



# 2018 Australasian Rogaining Championships 'The SunSEQer'

Q&A with Tim Farrant

*Pictured on the left in this photo*

## 1. What is your occupation?

Aside from being a Rogaine specialist ☺, my day job is a Geotechnical Engineer. I am presently designing rockfall catch barriers and systems to reinstate New Zealand's State Highway 1 along the Kaikoura Coast (the highway and railway line were both badly damaged by a major earthquake in November 2016).

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

I did my first Rogaine in December 2003, about a month after my 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was a 3-hour twilight event hosted by Chris and Emily Forne in the Christchurch Port Hills. We were hopelessly late back, but I loved it! I did my first 24-hour Rogaine, the New Zealand Champs at Peggioh (Marlborough) in 2007.

## 3. Best Rogaining tip ever received?

*"To be the best you just have to love it a little more than everyone else – take Chris Forne for example. He's the keenest of them all!"* I think Jamie Stewart gave me that advice. Jamie thinks Brent Edwards did.

## 4. How has Rogaining changed since you started competing?

It's getting more competitive, there's more participation and the maps & courses are getting better too! I think that Rogaining and Adventure Racing are closing in on each other.

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

Easy question – Rogaining all the way.

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

Varied country is the best. A few hills, some flatter areas, plenty of bush. A good mix of terrain makes for good navigation with plenty of route choice.

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

With no world championship event in 2018, the Australasian Champs is going to be the international event of the year. I am looking forward to catching up with everyone, then on Saturday will have an endurance navigation showdown like no other!

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

I recommend two things, (1) keep your mind active on the map, and (2) consume outrageous amounts of caffeine.

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

The hardest part is quitting. Don't quit!

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

Rogaining is good for the soul. You will travel to amazing places, spend all day and night getting very intimate with nature and the environment. You will meet new people, new cultures and get an immense satisfaction from completing this challenge with your trusty teammate.

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

I really enjoyed the 2016 World Champs with Tane Cambridge in Alice Springs. The event was very unusual – it was held in the middle of a desert, in the middle of winter, with strange prickly bushes all over the terrain – most unlike New Zealand (apart from the prickly bushes of course!). Being the World Champs, Tane and I were very keen to do the best we could (so a lot of planning went into our campaign).

We each devised coverings for our shoes to deter the spikey plants. We planned our route to be very mindful of the need to regularly refill water. We also planned a relatively short course at 80 kms.

Our preparations paid off and we placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall with a very respectable point score. Special thanks to Richard Robinson for leading such an excellent event. I am looking forward to his next course, the Australasian Champs with great anticipation!

Anything else to add?

Other highlights of my Rogaining career:

- NARC 2008 (Canada) - 1st XO (& 1st Overall)
- WRC 2008 (Estonia) - 1st XJ
- NZ 2007, 2009, 2011 - 1st MJ
- NZ 2012 - 1st XO (3rd Overall)
- NZ 2014 - 1st MO & 1st Overall
- ARC 2010 - 1st MJ
- ARC 2011 - 1st MJ (& 1st MO, 2nd Overall)
- WRC 2012 (Czech.) - 20th Overall
- WRC 2014 (USA) - 12th Overall
- WRC 2016 (Australia) - 5th Overall
- Heights of Winter Rogaine 2018 - 1st Overall (beating Greig Hamilton and Aaron Prince!)

Also, Should any Rogainers reading this ever find themselves in Christchurch, I would ask that they check out the Rogaine Series which I manage at <https://www.canterburyrogaine.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/canterburyrogaine/>

