



**Victorian
Rogaining
Association**

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2018

**ANNUAL
VRA REPORT**

President's Report

Welcome to the 2018 Calendar year Annual Report for the Victorian Rogaining Association (VRA). I would like to thank all those members who participated, volunteered or helped organise a Rogaine in 2018.

I once again thank the Committee for their commitment to overseeing the great work of the VRA. Without them we would be unable to conduct Rogaines within Victoria and support Rogaining within Australia and worldwide. The committee continues to take steps to review our processes for improved efficiency not only at events, but across our broader organisation. The committee continued to recognise the small number of VRA members/committee members who understand how the VRA works which continues to be a risk to the continuation of our organisation. The Committee is working hard to recruiting new members to our committee to ensure the longevity of our sport.

I also thank all the entrants who participated in Rogaining during 2018. Our sport relies of your participation and we encourage you to continue Rogaining in 2019.

The highlights of 2018 include:

- All committee positions filled
- Continued strong financial position
- Event equipment owned, and several new equipment items purchased in 2018 which included a new admin tent, signage, catering tables and a freezer.
- 400+ entrants to our yearly CBD-Gaine. Once again, this event was well set and organised by Tom Lothian and Kate Gavens and this event continues to be our biggest participant single event each year.
- An 8-hour DuoGaine event held at the You Yangs which involved mountain biking and Rogaining in one event.
- On-going collaboration with Bogong Equipment, involving the VRA assisting in running an indoor theory and outdoor practical navigation training session.



2018 Committee and Office Bearers

	<p>President – Andrew Baker</p> <p>Andrew has been Rogaining for 20 years. His moment of Rogaining glory was the first 13 hours of the 2006 World Championships at the Warrumbungles, navigating without a single mistake. His worst Rogaining experience was wandering around in the dark lost for the following five hours until the sun came up. A regular at street orienteering, a strong adventure racer, occasional Ironman triathlete and past Vic 24hr Champion.</p>
	<p>Vice President – Ron Frederick</p> <p>Ron obtained a taste for Rogaining by entering the annual MUMC 24hr walk (full moon nearest the middle of winter) in 1967 to see if he could stay awake for 24 hours continuously. Subsequently, with a young family, he transferred his interests to orienteering. With family now off his hands, he has come back to Rogaining (but can't stay awake for 24 hours). In the past he was a suburban solicitor specialising in Wills and Estates and Business and Property Law. Getting out in the bush is a great stress reliever from his past professional life.</p>
	<p>Secretary – Kelly Lane</p> <p>Kelly first started rogaining in 2012. Kelly really enjoys the city-based events, having not grown up in Melbourne or Victoria. Kelly will be the first to admit that she still can't figure out how to read a compass but enjoys getting out in the bush and being a part of nature.</p>
	<p>Treasurer – Don Baker</p> <p>Don has rogained since 2009 and been the non-event treasurer since 2010. He was a Chartered Accountant who worked on projects to archive old data from large computer systems. He has escaped from being treasurer of several other not for profit organisations. He's always good for a laugh.</p>
	<p>Co-Competition Manager – Grant Jeffrey</p> <p>Grant first took up Rogaining in South Australia in 1986 (a SA University 24 Hour Walk) and has competed regularly since, including at every WRC except one. He has been a VRA committee member since 1995 in various roles including Competition Manager, Equipment Officer and Vice President. He was VicSport volunteer of the year in 2004. When not working as a technical officer with the Bureau of Meteorology or Rogaining he's ski touring (if there's any snow at all). Failing that, any other outdoor activity is good.</p>
	<p>Co-Competition Manager – Phil Giddings</p> <p>Phil started Rogaining in 2006, joining the committee in 2007 as Membership Secretary taking over from John Turley who had been Membership Secretary for longer than anyone could remember. A wanna-be-better rogainer who rarely misses an event he has only one win to date (thanks to teaming with the master himself, Derek Morris). Recently Phil has been increasing his involvement in the Competition Manager role. Away from Rogaining you'll find him frequently cycling Audax long distance rides and at mountain bike and orienteering events. It's no surprise to discover Phil works in the computer industry.</p>

Co-opted Committee and others

	<p>Event Treasurer – Vic Sedunary</p> <p>Vic is a civil engineer by trade and born with a love of maps. He was at Monash Uni when Rogaining was invented, started Orienteering in 1988 but only started Rogaining in 1998. Having completed in over 100 Rogaines (initially with Rob Mason, though lately mostly with Merv Trease) Vic continues to assist with the sport and enjoy his love for the bush.</p>
	<p>Volunteer Coordinator – Kelly Lane</p> <p>Stepping into the volunteer role for the 2017 calendar year Kelly found it a challenging but rewarding role. Kelly understands she would be lost in her role without the tremendous support from Peter Chen and Ainslie Cummins who help regularly in a variety of back of house activities plus recruiting of new volunteers for each event.</p>
	<p>Navlight Coordinator – Richard Homburg</p> <p>Richard is a long time rogainer who has stepped into the role of Navlight Coordinator only five years after he told Martina that he would do it. Often found competing with his wife Karen Dukes and brother Adrian, the Dukes-Homburg crew favor super-long distances...like Walhalla to Canberra long.</p>
	<p>Publicity Officer – Greg Robinson</p> <p>Greg has a long history of rogaining, trail running and triathlon, both as a frequent competitor and as an event administrator. Greg has held many positions on the VRA committee over the years, including a four year stint as President. Greg's current role as Publicity Officer involves creating and issuing the monthly e-newsletters, along with organising the training events during the year.</p>
	<p>Regular Committee Member – Andrew Hunter</p> <p>Andrew was introduced to Rogaining through friends in street orienteering in 2007. Having previously been of the belief that Rogaining was a university drinking game, it was somewhat of a shock to find out what Rogaining really was all about. Andrew's first event was the 12h version of the Same Again Rogaine in the forests around Macedon, and since then has competed in numerous bush rogaines and metrogaines.</p>
	<p>Regular Committee Member – Peter Chen</p> <p>Peter Chen first was introduced to rogaining in 1986 and has be a regular social competitor and volunteer ever since. He did really well on his first rogaine, but his performance has trended downhill ever since. He has been on the committee several times and served as event treasurer for several years. He currently does lots of work with the rogaine equipment and catering but is a rogaining jack of all trades, doing what is needed.</p>

**New Committee Member – Wayne Merry**

Wayne was introduced to rogaining on a Bush Search and Rescue training weekend in 2008. In recent years he has been the VRA's BSAR delegate and then joined the committee in 2018. He enjoys long distance walking and operating HF radio from remote summits.

**New Committee Member – Sue Noy**

Sue first rogained in the late seventies but rediscovered the sport a few years ago. It is now the highlight of the month, and her enthusiasm has affected both friends and family who are also now part of the rogaining family. Catering for a couple of 24-hour Rogaines has highlighted both the huge effort that goes into organising just one part of every Rogaine, and the ongoing need for new enthusiasts to step up to help with governance as well as event management.

Victorian Rogaining Association – List of all Positions

President – Andrew Baker	Event Treasurer – Vic Sedunary
Vice President – Ron Frederick	Schools/Scouts Coordinator – Geoff Hudson
Non-Event Treasurer – Don Baker	Partner Finding Service – Claire Martin
Secretary – Kelly Lane	Computer Liaison Officer – Phil Giddings
Competition Managers – Grant Jeffrey & Phil Giddings	Training Officer – Greg Robinson
Navlight Coordinator – Richard Homburg	Financial Review – Ben Kersten
Publicity Officer – Greg Robinson	Members – Andrew Hunter
Admin Manager – Phil Giddings	Volunteer Coordinator – Kelly Lane

Committee Summary

2018 was a year of successful events, continued growth within our sport and improvements within our organisation. The committee met nine times (March through November) achieving a quorum of at least 7 members on each occasion.

We were again ably served by President Andrew Baker and Vice-President Ron Fredrick. Andrew Baker has now been in the President role for two years' and works closely with the committee to focus on streamlining our processes and volunteer requirements. Don Baker (Treasurer) continues to provide his diligence and skills to our finances with the efforts of Vic Sedunary (Event Treasurer). Kelly Lane stepped in to the Secretary role in 2018 taking over from Alicia Dymowski. Kelly was left in good stead given the excellent job Alicia had done managing correspondence and corralling the committee meetings previously.

Grant Jeffrey and Phil Giddings (Competition Manager) again supported us with their efforts in assisting Event Coordinators. Greg Robinson continued to coordinate of our training events with one event in the 2018 calendar year. Greg has also stepped in to the Publicity role in 2018, and through Greg's efforts the VRA saw a gradual rise in participation at events, with some of the biggest events the VRA have run, being in 2018. Kelly Lane coordinated our volunteers ensuring that we had permits, people and t-shirts at all events. Ainslie Cummins continues to recruit volunteers at events despite having stepped back from the committee 8 years ago! (thanks Ainslie). Richard Homburg managed Navlight operation for events and maintenance of checkpoints, including the training of several new Navlight managers. Ben Kersten reviewed our finances to ensure that the money is in the account. Andrew Hunter assisted with updating the VRA website, non-event Membership queries and last-minute team changes prior to event, along with being an active contributor at all committee meetings. Claire Martin assisted with the Partner Finding Service.

Without doubt the strength of the VRA comes from our membership base. For your efforts in volunteering, I thank you all for your assistance over the year and for allowing us to maintain events run to such high standards.

2018 Summary

RISK

The VRA maintains a comprehensive Risk Management Plan. The VRA holds a risk management session every two years to review and update the plan. The latest review was conducted in January 2017 with a new review being undertaken by the committee in May 2019. As always, we have some areas in which we can handle risks more effectively. It should be noted that by and large the VRA manages large numbers of people in challenging environments with minimal incidents. We feel that our management of the incidents that do occur is as good or superior to anyone else in the adventure sport community.

VOLUNTEERING

Throughout 2018 the committee continued to review and assess volunteer roles and the amount of catering provided at events. In 2018 we had one new event Catering Manager. All other key roles throughout the year were filled by a very small number of repetitive Catering, Admin and Navlight Managers. Volunteering requirements at events will continue to be a regular discussion point at committee meetings whilst we continue to minimise volunteer involvement and look to attract new volunteers to undertake key roles.

WEBSITE

The VRA committee has commenced the process of reviewing and potentially re-formatting the website, with an aim to simplify the event entry process and to create a modern website which is 100% compatible with mobile phones.

Strategy

Whilst our strategy tends to remain constant we are continually looking to ensure we meet our goals of:

- To continue to maintain a healthy financial position
- To continue to support the sport in Victoria, within Australia and worldwide
- To increase the marketing of Rogaines at key locations (other endurance events, related businesses)
- To continue to recruit and minimise volunteer numbers required at each Rogaine, considering additional equipment, lower service levels, streamlined tasks, or shorter events to achieve this burden
- To continue high levels of governance and training within the organisation
- To continue to improve the Online Entry and Navlight systems
- To continue to improve the Risk Assessment and Safety procedures
- To grow entrant numbers at events

Finances

Detailed financial statements, which have been reviewed by a member independent of the committee, appear at the end of this report. The financial highlights for 2018 are:

- An operating surplus of \$7,210 was achieved compared to 2017 of \$444.
- Event revenue increased by \$11,996. 60% of this was due to an increase in event fees – the first since 2013. 40% of the increase in Event Revenue was due to an increase in the number of participants. All events made a surplus.
- Event expenses increased by \$4525 and this was basically the over-spend in catering in one event.
- Our 2017 and 2018 overheads did not include any membership fees or levies for ARA due to the successful world championships in 2016. We expect the ARA fees and levies will resume soon.
- Committee and Publicity expenses returned to a more normal level
- The VRA does not maintain insurance policies for our assets but holds enough cash reserves to replace them if the need should arise.

Further details of the submitted VRA finances are contained within Appendix 1.

Events

The VRA successfully scheduled and conducted 9 Rogaines and one in-the-field training day within the 2018 calendar year. These were held between the months of March to November inclusive.

Included within the 2018 Rogaines were 16 separate events (either separate mutually exclusive disciplines such as a metrogaine and cyclogaine held concurrently, or a Rogaine of two events held on two separate days of a weekend, or a Rogaine including two separate mutually exclusive event durations). This compares to 18 in 2017, 16 in 2016, 15 in 2015, 17 in 2014. Total entrant numbers were 3,173 compared to 2,962 in 2017, compared to 3,396 (2016), 3,383 (2015), 2,568 (2014).

2018 Event Name	Event Type	Location	Course Setter	Date	Entrants
CBD-Gaine	Metrogaine	Melbourne CBD	Tom Lothian & Kate Gavens	04/03/18	415
Taking the Waters	2 x 6 Hour Rogaine	Hepburn Springs	Vic Sedunary, Merv Trease & Duncan Brookes	21/04/18 & 22/04/18	470
Training Day	Navigation	Belgrave Heights	Greg Robinson	12/05/18	31
Dirty in the Derg	6 & 12 Hour Rogaine	Lederderg Gorge	Robert Springer & MUMC	26/05/2018	410
Chew's Your Own Adventure	2 x 6 Hour Rogaine	Glenluce	Steve Goyen & Sarah Goyen	23/06/18	607
Ying Yang in the You Yangs	You Yangs DuoGaine & 6 Hour Rogaine	You Yangs	Ed & Helen Steenbergen	28/07/18	310
The Foothills Fandango	6 Hour MetroGaine / CycloGaine	Knox	Richard Homburg & Karen Dukes	19/08/18	91
Vic Champs 24 hr & 6hr	Vic Champs 24 hr & 6hr	Strathbogies	Neil Phillips	22/09/18	269
Possum Gully Reinvented	6 Hour Rogaine	Linton	Heather Leslie & John Gavens	20/10/18	280
Hampton Maze	6 Hour & 12 Hour Rogaine	Little Hampton	Andrew Piddington	17/11/18	290
Total Rogaines (2018)				7	
Total Events (2018)				10	
Total Entrants (2018)					3173

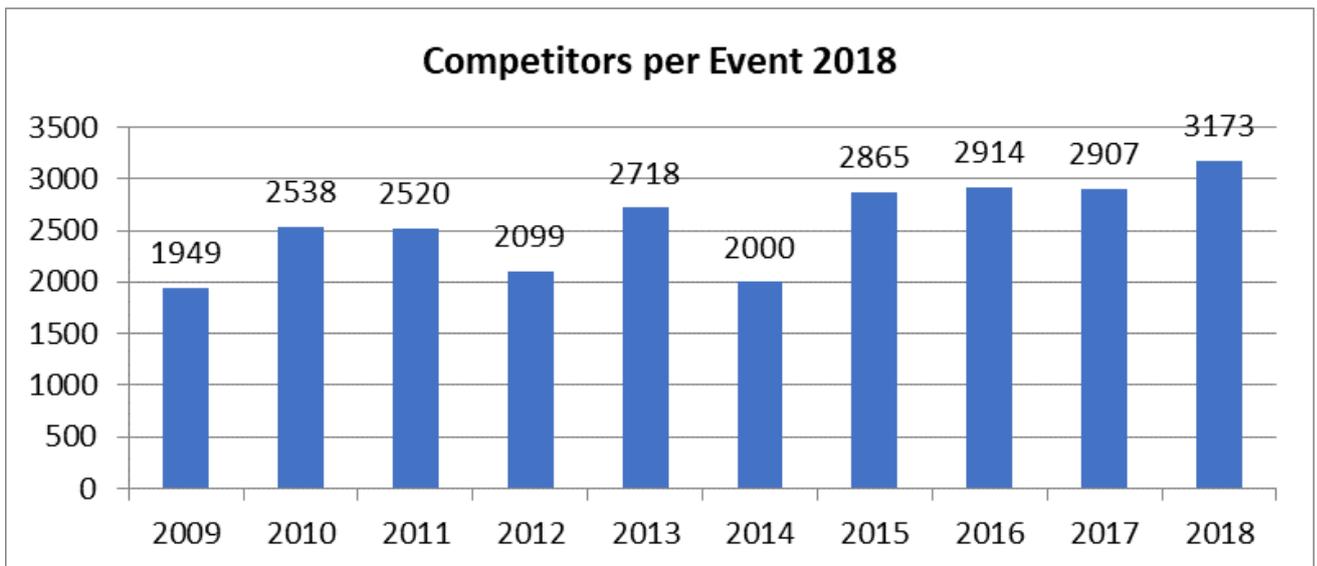
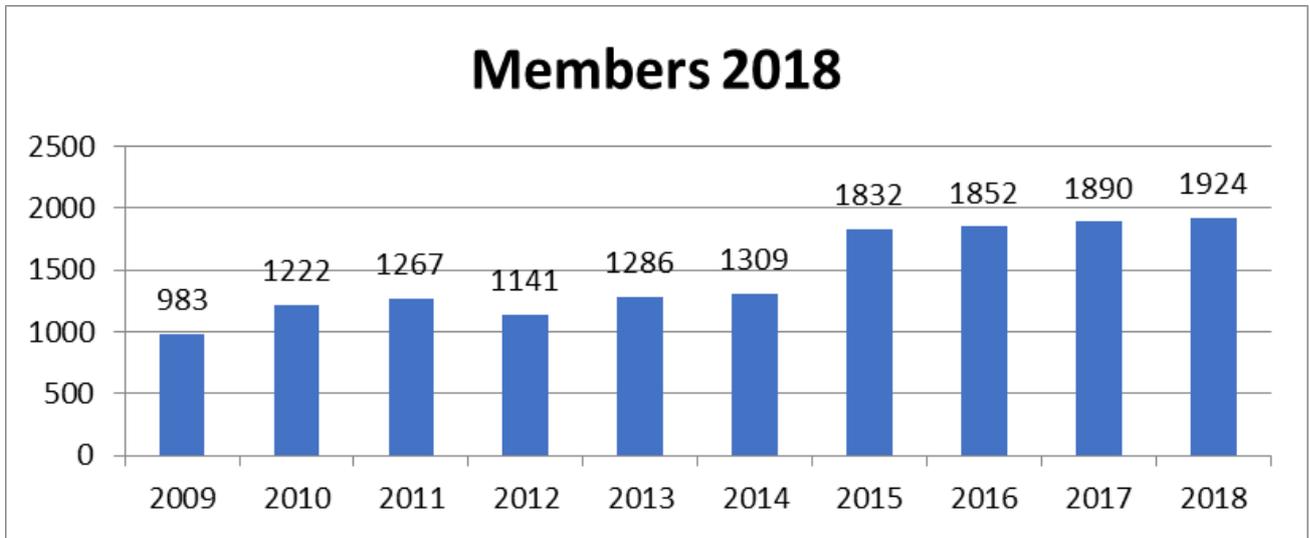
* Note that the August Metrogaine / Cyclogaine was subject to a significant weather event and many entrants decided not to attend.

Suburban Adventure Series

For the fourth season, the VRA partnered with Scouts Victoria and supported Geoff Hudson's Suburban Adventure Series which engages many people, in particular the scouting community, on hour long rogaines in the parkland and streets of Melbourne. The series involved 26 events in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, each up to an hour long. The series was a spectacular success again in the summer of 2018/2019. The VRA provides the Suburban Adventure Series with public liability insurance in exchange for the opportunity to provide publicity materials to the event participants. Many thanks to Geoff Hudson and his team of coaches and other volunteers for their hard work in developing and running such a great series.

Membership

The VRA membership increased marginally to 1924 in 2018 (1890 in 2017, 1852 in 2016, 1832 in 2015, 1322 in 2014). Membership is split 52% male and 48% female across all members.



Our distribution of membership across the Age Groups remains similar to previous years and reinforces our various entrant categories at each Rogaine. Growth in our membership numbers are evenly distributed across Age Groups.

Volunteers



VRA continues to recruit volunteers by offering t-shirts and expenses to all volunteers and offering a free entry to key volunteers (such as Event Coordinator, Admin, Equipment and Catering Managers). A majority of volunteers are drawn from our own membership base, with other volunteers originating from local organisations, associated outdoor recreation students requiring volunteer experience, related outdoor clubs (such as MUMC) and friends and family of members.

Recruiting volunteers, especially for key positions such as Event Coordinator, Equipment Manager and Catering Manager, remained a challenge to the VRA in 2018. The organisation is undertaking tasks to minimise the volunteer workload, however recruiting for key positions remains a significant challenge. We are using our monthly newsletter to target unfilled volunteer roles. This has proved to be an effective solution in addition to Ainslie's amazing ability to twist the arm of our rogainers to volunteer at prior events.

Training

The VRA held one training day during 2018. Our regular early season training day was held in May in Belgrave Heights. This event reached capacity attendance, and we recognise the efforts of Greg Robinson in organising the training program, along with the group of coaches who help Greg to run the event.

In addition, through Merv Trease the VRA supports the Bogong Equipment Shop to run a navigation training session. The training offered included an indoor evening theory session about map reading and compass use, and an outdoor practical session at the June 6 hour Rogaine. This event reached capacity attendance at both sessions, and Bogong has expressed their appreciation for these sessions.

Permanent Course

The VRA permanent training course had been planned to be reinstated at Mt Disappointment in 2011, (after bushfire destroyed it) however the committee decided that the location is no longer suitable as the re-growth is impenetrable. A location near Elphinstone was identified and permission granted by the Department. All posts were placed during 2016, the permanent course is accessible on the VRA website.

Thanks

I would like to thank Committee members, volunteers, and those bodies outside the VRA that have provided their support over this year.

- Government agencies such as the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and Parks Victoria which continue to grant access into areas under their control for the conduct of Rogaines
- Land owners, both private companies (such as HPV) and private citizens which provide access to their land for the conduct of events
- Shire Councils, Victoria Police, the Country Fire Authority, Bush Search and Rescue and SES for their cooperation
- Other organisations which provide access to their facilities, or work with the VRA to hold events

I additionally thank all the Committee members for their patience with their President, and their dedication and commitment to the operation of the VRA.

Andrew Baker
President - Victorian Rogaining Association
9 May 2019

Appendix 1: 2018 Finances

The following finances were reviewed by Ben Kersten



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