



News update #1

After a tumultuous 2020 and the subsequent postponement of the Australasian Rogaining Championships, SA Rogaining are excited to announce that the Australian Champs is scheduled for 29-30 May.

We understand the pandemic-landscape has changed the way we think about travel, with border closures and quarantining now the norm. Regardless, we are optimistic that May will be a good month, with open borders and no restrictions. However, if things do go topsy turvy, we guarantee a full refund of the registration fee and bus cost (if booked).

Entries will open at sarogaining.com.au/event/arc2021/, on **Monday, 1 March** at 7am (ACST) – who will be the first team to enter? Entries will close at midnight on Sunday, 9 May.

Regular news items will be posted on the ARC site sarogaining.com.au/event/arc2021/#news so keep an eye out for updates.

The 2021 Australian Rogaining Championship will be held in the mid-north of South Australia, in Mallee country. The event is in the Regional Council of Goyder, an area rich in history.

The Goyder Line

In 1865, with barely 30 years' knowledge of this new country, George Goyder, the then SA Surveyor General was asked to map the boundary between those areas that received good rainfall and those experiencing drought.



After traversing an estimated 3,200kms on horseback he submitted his report and map to the state government in December of that year. The map showed a line of demarcation, the areas to the north being judged to be "liable to drought" and the areas to the south being arable.

Unfortunately, ample rains fell during 1865 prompting farmers to ignore Goyder's report and settle in the north, starting farms and planting crops. A few years later, Goyder was proved correct and many had to abandon their properties as the land was indeed unsuitable for cropping. Many farmhouse ruins can be seen in the vicinity of Goyder's line.

There were other periods of development north of the line, but invariably, adverse conditions proved decisive. Entire towns and farms were abandoned when there was a return to longer-term average rainfall patterns.

As you leave the Adelaide environment you will quickly notice the changing pattern of terrain as you head to the dryer mid-north section of the Flinders Ranges and approach the Goyder line. North of Burra you will pass through vast fields of wheat but as you head north and east of Hallett, the land becomes more arid and only scattered sheep will be seen. There are also numerous wind farms scattered along the ranges either side of the Barrier highway.



Kangaroos and emus are currently flourishing in this district, so much care is required when driving at dawn and dusk, particularly on the local dirt roads.

We look forward to welcoming you to Goyder's country in May 2021!