

The WARA constitution states that Honorary Life Membership may be awarded to members who have rendered a conspicuous and distinguished service. I wish to correct an omission in WARA's list of life members by nominating Richard Matthews.

Many of you may be unaware of the positive impact Richard had on rogaining in Western Australia, nationally and internationally. Richard was an extremely active volunteer and leader during the 1980s and 1990s. Many of the characteristics that distinguish rogaining in WA that we now take for granted were established during WARA's formative years while Richard served on the WARA committee. Richard temporarily moved to British Columbia in 1997 and ceased to take a key role in WARAs activities from this time. Examples of Richard's impact include:

- the creation of rogaining associations at national and international levels, maintaining rogaining's identity as a distinct sport while positioning WARA to be a contributing voice to the ongoing development of our sport into the future;
- developing the relationship with the WA Sports Federation to gain recognition for rogaining;
- early stages of negotiating with Sport and Recreation for annual funding;
- creating our first specialised rogaïne map (rather than using an overprinted Department of Land Administration topographic maps), Julimar 12hr 1983;
- conceived and organised the first metropolitan event, the 1984 Metro March.
- strategic decisions to purchase key items to build-up our own equipment stocks – from tents to hash house spoons;
- maintaining the philosophy that rogaining is for everybody, regardless of age, experience or ability. To this end, the practice of reading everyone's results at events thus recognising the achievement of all entrants;
- building up of cash reserves which enabled WARA to run events while weathering the ups and downs of event incomes;
- organising quality events, as shown by the motivation for hosting the 1996 World Championships in Western Australia in an outback setting at the height of the wild flower season.

Richard served in the following formal roles:

- WARA Committee Sept 1982 to Sept 1988, including being President October 1983 to September 1986. In 1982 WARA had around 400 members and less than \$5000 in the bank.
- Australian Rogaining Association Secretary for 5 years and then President for 1 year during its formative stages from 1985.
- Foundation committee member and vice-president of the International Rogaining Federation in 1989.
- Event Coordinator and co-vetter of the Second World Rogaining Championships held in WA in 1996.
- Set or vetted at 5 WARA events including the *Bullant* 1989 Australian Championships.

Life memberships aren't awarded for success at competitions, however it is worth noting some of Richard's achievements.

- Australian Champion with David Muir, Mt Wombat Victoria in 1985.
- Five time WA Open State Champion – with Nick Dytlewski (1987), with Paul Myers (1988), and with Tony McNulty (1990, 1991 and 1996).
- WA Mixed Champion with Brenda Matthews in 1986.
- Open winner of the inaugural NZ Rogaine Champs with Tony McNulty in 1995.
- 1st Open Mixed and 1st Veteran Mixed alongside Helen Bailey at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Rogaining Championships (1998) in Kamloops B.C. Canada.
- First mens supervets with Paul Hoopman at the 2007 Australian Champs in the Northern Territory.

Richard enjoys the endurance aspects of rogaining in all its guises. Setting, vetting, control collecting or just getting to the event. In leadership roles, Richard was a skilled delegator who involved as many people as possible and thus generated wider interest and development of skills in our sport. Richard has always organised and competed in events with a sense of fair play and respect for all entrants.

I believe that Richard has more than earned his Life Membership badge.

Ian Thomsett (WARA Life Member).