



# Bendigo Orienteers



[www.bendigo-orienteers.com.au](http://www.bendigo-orienteers.com.au)

## Issue 3: March 2010

Meet the Black Crow. This perpetual trophy is awarded at the end of each year to the most impressive orienteering-related stuff-up within the club. The award is the highlight of the orienteering presentations as all club members get to vote for the most deserving recipient, and potential recipients are given their chance to argue as to why they should not win. It is the duty of every club member to be on the lookout for nominations throughout the year. This month's newsletter starts with the first nomination of the year. It is presented as submitted with no identification of the author or the name of the unfortunate subject of the piece.

## Black Crow 1 for 2010

**Don't change the meeting place!** The following story comes to you as a result of diligent sleuthing, and the threat that if it wasn't told in the words of the person involved, it would have to be related as a Black Crow story with the additional enhancement that that implies. This fellow (yes, a bloke) was girding his loins (as it were) for the first club meeting of 2010. An e-mail came through advising that the meeting would be in a different room at the BRIT complex – there was a map of the grounds attached to the e-mail. He duly printed this, and headed off. As luck would have it he met another orienteer as he left the car, and together they made their way to the new room (this may not have been a good thing in the light of subsequent happenings). There was a lot of business to cover that night and the meeting went longer than usual. The result of this was that when our BC Candidate left the room anxious to get home, he didn't take a lot of notice as to the direction in which he set off – and because of distractions on his way in he had neglected to take note of prominent features – as well, darkness had by now descended – all looked so different!!.

Within a few minutes of leaving the room he realised that he had lost contact with the map (as if he had any in the first place), and the darkness didn't help -- every footpath he could see seemingly led to a nowhere – nothing he could see looked anything like a gateway to the outside world. It was late and they probably locked the place up at 10.00 o'clock -- and it was by now after 10. A tight little bud of panic was starting to grow in his stomach as he tried desperately to relocate. He walked a bit further and ahhh, blessed relief – a gate, and through it he could recognise buildings in Hargreaves Street. Hooray! He arrived at the gate -- locked! Bloody hell! The panic blossomed once more, and this spurred him on to desperate measures – scale the gate! As he stood there working out how to tackle it, he was surprised – nay shocked, to hear a voice behind him asking him what he was up to. (Expletive deleted). He jerked around and confronted the Security Guard. In doing so he dropped his folder, spewing papers all over the pavement. Even in the darkness he could feel his face blazing red!

He explained his predicament in a very strained, shaky voice. The guard, obviously

A random photograph of a club member

impressed by the fellow's honest looks and dignified demeanour, and further convinced by the display of genuine terror unlocked the gate and

our 'hero' fled gratefully to his car, his home and a medicinal glass of port. Rather amazing how an evening that starts out so normally can suddenly disintegrate into total chaos.

There is a moral in this story: **Please, please don't change the meeting room!**

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## Copy Deadlines

At this stage I aim to get onto the next newsletter towards the end of April. If you would like to write a short piece on course setting, overseas orienteering, an event report or anything that might interest the rest of the club, please start typing and send it to me. The Roll of Honour for this edition includes: Colin Walker, Clare Brownridge, Ian Johnson, John Wilkinson, Julie Flynn and Charles Brownridge who did the minutes.

## Caption Competition

Remember this photo? No-one has come up with a caption yet. Come-on. You know it deserves a caption.

## Editorial –almost new editor, fewer ideas left, yet to be disillusioned

What is the purpose of a club newsletter? It used to be to find out when the local events were on and where they were held. For all but six club members this can be achieved using the web site. Maybe we will eventually just send a copy of the local events to a few members each month. For the moment we soldier on. I hope you can find something interesting within these pages.

### Club News

**Local orienteering gets into full swing:** The forest orienteering season is now properly underway. The intermittent tastes of the real orienteering season are past and its now on almost every week. See the event list for all the opportunities to have a great time getting lost in our forests.

**Another successful beginners series:** Of great interest to the club is how well the early season beginners courses will have encouraged newcomers to come along to local events. Julie has provided a newsletter report on the beginners series.

**Is local street-O dead?** The attendance at the short street orienteering season was disappointing (11,10,5,4). Is this style of orienteering dead in Bendigo? Street orienteering is booming in Melbourne. Melbourne orienteers are a long way from good forests and have many street maps. At meetings they talk about the slow death of bush orienteering. In Bendigo we have many local forests and few street maps. Here we are talking about the death of street orienteering. Slowly, Bendigo seems to be becoming the Victorian bush orienteering club. According to the current fixtures, there will be 57 bush orienteering events in Victoria this year. Bendigo will be organising 39 of these. That is two thirds of the total. Later in the year we will have to decide whether to organise any street event next summer. Craig Feurherdt has created an on-line survey to gauge club member opinions on the issue. Please do the survey.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DYG6GWH>

**New maps appearing.** Chris Creely has mapped the Malone Reserve in Marong for the schools program. Neil Barr has completed the park and gold mining map at Virginia Hill in Eaglehawk. Work is underway on the remaining section of the Stumpy Gully map. There is more underway but I haven't heard the details yet.

**Nomination for a national promotional award.** The Victorian Orienteering Association has nominated Bendigo Orienteers Inc for a national promotional award. You can find the nomination in the newsletter.

**A personal explanation from the club president:** Finally, our club president claims to be much misunderstood. In the interests of fairness he has been given a small piece of the newsletter for a personal explanation.

## I Really Meant a Mr Whippy Van

At a recent Space Racing sub committee meeting we were discussing how we were going to spend some of our allocated funds. Mapping, coaching, advertising etc were all discussed. Peter C suggested perhaps we needed to think 'outside the square' a little more. I can do that I thought so here goes it's now or never - "why don't we buy a Mr Whippy Van" I suggested. An awkward moment of uncomfortable silence followed. Then suddenly the discussion became enlivened.

"Wow exactly what we need", "we could use the bench for the download and printer", "place an awning off the van", "load all the gear into it", "put a laser printer in and run off a battery pack", "put extra seats into it" etc, etc. The ideas began to flow quickly in direct proportion to the loss in reality. Someone (who shall remain nameless and shameless and our most recent life member) suggested a double decker open top bus!

Through it all I sat silent, disappointed, misunderstood, bemused.

In the end I said nothing and left feeling despondent.

I REALLY MEANT A MR WHIPPY VAN.

A full on, fair dinkum, ice cream dispensing, Mr Whippy Van. Not a boring old van with orienteering equipment in it. FREE ICE CREAMS for everyone, what better way to attract kids and their parents to the sport! Forget fancy running tops, space keys and space stations, - free ice cream would be a real winner. Bribery - yes , but so are certificates of participation, banners, medals etc. What would kids prefer - what would you prefer?

I rest my case in silence. *[editor's note: except for the sound of furious key tapping]*

Colin

## Report on the 2010 Newcomer Series

The 2010 Newcomer series consisted of 3 Saturday morning events in February, all with one assembly area, so people could find it easily. Each week the courses were different, and there were easy (approx 2km) and moderate ( approx 3km) navigation courses available. The Myers Creek map was used again, because of its small contained size, its extensive network of tracks and other linear features and its proximity to the urban environment. This year we were expecting a few more participants than in previous years, because Peter Creely had been sending email reminders to people who had made contact with Bendigo Orienteers at the Participation Day in November last year.

On the first day we had around 30 people show up, and with 5 helpers and a start time window of 30mins, we were all kept busy helping people choose the most appropriate course for and giving each some explanation before they set off. We ran out of maps of the easy course ( 15 were printed).

Sports Focus was keen to ensure that this newcomers series was successful, so Laura had sent out an email to a number of local schools informing them of this series. We had no idea how many people would come on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> days, because school newsletters are widely distributed. There were a couple of emailed requests for helpers.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, again we had around 30 – 35 people, and about half of them had been the previous week. We were concerned that the courses would become congested with people just following the group ahead. So it was suggested we try SportIdent on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and last day.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day again we were inundated with new participants, as well as people who had been on previous weeks. Having SI meant we needed to maintain control over the issuing and return of SI sticks, and this caused congestion at the table.

Over the 3 Saturday sessions, I think we would have introduced orienteering to 50 - 60 people. Most of the people who attended reported that they enjoyed the event, and most

reported no or little difficulty with their courses. The people attending were young family groups, parent and child pairs, women on their own or with a friend and children who had enjoyed space racing last year and wanted to do more. We even had a couple of football players who wanted to try it out for training. These people will be receiving Peter Creely's fortnightly emails about orienteering events and many are keen to attend Saturday local events when they start in March or April.

Many thanks to the following people for helping these newcomers enjoy their initial experiences of orienteering: Peter Creely, Peter Searle, Colin Walker, Charles Brownridge, Terry Davidson, Don McArthur, Louise Hall, Neil Barr, Peter Galvin, David Jones, Jenny Ball & Ilka Barr.

I think we have several groups of newcomers emerging: the young families who will continue to participate as a group, a group of young people in late primary to early secondary levels who are very keen and want to develop their skills, and several women who enjoy learning to read and use a map to navigate their way in the bush. These people will need to be welcomed and encouraged at our events this year.

Julie Flynn

## Orienteering Development Award Nomination

*Orienteering Victoria would like to formerly nominate the Bendigo Orienteers club for the Orienteering Australia Club Development award for 2009/2010.*

*The Board of Orienteering Victoria believe that the Bendigo club have, in the past year, led our state (if not all Australian orienteering) clubs in development activities and thereby qualify for this award.*

*The following details address the qualifying issues relevant to the award and describe the activities conducted within club aimed at developing the sport in their local area.*

For 15 years Bendigo Orienteers has organised a successful local event program. In a typical year it offers between 30 and 35 events in local forests, as well as a smaller program of street orienteering during the warmer months. We have averaged an attendance of approx 35 at each of our local events. Our annual participation was approximately 1,800.

**Two years ago the club set itself a goal of doubling the participation at events within 4 years.**

Given the scale of our local event program, it was not feasible to grow participation by providing more events. We needed to attract new participants as well as retain existing participants and develop our capacity to manage larger attendances at local events. This is how we have set about meeting our goal.

We set out to find people with a potential interest in orienteering. The club advertised in local newspapers, on local radio and had some spots on local television. We ran simple races at the annual Bendigo sports club showcase- Participation Day. The club website was given a makeover and started to provide contacts.

Promotion work gave the club a list of people interested in trying orienteering. A fortnightly email bulletin kept this group informed of upcoming opportunities to try the sport.

In the lead up to the orienteering season, the club offered a newcomers series, designed to be a low key introduction to bush orienteering, to give people increased confidence to start bush orienteering. Over three consecutive Saturday mornings newcomers had the chance to try their hand at both at both easy and moderate courses. These courses used a forest map on the edge of Bendigo with plenty of tracks, water races and mining point features. This series lead into the normal orienteering season.

The club formed a Mentor group of experienced orienteers who assisted people new to the sport at both the Newcomers Series and at local events. The mentors are available to discuss courses before and after, as well as to shadow if this is requested. Three additional club members have undertaken level 1 coaching accreditation as part of the mentor program.

A second newcomer attraction strategy was the development of "Space Racing", a competition for children in primary school teams, using SI technology. This is run on Saturday mornings through the normal orienteering season. Rather than being based at a school, it is run by the club in local parks. With no teachers, parents need to attend with their children. This introduces both children and parents to the sport. The attraction of the SI technology to the students cannot be underestimated.

The *Space Race* series culminates in the Bendigo Primary Schools' Orienteering Championships, for hundreds of local children and a transition into bush orienteering. The Championship now attracts over 500 competitors, making this one of the largest events in Victoria each year. Towards the end of the Space racing season, we migrate gradually towards bush events and try to encourage parents into the sport. At a special 'Kids Rule' Day, parents do the course overseen by their children. This year we have crafted our local event program specifically to provide an easy transition from park orienteering to bush

orienteering. Map choice and event format have been carefully designed. We have decided to use grant funds to pay coaches to assist the transition.

How do you encourage children to nag their parents to take them Space racing? VicHealth has funded the employment of Jim Russell as a development officer for events with local schools. Jim plays a major role in Space Racing and the Schools program. Children who enjoy the school experience are pointed towards Space Racing.

The club has accelerated the mapping program to cater for the Space Racing and Schools program. New school, parks and small forest maps help keep interest in the events. The club development group is working on a strategy to provide a development pathway for younger newcomers to the sport to progress from park orienteering towards elite performance. This pathway is still taking shape, but many of the key components are already in place in the local event program and the informal training opportunities available at the junior elite and elite levels.

The local event program is developing in sophistication, providing a broader experience of the different orienteering disciplines. It includes long, middle, sprint and orientshow formats. In 2010 five local event races are part of the Southern Cross Series in which junior elites and elites run in the country, metro and inter-state teams for bragging rights.

To keep existing orienteers involved in the sport we need to continue to provide quality events and develop our map portfolio. Due to a continued investment in mapping, the club can provide quality local events on maps like Kooyoora, Mt Korong, Mt Tarrengower, Diamond Hill, Sedgwick etc. Currently the mapping portfolio includes over 30 bush maps within half an hour of Bendigo. This is not enough. Orienteers seek novelty so we are keen to create new quality maps. We have identified five areas we would like map over the next few years for major events. Three are quality spur gully on the edge of Bendigo. One is a very high quality gold mining area and one is quality granite. We have our eyes on hosting events for Easter 2012. The club is also mapping a number of small sprint areas within Bendigo itself. These are not typical urban sprint maps, but are highly detailed gold mining terrains.

The Bendigo local event program works on the principle of 'one event-one organiser'. To succeed we needed to streamline our local event administration to maintain this principle. We became the first Victorian club to purchase SportIdent and use it at our weekly bush orienteering events. The club developed a low-tech protocol for the use of SI, including a new principle of computers being optional at local events. Making computer use mandatory for local events would have depleted our pool of event organisers.

We are developing a strategy to manage parking at events as attendances increase. This will include negotiation with Parks Victoria about appropriate assembly areas for events with differing attendance expectations.

We hope to interest newcomers to not just our local scene, but the wider world of orienteering. With such a great local event fixture, there is a potential to develop a parochial orienteering outlook. This year we have revamped our club newsletter to emphasise orienteering opportunities and achievements beyond Bendigo- state, national and international. We have quite a few keen orienteering travellers in the club and they are being tapped on the shoulder to share their experiences through the newsletter. Local members are now reading of the delights of orienteering in Slovenian Kaast, the Istanbul Bazaar, Venice 'street' orienteering or training during the depths of winter in Lithuania. As part of our commitment to transition local orienteers into the National orienteering community we hosted the Australian Orienteering Long Distance Championships in 2009. Bendigo has a large pool of very competent course designers. Looking to the future we know we need to build on our pool of competent course setters. After a disappointing lack of interest in a course setting workshop, the newsletter is being used to build a more sophisticated appreciation of what makes a good course. Each month will have a page about course and event design. The emphasis will be upon what experienced local



orienteers appreciate in their orienteering experience. The aim is to inspire course setters to build better courses.

So is it working? At the half way point in the strategy, we have recorded a record participation for 2009 of 2,400. This is almost 25 per cent higher than our previous all time participation high. We have a new target as well. We think it might be possible to provide the majority of Victorian forest orienteering participation within a few years.

Our efforts to provide a quality local event program are being noticed. A few people have moved to Bendigo because of the great weekly bush orienteering events so close to the town. These orienteering migrants have become very active contributors to the club development. In 2009 the club won the Victorian event-of-the-year award for our organization of the Australian Long Distance Championships plus the prestigious Victorian Rockhopper Club Trophy for the first time (wresting this trophy from perennial winners, Nillumbik Emus).

*Per Ian Dodd  
VOA President  
28 Feb. 2010*

## **Events to Look Forward To**

### **Bendigo Orientshow**

This is the editor's pregoerative at work. The next event, on a new map in the middle of Eaglehawk. The normal courses are available, but A course is somewhat different being three separate mass-start races. Pre-entry is really helpful. Use the web site or send an email to [orientshow2010@fastmail.fm](mailto:orientshow2010@fastmail.fm).

### **Australian Rogaining Championship**

Jymbo will be competing at this next weekend in the Snowy Mountains. Will the ageing body hold up?

### **Local Bush Events**

The next two months of the local series promises a feast of good course setting on good maps. Colin setting on Norfolk Hero, Nigel on Mandurang, John on Smith's Reef, the Ironman on Fiddlers Green, Daryl on Diamond Hill, Julie on the little used Stumpy Gully (remapping underway) and Evan on Mt Korong. Get out there on our local maps and support the locals!

### **Easter Twenty10**

The Easter National Carnival are in Canberra in two weeks. It's now too late to enter. Follow how the Bendigo contingent fares via the web.  
<http://aus3days2010.orienteering.asn.au/>

### **State League 2 at Porcupine Ridge**

18<sup>th</sup> of April is the next State event. Due to a control burn the directions have changed. From Bendigo, take Calder Hwy to Malmsbury then turn off into Daylesford Rd. After 4km, turn right into Vaughan Rd and follow O-signs 9km to parking area.

## Coming Local Event Details

	Members	Non-Members
Adults	\$7	\$10
Juniors	\$3	\$5
Family	\$14	\$20
SI Hire	\$5	\$5
Space Racing	\$3	

### 27 March 2010

**Event:** Bendigo Orientshow

**Start:** 27 March 2010 13:00:00

**Organiser:** Neil Barr

**Map:** Map:Virginia Hill

**Directions:** Drive to Eaglehawk from Bendigo. Continue through Eaglehawk on the road to Kerang. 1.3 kilometres after the Eaglehawk lights turn right into Lester Street. Parking will be 500-700 metres along Lester Street. Walk to the event following the signs.

The terrain is urban gold mining at a scale of 1:5,000.

#### NORMAL COURSES

Novice 2.1 k 9 controls

Moderate: 2.2k 10 controls

Hard Short: 2.7k 15 controls

Hard Medium: 3.9k 22 controls

Starts between 12.30 and 1.30 Usual start and finish procedures using SI Enter on the day as usual for these courses. Pre-marked maps. When you have finished your course you can stay and watch the orientshow race. Most of the course is visible from the top of the mullock heap next to the start and finish.

#### ORIENTSHOW

Race 1: 'The Classic' 1.00pm mass start. 3.2k, 8 controls, 1:5,000 map. Emphasis on route choice. No course variations.

Race 2: Hagaby 1.30pm mass start. 2.9k, 21 controls, 1:4,000 map, 16 variations.

Race 3: Orientshow 2.00pm mass start. 3.4k, 29 controls, 1:2,500 map, 24 variations. Best two placings for the win.

PRE-ENTRY REQUIRED FOR THE ORIENTSHOW. This is to enable the organiser to allocate each competitor to

their unique course. Its easy! Use the on-line entry on the web site or send an email to [orientshow2010@fastmail.fm](mailto:orientshow2010@fastmail.fm) giving your name and SI stick number ENTRIES FOR ORIENTSHOW VIA WEB CLOSE 22nd March (or maybe a little later).

### 10 April 2010

**Event:** Bendigo Bush/Park Series

**Start:** 10 April 2010 12:30:00

**Organiser:** Colin Walker

**Map:** Map:Spring Gully Creek/Diamond Hill

**Directions:** Start from car park directly opposite Spring Gully primary school in Spring Gully Rd, Bendigo. SI will be used. Novice course on Space Racing map.

### 17 April 2010

**Event:** Bendigo bush classic 1

**Start:** 17 April 2010 12:30:00

**Organiser:** Nigel McGuckian

**Map:** Map:Mandurang

**Directions:** From Melbourne – Turn off at Elphinstone towards Sutton Grange/Sedgwick. Travel through Sedgwick. look for O signs south of Mandurang oval

Bendigo - Follow O signs from Mandurang oval.

### 24 April 2010

**Event:** Bendigo bush classic 2

**Start:** 24 April 2010 12:30:00

**Organiser:** John Wilkinson

**Map:** Map:Smiths Reef

**Directions:** Start is located near the Old Gower School site on the bitumen road halfway between Castlemaine and Maldon. Come via Castlemaine then take the Maldon road or come via Maldon and take the Castlemaine road. Turn into bush at signpost Old Gower School and follow O signs. Five courses: A (6.5 km), B long (5.6 km), B short (4.0 km), C medium

(3.4 km), D easy (2.9 km). Terrain is typical goldfields bush with a few hills.

### 1 May 2010

**Event:** Bendigo Ironman

**Start:** 1 January 1970 00:00:00

**Organiser:** Neil Barr

**Map:** Map:Fiddlers Green

**Directions:** From Eaglehawk

(Intersection of Loddon Valley Hwy and Victoria street). Travel west on Loddon Valley Hwy, take second street to the right to Kerang (Sailors Gully Rd). After 1.2 k run right into Hodgson Street and almost immediately left into Growler Street. Travel approx 800 metres to the event.

There will be an easy, a moderate and two hard courses. Each will be 2 kilometres long. You can do a course when you like after it has been run in the Ironman, or you can enter the Ironman and have a chance to get your name on the highly prestigious Ironman trophy. Here is how the trophy race works:

For the Ironman trophy there will be 'chasing' mass starts for each course. Each runner will start according to a handicap determined by the organiser. The fastest will start last. The handicapper is trying to have everyone finish at the same time. This means anyone has a chance to win a race. If you win a race by too much, expect your handicap to be changed.

12.45pm Easy course start

1.15pm Hard course start

1.45pm Moderate course start

2.15pm Hard course start

What is important is each race is your place at the finish. Your best placings determine your result. Ironman: Best 3 placings Ironwoman: Best 2 placings Ironlad and Ironlass: Best two. So you don't have to run all the races, but you may choose to do so.

Finally, as an added incentive this year, all the fast young elites and Jim will be interstate at a selection race for the

National team. They won't be chasing you down. This might be your chance to get your name on the trophy.

### 8 May 2010

**Event:** Bendigo Bush Classic

**Start:** 8 May 2010 12:30:00

**Organiser:** Daryl Fleay

**Map:** Map:Diamond Hill South

**Directions:** From the traffic lights at the South end of the Kangaroo Flat shopping centre, turn East into Camp Street. After 150 metres turn right (South) into Church street. After 150 metres turn left into Chapel Street and proceed under the railway bridge to the first intersection (Allingham Street). Turn right into Allingham Street and proceed 300 metres, then turn left into Sheltons Road. The event assembly area is at the East end of the bitumen section of Sheltons Road. Competitors are requested to park along this bitumen section (and not along the gravel section of the road further East).

### 15 May 2010

**Event:** Bendigo Bush Classic

**Start:** 15 May 2010 12:30:00

**Organiser:** Julie Flynn

**Map:** Map:Stumpy Gully

**Directions:** From Kangaroo Flat travel west along Lockwood Rd to the Calder Alternate Highway, in Lockwood. From the highway intersection, turn right and travel towards Marong. After 2.8km, turn right into a bush track; take care, as this is near a wide bend in the road. Follow signs to the assembly area, at the Green Gully Reservoir. Usual 5 courses

### 22 May 2010

**Event:** Bendigo Rocks

**Start:** 22 May 2010 12:30:00

**Organiser:** Evan Barr

**Map:** Map:Korong Spur

**Directions:** From Inglewood, travel 7.3 kilometres towards Wedderburn. Turn right into the Boort-Kurting Road just after the old Kurting Hall. There may be a

sign pointing to Mount Korong. (More likely it will be pointing in a direction selected by the local wag who keeps twisting it.) After 8.6 kilometres turn left at the intersection with the Wedderburn-Serpentine Road. After 5.5 kilometres turn right into the Mount Korong Reserve. At track junction soon after the entrance, take the right track. Follow signs. It will be an 5-10 minute drive to the assembly area from the park entrance.

### 29 May 2010

**Event:** Bendigo Bush Classic

**Start:** 29 May 2010 12:30:00

**Organiser:** Heather Jones

**Map:** Map:One Tree Hill

**Directions:** TBA

## **COURSE SETTERS - HELP PLEASE**

The fixture details on the next page are copied from the web. This is how I plan to do all fixture details in the newsletter .. copy them from the web site. You will notice there are a lot of 'TBA's in the list.

**COULD ALL COURSE SETTERS PLEASE FILL IN THEIR EVENT DETAILS ON THE WEB SITE.** If it is not there, it won't appear in the newsletter. I have created pages for events up to mid April. All you have to do is to update these details. There are instructions in the help section of the web site. The instructions there are:

1. Log in to the web site. (*Get a password if you need one by following the instructions at login*)
2. Go to the event page using the menu on the left side of the screen.
3. Find the event you wish to change. *The most imminent events will be listed in the first table on the page. You can click the 'further events' link at the end of the table. All events entered to the end of the year will appear. (If your event does not appear, you need to enter the event from scratch. This is not hard. Just follow the instructions for entering events. You*

*can find it in the help section where you found this page.)* Click on the event left hand column which will have a number like 20090417. (*This is actually a date format that allows easy sorting*).

4. The event information page appears. Click the 'edit with form' option at the top of the page.

5. What now appears is the event form. Change the details as appropriate by typing in the appropriate box.

6. Click the 'Save page' button at the bottom of the page.

**If you can't get access to the website, please mail me your event details or pass them on to someone who can put them up for you.**

## A Bendigo Orienteer

*You have to be impressed by an 80 year old running down a steep mullock slope as Ian did at a recent Ironman event. I think we all hope to be as active in our own eighties! I asked Ian to explain how he came to be an orienteer.*

I have always been interested in finding my way about. My brother and I used to take long and involved routes through backyards, over walls and fences, up and over mounds in old abandoned ironworks and coal mines and then ask the other to find the way home. Once we ended up in an internment camp and were watched curiously by German Navy officers. Later a Luftwaffe lot escaped from that camp. One stole a policeman's bike with non-effective Sturmey-Archer gears [*ed note: I remember them*]. He was pedalling madly getting nowhere when captured.

Later we decided to go on a bike ride to watch bombers take off. I had a look at a very large scale map marked secret to work out the shortest route over a poorly roaded part of the route. I looked and tried to memorise the route. Unfortunately the tracks through forest had been used for tank training so we had to go off track. Mountain bikes had not been invented in those days. The chain on my brother's bike broke and we kept repairing it with wire. We eventually got home. When I came to Australia I used to ride my bike all over Melbourne for up to two hours at a time based on memorising the street directory. After I married I gave up the wilds for car rally navigation. I was invited to navigate for a driver with a Goliath (very slow up hills). We came third and chose the most efficient route. and after that I was head-hunted as navigator for many local rallies. We won quite a few. Eventually I became disenchanted with the sport as it became a speed race along well-defined roads. I am not that sort of competitor.

In 1974 I saw an article in a newspaper about orienteering at St Georges Lake near

Ballarat. I went in the easiest course and took direct routes without a compass. I found some very steep sections of the map.

The controls were buckets. A little later there was an advertisement about a meeting of people interested in forming an orienteering club. . I turned up with Tom Norwood. Blake Gordon appeared on the scene a little later. I ended up Treasurer and kept an eye on the finances. I made the first map, but ended up making another one straight away as the first one lacked accurate contours and was being constantly amended.

No computers then. Just large sheets of tracing paper. All the maps were volunteer jobs and so very cheap for the club.

After running a few moderate courses I shifted to shorter hard courses and have stayed with them until quite recently. I also took up course setting. One of my events was on my map of Canadian Forest for an international carnival. As part of this carnival we were given access to photogrammetry of what became Kurucarac. The map is still used, though there are fewer tracks meaning lots of fast running to large features.

Eventually I became disenchanted with driving to distant places to orienteer and retired and moved to near Castlemaine. I went in one event at Eppalock and was approached by David Jones to join the Bendigo Club.

What do you aim to do in 2010?

Its now easing off time. I aim to do more easing off. I will be making a map of the area around where I live [Specimen Gully Road]. It takes me a long time to make an accurate map of even a small area [*Ed note: It is very steep in there*]. I will let the modern computer age assist me where I can. I expect the world in general to go rapidly down hill and I am ready to cope. There is a light at the end of the tunnel. It reads 'Exit'. Vast numbers are hurrying towards that light, and like rain, snow and earthquakes, more are expected.

## Orienteering in the Karst: Clare Brownridge's Slovenian Experience

By mid 2008 I'd been orienteering in Bendigo for about 15 years. I knew Diamond Hill pretty well, and was comfortable in the friendly spur-gully around town. Even the rocks at Kooyoora, while still challenging, were familiar.

A university exchange seemed like the perfect opportunity to go overseas and experience some new terrains. In all, I orienteered in the Czech Republic, Sweden, Slovenia, Switzerland, Germany, Turkey and Hungary – all new, all exciting, all challenging.

Cerkno Cup – Novi Svet and Ski Centre Cerkno, near Logatec, Slovenia

Day 1 threw competitors directly into the world renowned karst terrain, with endless depressions looking identical to the untrained eye. Orienteering should be easy: all the information you need is on the map in front of you. Novi Svet shows how you can have too much of a good thing. Kilometre rates here weren't fast, despite the fact that much of the forest is relatively runnable, and the winner of men's elite just broke 9.5min/km. Advice on how best to tackle the karst varies;

some recommend avoiding running into the depressions and creating extra physical effort, this however requires careful control of direction to ensure you don't lose it among the circular depressions. Although not really qualified to give advice based on my unspectacular times, I found it easier to run into the depressions to have a definite location and minimize the risk of losing direction.

The following day was middle distance race on the same area, with many competitors improving and getting the hang of the terrain to a certain extent. The final stage took place in a different setting: the assembly area was inside a mountaintop restaurant. The terrain near the road driving in looked too steep for orienteering. Apparently once an orienteer got lost here and was found 30 km downhill. Indeed, the terrain was impressively steep, and shoes with spikes were an advantage. The views encountered on the course also warrant a mention; running in beautiful summer sun across ski slopes with a snow-capped Triglav (Slovenia's highest peak) in the distance was worth tackling the hills for.

### A taste of the Novi Svet map

## Confessions of a course-setter

Setting a good course means much more than getting the controls in the right place on the ground. You can get all the controls correctly placed and there is no guarantee people will enjoy your course. But if you don't do that, then all the rest of your effort is wasted. I can remember five controls that I placed in the incorrect location. I can't forget them.

**The wrong shallow gully.** The event was using a map with very limited field work.

From my armchair I had chosen one of two adjacent shallow gullies as an ideal control location. What I hadn't appreciated was the existence of a third gully not marked on the map. I placed the control flag by walking across one gully and placing the control. The area had low visibility and I had approached from the opposite direction to the orienteers planned approach. Later in the day, they ran into the first gully (unmapped) and

found no control. Some decided to try the next gully along and found it. They reported back that I had the flag in the wrong gully.

**The wrong track intersection.** How can one get a novice course wrong? This was an event with a controller. The area had many tracks. I had tagged the site and visited it quite a few times. I wasn't scheduled to put out the controls, but there was a last minute morning of the event reallocation of duties. I found myself having to put out the control in a hurry without a map. I had memorised the control site as being close to a water channel. The cockatoos had removed the tape. I put the control on an adjacent intersection rather than the correct one which was a little further from the channel. To compound the problem, the controller was unable to get out and check the novice course as he had run out of time. Luckily the difference was only 20 metres and you could see the control from the correct location.

**The unmapped watercourse bend.** I had tagged all the sites but one on a boulder was worrying the controller. The approach from one direction would be very difficult due to a high bank that was not shown on the map. We walked to the boulder, had another look and then agreed to change the site. There was a nearby watercourse with a bend that seemed likely option so we walked over and tagged the site. What we didn't do was check the watercourse coming from the other direction. There was a second bend but only one bend on the map. We had approached from above. The runners would come from below and arrive at the other bend first. Some reported to us the control was in the wrong place.

**The missing contour.** The chosen control site was on a large boulder next to an obvious area of bare rock. The approach was from a saddle below and the boulder and bare rock were very visible from below. There were no other obvious rock features on the map or visible from below, but lots of small unmapped rock. The control site was chosen to set up the

following route choice leg. It wasn't expected to give any navigational difficulty. The day of the event was wet with low cloud. The cloud was so low in fact that there was no visibility on this leg. The obvious features could not be seen from the saddle below. The competitors were forced to use their sense of distance and climb as they approached the feature. A number came back and said the control was too far up the hill. They had read the two contours on the map and decided they had climbed quite far enough without reaching the feature. I had located the feature by the rock detail and it was correctly placed. But the use of contours gave a very different result. I suspect there may have been a contour missing from the map. One day I will go out and check.

**Which map?** The event was a rogaine. There were many controls out on the map... more than once course-setter could place, so we had a team of control placers. One of the control placers had acted as a control site vetter. In the vetting process one of the vetters had suggested that a control be moved from its site in one small erosion gully into the adjacent erosion gully which was further from the track and would thus have less chance of being tampered with in the event. The control site was moved and a new master map produced. One of the control placers went out with the earlier map he had used to vet the controls, rather than the updated map. As a result, the control was placed in the original location rather than the new location shown on the competition map. It wasn't until the second day that anyone reported the location as incorrect. Rogainers seem to accept errors.

There are a few lessons from these experiences:

- Don't assume the map is completely accurate. Check the contours as well as the detail. If the map is ambiguous, leave the area free of controls.

- Check the approach to the control from the same direction as the competitors.
- Avoid last minute rushes. Beware last minute changes in plans or control sites. These times need extra caution.
- Assume bad weather on the day of the event and think about the implications.
- Destroy old versions of the courses and make sure the latest version is used by all involved in the event.
- If your event has a controller, make sure they visit each site and do so independently. Beware controller and course setter group think.

## State Series 1 Report

Last weekend members of the Bendigo Orienteering club performed well in a National event at Castlemaine and a State League event at Daylesford.

Saturday's National League event was held in the complex goldfields terrain around the Garfield Water Wheel near Castlemaine.

The elite class had to run three loops totalling about 12 km using a map and compass to navigate.

Best results were:

Mens Open: Bryan Keely 5<sup>th</sup> (88 min), Chris Naughton 8<sup>th</sup> (90 min), Jim Russell (95 min), David Brownridge (97 min), Matt Schepisi (109 min).

Women Open: Clare Brownridge 21<sup>st</sup> (91 min).

Mens Junior: Leon Keely 1<sup>st</sup> (65 min).

The support races also saw local members do very well. Best results were:

Course 1 (5 km): Neil Barr 4<sup>th</sup> (48 min), Warwick Williams 6<sup>th</sup> (51 min), Derek Morris 17<sup>th</sup> (59 min).

Course 2 (3.5 km): John Wilkinson 1<sup>st</sup> (31 min), Peter Galvin 7<sup>th</sup> (46 min), Louise Hall 9<sup>th</sup> (48 min), Charles Brownridge (49 min), John Chellew (52 min).

On Sunday, the state league event was held in rugged and rocky bush near Daylesford.

Best in the NOL class were:

Mens Open: Bryan Keely 2<sup>nd</sup> (21 min), Chris Naughton 6<sup>th</sup> (22 min), Matt Schepisi (23 min), David Brownridge (24 min), Jim Russell (27 min), Evan Barr (29 min).

Women Open: Clare Brownridge 12<sup>th</sup> (29 min).

Mens Junior: James Robertson 7<sup>th</sup> (33 min).

Best in the State classes were:

Warwick Williams 3<sup>rd</sup> M35, Nigel McGuckian 9<sup>th</sup> M45, Chris Creely 11<sup>th</sup> M45, Neil Barr 1<sup>st</sup> M55, John Wilkinson 6<sup>th</sup> M55, Darly Fleay 4<sup>th</sup> M60, Peter Galvin 3<sup>rd</sup> M65, Peter Searle 4<sup>th</sup> M65, John Chellew 6<sup>th</sup> M80, Louise Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> W35, Julie Flynn 2<sup>nd</sup> W45, Jenny Ball 7<sup>th</sup> W45, Dianne Searle 3<sup>rd</sup> W65.

## Results

### ***Street O Golden Square***

Jim Russell, 220

Neil Barr, 175

Julie Flynn, 155

Charles Brownridge, 140

Louise Hall, 105

David Jones, 105

Diane Searle, 95

Heather Jones, 90

Lisa Linssen & Marlene Llewellyn, 50

David Birch, DNF (How is this possible in a Score event?)

### ***Street O Spring Gully***

David Birch 700

Neil Barr 560

Jim Russell 530

Laurina Neumann 480

Louise Hall 470

Leeza Meharry 370

Peter Searle 310

Chris Griffin 280

Lisa Linsenn 260

Claire Murphy 210



### **Street O Weeroona**

James Robertson 280  
David Birch 270  
Jim Russell 270  
Chris Griffin 185  
Katrina Walters 120

### **Street O Strathdale**

Not sure what happened to the scores, but these four deserve recognition for turning up!

Chris Criffin  
Ilka Barr  
Jim Russell  
Lezza Meharry

### **Golden Sandshoe**

Bryan Keely 530 (58.43)  
Leon Keely 530 (58.44)  
Evan Barr 530 (58.46)  
Chris Naunton 420 (53.40)  
Craig Feuerherdt 380

Jim Russell 370 (55.48)  
Laurina Neumann 350  
Warwick Williams 330 (59.19)  
David Knight 320 (60.40)  
Neil Barr 320 (61.50)  
David Birch 290  
Julie Flynn 290  
Colin Walker 290 (60.35)  
Nigel McGuckian 290  
Amy Terry 270 (55.52)  
Anitra Dowling 260 (58.27)  
Terry Davidson 240  
Mark Hennessy 200  
John Chellew 200  
David Jones 190  
Charles Brownridge 180  
Jenny Ball 160  
Robyn Sunderland 100  
Ian Johnson 100  
Jon Shanks 100  
William Wedgwood 100  
Ken Dowling 100

## **Bendigo Orienteers March Meeting**

**2/3/2010**

### **1. Welcome/Apologies:**

- 1.1 **Present:** Louise Hall, Peter Galvin, Colin Walker, Neil Barr, Julie Flynn, Charles Brownridge, Jim Russell, Phil Robertson
- 1.2 **Apologies:** Peter Creely, Craig Feuerherdt, Peter Forbes, Daryl Fleahy, John Chellew, John Wilkinson, Peter and Dianne Searle, Peter and Judy Hill
- 1.3 **Colin Welcomed new members to the committee and thanked them for their nomination:** Peter Searle, Peter Forbes, Jim Russell and Louise Hall. He also thanked outgoing members of the committee for their work and efforts: Julie Flynn and Peter Galvin. He also thanked John Wilkinson for his efforts in editing the newsletter for the last three years. The committee thanked Colin for nominating for the role of President for a third term and thanked him for his efforts so far.

### **2. Minutes from last meeting: Moved:** Charles Brownridge, **Seconded:** Julie Flynn

### **3. Business arising:**

- 3.1 Peter Galvin reported that \$134.90 had been paid to the Keelys and Robertsons for uniforms for Shane and James as it seems the VOA did not contribute to the Schools team
- 3.2 The new fees for events decided at last meeting are more complex than previously and it was decided to have prepared a core flute sign of the new fee structure

**3.3 Street O fees** were set at \$5 for seniors and \$2 for juniors. There would be no hire charge for SI sticks at Street O but a \$5 deposit would be required if SI is used at events

**4. Correspondence: In:**

- 4.1 From Russell Bourke pointing out that it is 25 years since the WOC Titles were held on Mt Kooyoorra. He suggested reproducing newspaper reports of the time in the newsletter. Tabled
- 4.2 From Russell Bourke, Club fixture with Vic Road Map references and a proposed equipment list.
- 4.3 From Rob Edmonds pointing out that the Teachers' Games would be held in Bendigo over the next 2 years. Information will be forwarded to teacher and other interested members

**5. Treasurers report:** was received on the motion of Louise Hall, seconded by Jim Russell

Louise reported a profit of \$763 for Bendigo 2 Day event and discussion resolved that this was a club event which would incur a VOA levy of \$1.50 per person. The Club is in receipt of 2 grants, one from VicHealth for \$810 to be spent by end of August (gazebo, first aid and coaching courses), COGB grant for \$2600 to be spent by mid November for Space racing equipment. A third grant of \$1000 for uniforms for juniors post Space Racing (JETS – Junior Elites Training Squad) has been applied for.

Louise agreed to document the grants.

**6. Black Crow Nominations:** Peter Creely forwarded a magnificently written description of why meeting rooms should not be changed. "Someone" found themselves in the middle of the TAFE campus after last meeting, totally lost. They eventually found a gate but it was locked due to the lateness of the hour. The solution was to climb the gate, but this was interrupted by a security guard causing "someone" to drop all their papers. The guard was kind enough to open the gate to allow "someone" to go home to "Margaret". All members are to try to find out who Peter was writing about.

**7. SI Update: CW/NB.** No report

**8. Sub committee reports:**

8.1 **Space Racing: PC** No report

8.2 **Coaching pathway: PC** No report

8.3 **Vic Health Linking Communities Project: JR/JF** The VicHealth grant must be spent by the end of the financial year and a number of ideas were floated, including the purchase of a colour laser printer for maps, mapping for Space racing and the schools program, a van for local gear to act as mobile office, booking buses for local competitors in the Primary and Secondary Schools championships, buying a stock of waterproof paper.

8.4 **Mentor Group** : No report

8.5 **Advertising Sub committee:** will meet next week

**9. PROGRAM:**

9.1 **Mapping Plan:** Neil presented a detailed table of possible mapping projects, together with their current status. They were classified into 3 priority groups. Some would be suitable for the VicHealth project. Maps fell into 3 levels: for

Space racing, for local events and for 2013 Easter carnival. Jim will assess the suitability for Space racing. A timeline should be set with Chris Creely and others interested in doing mapping. The extensive list of maps bodes well for the future of orienteering in Bendigo.

- 9.2 **Deferred motion on VOA levies.** This motion was again deferred, this time on the motion of Neil Barr, seconded by Jim Russell. This was due to time constraints.

#### **10. Communications Reports:**

- 10.1 **Public Relations: JF** Julie drew attention to the photo of Peter Creely in the local paper.  
10.2 **Advertising:** No report  
10.3 **Web site: CF/NB** There is a new membership form  
10.4 **Newsletter: NB** . Only 6 mailouts of the newsletter are needed  
10.5 **Club History: HJ/CB** No report  
10.6 **Social events:** No report

#### **11. Events Report:**

- 11.1 **Bendigo: 2010 program: CW/NB.** A course setter is still needed for the event on 20<sup>th</sup> March, starting in Edwards Road  
11.2 **University Orienteering:** PR Phil reported that this was growing. Navigation will be included in 2<sup>nd</sup> year to build on skills taught last year. The 78 2<sup>nd</sup> year students will need to complete 2 hard courses at local events (at least B standard). This must be completed before June. To achieve this a limit of 40 students will be placed on each event and the Uni will pay Phil to attend and organise those students and their participation. The uni will pay entry for the students and will be invoiced for this.

#### **12. Mapping Report:**

- 12.1 **Crusoe Reservoir** No report  
12.2 **Guys Hill Road: TD** No report  
12.3 **Space Racing new maps: JR/PC** No report  
12.4 **Kangaroo Gully new tracks.** No report

13. **VOA Report:** No report

#### **14. New Business:**

- 14.1 **SI Equipment Hire: Discussion occurred to set a policy in relation to the hiring of our SI equipment, following a number of requests.**

**Moved by Neil Barr, seconded by Julie Flynn, that:**

1. Our SI equipment is only available for hire for major events, such as championships
2. The boxes are not to be reprogrammed by the borrowing club. The times may be synchronized.
3. Equipment is not to be loaned on a weekend when we are running an event
4. Levy will be the same as the VOA levy, currently \$1.50. This is in addition to any levy paid to the VOA for their SI equipment.
5. The borrowing club must agree to pay the replacement cost of any lost or damaged equipment
6. The borrowing club is responsible for transport costs and organization.
7. Prompt return is required
8. Printers will not be available for loan/hire

14.2 **Membership fees** No discussion

**15. Meeting closed at 10.05 and was followed by supper**