

2027 World Rogaining Championships



BULLETIN 1

Dreaming of Australia?

16-17 September 2027
Ikara-Flinders Ranges
South Australia

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Sponsor Acknowledgement

We are very pleased to acknowledge financial support for the Championships from the Major Events Fund of the South Australian Tourism Commission



Welcome

A message from the organisers

We are excited to extend to you an invitation to the 20th World Rogaining Championships in September 2027. Although a championship event, this rogaine is open to participants of all ages and abilities.

The event will take place in the Ikara-Flinders Ranges north of Adelaide in the state of South Australia. In this 1st Bulletin we aim to set out all the key information and hope that we can answer your questions.

The 2nd Bulletin will be published in September 2026 to coincide with the opening of entries one year before the event.

After these World Championships were awarded to Australia, planning has progressed with a strong team assembled from the state rogaining organisations, including experienced rogainers from around Australia.

Course setting and map production are well underway with the purchase of high resolution LiDAR data especially flown for this event.

Watch an inspiring preview of the terrain here: [20th World Rogaining Championships](#).

We look forward to you joining us at WRC2027 for an outstanding navigation event with the world's best rogainers.

Paul Guard

Australian Rogaining Association
President

Craig Colwell

South Australian Rogaining Association
President and Event Organiser

Event Date

Thursday 16 – Friday 17 September 2027

Ikara-Flinders Ranges, South Australia

Sunset: 18:07 — **Sunrise:** 06:13

Moonrise: 18:29 — **Moonset:** 06:26

Moon: 99% illumination (full moon)

Twilight: 20 min civil twilight either side

Sept temperature: Min 7°C — Max 22°C

Associated Events

The Australian Orienteering Championship will also be held north of Adelaide in late September 2027 — an excellent opportunity for interstate and overseas visitors to combine both events.

International Competitors

2027 is 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.

As at the start of March 2026 international airlines servicing the city include Qantas, Qatar, Emirates, Cathay, Singapore, Malaysia, United and Air New Zealand. There are direct flights from Asia, the Americas and New Zealand and flights from Europe with one stop.

Attractions in South Australia include the city of Adelaide famous for its extensive parks and green spaces, the Adelaide Hills for bushwalking, the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale wine growing regions, Kangaroo Island and the Ikara-Flinders Ranges.

International visitors with time to see more of Australia could hire a car or campervan and fly into Sydney or Melbourne and depart from Adelaide or vice versa. Distances in Australia are

large, and extra travel time should be allowed.

Time Zone

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.

Visa Information

All visitors to Australia require a visa. A tourist visa valid for three months is at a service fee in 2026 of AUD\$20.00. It can be applied for online via the [Australian Electronic Travel Authority website](#). As at March 2026 AUD1\$ = US\$0.71 and €0.61.

If you are a New Zealander, you do not need to apply for a visa before coming to Australia. If you are eligible, you will be granted a [Special Category visa \(subclass 444\)\(SCV\)](#) when you enter.

The organising team is committed to supporting international participation at the event. To encourage international visitors, we are considering facilitating the formation of hybrid teams, where a solo international visitor can seek a suitable local team mate or another international in order to form a team.

To contact the organisers or keep up to date:

- **Event website:** wrc2027.rogaining.au
- **Facebook:** facebook.com/2027WRC
- **Email:** wrc2027@rogaining.au

Scan for the event website:



Location

The Hash House will be situated at Rawnsley Park Station — a working property that still runs about 2000 sheep on 29,000 acres, and is now an important tourist destination close to the world-famous Wilpena Pound. The course will extend onto the nearby - Arkaba, Mt Havelock, Mannawarra and Arkapena Stations.

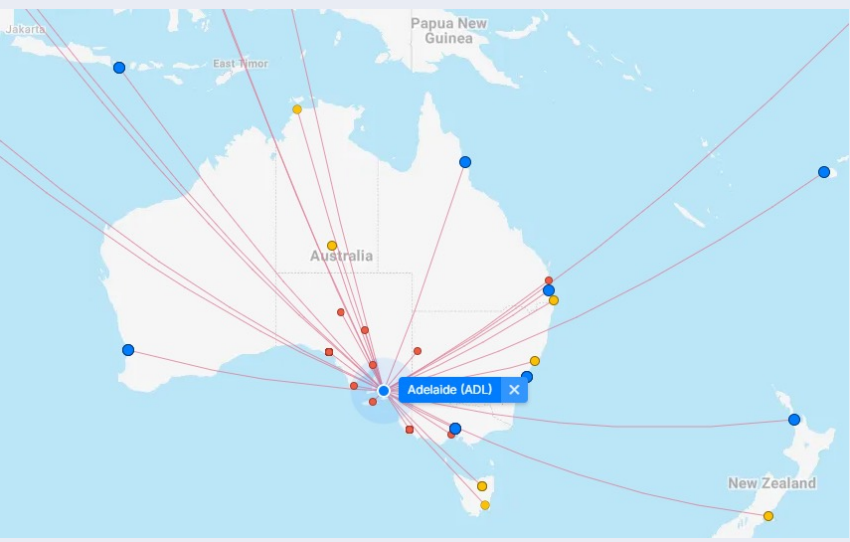
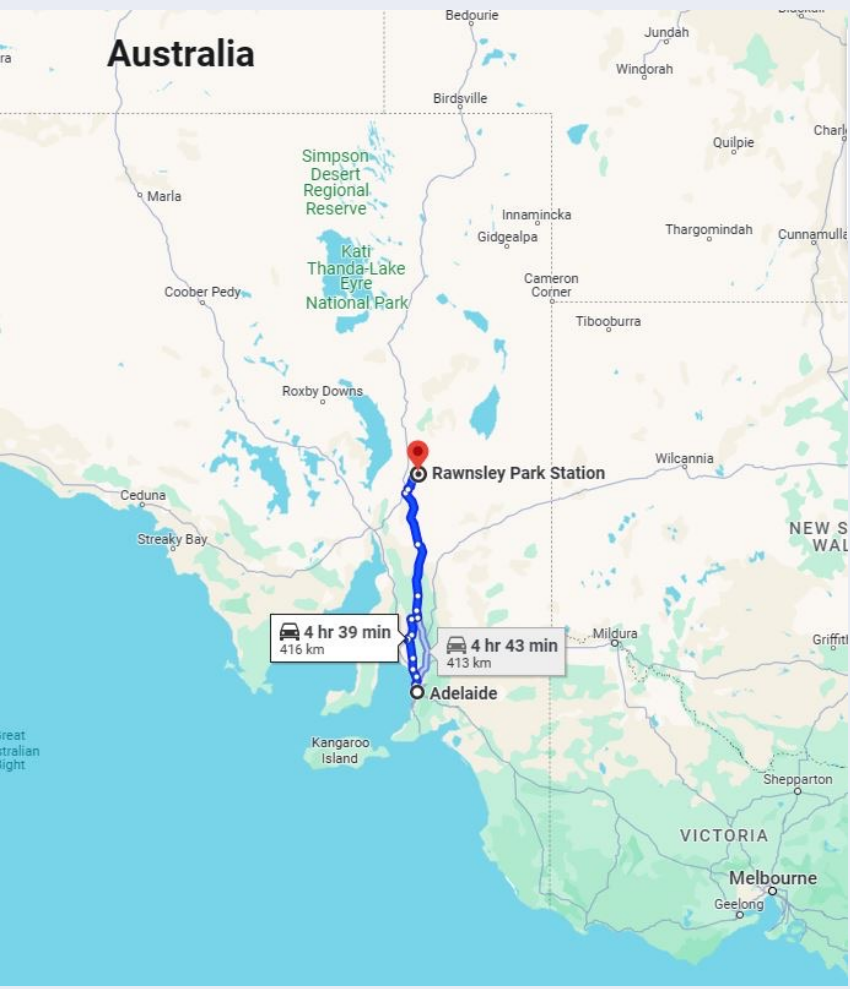
The 2002 Australian Orienteering Championships were held in this area, as were the 1997 Australian Rogaining Championships (ARC).

Travel time from Adelaide is just under 5 hours (413 km) on bitumen roads.

Campervan and car hire are available in Adelaide and coaches will be organised to provide bus transport between Adelaide and the event centre.



Location Map & Flight Routes

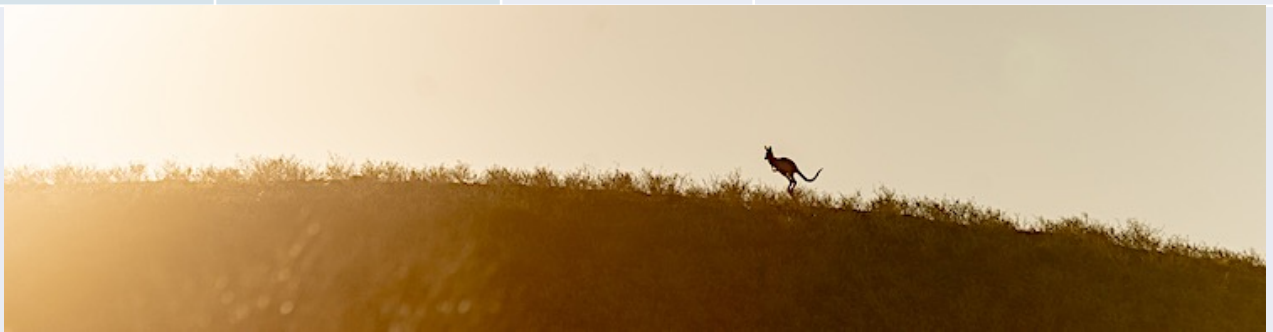


Embargoed Area

The map area will be embargoed from access from 1st July 2026, apart from accessing the Rawnsley Park tourist centre and public roadways.

Preliminary Program

Week Before		Event Days	
Sunday 12	Adelaide city 3-hour rogaine	Thursday 16	8:00 Opening of registration 9:00 WRC2027 map distribution
Monday 13	Competition Centre opens Model event maps available Early coach (A) from Adelaide		12:00 WRC2027 start 13:30 5hr Fun Event 17:00 Hash house meals 18:00 All-night café opens 18:07 Sunset (moonrise 18:29) 18:30 Fun Event finish
Tuesday 14	Coach B from Adelaide Registration & merchandising Model event open	Friday 17	6:13 Sunrise (moonset 6:26) 7:00 Remote soup kitchen closes 8:30 Hash house kitchen closes 12:00 WRC2027 finish 11:00–13:00 Hash house meal 13:00 Awards ceremony 15:00 Coaches to Adelaide depart
Wednesday 15	Coach C from Adelaide Welcoming event at 17:00 Registration closing at 22:00	Saturday 18	11:00 Camping area closes



Entries

Pre-qualified teams open: 1 September 2026

General entries open: 1 October 2026

Entry fees: Announced in Bulletin 2 — early, regular and late rates

Registration limit: 1,000 competitors (WRC2027)

Team size: 2 or 3 competitors (team details can be changed if necessary)

Fun Event

A 5-hour Fun Event will run alongside WRC2027. Entries open at the same time as general entries. There is no limit on Fun Event registrations.

Accommodation Options

September is a high tourism period for the Ikara-Flinders Ranges. Accommodation bookings need to be made well in advance. The site is just under 30 minutes (33 km) from the small town of Hawker where there are several accommodation venues and services.

Venue	Options	Distance
Rawnsley Park	30 cabins (book early!) 40-person bunkhouse 70 powered sites Unlimited unpowered sites	On-site
Hawker	Hawker Hotel Motel — 14 rooms Outback Chapmanton Motel — 14 rooms Caravan Park — 10 cabins, 60 powered + unpowered sites	33 km
Wilpena Resort	60 rooms 15 glamping tents 40 powered + 300 unpowered sites	24 km
Arkaba Station	Wild Bush Luxury accommodation	15 km
Upalina Station	Shearer's Quarters and camping	26 km
Willow Springs Station	Cabins and camping sites	56 km

Event transport

Bus transport will be provided from Adelaide. There will be options to allow for either early arrival for those wishing to acclimatise and visit the model event course, or later arrival on the afternoon prior to the event.

Rawnsley Park Station has its own airstrip where a private contractor provides scenic flights to remote and local locations including Wilpena Pound.

Weather & Climate

Ave Max Sept temperature: 22°C

Ave Min Sept temperature: 7°C

Conditions: Generally dry and sunny days

Subject to clear conditions, the full moon will be a significant aid to nighttime navigation.

Terrain & Geology

The location has excellent topography for a world-class 24-hour rogaine. The event is being held on the land of the Adnyamathanha — the ‘rock’ or ‘hill’ people — who have cared for this country for tens of thousands of years.

The proposed competition area will cover up to 200 km² comprising complex spur/gully terrain. Altitude above sea level varies from 340 m to 870 m.

The Ikara-Flinders Ranges has low rainfall and all watercourses are intermittent. It is a geologist’s paradise, with exposed rock strata that record nearly a billion years of the Earth’s history, including past worldwide ice ages lasting for tens of millions of years and evidence of ancient life forms unlike anything seen alive today.

The ground underfoot is primarily loose rocks and clay soil that in most places permits easy to fast walking or running in the flatter areas but requires care to traverse steeper sections. Spectacular red quartzite cliffs dominate views, especially at sunset, although the course is being set so that optimal route choices will not involve needing to scramble around cliffs.

Course planning strategy, 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 fairly even with a full moon providing a high level of illumination for most of the nighttime.



Plants & Animals

In the Australian outback the country comes to life in the Southern Hemisphere winter and spring, when the red dirt is transformed into a carpet of green and pockets of wildflowers appear. September is generally considered the best wildflower month for the Ikara-Flinders Ranges, so expect a spectacular wildflower display during the rogaine.

Vegetation consists primarily of low-height acacia scrub, native cyprus pine and eucalyptus forest, including signature multi-century-old red gums that typically line the watercourses. In general, the landscape is relatively open and vegetation does not create any significant obstacle for rogainers. *There is very little spikey spinifex that featured in the 2016 WRC in Central Australia.*

Wildlife spotted during course setting includes: kangaroos, emus, rock-wallabies, wombats, lizards, echidnas, wedge tailed eagles, parrots and galahs.



Food

Catering will be provided during the 24-hour rogaine period for competitors and there will be options providing for participants needing pre-event and post-event meals. On the course there will be an all-night café operating overnight.



The Map

The map scale will be 1:25,000 with 10 m contour intervals printed on A1-size water-proof Teslin paper. The base map is being prepared using LiDAR data purchased in late 2025. Fieldwork is also being used to provide an accurate base map to the standard of an international championship rogaine.

Scoring System

The **Navlight** scoring system has been specifically developed for rogaine events. Its customised hardware and software has been used extensively within Australia and New Zealand for twenty years and was the scoring system used in the 2006 WRC in New South Wales and the 2016 WRC in the Northern Territory.



About South Australia

South Australia has many contrasts with rugged outback wilderness, scenic mountain ranges, an extensive 3,700 kilometers of varied coastline, offshore islands and 650 kilometers of the meandering Murray River.

As the driest state in the second driest continent, 2,500 hours of sunshine a year means South Australians enjoy outdoor living all year round.

There are also national parks and world heritage listed areas to explore. *The Ikara-Flinders Range was ranked amongst the world's top 25 places to visit in 2026 by Lonely Planet.* [Best Travel Destinations 2026 - Lonely Planet.](#)

South Australia is known as a wine and food centre with 13 wine regions. The wine industry in South Australia benefits from a variety of terrains, soils and climate. Few other regions of the world can match its range of warm and cool-ripening conditions.

Local Organisation Details

The South Australian Rogaining Association (SARA) is the host of WRC2027. It has been holding 24-hour events since 1987 and held its first Australian Rogaining Championship in 1991. It has since successfully organised four Australian Championship events.

SARA numbers over 1200 members and holds at least six events each year with up to 400 to 500 entries.

SARA has a strong volunteer committee with 12 members who have been involved with rogaining for up to 30 years. Together they have deep experience with land access, map making, course setting, event administration, promotion and the **Navlight** scoring system.

Hazards & First Aid

The Flinders Ranges is a remote and arid land environment. SARA has a well-developed Risk Management and Search and Rescue Plan for the WRC2027 event. This includes onsite First Aid and evacuation procedures. Competitors should plan to carry an extra generous supply of water due to the greater risk of dehydration in this environment. Gaiters should also be worn as protection against low scrub and in the extremely rare event of a snake encounter. Additionally, avoid nighttime driving due to abundant wildlife hazards on the road at night, and allow adequate rest before driving home after the event.

Organising Team		
Role	Name	Background
Event Organiser	Craig Colwell	Craig has been involved in many rogaines in setter, administration and coordination roles. He has also been an orienteering leader including course setting, club administration and state association roles.
Lead Setter & Mapper	Mark Corbett	Mark has over 20 years of rogaining experience. He has set six rogaines including championship courses in 2015, 2021 and 2023. He holds current remote first aid qualifications and has high level experience in organisation of large-scale events.
Assistant Setter	Evelyn Colwell	Evelyn has competed in five World Rogaining Championships and fourteen Australasian championships. She has set a number of rogaines including two 24-hour events and has been deeply involved in rogaïne administration.
Vetting Team	Merv Trease & Vic Sedunary	Merv and Vic are from the Victorian Rogaining Association. They both have extensive experience setting and vetting major rogaines. They were the setters for the 2022 Australasian 24-hour rogaïne, and they have both competed in numerous world and national championship events.
Navlight Scoring	Stephen Gray	Stephen has been involved in rogaining for over 20 years. He has extensive knowledge of the Navlight scoring system.
Entry System & Website	Paul Guard	Paul developed the rogaïne entry system used around Australia and the WRC2027 website. He is President of the Australian Rogaining Association.
Treasurer	Don Baker	Don has been a long-serving office bearer of the VRA. He manages the WRC's budget & financing.
Transport & Merchandise	Julie Quinn	Julie is a past women's and mixed veteran world champion, four times Australian open champion, and is the interim IRF President.
Promotion	Julian Ledger	Julian brings extensive marketing, administration, and planning expertise to the New South Wales Rogaining Association. He has competed in eight world championships including the first four.
Bulletins	Arthur Day	Arthur has a publicity role at the NSWRA and is the newsletter editor.

See you in 2027!

(The next bulletin will be in September 2026)

