1
980	Andrew Cagney, Bett Koch	12:51	20			3	1			ĺ	
980	Damian Welbourne, Debbie Stuart	13:01	21	١.,		4	Į.			ĺ	
960	Steve Smith, Vince Gleeson	11:25	22	16						ĺ	
920	Paul Roberts, Jason Noble	12:39	23	17			_			ĺ	
920	David Griffith, Peter Duguid	12:57	24	18		_	6			ĺ	
870	Steve Garlick, Rosemary Austen, Rodger	12:51	25			5			3	ĺ	
0.00	Austen	12:16	26	19			ŀ			ĺ	
860	Lloyd Jensen, Peter Lensley	01:09	27	20			7			ĺ	
850	Ian Carr, Ian Dempsey Adam Rayment, Jamie Wilkinson	12:45	28	21			l '			3	
790 780	Sue Clarke, Annette Billinghurst	12:19	29	~ 1	3		ŀ	1		١	
770	Alan Mansfield, Sonia Kupina	12:34	30		,	6	ŀ	•		ĺ	
750	Richard Sage, Nihal Danis	12:51	31	11		7	l			ĺ	
740	Eric Metzke, Linda Robinson	12:31	32			8	Ì		4	ĺ	
740	Russell Taylor, Andrew Taylor, Nick	12:43	33	22			l			ĺ	
''	Quinsey										
680	Ken Smith, Don Brooks	12:50	34	23			8			ĺ	
670	Ken Mills, Doug Jay	10:20	35	24		_	l			ĺ	
670	Tracey Mitchell, Grant Maizels, David	12:13	36			9	Ì			ĺ	
	Green	10.00	27	ر[			ŀ			1	
660	Gavin Dowdell, Chris Linz	12:22	37 37	25 25			ŀ			4	
660	Nathan Emslie, Brandon Duff	12:22 12:23	39	<sup>23</sup>		10	ŀ			7	
660 630	Ian Rank, Swee Rank Jeremy Henson, Geoff Tweedale	12:00	40	27		10	ŀ			ĺ	
630	Jenny Gill, Graeme Cooper	12:05	41	∥-″		11	ŀ			ĺ	
620	Kristiane Herrmann, Kathy Herrmann	12:45	42		4	11	ŀ	2		ĺ	
620	John Keats, Ian Payne	12:48	43	28	•		9	_		ĺ	
620	Margaret Covi, Robert Cox, Esme Leeson	12:50	44	- "		12	<b>1</b>		5	ĺ	
590	Jonathon D'Arcy, Walter Kellerman	11:30	45	29			10			l	
590	Charles Thomson, Stuart Thomson, Russell	12:41	46	30						ĺ	
	Swanson						i			İ	
580	Steve Jackett, Steve Lloyd	11:51	47	31			11			ĺ	
570	Gary Bagwell, John Coulter	12:35	48	32		10				İ	
570	Lynn Dabbs, Kevin Williams	12:41	49			13			6	ĺ	
510	Gabriel Mackenzie, Trevor Flewin	12:27	50			14	1			ĺ	2
490	Marie Dale, Tony Dale, Bonnie Dale	12:47 12:21	51 52	33		15				ĺ	2
480	Karl Smolka, Brett Hughes, Dale Waring, Gavin McGill	12.21	32	33						ĺ	
370	Tony Bond, Jennie Bond	12:02	53			16			7	ĺ	
310	Jim Meek, Steve Harrison	02:35	54	34		20	ľ			ĺ	
310	Phillip Carter, Graeme Carter	02:40	55	35			İ			ĺ	3
290	Kevin Power, Robert Mitchell, Keith	09:13	56	36			İ			ĺ	
	Wallington, Roland Simpson		1							ĺ	
120	Tom Walker, Alyosha Jacobson, Jeremy	13:14	57	37						i	
1	Samuel	12.4		ll .		17	l			i	4
20	Kay Gollan, Trevor Gollan, Kristen Gollan,	13:14	58	ll .		17				İ	4
DATE	Lucia Gollan, Alex Gollan, Maddie Gollan	03:15		ll .						İ	
DNF DNF	Leigh Privett, Tony Perrot Julian Ledger, Peter Watterson	12:42	-	II .			-			İ	
DIAL	Junan Leugei, reier watterson	12.72		ш			<u> </u>			L	

#### WHAT NEXT?

First a 6-hour; Then a 12-hour; Then a 24-hour.

I very much enjoyed the 24hr event because it tested my stamina and my team member's tolerance!.

So what next? I could aim to spend the full 24 hours out there. I could aim to gain more than 1,500 points. I could aim to gather all the controls. I could aim to win!

But, considering that apart from the social aspects, my two main reasons to take part in the sport are to improve my navigation and my fitness, I

have an aim:

To take part and find the most navigationally challenging route to gather the hardest to find points:

For example, consider the Gardens Of Stone... from the HH with no messing about go straight for 90. Then cross country to 71. Then to 36 (but via the creek not across the top). Then to 52 (again via the creek). Then for a bit of exercise directly cross-country (counting creeks) to 47...

Get the idea, lots of exercise and hard navigation!

Now all I have to do is find a partner who is willing to accept a challenge...

Nick Quinsey

#### RAVE ON

Cannot rave enough about the Gardens of Stone Rogaine. Thanks to Gareth Prosser, Andrew Wisniewski, Bankstown Bushwalkers, and everyone else who assisted.

It was obvious that a lot of

It was obvious that a lot of hard work and attention to detail had gone into the organisation of this rogaine. It was appreciated. We certainly were spoilt by having scenic points star rated on the clue sheet, and the map pre-ruled with progretic porth with magnetic north.

The scenery was great, with Pantoneys Crown ever present; sweeping views from #61 were fantastic; pagoda formations really interesting; the huge colourful full moonrise viewed from #46 was spectacular. The weather was cool and perfect for rogaining all weekend. The full moon and cloudless sky meant torches were rarely needed. The tent site was flat, not hard or lumpy. The food was first class. Receiving a remembrance mug at the end was the cherry on an already iced cake. Denise (my novice partner) is now a rogaine convert!

Thanks for the most enjoyable rogaine I've been on. Maureen Cavill

## **NSW CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS**

CAPERTEE, 9-10 SEPTEMBER 1995

#### 15-Hour

Score		Finish	0	M	W	X	VM VW	VX	Ţ	F
	Andrew Lumsden, Mark Ward, Mark Adams, Bruce	11:58	ΤŤ	1			1 112 1 11	7 48	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
1	Franklin		1				1			
840	David Pryor, Ian Humphries, Bruce Mills	11:32	2	2						
820	Peter Charlton, Robyn Fried	11:50	3			1	į		İ	
800	Peter Gordon, Rachel Williams	11:37	4	ll		2				
720	Mark Simons, Jason Szczerbanik	11:41	5	3						
720	Daniel Marlay, Wolfgang	11:42	6	4					ļ	
710	Terry Strachan, Malcolm Mills	11:45	7	5			1			
670	Gordon Johnson, David Glas, Mark Maher	11:53	8	6						
670	Terry Sharp, Kevin Trotter, Steven Brown	11:54	9	7						
	John Waddell, Wayne Ray	11:28	10	8						
600	David Sledge, Frank Rosser	11:48	11	9						
	Andrew Forsyth, Douglas Catchpole, Chris Holland	11:47	12	10				l		
	Philip Allen, Bob Bartle, Anthony Allen	11:54	13	11						
540	Heiko Schaefer, Ken Schaefer, Matthew Kortekaus	11:43	14	12						
	Maureen Cavill, Denise Green	11:50	15		1		l			
	Roz Atkins, Gail Roland, Helen Atkins	11:26	16	l	2 3 4					
490	Jenny Horsfield, Anne Chapman, Dianne McLennan	11:56	17		3					
480	Sharon Tan, Danielle Cole, Olivia Humphries	11:24	18		4			1		
450	Andrew Pope, Belinda Pope, Andrew Introna, Pete	12:00	19			3				
	Fletcher			•			l			
420	Tom Thomas, James Thomas, Gaynor Niumata,	11:54	20			4				
	William Grant, Melisa Matheson									
400	Nila Sarma, Paramvir Thind, Stephen Castle, Mel	11:44	21			5				
	Mill									
	Erik Thorvaldson, Susan Byleveld	10:35	22			6				
360	Anthony Lloyd, Justin Redmayne	11:10	23	13					1	
350	Kevin Lloyd, George Hauswirth	11:29	24	14			2			
330	David Johnson, Alan Lusty, Marrian Coppins, Peter	11:59	25			7		- 1		
l	Scobie, Simon Carson							- 1		
	Kate Malfroy, Geoff Bailey	12:17	26			8				
	Jennifer Neil-Smith, Henry Freiburg	08:42	27			9				
	Peter Rankin, Alison McDonald	10:15	28			10				
	Michael Israel, Matthew Jefferson, Andrew Mackie	09:25	29	15						
	Janet Sculfer, Manfred Mackenzie	11:48	30			11		1		
	Jennifer Van Gorder, Jean Baikie	11:45	31		5 6					
	Shona Smith, Geri Vaughan	11:53	32		6					
90	Melineh Papazian, Mampre Papazian, Edward	18:15	33			12				1
000	Papazian	40.45	ا ا					ŀ		
90	Annie Artinian, Artemis Bedrossian, Jim Tzakos,	18:15	33	l		12				
000	Tatiana Faroukhians		ا ا							
90	John Abraham, Maria Perspolis, Anita Mardirossian,	18:15	33			12				
D	Naseem Alavi			l						
DNF	Mark Milne, Gillian Vitnell	11:13	-			-				

#### 8-Hour

Score	Finish	0	M	W	X	VM VW	VX	Ţ	F
780 Mark Freeman, John Morris, Cameron Osborne	20:55	Ť	1					<u> </u>	<u>-</u>
580 Peter Coventry, Bruce Mullaney	20:26	2	2					l	
560 Malcolm Stewart, Mark Burnside	20:33	$\overline{3}$	3						
550 Tim Moloney, Nick Zarifeh, Stuart Bouveng, Simon	20:45	4	4					l	
Meers		l	'					Ì	
510 Malcolm Hughes, Margaret Hughes	20:32	5	l		1		1	•	
510 Graham Phelps, David Van Ryn	20:55	6	5				_		
420 Sabina Hamaty, David Hamaty	20:50	7			2				
420 Hugh Moore, Judith McNeill	20:51	8	l		3				1
410 Hugh Jones, Sue Jones	20:41	9	l		4		1		_
390 Paul Harvey, Sharon Govenlock, Bobby Sattler	20:45	10			5				
390 Mark Walters, Sue Woolfenden	20:46	11	·		6				
370 Jacqui Bridge, Jack Redfern, Richard Ambrogio	20:49	12			7				
350 Nicholas Hannan, Michael Hannan	20:44	13	6						
350 John Roberts, Henry Roberts	21:06	14	7						2
340 Paul Stein, Wes Stein	20:51	15	8						
310 Lisa Lampe, Mark Wright	20:49	16			8				
310 Peter Brandis, Ian Fryer	??:??	17	9						
300 Amber Barr, Andrew Hassal	18:39	18			9				
280 Philip Bates, Matt Scobie, Owen Tang	19:33	19	10						
270 John Bishop, John Biddiscombe, Ian McNicol	20:42	20	11			1			
250 Roderick Ross, Peter Lloyd	20:25	21	12			-			
240 Ian Parker, Parmiss Keyhani	19:26	22			10				
190 Jenny Scobie, David Scobie, Ben Scobie	18:49	23			11				3
160 Jason Wenderoth, Sarah Davies	19:22	24			12				
160 Judy Chapman, Ken Chapman	19:55	25			13		2		
160 Tracy Walker, Andrew Walker, Roslyn Muir	20:20	26			14				
160 Benjamin Zipser, Mark Douglas	20:59	27	13						
140 Marita Papazian, Fred Papazian, Vanoosh Adamian,	20:58	28			15				
Alen Adamian									
130 Debbie Buck, Judy Greenwood, Kyana McPherson,	20:11	29		1					
Shae Greenwood	_								
40 Geoff Taylor, Rachael Taylor	18:25	30			16				
-350 Mary Ann Graham, Gillian Eales, Peter Morris	22:07	31			17				
-1140 Nathan Kesteven, Jessica Lowe, Imogen Kesteven	23:10	32	ll .		18				

## Categories: Open, Men, Women, miXed, Veteran Men, Veteran Women, Veteran miXed, Juniors, Family

#### BOUQUETS FOR GARETH

Gareth did a first class job in compiling the map (4 maps, really) with the extras to the legend. What about the scenic ratings - a first! What a fabulous idea for the social walkers. Did everybody carefully read all of the course notes, especially contour intervals? It trapped us between 43 and 60 when we found a few reasonable sized gullies that were not on the map, and we got confused.

We voted control 61 on our route as the best scenic view and it was easy to get to from 45 too. The control in the front bar of the pub was a good idea to get the locals to feel a part of the rogaine - a lot of interest was shown by all at the bar.

My biggest regret is that we're unlikely to use the same area and map again soon because events are usually on a new map. I'd vote to go back to the same place because it was such fabulous country to walk through. What about a Return to the Gardens of Stone?

We strolled (Kevin's word, I think we hiked) around for 10 of the 24 hours to pick up 570 points. By being in the 24 hours we were able to do two 5-hour walks per day and enjoy the course with ease (again, not my choice of word for the tiredness I felt at the end!). We hope Gareth can set next year's NSW champs. His skills and organisational abilities for this type of event are rare qualities. (Is that enough crawling to convince him to give up his time for us again?!)

No, rogaining can't get any better than this!

Lynn Dabbs (+ Kevin Williams)

## CAPERTEE REPORTS

## QUICK INTERVIEW WITH SUE CLARKE

Ed: Who and what did you see?

We hardly saw anyone after the first hour - a sign of a good course with no obvious routes. Although it would have been quite nice to see how my erstwhile partner Chippy was managing with Shane Trotter...

What we saw was lots of huge cliffs that we were very glad not be so much as thinking about climbing! (Did anyone actually go to

#81?)

Should I derogate the coursesetter for incorrectly marking the hashhouse?

Does anyone actually navigate to the hash-house? I thought you just followed your nose & ears once you got in the general area.

Did anyone visit the diamond mine?

Even that wouldn't have got me all the

way up there!

It seemed to be ideal terrain and organisation. Can rogaining get any better than this?

It would be difficult - even the weather

was kind to us. A magical area.

Quite a few people got knocked up. Was the country particularly hard? or are we all getting softer in our old age? Then again, the top results were from the veterans and the women. Does this say something about NSW rogaining?

As one of those who got "knocked up" I think it may have been something we brought with us from Sydney. I started to feel bad after only a few hours, & when I first came to eat just after dark I had trouble keeping it down. There's some sort of bug striking people where I work, so I don't hold the rogaine responsible! It was steep yes, but the bush was the thinnest I have ever met on a

The conditions were great - no rain, no sunstroke, & although it did get very cold around 2am, most of the casualties had

already been affected by then.

As for the veterans & women doing so well... I seriously think 40 is too young to be a vet in rogaining. While the 30's may be the prime age, I would put money on a 40-year old over a 20 year-old in a 24-hour event. Perhaps 50 would make more sense for veterans? And everyone knows women have more stamina than men anyhow. Why do you think they live so much longer?

(Being an actuary, Sue passed on the current Life tables... expectation of life at birth: males 74.5 years, females 80.5, and although this six-year difference falls to 5 years by age 40, we still have 43% of Australian women living to age 85 as against

only 24% of men.)

## CAPPUCCINO ROGAINERS

The Team: Melanie Mill, Nila Sarma, Paramvir Thind, Stephen Castle.

The Arrival: We get there around 11:30am (after being stuck in traffic and feeling guilty after watching the train Gareth suggested we be on quickly pass us). We drive in and meet our carpark attendant Kathy: "Hi Mel, saved you a VIP parking spot!". Ah friends, and we didn't even need the bribe money! We jump out of the car and chat with Kathy and Andy Black. They are personing the hot drinks stop at W2. "Sure we'll be there" (Ahem, where is there? We don't have our maps yet!). "What? You're offering massages for weary Rogainers? We'll be there."

The Start: Where has the time gone? Hmm, gossip to Andy's parents and Neil Prosser; lend our spare tent to Sara Lam. (Oh gross, now I have to share a tent with

Mel - can't wait to be woken in the night being smothered by her as she pines for her boyfriend, Ian Hawkes, who is currently in Canada! Did you know he bought women's ski boots?) Set up the tent. Mel and Nila gossip (they haven't seen each other for a while). What? The briefing's now?!

The Strategy: Briefing over, checkpoint card collected, maps opened for the first time(!) over the train in the playground. We discuss that it must be Mel's influence that we are late. Oh, back to the course - how about this loop? Sure. Apply rule #1 - reverse the direction chosen! All right, lets go!

The Course: What? Are we on a rogaine? We are walking no faster than we would on a gentle bushwalk! The mouths are working overtime. The goss is that good.

The Course - Attempt 2: We head to #30, then count the dams as we leisurely stroll across the familiand into the creek on the way to #50. The terrain in Russell Creek is quite wild. I'd hate to be anywhere near here when the area was in flood! The tall, dark, handsome men (that's Paramvir and me if you were confused) wait patiently as our shorter legged companions catch up. To our surprise they are not actually being slowed by the clambering over boulders; rather from the animated, engrossing discussion of our friends who are working in England and Canada. Paramvir and I slow down considerably - hey, we aren't going to miss out on this juicy gossip!

Route Discard #1: We find the dry creek system such easy going (compared to traversing all those 20m contours) that we stay in Airly Creek. Too bad if we get lost our intention sheet handed to the organisers doesn't quite resemble the route we are taking. We bypass #42 (we'll pick up from the road later), pick up #43 and head for #60.

Picnic Stop: Mel and I get a bit ahead of Paramvir and Nila. We stop at a tranquil spot along the creek. Out comes the chocolate and other munchies (rumour has it, the only reason we rogaine is that we allow ourselves to eat as much chocolate as desired! - we are doing a lot of exercise .. really!). Nila and Paramvir join us. The conversation flows. About half an hour later we decide that maybe we should get going! (What? Are we really doing a rogaine?)

This Isn't Steep: We arrive at #60 and met Judy, Shae (about 4), Kyana (under 6 months) and Debbie. Judy looks slightly tired (Kyana is strapped to her front) but as usual is in high spirits. We join them as we leave #60 heading for the road north up a very steep 120m spur. Our shortest leg member was having a bit of trouble finding traction on the steeper section (steeper? it was all steep!). However, no-one was complaining about the gradient ... I mean, Shae and Judy with Kyana were handling it without trouble! Hmm, maybe we should visit the gym more often ... naah!

Decisions and Sights: We reach the turn-off for #51 and choose to skip it - no way do we want to be down in a creek junction just on dark - we aren't going to miss the moonrise! We pass the turn-off for #42 (I doubt anyone was navigating at this stage) then choose to head for #25, picking it up amongst the frogs. Back at the road ... wait, wait ... the moonrise. Aahhh. Numerous minutes later we turn our heads and move on.

More Sights and Decisions: We hit the bridge at Airly Creek - and a hush comes over us ... can you hear the trolls? Where? Where? A little further we again stop - the moon rising for a second time - hidden by the mountain in the out-of-bounds area. Wow it's bright! Great night for it! We look down at our score card ... hmmm, not too many punch marks. Time to get some more points. We head to #22, then along the landing strip.

Hey, look up, a satellite. Where? Where? A quick sticky-beak in the hangar then off to the railway line and #40.

The Thought of Food: #40 was a snap, made very easy by the bright moon silhouetting the knoll hiding the checkpoint! A perfect night-time control! It's not surprising that the conversation turned to food (not for the first time I might add) as we approached #20, the pub. I think the pace also quickened! The pub was great - almost as good as the Tea and Damper stop in the Lake Macquarie Rogaine! A welcome drink was had by all. Could anyone understand the accent of the locals?!

Next Moming: Of course our intention was to wake at 5am and be on the course for the sunrise! 5am... Mel is sleeping soundly. I couldn't possibly wake her, could I? 6am... the young kids playing in the frost outside the tents wake me! 6:30am... Mel wakes me: "Why didn't you get me up at 5am?", she says, tongue very firmly in her cheek! A leisurely breakfast with brand-name cereal (wow, no expense spared) and plenty of bacon and eggs. Those poor people doing the 24-hour event - cold, missing out on all this food and being sick, by the stories we were hearing! A number of top teams had pulled out because they were going at it too hard, too early. Hmmm, it's 8am, maybe we should start soon... too early?

The Views: Today we decide to go for the views. Unfortunately, we had to turn down an offer to visit #81 - we didn't want to spoil our high score (ahem) with a DNF by being driven there! Instead, we head to #31 and then #44. We were slightly confused by the change in contours from 10m to 20m (its surprising how "big" a creek becomes when you translate 3 contours from 10 to 20m!). Nevertheless, we weren't fazed since we were heading for the point of Mount Alloway, rather than the checkpoint! The view here was definitely a two and a half star! We promptly sat down in the warm sun and had morning tea.

Tired - Us? No way!: When we could tear ourselves away from this spectacular spot (great course Gareth), we clambered down the black mark (phew, lucky it was there) and picked up #44. Then off along the farmland to #33. On the way to the railway line we meet Graeme Cooper and Jenny Gill. They are resting under a shady tree looking zonked after being out all night, yet, by their comments, enjoying every minute of it! For us it was off to #21 and the hash-house with plenty of minutes to spare. Getting our priorities correct, we put in our control card (hey, at least we may beat someone on time, if not points) and send our most desperate team member to the shop for Magnum ice-creams (these short-legged people can really move it when they want to!)

Ahh, the after-rogaine feeling. Sitting down with a meat pie in one hand (not yet touched) and a half-eaten Magnum in the other! Julian Ledger quires us on why we look so fresh. It must be because we are so fit, since we covered so many kilometres ... err .. what? we walked only that little distance? can't be correct!

The Cappuccino Rogainers: I still have no idea why Julian looked so worried as he labelled the new generation of competitors coming through as the Cappuccino Rogainers. [see Julian's comments on page 3] We were still completely puzzled as we discussed the point over Devonshire Teas (er, anyone for another cappuccino?) in the cafe back in Katoomba...

Thanks Gareth (and friends) for a wonderful, well-organised event in a beautiful area. All that hard work has paid off handsomely!

Stephen Castle

## CAPERTEE REPORTS

#### VISIT SUMMARY

	By Control						
Control	Visits	Control	Visits	Control	Visits		
20	109	40	75	63	11		
21	65	41	65	64	13		
22	60	42	67	65	16		
23	26	43	72	70	35		
24	32	44	74	71	24		
25	46	45	41	72	30		
26	47	46	31	73	25		
27	0	47	6	74	16		
28	71	48	4	80	32		
29	49	50	82	81	2		
30	97	51	39	82	19		
31	85	52	29	90	5		
32	44	53	25	100	21		
33	54	54	2				
34	45	55	32				
35	27	56	10	l			
36	21	57	16	l			
37	35	60	56	1			
38	19	61	49	1			
39	17	62	24				

By Frequency						
Control	Visits	Control	Visits	Control	Visits	
20	109	45	41	39	17	
30	97	51	39	57	16	
31	85	37	35	65	16	
50	82	70	35	74	16	
40	75	24	32	64	13	
44	74	55	32	63	11	
43	72	80	32	56	10	
28	71	46	31	47	6	
42	67	72	30	90	5	
21	65	52	29	48	4	
41	65	35	27	54	2	
22	60	23	26	81	2	
60	56	53	25	27	0	
33	54	73	25			
29	49	62	24			
61	49	71	24	l		
26	47	36	21	1		
25	46	100	21	l		
34	45	38	19	l	İ	
32	44	82	19			

#### 20 METRE STUFF-UPS

There seemed to be a good spread of controls & plenty of them. To me a good course is one where no-one gets to visit all (or even close to all) the controls. This obviously creates a bit more work for the course setter & his/her team, but it helps to open up the event by creating lots of options for route choice by the competitor, which in turn makes the event much more tactical.

The 20 metre contours sure provided a good challenge & no doubt resulted in a few stuff-ups (at least it did in our case - this was our first event using a 20 metre contour map). There were obviously a lot of features on the ground that weren't quite so clear on the map which meant being much more careful with

the navigation. Much more care was needed in keeping track of distances travelled. There'll probably be numerous complaints/comments that the 20 metre contour interval was inadequate, but from my way of thinking, it's just one of the variables which make the event that much more of a challenge (just like 1:50,000 scales instead of the normal 1:25,000).

Good to see lots of challenging control positions, rather than just having them on the most obvious spur or creek junction. It usually took a bit of skill & concentration to ensure the correct spur was followed. In the gullies also, you had to keep pretty good track of where you were because there were many gullies that you came across that were not clearly identified on the 20 metre contour

Having the Hash House located in a hall was a great idea. I'm sure it made life much easier for the caterers & would have been a much more pleasant place for caterers & competitors alike should there have been bad weather. My only complaint was that as usual, I was too knocked up to make the most of the good choice of meals that were on

ofter.

Overall (although we scored fairly poorly) I found the course enjoyable & challenging (as it should be for a championship event) with still plenty of opportunity for the "sightseers" & beginners to have an enjoyable walk.

Congratulations to course setters

Congratulations to course setters, caterers & all those other "behind the scene" helpers who contributed to the organisation & running of the event.

Steve Jackett

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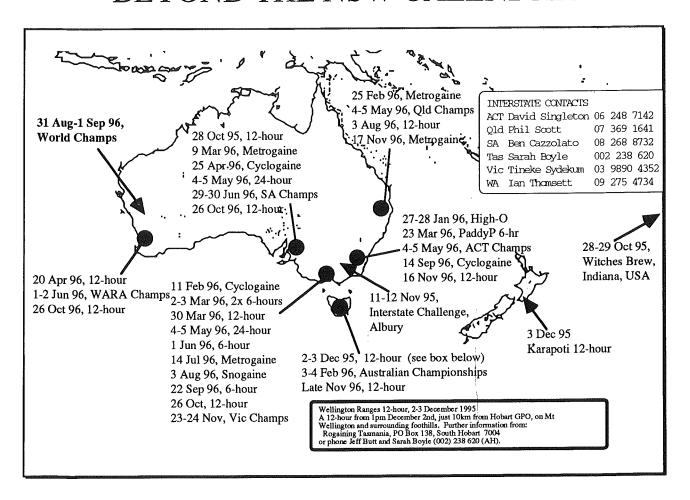
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