



# INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION Inc.

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~1976-2006 30 years of ROGAINING~

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Box 3, Central Park, 3145 Australia

[www.rogaining.com](http://www.rogaining.com)

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## IRF Team

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Secretary/Treasurer: Rod Phillips  
Technical Manager: vacant

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Ukraine: Efim Shtempler  
7<sup>th</sup> WRC: Alan Mansfield

## 7<sup>th</sup> World Rogaining Championships

In April, a message was sent advising people to enter soon for 7WRC. In May, the 7WRC Co-ordinator sent out the following message: "Anybody planning on entering the World Championships should act soon! As of Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2006 we have 330 entrants in approximately 155 teams, if you or people you know intend to enter the World Rogaining Championships they need to act soon."



*Monitor lizard*

In the last week of May, Alan Mansfield reported that the quota of 500 entrants had been reached and no more places would be guaranteed. However, he said he was attempting to ensure more places through consultation with the landowners who had asked for the original limit.

Filling this quota and raising so much interest in our World Rogaining Championships is an outstanding achievement. Everyone is to be congratulated for the way the information has been disseminated globally to ensure we have a first class attendance.

**Course setters report: 7WRC**

Text: Mike Hotchkis Photos: Chris Waring

Warrumbungle National Park, Coonabarabran, NSW, Australia



*Crater Bluff*

“What an amazing place this is” – we find ourselves saying this every day we go out on the course. Every trip we find something new and interesting. This is Nature at its best. In the Warrumbungles, that often means finding an unusual volcanic rock formation, or fleeting encounters with the abundant wildlife.

How is it going?

The course setting team spent last year familiarizing itself with the area and making arrangements for access. Visits were made by Mardi and John Barnes, George Collins, Julian Ledger, Trevor Gollan, Chris Waring and Mike Hotchkis. Chris Wilmott has produced our base map, with new photogrammetry and detail taken from aerial photos. We had a break over the hot summer months and busied ourselves with the map. In the past couple of months, we have worked hard to complete the course setting. A big effort has been put in by Trevor Gollan, Chris Waring, Mike Hotchkis and Dave Griffith. Now the course setters are doing their bit.

What is it like?

The course area is beautiful, varied Australian bush country, and 80% of the course is forest. The 20% open areas include grazing country, some now taken over by the national park and slowly the bush is re-occupying these areas.

The forest is predominantly eucalypt and native pine forest, with a great variety of understorey. In places, it is open and run-able; there is also some scrubby vegetation with occasional thick patches.

Local geology is very apparent. The Warrumbungle Range is well-known for its volcanic rock spires, pinnacles and dikes. At lower elevations, sandstone predominates, with typical weathered sandstone cliffs. Millions of years of weathering of this landscape have left the area with fine detail of spurs and gullies. The course generally ranges in elevation from 400m to 800m. Our new map has an abundance of contours at 10m interval. 1200m peaks, with their jagged rock formations, provide a dramatic backdrop to the course.

In New South Wales, the Warrumbungle Ranges are as far west as any mountains reach. From these mountains, the western plains seem to stretch to infinity, like a vast sea.



Wildlife seen by course setters include kangaroo (well, of course; this is Australia), wallaby, emu, echidna (spiny ant-eater), koala, and lizards of all shapes and sizes. The high ground is favoured by wild goats, and small wild pigs are sometimes seen in grassy creeks. Of the many days out on the course, we have only seen one snake, and that was on a hot summer day. Birds are in abundance, especially parrots, rosellas, cockatoos, honey-eaters, magpies and many others. At our camping spot, we do not need an alarm clock. The dawn chorus from these local residents does not allow for a lie-in.



*Possible spot for a checkpoint?*

If this is not already enough – the Warrumbungle Range is also famous for its view of the sky. The course setters have enjoyed many evenings at our campsite under clear starry skies. A prominent feature from many parts of the course is the dome of the Anglo-Australian Telescope at Siding Spring Observatory. When built in the 1970s, this telescope was the largest in the world with a view of the southern sky. The site was selected for this major international astronomical observatory because of its stable weather and clear skies. We hope this weather, preferred by both astronomers and rogainers, is delivered on our important date of 13-14 October 2006!

