



2018 Australasian Rogaining Championships 'The SunSEQer'

Q&A with Sue Clarke &
Walter Keleman

1. What is your occupation?

SC: Retired Actuary/University Lecturer

WK: Gardener...Handyman...

2. What age were you and why did you start competing in Rogaining events at that time?

SC: I was 34, newly arrived in Australia and while failing to find my way out of Bungonia Gorge in the NSW southern highlands met up with a couple of rogainers. They first invited me to go XC skiing with them (which I had never done), then on a rogaine. I was hooked.

WK: 39... It felt like the next step from orienteering.

3. Best Rogaining tip ever received?

SC: If your feet weren't so sore you'd notice the next most painful body part. Quit whinging.

WK: Always keep your map in your hand, always know exactly where you are.

4. How has Rogaining changed since you started competing?

SC: Preprinted maps, magnetic north lines, waterproof paper, electronic punching - the list goes on.

WK: Became faster, smaller backpack, more running.

5. What sports did you participate in as a kid?

SC: My one and only sporting "talent" is endurance. I am not fast, I am not strong, I cannot hit a bat with a ball to save my life. I have no spatial awareness for team games. I walked up hill and down dale in northern England. Then I moved to the flat south and took up orienteering, closely followed by mountain Marathons. Plus a few road Marathons to fill in the time.

WK: Orienteering since childhood, still mountain-running a lot.

6. What is your favourite type of geographic area to Rogaine in?

SC: The ACT has some spectacular country - hills and vales but little undergrowth. Flat stuff is nice on the legs but a real navigational pain in the night.

WK: Hills, creeks, ups'n'downs - easier for navigation AND more fun!

7. What is it you like about the Australasian Champs event in particular?

SC: Anyone can come along, and generally they do, which makes for more interesting competition an all classes.

WK: Brings old friends up to Queensland.

8. How do you stay focused and energized in the 24hr Championship events?

SC: Listening to Walter's awful jokes. And if I get too slow on the hills he gets out his harmonica -he has a special speed-up tune that tells me I need to lift my act. Oh, and naturally I calculate a few square roots in my head as I plod along among boring tracks.

WK: Just focus on the NEXT checkpoint.

9. What has been the hardest and or strangest moment you can recall on a Rogaine?

SC: Falling off a cliff I was trying to climb in a 29 3/4 hour Nav Shield one year? I landed on a rocky slope in a precisely Sue-sized rock free zone -not even a bruise to show for it. Or the time we were so lost we set off to walk north for 5 hours to hit the Goulburn River, then after a little over 2 hours bumped into a completely different control.

WK: AusChamps in Tasmania (early nineties with Mike Hotchkis), wet, cold, river crossings with ropes, swamps with bullet grass...

10. For those who may be considering participating in a Rogaining event, what do you believe are the merits of Rogaining?

SC: Sense of achievement? The best night's sleep ever after a 24 hour event? The opportunity to visit places you would never otherwise go? Meeting and getting to know some great people? A perfectly justified craving for pizza the next day ? (Carbs, salt, all that other yummy stuff).

WK: Makes the rest of your life look like a walk in the park.

11. Not necessarily based on the win or podium result, what do you personally believe has been your greatest Rogaine?

SC: All of them! (what a cop out).

WK: ACT Champs (95?), I met Sue... (We won it too, but THAT was all thanks to Mike Hotchkis).

