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# 2027 WORLD ROGAINING CHAMPIONSHIP BID

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MAY 31, 2024

AUSTRALIAN ROGAINING ASSOCIATION

# 2027 World Rogaining Championships bid Flinders Ranges, South Australia

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## Organization

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The Australian Rogaining Association (ARA) will be responsible for the overall management of the event with key organizational roles being assigned to their affiliated zone associations.

- The South Australian Rogaining Association (SARA) will provide the bulk of the on-ground organization including land access approvals, map preparation, course setting and Hash House set-up logistics under the guidance of Craig Colwell (SARA President).
- The Queensland Rogaining association (QRA) will provide the website details and entry system under the guidance of Paul Guard (ARA President).
- The New South Wales Rogaining Association (NSWRA) will provide marketing and promotion information under the guidance of Julian Ledger.
- The ACT Rogaining Association (ACTRA) will coordinate the merchandise, awards and competitor transport logistics (from Adelaide to the event center via buses) under the guidance of Julie Quinn (IRF Vice President).
- The Western Australia Rogaining Association (WARA) will provide support and advice for provision of the Hash House at the event site under the guidance of Steve Sertis.
- The Victorian Rogaining Association (VRA) will coordinate the budget and financing of the event under the guidance of Don Baker.

## Proposed event date

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Thursday, 16 September – Friday, 17 September 2027

Sunset 6:07pm – Sunrise 6:13am with 20 minutes of civil twilight either side

Moonrise 6:29pm – Moonset 6:26am – moon illumination 99% (full moon)

### Associated Events:

The mid-September date also provides an opportunity for overseas visitors to compete in the Australian Orienteering Championship that will be held in South Australia and start approximately two weeks after this event. The Orienteering Championships is a completely separate event (run by a separate organization) and would only be advertised as part of the general tourist information provided to participants showcasing things to do and see in SA.

## International participation

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There have been four previous world championship events held in Australia:

WRC1	1992	Victoria
WRC2	1996	Western Australia
WRC7	2006	New South Wales
WRC14	2016	Northern Territory

2027 will be the right time for the World Championships to return to Australia and for the first time to the state of South Australia. The gateway to South Australia is the city of Adelaide. International airlines servicing its airport include Qantas, Qatar, Cathay, Singapore and Air New Zealand. There are direct flights from Asia and flights from Europe and the Americas with one stop on the way.

Attractions in South Australia include the city of Adelaide famous for its green spaces, the Adelaide Hills, the Clare Valley, Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale wine growing regions, Kangaroo Island and the Flinders Ranges for their iconic scenery and geological features.

International visitors with time to see more of the country could hire a vehicle and fly into Sydney or Melbourne and out of Adelaide or vice versa. Distances in Australia are very large and outback night driving is to be avoided due to wildlife.

In September, South Australia is on Australian Central Standard Time which is UTC +09:30. International competitors should allow time to arrive early enough to adjust from their flight and to the time zone.

All visitors to Australia require a visa. For travelers from most countries, a three-month tourist visa can be obtained through a simple online application at a cost of AUD\$20: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/electronic-travel-authority-601>. As at April 2024 AUD1\$ = US \$0.65 and Euro €0.60.

The organizing team is developing a promotional plan to maximize international participation at the event.

## Location - Rawnsley Park-Arkaba Station

Note that September is a high tourism period for the Flinders Ranges. Accommodation bookings will need to be made well in advance of the event date.

The Hash House is proposed to be situated at Rawnsley Park Station, which has significant accommodation options – a homestead, eco-villas, cabins, powered caravan sites and general camping sites. The 2002 Australian Orienteering Championship that had over 600 competitors was held in this area, as was the 1997 Australian Rogaining Championship (ARC). The 1997 ARC event is the only rogaine that has been held in this area.

Rawnsley Park Station extends for approximately 20kms east-west and up to 10kms north-south at its widest point (approx. 129sq kms, elevation of 435m to 710m). The station still runs about 2000 sheep but is primarily a tourist location with the aforementioned accommodation options. This location has excellent topography for a world-class 24-hour rogaine.

Travel time from Adelaide is approximately 5 hours (417kms) on bitumen road.

This site is 33kms from the town of Hawker where there are several accommodation venues and services.

There are numerous accommodation locations in the Northern Flinders Ranges (see attachments) and the closest international airport is situated approximately 450kms away at the state capital city of Adelaide.



Motor home and hire car facilities are readily available in Adelaide and a coach service will be organized with a private contractor to provide bus transport between Adelaide and the event center prior to and post event. Similar transport options have been organized by SARA for previous Australasian events held in this state.

## About South Australia

The average temperature is mild to warm in September. 2,500 hours of sunshine a year means South Australians enjoy outdoor living almost all year round. In September, the mean minimum at Hawker is 6.9 °C and mean maximum is 21.8 °C.

Outdoor sports, eating and events are easy to enjoy because of the weather, excellent facilities and easy accessibility.

South Australia has many contrasts with rugged outback wilderness, scenic mountain ranges, an extensive coastline, offshore islands and a large, meandering river.

Surprisingly, the driest state in the driest continent has more than 3,700 kilometers of varied coastline and the Murray River weaves its magic through 650 kilometers of South Australia.

There are also national parks and world heritage listed areas to explore and an outdoor adventure to suit everyone.

South Australia is known as a wine and food center with 13 wine regions and a higher ratio of cafés and restaurants to residents than any other city in Australia.

The wine industry in South Australia benefits from a variety of terrains, soils and climate. Few other regions of the world can match our range of warm and cool-ripening conditions.



## Local Organization details

The South Australian Rogaining Association (SARA) has been holding 24-hour events since 1987 and held its first Australian Rogaining Championship in 1991 and has subsequently held an Australian and or Australasian Championship event on a rotational basis with other Australian state or territory-based associations.

The SARA numbers well over 1200 members and generally holds at least six events annually, some of which attract 400 to 500 entries.

The SARA committee currently has 17 members who are all volunteers, some who have been involved with Rogaining for the past 30 years.

## Executive team

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**Immediate Past President – Zara Soden** – Has been involved in Rogaining for over 20 years competing in numerous state, Australian and World championships. Has been President of SARA for the last 4 years, a committee member for over 10 years, assisted with the running and setting of numerous local state rogaines as well been part of the setting team for the 2021 Australasian Rogaining Championships.

**President – Craig Colwell** – Has been involved with Rogaining since 2005 competing in 5 World Championships, 12 Australian Championships and numerous state championships. Is the current ARA and SARA Public officer. Has been the lead map maker (introducing Ocad) for the last 10 years and produced the 2021 Australasian Championship map as well as being the Event Coordinator for the 2021 ARC Event.

**Secretary – Jo Powell** – Has been involved in Rogaining for the past 14 years, competing in numerous State, National and World championship events. Has set and organized numerous local events.

**Treasurer – Doug Gillott** – Has been involved in Rogaining for over 30 years competing in numerous State, National and World championships. Has been responsible for setting and organizing a number of SARA's local Velogaine using the QGIS mapping software.

**ARA Secretary and SARA Vice President – Stephen Gray** – Has been involved in Rogaining for over 20 years competing in numerous State and National Championships. Has extensive knowledge in the Navlight electronic scoring system and is currently working on an extensive update of the Navlight software.



View of Rawnsley Bluff, Flinders Ranges

## Organizing team

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### Event Site Coordinator - Craig Colwell

Craig is a retired Senior Technical Officer/Electrical Contractor. In addition to the above details, he has been involved in numerous rogaines as Setter (including 24 Hour events), as well as administration and Coordination roles. Has been participating in Orienteering for the last 25 years, including course setting, Club administration and state association roles. Will assist with the setting of the event.

### Lead Setter - Mark Corbett

Mark has over 20 years of Rogaining experience, and a lifetime of bushwalking experience in all types of terrain, especially remote, off-track expeditions in the Flinders Ranges. He has set six rogaines in length formats from 3h up to 24h and participated in catering or

administration teams in numerous other events. Setting highlights include SA 24h state championship courses in 2015 and 2023 and he was part of the setting team for the Australasian Rogaining Championships in 2021. He participated in the Warrumbungle Ranges (2006) and the Eastern MacDonnell Ranges (2016) World Rogaining Championships, both held in Australia. He holds current remote first aid qualifications and has high levels of experience with organization of large-scale events from both a professional and volunteer standpoint.

### Assistant Setter - Evelyn Colwell

Has been involved with Orienteering for over 25 years and Rogaining for 18 years. Has competed in five World Rogaining Championships and fourteen Australasian championships. Has been on the SARA committee for 17 years including 7 years as the SARA treasurer. Has set a number of rogaie events including two 24-hour duration events.

### The Vetting team - Merv Trease & Vic Sedunary

Both Merv and Vic are from the Victorian Rogaining Association and have extensive experience with setting and vetting rogaie events. They were the setters for the 2011, 2014 and 2016 Victorian Championships, the 2022 Australasian Championships, and they have both competed in numerous World, National and State rogaie championship events. They have competed as a team in forty-six 24-hour events. Merv and Vic have been WRC Event Advisors for the South Dakota event in 2014 and in 2019 undertook the same role for the California event which

was eventually held in 2023. As a team, Merv and Vic have won ‘age group’ titles at world, Australasian, Australian, and state level competitions.

## Terrain

The proposed competition area will cover up to 200km<sup>2</sup> and is located in the Flinders Ranges in South Australia. The area comprises of complex spur/gully terrain with the highest points above sea level generally being in the 600m range and lowest points being in the 250m range.

South Australia is regarded as the driest state in Australia and the Flinders Ranges has a very low annual rainfall. Vegetation consists primarily of spinifex grass, low-height acacia scrub, native pine and eucalyptus forests as well as some invasive non-native species. In general, the vegetation does not create any significant obstacle for rogainers.



The Flinders Ranges is a geologist’s paradise, with exposed rock strata that document nearly a billion years of the Earth’s history. The ground underfoot is primarily loose rocky clay soils that in most places permit easy to fast walking or running in the flatter sections but require care to traverse steeper sections. Spectacular red quartzite cliffs dominate the view in the proposed area.

Navigation skills and endurance will be key factors in finding the control locations and having a successful race. The day and night portions of the 24-hour event will be relatively even with a full moon providing a high level of illumination for the majority of the night time.

The Flinders Ranges generally enjoys dry and sunny days. Over summer, the days can be very warm, reaching up to 32°C, with exciting thunderstorms during early evenings. During winter, although the days are cooler, they can be clear and beautiful, rapidly cooling down in the late evening and early morning hours to 0°C. The seasons of life in the outback are winter and spring, when the red dirt is transformed into a carpet of green and pockets of wildflowers appear.

## Map

The proposed map scale will be 1:25,000 or 1:30,000 with 10m contour intervals printed on water-proof Teslin paper. The initial base map will be prepared using current South Australian Government topographic map data and updated with LiDAR data when available. Fieldwork will also be used to provide an accurate map to the required standard for an international rogaining event.

Once the event has been confirmed SARA will organize for LiDAR mapping to be done. This will be an expensive exercise (possibly in the order of \$AUD30,000) and SARA will pursue the SA State Government for funding assistance under their Major Events grant system. However, SARA does have sufficient funds to cover this upfront expense and the setting/vetting costs.

It is proposed that the map will be prepared using the Orienteering OCAD software and/or QGIS software by Craig Colwell and Mark Corbett.

A copy of the 2021 Australasian Rogaining Championship map prepared by Craig Colwell is attached.



## Scoring System

The scoring system will be the Navlight system which has been specifically developed for rogaine events. Each control marker will have at least two electronic punch units. Each participant will be fitted with an electronic wrist tag. At each control marker all the team members must record their visit by inserting the Navlight punch into their wrist tag. At the completion of the event the tags are removed and the stored data is downloaded to provide a team score.

This software has been used extensively within Australia and New Zealand for over a decade and was the scoring system used in the 2016 WRC event held at Ross River NT, Australia.

It is not proposed to have any live tracking system for competitors due to cost. There is very little mobile phone network coverage of the proposed site (as is typically the case for remote areas of Australia) and satellite-based options are expensive to provide real-time coverage.



## Weather and climate

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### Hawker

Conditions are likely to be very pleasant. The mean September temperatures for Hawker vary between a maximum average of 21.9°C and a minimum average of 7.2°C. The average September rainfall is 26mm (only three rainy days in September on average).

## Hazards

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The Flinders Ranges is a vast, remote, arid land environment. Lead times for rescue responses in these locations can take a few hours before a casualty can be treated in a fully equipped modern hospital. Notification of local police and state emergency services by provision of our search and rescue and risk management plans forms an essential part of our risk mitigation strategy. Courses are regularly patrolled by safety vehicles and communication devices using either satellite phones and/or two-way UHF radio which are placed on course to assist in reducing rescue times.

SARA has a well-developed Risk Management Plan and Search and Rescue Plan. Both of these plans will be updated to suit the venue location selected.

Primary concerns to be addressed include provision of adequate water and education of competitors from more humid climates about the increased rate of dehydration they will experience in this environment. The event shall have a well-developed water provision plan to suit the selected location, based also on our previous events (refer ARC 2021 water plan documentation) and the 2016 WRC event in similar conditions of central Australia.

Even in September, there is a high risk of serious sunburn if competitors are not adequately protected. In the open scrub or spinifex grasslands sections of the map there will be limited shade for sun protection.

Snake bites present the highest faunal risk in the areas. The highest risk species is the Eastern Brown snake, however, all bites from any snake species should be treated as a serious injury. Snakes in this region are typically timid and will generally move away when humans approach. It is extremely rare for rogainers to be bitten by a snake. Specific advice will be provided to all competitors about snake bite avoidance and treatment.

The terrain in the Flinders Ranges is often loose and rocky with many short but steep inclines, and there is a risk of slips and falls causing sprains or breaks. The selected areas are also dotted with numerous dramatic cliff lines; however, the course will be set such that optimal route choices will not involve directly traversing these.

## First Aid

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SARA will have a doctor on site familiar with the sport of Rogaining and employ a private contractor to assist with the basic onsite First Aid administration, as well as utilize the state-based emergency medical services (000) for any serious casualty. The nearest hospital is located approximately 33kms away in the township of Hawker.

## Accommodation options

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### Rawnsley Park

- 30 cabins
- 40-person bunk house capacity
- 70 powered sites
- Unlimited unpowered sites

The 2027 WRC organizers will pre-book the cabins and bunkhouse to reserve them for organizers, volunteers, competitors and associated people.

**Hawker** (36kms from event site)

- Hawker Hotel Motel - 14 rooms
- Outback Chapmanton Motel – 14 rooms
- Hawker Caravan Park – 10 cabins
- 60 powered sites and numerous unpowered sites

**Wilpena Resort** (24kms from event site)

- 60 rooms
- 15 glamping tents
- 40 powered sites
- 300 unpowered sites

**Willow Springs Station** (56kms from event site)

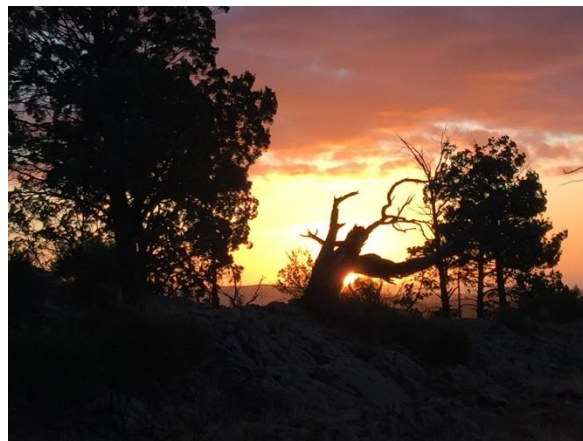
- Cabins and camping sites

**Upalina Station** (26kms from event site)

- Shearer's Quarters and camping

**Arkaba Station** (15kms from event site)

- Wild Bush Luxury accommodation



## Hash House location and facilities

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The Hash House site will be an open camping area suitable for two-wheel drive vehicles, camper/motor homes, caravans and general camp tents. The organizers will provide marquees complete with tables and chairs for competitors to prepare their routes.

There is no power, water or other facilities at the site. Water will be provided at the site for drinking and cooking only. The site will have sufficient portable chemical toilets to cater for the number of participants and onsite volunteers. A portable generator will be hired to provide on-site lighting and general power requirements for Administration purposes. Participants will be required to bring their own camping equipment and cooking equipment (stove, fuel) and food for pre-event and post-event needs. Organizers will investigate options for communal stoves and fuel, and possibly camping tents.

Food will be provided at the Hash House site during the competition with an extensive menu for a meal at the completion of the event.

The organizers will arrange for the option of additional meals to be provided the night before the event and the morning before the event.

## Model Event

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A model event, remote to the event map, will be prepared to give an example of the terrain, control location features and map detail. The model event will be accessible at least three days prior to the event date. Transport between the model event site and the event Hash House will be provided as required in the two or three days prior to the event.

## Equipment

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SARA has an extensive array of rogaining equipment including two trailers, marquees, Hash House cooking equipment, computers, GPS units, CB radios and satellite phones, plus highly visible corfute control markers and Navlight punches and tags. As required, other Australian State and Territory rogaining associations will loan additional equipment.

SARA hires portable toilets and a water tanker for our bush events.

For the WRC, SARA will organize the hire of additional marquees, seating, and tables, as was done for the 2021 ARC using Mid North Party Hire.



## Transport

For major events SARA will organize bus transportation with a private contractor between Adelaide and the event site. This was done for the 2021 ARC event using Genesis Coach transport. Bus transportation will be scheduled to allow both early arrival for those wishing to acclimatize themselves with the event site and the proposed model event site, and the evening prior to the event.

Rawnsley Park Station has their own airstrip where a private contractor provides scenic flights to remote and local locations. They will be approached to ascertain if they can provide Adelaide to Rawnsley Park passenger flights for this event.

Bus or coach transport will be organized to transport participants between the Hash House site, the model event location and accommodation at Rawnsley Park.

## Food

SARA can provide a large quantity of pre-cooked food if required which is then frozen in storage prior to delivering to the site. This is a process which is normally done for our longer duration bush events.

The Western Australian Rogaining Association (WARA) will act as an advisor for the Hash House meal arrangements and provide additional volunteers to support the SARA team, using the SARA equipment as well as hire equipment as required. WARA has extensive experience in running large scale rogaines, and organized the 2016 WRC Hash House.

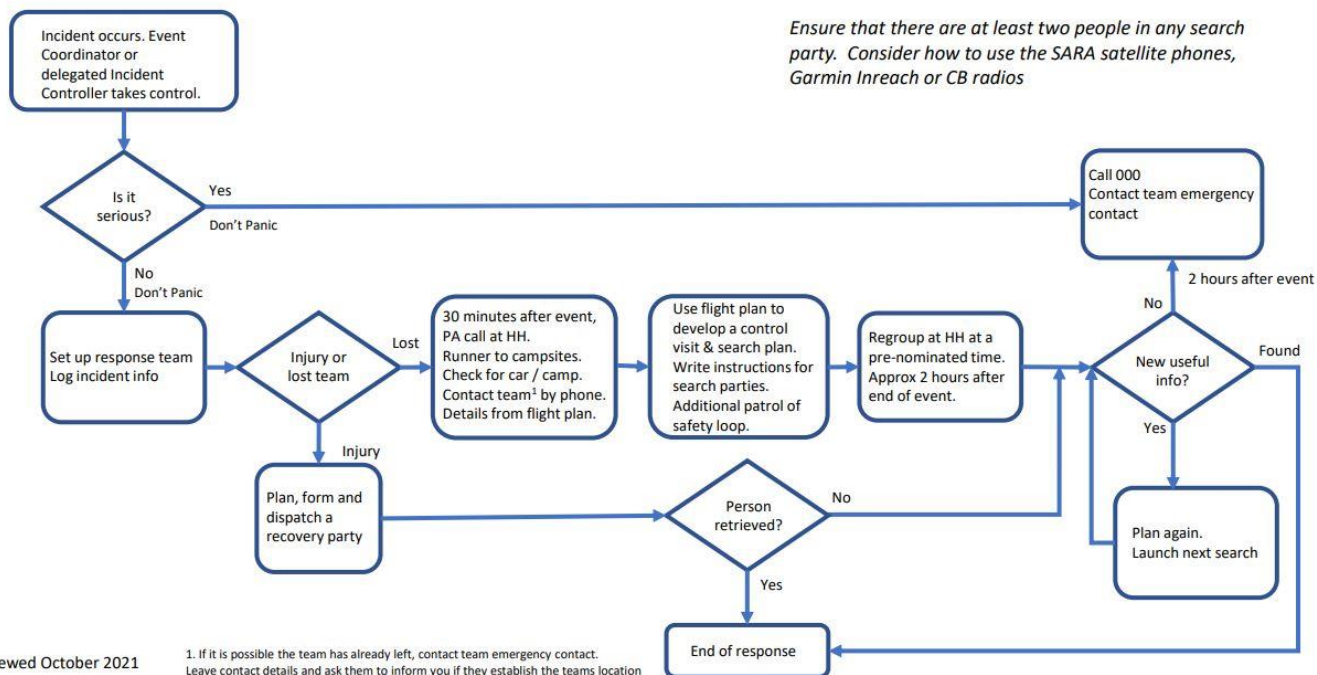
See attachment for SARA's typical 24-hour event meal plan.

## Attachments



# SARA Incident Management Flowchart

*Ensure that there are at least two people in any search party. Consider how to use the SARA satellite phones, Garmin Inreach or CB radios*



## Map Links:

2015 SARA 24-Hour State Championship event – [rogaine-of-thrones-under-plantagenets-roof-map.pdf](http://rogaine-of-thrones-under-plantagenets-roof-map.pdf) ([sarogaining.com.au](http://sarogaining.com.au))

2021 Australasian Rogaining Championships – [arc2021-final.pdf](http://arc2021-final.pdf) ([sarogaining.com.au](http://sarogaining.com.au))

2023 SARA 24-Hour State Championships - [rogaine2023v20230801.pdf](http://rogaine2023v20230801.pdf) ([sarogaining.com.au](http://sarogaining.com.au))

SARA Hash House food Plan: PDF attached

SARA Food typical recipes: PDF attached