



INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION Inc.

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~1976-2006 30 years of ROGAINING~

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www.rogaining.com

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Ukraine: Efim Shtempler
7th WRC: Alan Mansfield

International representation at the 7th World Rogaining Championships

The organizers have had to close entries for the 7th World Rogaining Championships half a year before the event with 656 participants in 293 teams. They advise teams to consider spending some extra time in the Warrumbungle Ranges after 7WRC to fully appreciate the spectacular beauty of this part of Australia.

Here are some interesting figures from 7WRC.
Number of entrants at July 2006:

- New Zealand : 62 participants
- USA 19
- Estonia 10
- Latvia 9
- Russia 7
- Czech Republic 6
- Finland 5
- Japan 4
- Canada 4
- Sweden 2
- Ukraine 2
- Netherlands 1
- United Kingdom 1

It has already been suggested that for some of these countries, this probably represents the largest contingent of their sports people ever to attend a single world championships of any sport in Australia. Every effort will be made to ensure the visit is a memorable experience.

From these statistics on different countries it is immediately obvious the strong correlation between entries and the countries that are members and observers of the IRF. The members and observers from these countries should be congratulated on their contributions to developing rogaining and ensuring strong attendances at our premier rogaining championships.

About the organizers of the 7th World Rogaining Championships

It is less than one hundred days to the 7th World Rogaining Championships and there is an upbeat mood from the organizing team from the New South Wales Rogaining

Association. A closer look at who the organizers are, and what they have achieved so far, suggests that we are going to have an outstanding World Rogaining Championships in October this year.

The New South Wales Rogaining Association was formed in November 1983, but by then NSW rogaining had a history of more than a decade of running successful 24-hour rogaines around Sydney, Newcastle and Armidale. NSW teams had performed particularly well in several Australian Universities 24-hour championships through the 1970s.

Formation of NSWRA generated support from the Australian Rogaining Association, meant that NSW could hold annual NSW rogaining championships and that it could expect to host the Australian Rogaining Championships on regular occasions (1984, 1987, 1994, 2000). The structure provided by this rogaining association provided the setting for sustained growth of membership which is now well past 1000, the introduction of some innovative events like the Paddy Pallin Rogaine (see below), and a regular refreshment of key leaders without loss of experienced rogainers from the ranks of long-term volunteers.

The Paddy Pallin Rogaine 6 hour rogaine is a spectacular example of what can be done in a rogaining community. On 18 June this year, 784 participants converged on the Wingello state forest southwest of Sydney for this rogaine which has now been running for 43 years in NSW. It is probable that this is the world's largest rogaining event, to date, and the very interesting observation from NSWRA leaders was that no one thought that the large numbers detracted from the event. We have not yet addressed the challenge of what to do if we have a few thousand entrants for a rogaine, but clearly NSWRA is thinking about large event numbers and how to handle this.

The leadership team within NSWRA who are organizing 7WRC is a remarkable group. The association has managed to have a regular turnover of positions on its committee and at the same time retain the voluntary services of some long-standing stalwarts. The leadership group includes Australian rogaining

champions, regular competitors at local to international levels, volunteers who have been active for twenty to thirty years, and very experienced committee members who have led the association for its two decades and more.

Entries closed for 7WRC several weeks ago, but the organizers are still welcoming assistants so if you want to be part of this memorable event contact Alan Mansfield on info@rogaine2006.com.au. For applicants wishing to hold future world rogaining championships in their own countries, attendance and volunteering at 7WRC will be an important advantage in building a case to hold future international rogaines.

Australian Rogaining Association model

The ARA model has been cited as one possible model for rogaining at a national, and possibly an international, level. One reason for taking this model very seriously is the Australian Rogaining Association's track record since its formation in 1979. In this time it has grown from a membership of one state rogaining association to now comprise all eight states and territories with their own rogaining associations as the members of the ARA. Each member state rogaining association is represented on the ARA by elected individuals. Three of the state rogaining associations have memberships exceeding 1000 rogainers, and successful histories of twenty years or more.

Some critical features of the ARA include:

- It was formed in 1979 with only one member (Victorian Rogaining Association), and it was two more years until the next member joined (WARA)
- Its first major activity was the 1st Australian Rogaining Championships organized in conjunction with the VRA
- The Members of the ARA are all state and territory rogaining associations
- Each member state and territory is represented on the ARA by individuals
- All the rogaining associations who are members of the ARA have equal voting rights despite some having over one thousand members and some having much less than 100 members.