



# INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION Inc.

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

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## IRF Team

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7<sup>th</sup> WRC: Alan Mansfield

## Rogaining in Australia

If you have not been rogaining in Australia, there are some outstanding opportunities to attend major rogaines over the next two years.

### Australian Rogaining Championships

The Australian Rogaining Championships are one of our four major international rogaines. They usually attract 300-400 participants including some from overseas, and the course and competition offer a little extra challenge as expected of a premier rogaine.

The first Australian Rogaining Championships were held at the western end of the Strathbogie Ranges in central Victoria. Transport for the 215 participants was by a special train from Melbourne arriving in

Tallarook station with a few hundred metre walk to the hash house in the main street of this small town. The course featured an easier loop in rolling hills for novices, and a steep scarp and forested plateau for the serious teams. It also featured an all-night café (smaller hash house) high on the plateau for the more hardy teams.

This event heralded the formation of the Australian Rogaining Association which at that time consisted of the Victorian Rogaining Association only. It was another year until the Western Australian Rogaining Association was founded, and became the second state member.

These Australian Championships are held annually and evenly rotated around the Australian states and territories. For the earlier formed states, this means they have hosted the ARC five or more times. Interestingly, the Strathbogie Ranges proved popular and were the site of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Australian Rogaining Championships, but land pressures might change this in the future unless we can take action soon. It is likely the last 24-hour rogaine on the Tallarook plateau may have been held already (the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rogaine in 2001).

As mentioned in an earlier IRF Newsletter, David Rowlands has compiled a full list of results from all Australian Rogaining Championships accessible via [www.rogaining.com](http://www.rogaining.com) (go to Australia - ARA).

### Australian Rogaining Championships 2006

The 27<sup>th</sup> Australian Rogaining Championships will be in May 2006 in central Victoria two hours drive northwest of Melbourne in an area of forest, farmland and the odd winery around the Pyrenees range.

Barkly's Hope 2006 Australian Rogaining Championships: 13th - 14th May.

Starting midday Saturday 13th and finishing midday Sunday 14th. No other courses will be run. Pre-marked 1:30,000 with 10m black contours. The course covers 245 sq kms, of which 90 sq kms will include two state forests with open bush. The rest will be open farmland with areas of light bush. There are about 100 land owners in this area with one hotel, about ten wineries and two towns thrown in for good measure. The terrain is undulating to steep, with relief of 350 metres. Rocky ground may be encountered on some of the steeper slopes but good progress can be made through these areas. All creeks and watercourses are dry. Drought or no drought, this area receives very little rain at the best of times. The only good water on the course will be the water points and maybe a few dams if using purifying tablets. The approximate maximum and minimum temperatures should be 16°C to 18°C and 4°C to 8°C.

The Pyrenees Shire is an area of historic interest because of gold mining a century ago, and the wineries may promote their products at the Hash House and invite visitors to their cellar doors. Accommodation will include camping at the hash house and also in the towns nearby. Food will be offered from the Friday night onwards consisting of soup and pasta, and will provide an opportunity for people who have come a long way to meet and socialise. There will be breakfast on Saturday, and the usual rogaining food hours will apply from then on. A sit-down lunch is planned on Sunday after the event. Family and friends are encouraged to come and enjoy themselves while their beloveds are out on the course.

<http://vra.rogaine.asn.au/resources/BarklaysHopeAusRChamps2006.htm>

#### **Australian Rogaining Championships 2007**

On the full moon: 28-29 July 2007.

Special features of this Australian Rogaining Championships will include this being the first ARC in the Northern Territory, and in an exciting and unusual desert setting 100 km east of Alice Springs. In one direction will be sand dunes of the Simpson Desert with the outflow of major but ephemeral rivers, and in the other direction the beautiful scenery of the Macdonald Ranges with its cliffs, gorges and waterholes. Landowners have been approached

and there is an excellent hash house site. A 1:50000 base map with 10m contours has been produced for setting and will be redrawn on OCAD, and course setting starts in late 2005.

The area was chosen for its rugged beauty, navigational challenge, superb hash house facility, accessibility for safety runs and water drops, and for its central location (very close to the centre point of Australia). This is a superb setting off point for drive or walking activities such as Ayers Rock, the Olgas, and the rugged West and East Macdonald Ranges, and the mid-year timing will offer ideal weather conditions.

#### **Other rogaines in Australia**

There are thirty or more rogaines held annually in the eight Australian states and territories. These provide an excellent way to visit new walking areas, meet like-minded friends, and see how rogaines are run in Australia. It is usually possible to volunteer to assist at any of these events to gain a different perspective of what goes on behind the scene. Each state has annual its rogaining championship, and there are 12-hr, 8-hr, 6-hr, metro, bike, paddle and snow rogaines, but it is the 24-hour rogaine that remains the premier test of physical, mental, endurance and navigational excellence.

#### **New Zealand Rogaining Championships**

Not in Australia, but close enough to combine on any international visit, the New Zealand Rogaining Association runs a regular rogaining program in both North and South Island in terrain contrasting strongly with Australia.

For details and links see the NZRA website, <http://www.rogaine.org.nz>.

#### **7<sup>th</sup> World Rogaining Championships 2007**

13-14 October 2006 in New South Wales inland from Sydney. The organizing body, the New South Wales Rogaining Association, has one thousand members and a two-decade record of running first class rogaines and producing outstanding competitors. More details will follow in subsequent IRF Newsletters, or visit [www.rogaining.com](http://www.rogaining.com) (World Rogaining Championships).