



VRA Annual General Meeting

Date: 29 May 2014

Location: Lions Club Hall, 1230 Riversdale Rd (Cnr Station St), South Box Hill

Time: 7:30pm

Open:

7:37pm

Attendees:

Greg Robinson, Tom Lothian, Peter Chen, Gleb Belov, Grant Jeffery, Don Baker, Vic Sedunary, Maria Plyashechko, Merv Trease, Neil Phillips, Ron Fredrick, Ainslie Cummins, Cath Weir, Beverly Trease, Alan Miller, Pat Miller, Geoff Hudson, Karen Robinson, Hannah Robinson, Rob Mason, Tina Smith, Phil Giddings, Andrew Hunter, Peter Brooks, Brett Sparks, Wayne Benton.

1) Welcome (President)

Greg welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Greg outlined the highlights for the 2013 rogaining year:

- Held 9 events
- Abolished membership fees – thanked the committee for the support through transition
- Had all committee positions filled
- Supported Hilary Challenge and the Hoadley Hide. We continue to support the events as they are a good conduit into rogaining.
- Sports and Recreation funded us a grant of \$10,000 which we spent on membership initiatives which has been reasonably successful.
- Training has been successful. Greg thanked Roy Jackson for his efforts in training.
- Continue to publish the newsletter.
- We are spending more time and effort on publicity and getting the calendar done professionally.
- No safety incidents.
- We also supported the Suburban Adventure Series run by Geoff Hudson which have been very successful.

In general, Greg has found the President has been an enjoyable job. Greg is stepping down this meeting. He thanked VRA for their support and will be continuing to be active on the committee and with events.

Tom Lothian passed a motion of thanks to Greg for his hard work and leadership as President. Seconded Don Baker.

2) Apologies

Roy Jackson, Andrew Baker, Rob Gardner, Scott Gavens, Rebecca Shaw, Ian Gordon.

3) Minutes of Last Meeting (May 2013)

The Secretary called for any comments on the minutes of the last AGM (2013).

No comments were forthcoming.

Motion to accept minutes of 2013 AGM moved by Tom Lothian, Seconded Ron Fredericks

4) Business Arising

Neil Phillips raised the following matters.

1) Reprinting Cross Country Navigation book

Neil Phillips, Rod Phillips and David Rolland's are intending to publish a new addition of the Rogaining Cross Country Navigation book. Rather than individually selling the rogaining book, the model that is being put forward is that books are that they are pre-purchased by rogaining clubs

Ron Fredrick asked what cost and commitment would the authors be looking for?

Neil Phillips – Two ways to look at it. Sell it at cost neutral prices or use it as a tool for rogaining.

Greg Robinson stated that if the committee can be provided with an idea on pricing then we can then make a decision as a committee.

Peter Chen suggest send around a Table of Contents that can assist in decision making

2) International Rogaining Association branding

The IRF is putting effort into rogaining branding. Hats, towels etc are for sale and available at this meeting.

3) Rogaining Stamps

60 cent stamps custom printed for rogaining available for purchase at \$12 a sheet (which = 60c a stamp).

4) Land access

Neil provided information on two experiences he had had with land holders who would not allow rogaines again due to damage caused on properties in the past. Neil asked the question of the committee as to what is our policy regarding compensation for damage caused at VRA events.

Greg Robinson agreed that it was a problem and it does damage all outdoor sports.

Neil Phillips recommends the committee consider its position around this.

Action – VRA committee to consider policy around land access and compensation.

Action – brief competitors on land access and rights. Specifically, to leave things as they find them.

5) Volunteers

Neil outlined that what he believed was one of the most useful things to understand VRA issues had been an MBA that Ivana did on understanding demographics in sport. It may be good to do something on this to understand more about volunteerism.

Tom Lothian – while the VRA did not do an academic paper there was a survey to understand motivations behind volunteering. One piece of qualitative data 'I will volunteer more if I was a better person'.

Neil Phillips suggested the benefits of getting external data to the VRA.

Greg Robinson put a question to those present -how do we get more event coordinators? He outlined the context that each year we tend to cancel one event due to a lack of volunteers. It seems we have a challenge of getting key volunteers into roles. For example, do we need to run course setting training again? Greg opened to attendees for ideas.

Ainsie Cummins suggested that it is like all other things we need to target the right people. Target your volunteers e.g. – people who have done a number of events.

Greg Robinson outlined the benefits of the new event database which allow you to pull down names of people for the last 20 years

Merve Trease outlined the benefit of having multiple people as event setters e.g. the model Duncan, Vic, Merv used where it is a team activity where you can take on a big role for one event. Wonder whether you try and get a team of people as coordinators for mutual support.

Kate Gavens suggested at looking how you structure roles to make them more attractive.

Alan Miller noted that there may be an advantage having a coordinator to do admin and catering and separate person to coordinate the event.

Greg Robinson noted that generally it is better if you have a skilled person in the role that oversees everything. The trouble is bootstrapping information into as separate person to get them up to speed. Maybe the committee needs to come up with a list of top 20 coordinators or setters and give them a good reward or recognition.

Kate Gavens suggested that the committee was be more strategic in setting events early, approaching good course setters before the start of the calendar year.

Ron Fredrick reiterated that having at least two people works well. In rogaining. In orienteering it is a far smaller area. Likes the idea of two or more together.

Tina Smith suggested trying to pair up experienced and non-experienced people together which was agreed with by Karen Robinson and Wayne Benton.

Tom Lothian noted that warming up the role as a difficult thing, it is actually minimal effort if you pick forest and only need one permit.

Greg Robinson thanked attendees for their contributions and outlined that the committee would take this discussion back to committee for further discussion.

Action – VRA committee to consider these suggestions at subsequent committee meetings.

5) Correspondence

No correspondence

6) Reports

a) *President- Greg Robinson*

Greg tabled his report and expanded on the highlights outlined in his welcome.

Cost improvements

- Thanked Karen for all her hard work on the committee, particularly as volunteering coordinator.
- Used to have 1:8 ratio of volunteers we now have 1:12 ratio which is a significant improvement.
- Per head food costs have improved \$6.80 now is \$4.60. Contributes to bottom line driven by Karen.

Greg outlined the difficulty we still have with getting enough volunteers to run events.

Ainsie Cummins commented on the importance of encouraging general helpers rather than admin and catering.

Karen Robinson noted that this had been occurring and numbers have been improved.

Kate Gavens commented that she thinks you can cut another 4 volunteers if you schedule people as general helpers.

Greg Robinson noted that in looking at other annual reports of rogaining associations and we shine from a financial perspective.

Greg noted that he would add support of Suburban Adventure to the 2013 annual report.

Moved to accept report: Peter Chen Seconded: Vic Sedunary

Action: Committee to consider how we further manage to reduce volunteers

b) *Treasurer – Don Baker*

Good year financially. Nervous about impact of getting rid of fees. However the aim was to get more people rogaining and they are.

Food and mapping costs down.

Net surplus - \$23,000.

Government grants are down due to the State and Federal budget situation.

Peter Chen asked if taking more fees was the reason for the gain?

Don outlined that it was hard to get the figures. One of the big wins is the school numbers being up significantly.

Accounts will be on the website shortly.

Greg Robinson noted that on an event by event basis we have generally made a 50/50 profit/loss.

It is hard with the modelling as every event made a profit. We may need to normalise the model.

We had more 2X6 which would have bumped up the numbers significantly. When you compare like

with like, most events had more people. It is hard to determine what the exact reasons for more people.

Moved to accept report, Peter Chen, Seconded: Greg Robinson

c) *Competition Manager- Grant Jeffrey*

Map data – starting to use more 1:30,000 data from LandVic. Up to date data.

Last event in 2013 was a good format in Beechworth with foot one date and cycling the next. It attracted a lot of people to Beechworth. Well done to Helen and Mick

Thanks to Greg Robinson for his time as President.

Greg thanked Grant for his work as Competition Manager.

Moved to accept report: Tina Smith, Seconded Peter Brooks

d) *Membership – Phil Giddings*

Used to have lots of members in households that didn't rogain so thought the numbers would go down. Now have new rogainers in system as members for 12 months rather than 6 months so numbers go up. It looks like net numbers will therefore remain flat overall.

Administration is much easier.

Phil thanked Greg for his efforts as President

Greg thanked Phil

Moved to accept report: Andrew Hunter, Seconded: Greg Robinson

e) *Volunteers –Karen Robinson/ Thomas Lothian*

Nothing further to report from Presidents report

7) Election of Office Bearers

Returning officer Peter Chen takes over meeting

Peter gave a really big vote of thanks to the committee for running the organisation. A big thanks to all people who run events. Big thanks to people who don't get thanked often e.g.. newsletter folder, t-shirt organiser, gas person etc.

a) President

Nominee: Thomas Lothian

Moved: Don Baker Seconded: Peter Brooks

Tom elected as President

b) Vice President

Nominee: Ron Fredrick

Moved: Tom Lothian Seconded: Vic Sedunary

Ron elected as Vice President

c) Secretary

Nominee: Kate Gavens

Moved: Don Baker, Seconded: Grant Jeffrey

Kate elected as Secretary

d) Treasurer

Nominee: Don Baker

Moved: Tom Lothian Seconded: Vic Sedunary

Don elected as Treasurer

e) Competition Manager

Nominee: Grant Jeffery

Moved: Kate Gavens Seconded: Ron Fredrick

A discussion was held on the benefit of having a shadow for Grant to help spread the load. There was general agreement to have Brett Sparks as a 'shadow' to Grant through election to the general committee and having the two as co-competition mangers.

Moved: Greg Robinson Seconded: Tom Lothian

f) Committee Members (4)

Nominee: Brett Sparks

Moved: Greg Robinson Seconded: Tom Lothian

Nominee: Andrew Baker

Moved: Greg Robinson Seconded: Don Baker

Nominee: Vic Sedunary

Moved: Don Baker Seconded: Karen Robinson

Nominee: Gleb Belov

Moved: Tom Lothian Seconded: Grant Jeffrey

g) Coopted Members (3)

Nominee: Geoff Hudson

Moved: Greg Robinson Seconded: Tom Lothian

Nominee: Wayne Benton

Moved: Tom Lothian Seconded: Vic Sedunary

Nominee: Phil Giddings

Moved: Greg Robinson Seconded: Ron Fredrick

8) General Business

Non raised

9) Closure of Meeting

8:48pm

10) Pizza and presentation on Adventure Racing from Serge Kurov and Maria Plyashenchko



