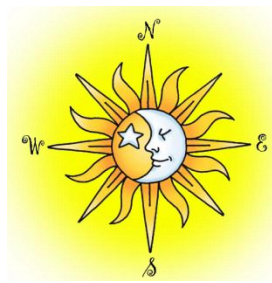


Thor far left & Tamsin 2nd left



2018 Australasian Rogaining Championships 'The SunSEQer'

*Q&A with Thorlene Egerton
& Tamsin Barnes*

1. What is your occupation?

TE: I work at the University of Melbourne in a research and teaching position.

TB: I'm a veterinary epidemiologist at the University of Queensland

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

TE: I was around 40 when Wendy Read convinced me to try one with her. I'll have a go at most things.

TB: I was in my mid-thirties. I hadn't been in Australia that long and was keen to try some different sports. I'd come from Singapore where I had been doing lots of triathlons and found the sport really friendly but after trying a couple of races here I decided I didn't like the scene – it seemed very cliquey and unfriendly. So then I fell into trail running. I really enjoyed that but was keen for something a bit different. One of my volunteers (the late John Harvey) for my PhD field work (trapping rock wallabies out in the bush not far from Warwick) had a rogaine logo on something and I asked him about it. It sounded like fun and a few weeks later we entered the Spicers Gap 8 hour event. We did really badly - my northern hemisphere compass wasn't a great start – but I really enjoyed it.

3. Best Rogaining tip ever received?

TE: That I should try it.

TB: This one is the similar to Richard's – except of course I learnt it from him. Make a good plan and mark off where you expect to be every hour.

4. How has Rogaining changed since you started competing?

TE: The bush is getting thicker, the hills steeper and the hours longer.

TB: Nothing jumps out at me. I think the pointy end of the field is getting pointier.

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

TE: No sport as a kid. Too little. I don't train specifically for anything but do lots of things in the outdoors.

TB: Sports at school all involved a ball – I was useless at them, hated them, never learnt the rules and did as little as possible. I did enjoy horse riding though. Currently I ride a bit, run a bit and kayak a bit – it's all pretty haphazard as I've been travelling so much recently. I'm not doing any focussed training for anything at the moment.

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

TE: As little track running as possible. Thick is good because I can crawl as fast as anyone, but not my favourite.

TB: I like the terrain to be navigationally challenging (but not stupidly vague) and to be pretty. I like hills. I don't like bush bashing or lots and lots of trails.

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

TE: It's a good challenge and a good catchup.

TB: It's usually a well organised event in a good area. It's also provides a good opportunity to catch up with rogaining friends from other states.

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

TE: I don't.

TB: I need to eat! I think all my rogaine partners can testament to this. If I don't – and of course that's a struggle in the middle of the night – I turn into a jibbering lump of jelly!

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

TE: It was very strange having to jump of the track to allow a herd of camels to pass in a rogaine in Queensland.

TB: One night in the Snowy Mountains, Richard and I flailed around for ages looking for a checkpoint in a broad gully. We never found it and so of course we didn't know where we were nor did we work it out for several hours after until we finally made it to a track. We were miserable! Thor and I also had a bit of a saga up in the pagodas at Capertee. We'd got up there OK and found the first checkpoint, but then it all went wrong. I don't really know what we did but we scrambled up and down and round these monster rocks and got totally discombobulated. It was hard to tell what was a huge rock and what was the cliff edge of the pagodas – everything looked so big in the dark! We abandoned all hope and headed off to the other side of the pagodas. I'm not sure how we expected we'd sort ourselves out but we popped out somewhere, went to turn left but I shone my headtorch to the right and there was the checkpoint we'd abandoned – a long way from where we'd been looking for it!!

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

TE: I love that as a result of rogaining, we are confident and capable in the bush at night.

TB: Rogaines provide a great opportunity to enjoy the bush. The events are flexible – you and your partner(s) decide how much or how little you want to do and whether or not you want to stay out for the whole duration of the event – so there's no need to be intimidated by longer events. They are also very social – rogainers are a friendly, welcoming bunch and the hash house and the post-event chatter are key parts of every event.

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

TE: I think Flinders Ranges ARC a few years ago. I did all the navigation for 24hrs in very technical terrain with only about 5 very minor errors. It was intense but such gorgeous country.

TB: The Wandering West – the first rogaine I did with Richard. It was a wonderful weekend at two levels. From the novice rogaier's perspective it was an amazing experience to go out for 24 hours and move purposely from one marker to the next for the full duration – none of the flailing around forlornly, particularly in the dark, which I was used to from all my previous rogaines! From a personal perspective it was a wonderful opportunity to spend time with Richard who is of course now my "very best friend"!

