Finding their way to the Red Centre – the World Rogaining Championships

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The world’s best cross-country navigators will descend on Central Australia next year ready to plot their route around picturesque desert vistas in the 2016 World Rogaining Championships.

Rogaining is an Australian developed sport with more than 8000 regular rogainers across the country. It has been growing rapidly in Europe in recent years. Up to 1200 visitors are expected to travel to Ross River, an hour’s drive from Alice Springs in the East MacDonnell Ranges, for the event on July 23 and 24 next year.

“The Government is proud to support the Australian Rogaining Association’s successful bid to host the world championships at Ross River with $30,000 to assist with staging the event,” Sport and Recreation Minister Gary Higgins said.

“Participants in the event will be treated to spectacular desert scenery as they navigate their way around the very challenging course. This event will bring hundreds of international and interstate visitors to Central Australia who will spend money with local business and tourism operators, and many of whom will extend their trip to include visits to the many iconic tourism destinations the Red Centre has to offer.”

President of the International Rogaining Federation Richard Robinson said the sport is capturing increasing interest in European countries, particularly in Russia, Estonia and Latvia, and that visiting Central Australia holds great appeal for European rogainers.

“This event is being held in extremely challenging but enjoyable rogaining terrain,” Mr Robinson said. “This is an area of stunning natural beauty with many nearby places of great attraction to people, like rogainers, who enjoy the outdoors.

“We expect that the event will be sold out within a few weeks of entries opening on October 23 this year. We believe a large proportion of the entrants, their families and volunteers will take the opportunity for a holiday in Central Australia and experience iconic destinations such as the Larapinta Trail, Uluru, Kata Tjuta and Kings Canyon.”

The sport requires good navigation skills, endurance and teamwork as participants in teams of between two or three people plot their way between checkpoints with the aid of a map and compass. The championship event will run for 24 hours, from midday on the Saturday until midday
Sunday, with participants reporting to officials and organisers based at a `hash house’ at Ross River Resort.

For more information on the 2016 World Rogaining Championships, go to www.rogaine.asn.au

**Media Contact:**

Lorelei Fong Lim, 0400 165 743