



LIFE MEMBERS 2022

When it comes to membership of an organisation, the category of life member is a rare privilege – both for the recipient and for the organisation itself. It is a truly fortunate organisation that has amongst its members individuals whose sustained performance is outstandingly consistent and/or whose ongoing contribution to the life of the organisation is selflessly dependable.

Today we acknowledge both past and present inductees to the category of life membership.

It has come to our attention that some of our previously recognised life members may not have been presented with lasting tangible mementos of their achievements at the time of their induction.

Sadly in two cases those members are no longer living, but we continue to celebrate the contributions of:

- the late Geoff Mercer, and
- the late Kathy Saw.

Similarly we continue to feel the long-lasting benefits of the contributions of:

- Phil Creaser, who is unable to be here today to accept his plaque, and
- Glenn Bridgart.

And now, on behalf of Stephen our president – who could not be here today – and the rest of the outgoing 2021 ACTRA Committee, and on behalf of our whole ACT rogaining community, it is my honour to induct four more individuals as life members of the association.

The first two inductees need little introduction. We started to list all the events at which they have been category winners or place-getters, but then we realised we had to try to complete this part of the AGM before sunset! The list is indeed a long one. Taking just two events as examples of their longevity:

firstly at this event – the Paddy Pallin – and we find certain familiar winners' names spanning the years 2001, 03, 08, 10, 15, 16, 18, 20

and the ACT 24 Hours Championships – winners as long ago as 2003 yet still on top!

Whether together or in partnerships with other members, and whether in open or now in veterans classes, and whether at ACT, NSW or other interstate competitions, or at national or international competitions for that matter ...

JULIE QUINN and DAVID BALDWIN

are perhaps the winningest rogainers any of us are ever likely to meet – it's not every day that the rest of us mere mortals get to compete with the World Championship Mixed Veterans winners (and 2nd Mixed team overall), but that's what Julie and David were at La Molina, Spain in 2019.

Julie has been a competitor in at least 15 Australian Rogaining Championships since 2000, and 7 World Rogaining Championships since 2002 and has won WO (twice), XO and XV titles in different WRCs. She is one of only two women to have claimed the ARC outright title (as part of an XO team), a feat she has achieved four times.

David has been a competitor in 9 World Rogaining Championships since 1998 and 20 Australian Rogaining Championships since 1997, and has won XO and XV in different WRCs and five ARC outright titles. It may even be more!

But wait, for there truly is more! As if their sporting prowess was not deserving enough of our respect, David and Julie are stalwarts of our sport's administration at all levels. They have been event organisers on countless occasions, arguably culminating in their roles as setter and checker for the 2016 World Championships held in the East Macdonell Ranges near Alice Springs. Julie was ACTRA President for 8 years from 2011, and remains the Immediate Past President, and just for good measure she is now Vice-President of the International Rogaining Federation, the IRF. For his part, David has been an ACTRA committee member since 1998, the ACTRA rep on the Council of the Australian Rogaining Association, the ARA, since 2001 and Chair of its Technical Subcommittee since 2004. He has been an IRF Councillor since the ARA joined the IRF in 2011 and was an IRF Observer for Australia prior to that.

Need I say more? Please congratulate Julie Quinn and David Baldwin.

While slightly less accomplished on the podium, **our next pair of inductees**, have been at or near the top of the veterans and super veterans categories for most of this century, with one scoring a notable trifecta in WS WV WO in 2021 – ultravets had better watch out! Again their feats are probably too numerous to list in total, but in another way they are beyond compare. As long-term ACTRA committee members, tireless event organisers, superior course setters and vetters, and ever-willing control hangers and collectors, I give you:

JEAN DOUGLASS and RON SIMPSON

Jean and Ron are the quiet heroes of rogaining in the ACT. There is literally no part of the fabric of our sport that they have not had a hand in. Whether it is Ron's making of the increasingly superior maps that we use for competition, or Jean's tireless attention to the condition of all those flags—both the hand-made, hand-painted corflute triangular prisms and the hand-sewn cylinders that are the object of all our rogaining endeavours—we couldn't do it without them.

'Innovation' and 'Resourcefulness' should be their middle names. We all take for granted that there will be public address, lighting and printing facilities at the Hash House for our events, but that would often not be the case without Ron's careful planning and maintenance. Likewise it's the little things that go unremarked – the control numbers, the locking punches and 'cow tubes', the 'business cards' (those little public awareness tags hanging on controls), the metal plates and chains, the first aid equipment and stationery – all of these have Jean's fingerprints on them. And if anyone ever wants a demonstration of just how to apply any of those things properly, there's a 'how to' video starring our very own Jeannie D available at a website near you!

And if all of that is starting to sound like a nightmare to keep track of – well you'd be wrong, because the ACTRA gear store is a fastidiously well-ordered and well-resourced testament to what it means to put your heart and soul into organisation – and we are lucky that it's our organisation that has benefited from the efforts of our newest life members...

Please congratulate Jean Douglass and Ron Simpson.