

BENDIGO ORIENTEERS INC. GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday September 1 2025, 7.30pm

Online meeting via <https://meet.google.com/jdk-grxe-ksb>

Chairperson: John Wilkinson (Chair), Julie Flynn, Neil Barr, Nola Juniper, Jim Russell, Prue Dobbin (minutes)

Apologies: Peter and Dianne Searle, Craig Feuerherdt

1. Minutes of Previous Committee Meeting

Moved: Julie **Seconded:** John **Passed**

2. Correspondence IN (Prue)

- Request from Ben Orphin (Marist school) to use the Upper Crusoe.jpg map to run a small introductory course around the lake for year 8 students at the end of the year. Email trail sent to Neil for response.
- Request from Responder Kits to use Edwards Road Ocad 8 map. They were asked for the reason they wanted the map but have not yet responded. Email trail sent to Neil.
- Reminder - Sports Focus membership overdue - forwarded to Craig and actioned.
- Bendigo Active and Healthy Communities Newsletter - August newsletter
- OA newsletter
- Kangaroo Flat Matters newsletter
- Aislinn Prendergast (OV Secretary) - advising of the August OV Council Meeting on 29 August for setting the 2026 fixture. Emailed to Committee - Neil to attend.
- Email from OV (Laurie Niven) with notes on fixture planning. Forwarded to Neil.
- Email from President OV with requests relating to potential tasks for the new Coach in Residence to undertake and request for a new OV Board member (preferably young female in order to meet government mandated quota) and the forthcoming club relays. Forwarded to Committee members and Jim.
- Draft fixture survey from Neil. Forwarded to committee members but there were issues with accessing the document for editing purposes (see later item).
- Email from Anne Robinson notifying that she and Geoff Robinson are both trained First Aiders. The club will collect the names of other trained Members in survey.
- Email notifying that Jenny Ball now has an updated Working with Children Check. Club survey to include a question re WWCC or higher approval (e.g. teacher rego).

3. Correspondence OUT (Prue)

- August meeting minutes - Prue
- August club newsletter - Peter and Dianne Searle
- Email to Sedgwick Hall Committee thanking them for the use of the hall. They replied everything was left in good order.

- Email to Sophie Taverna re the need to acknowledge the club when using map snippets in the Mapping e-learning manual. She replied this had been done.
- Email to Daryl Fleay re the need to acknowledge the club when using a map snippet in his forthcoming book on Crusoe Reservoir. He replied this had been done.
- Email to Sophie Taverna requesting OV Bulletin and social media advertising for One Eye event on 23 August. Actioned.

4. Financial statements (Craig)

Nothing unusual this month. \$1200 of income after expense (including \$226 for Bushwalking Book Sales). General Equipment and Sports Focus membership fee totalling \$453 leaves a net profit of \$750 for the month.

Just over \$94k funds available.

Bendigo Orienteers Incorporated

Profit and loss report

Cash mode

01 Aug 2025 - 31 Aug 2025

	Total
Income	
4-1500 Sales	
4-1540 Sportident Sales	60.00
4-1550 Bendigo Bushwalking Guide	226.70
Total Sales	286.70
4-2000 Event Entries	
4-2100 Local Events	1,741.21
Total Event Entries	1,741.21
Total Income	2,027.91
Cost Of Sales	
5-1000 Cost Of Sales	
5-1100 Printing	
5-1110 Local Printing	153.60
Total Printing	153.60
Total Cost Of Sales	153.60
5-6000 Levies	
5-6100 State levies	584.10
Total Levies	584.10
5-8000 Merchant Fees	86.74
Total Cost Of Sales	824.44
Gross Profit	1,203.47
Expenses	
6-3000 Equipment	
6-3100 General equipment	353.40
Total Equipment	353.40
6-4440 Subscriptions & Memberships	34.00
6-4450 Sundry Expenses	66.00
Total Expenses	453.40
Operating Profit	750.07
Other Income	0.00
Other Expenses	0.00
Net Profit	750.07

Balance sheet reportCash mode
31 Jul 2025

	Total
Assets	
1-1000 Current Assets	
1-1100 Bank Accounts	
1-1110 Cheque Account	32,089.39
1-1111 Sandhurst 234 20230919	13,712.15
1-1112 Term Deposit 048 20230123	15,468.21
1-1113 Term Deposit 167 20230918	17,610.48
1-1114 Term Deposit 368 20230428	15,465.76
Total Bank Accounts	94,345.99
Total Current Assets	94,345.99
Total Assets	94,345.99
Liabilities	
2-0010 Current Liabilities	
2-1900 Grants	
2-1901 COGB Community Grant FY24	284.09
Total Grants	284.09
Total Current Liabilities	284.09
Total Liabilities	284.09
Net Assets	94,061.90
Equity	
3-8000 Retained Earnings	50,284.48
3-9000 Current Earnings	13,919.35
3-9999 Historical Balancing	29,858.07
Total Equity	94,061.90

From last meeting - the Committee passed a motion to put \$20K into a term deposit at the highest term deposit rate (possibly 7 months at 3.9% at Bendigo Bank). This is yet to be done. Will do it when the existing Term Deposits are updated - see following proposed motion.

Motion: That the existing term deposit containing \$17,610 due to to expire 18 September be reinvested for 12 months at 3.6% (highest rate).

Moved: Julie **Seconded:** Nola

Motion passed

Motions: The Committee approves the August financial report.

Moved: Julie **Seconded:** Nola

Motion passed

From last meeting, Julie was to be added as a signatory to the bank account and this remains to be actioned.

5. Membership update (Nola)

As of 31 Aug the club has 87 members

- 72 adult paid members (28 female/44 male)

- 15 junior paid members.

Welcome to new members: Kylie Stafford, Xavier Rodgers and Paddy and Jack Tobias (J). Nola to update club membership email list.

6. Other business .. *From previous meeting:*

- ATO self assessment for clubs (can be done once Consumer Affairs Victoria has updated club details). The Club has not updated CAV for some time. Craig to contact Ross to check on progress. **Action: Craig (update)**

7. General Business

- Vouchers for course setters

Free vouchers for course setters have been emailed to the following 2025 event organisers:

Louise Hall, Tim Turnbull, Jim Russell, John Wilkinson, Ross Slater, Charles Brownridge, Heather Jones, David Jones, Prue Dobbin, Michael Loughnan, Colin Walker, Neil Barr, Nola Juniper and Lorraine Leversha (used).

Further vouchers will be sent to organisers as events are held.

Due to the lateness in the year, the vouchers can be used until the end of the 25/26 FY.

The vouchers state:

'This voucher entitles you to one free entry to a Bendigo Orienteers orienteering event. This is the Bendigo Orienteers Inc committee's way of saying thanks for organising an orienteering event this year. Your contribution is much appreciated.

To use this voucher on Eventor (preferred):

- Enter yourself in your chosen event through Eventor
- Click 'Confirm and go to Payment' but DON'T PAY
- Send an email to Jim Russell at jymbois@gmail.com informing him of what you have done, and he will confirm your free entry.

To enter on the day:

- print and place this slip in the money tin in lieu of normal payment.'

Action completed: Jim/ Prue

- Event reports:

Saturday August 9 - Smiths Reef (organiser/course setters Lorraine Leversha and Nola Juniper).

The event went well. Jim ran a SI stick renaming activity - but the system didn't work. People with a problem stick to contact Jim directly at jymbois@gmail.com

Saturday August 23 - One Eye (new map - organiser/course setter Neil Barr)

Around 70 participants (some in groups)

- Area seemed to meet with approval.
- Logistics went well, with lots of helpers at the end.
- The Live results system worked seamlessly and the OE12 instruction document was updated. We should be able to provide this at most events (mobile reception

dependent).

- A minor drafting issue with the map meant control wasn't fully georeferenced.
- Quite a few competitors needed instructions on where to go and what to do if you have pre-entered. There is an A4 instruction sheet in the gear box, but it's not very obvious. Neil has sought a quote to have these instructions printed on a 600 * 900 corflute - meeting agreed to pay for this. Likewise instructions about course closure.
- This event was a lot of work, and the club needs to improve its event format for this to be sustainable.

- Coming local events:

- Saturday September 6 - Bendigo Bush Event - Kangaroo Gully (organised by Julie Flynn) [Eventor Australia - Event information: Bendigo Bush - Kangaroo Gully](#). Map updated with a new track, a new mine shaft, a bridge and lots of veg derived from lidar. Facebook and bulletin advertising completed.
- Sunday September 14 - Victorian Interclub Relays - Mt Lofty, Redesdale (organised by Jim Russell) [Eventor Australia - Event information: Vic Relays - Mt Lofty, Redesdale](#)
Email has gone out. Prue to organise teams and will nominate a team manager for the day..
- Saturday September 20 - Bendigo Bush Event - Mt Tarrangower, Maldon (jointly organised by Bendigo Orienteers and Central Highlands Orienteering Club) - [Eventor Australia - Event information: Bendigo Bush - Mt Tarrangower, Maldon](#). Jim explained the map is ready and it is basically a CHOC event.
- Saturday October 11 - Bendigo Twilight Event - Fiddler's Green [Eventor Australia - Event information: Bendigo Twilight Score Event - Fiddlers Green](#)
Organiser not found and the event will be cancelled. A 24 hour rogaine is in Dunolly on that date, which would be good practice for people to practice navigating. The newsletter should include that the rogaine is nearby and a good option.

- Equipment purchases:

- After reading an email from Tony Ginis (a member who is also a paramedic), Julie made contact with Defib For Life, a Sunbury based organisation that sells these devices and their accessories and parts. They confirmed a world wide shortage of the HeartSine models and recommended the Lifepak CR2 model as a replacement and that it is as good as the one the club was planning to purchase.

Sue sent information and will invoice us the cost (GST only applies to the delivery costs). The price is likely to be \$1995. It has a wifi connection and will send messages re. updates etc. Julie to collect.

Update - Julie

- First Aid training for club members - people to enroll themselves in a St John's course and present their receipt and certificate to the club for a refund (\$225 at the most). Advertised in the July Club newsletter.

<https://www.stjohnvic.com.au/checkout/?course=18566&type=selectaclass>

List of members with First Aid training to be put on the First Aid kit or trailer wall.
Question re first aid training and expiry date to go in member survey.

- Condes fee - needs to be paid within 3 weeks. Neil to pay and send receipt to Craig.
- Club apparel (update next meeting) **Action: Craig/Jim**
- VOA meetings
Club members can access the full VOA council meeting minutes here - [Meetings | Orienteering Victoria](#). Neil attended the meeting re. The 2026 fixture.
 - Few changes of significance.
 - EUV is halving the number of their bush events as 8 events in 2025 was too many. Concentrating instead on simpler events close to town that attract newcomers more easily.
 - Oz Champs over Easter in Tassie. Oceania Champs and Schools in Sept-Oct. NOL sprint events in Ballarat over Labour Day.
- Club travel grants policy
Posted on club website.
- Splits printer
The Black bluetooth printer had problems with paper loading, but this was solved at the Smiths Reef event.
However, the printer didn't work at One Eye. Neil is testing.. **Action: Neil**
- Purchase of new trophy for Clubperson of the Year (to replace Vera Sheldon trophy). In memory of Peter Creely. Club to send sympathy card to the Creely family on the loss of their daughter. **Action: President**
- VicSport IT in sporting clubs seminar
 - Neil attended this half day event in Melbourne.
 - He learnt that a lot of sports are a long way behind orienteering. One of the exemplar sports explained how they had managed to get half the membership to apply for annual membership on-line.
 - Club official handover recognized as a major issue. A water polo player is developing an app called "Handover" which is designed to be a repository for clubs to document their processes. Three areas – roles, processes and event management. We have some documentation but could improve, particularly on processes.
 - There is a new AI called Co-arrange which transforms instructional documents into on-line learning modules. Some sports are using it. It is probably worth investigating.

- Fixture for 2026

Actions carried over from previous meetings:

- In the pre-fixture survey, club members will be asked to nominate an event organiser, a course setter and a computer person for each event.
- Develop a training program for 4 or 5 computer people. ***Action:Neil/Prue***

Neil forwarded a draft copy of the proposed survey to the Secretary for forwarding to committee members asking for comment - however, a number of the committee members could not access the editing function of the survey.

Neil presented data and information relating to fixture planning (**see attachment on next page**) and there was considerable discussion. The meeting agreed for Neil and Prue to meet to finalise the survey prior to sending it to club members.

Meeting closed: 09:14pm

Next meeting: October 6 2025.

Attachment is on the next page.

Attachment: Information relative to the 2026 Bendigo Orienteering Club Inc. fixture

(presented by Neil Barr)

2025 Review:

- planned 16 (including 2-day). Delivered 12. 2 cancelled, 2 done by other clubs.
- Note that the club also was involved in Easter Prologue, Vic Short, Vic Long. So you could say in total 19 events.

Fixturing options:

- Suggestion 1 – avoid early heat – no Bendigo Bush events in March... high cancellation rate this year. Easter is first week of April. Maybe run CATI events in March. There will be bush events from other clubs in March.
- Suggestion 2 – Do not schedule on Long Weekends.
- Model 1- Event every week – there are 22 Saturdays between Easter and October.
- Model 2 – Schedule events when there is not a reasonably local alternative (State event or rogaine between Bendigo and Daylesford). Reasonable assumption is 3 rogaines and 5 state events. That leaves 16 Bendigo events.
- Model 3 – Every 2nd week. This means between 12 and 14 events depending on how structured (eg weeks 1,3,5 or weeks 2,4 or weeks 1,3)

Resources to deliver events

- Although we have 100 or so members on the books (2nd highest in state) a lot of this membership has a shallow level of involvement.
- In 2025 we had 16 people volunteer to organise an event. Of these there were 5 course setting teams, so in reality we had 12 course setting units. This probably sets a minimum aspiration for the number of Bendigo Bush events in the normal fixture – 10 (up to 14 with some potential double event volunteers, and maybe a couple of other clubs).
- Organiser pool? Looked at regular participation in hard nav courses by local Bendigo members – mostly already volunteering so not much opportunity to increase numbers. (60% of entrants are from outside local region)

Course	Number of local members who attended at least half of events	Number of these who organised an event in 2025	Number who have organised an event in previous seasons	Number who have never organised an event
1	2	1	0	1
2	9	7	2	0
3	3	2	1	0

- There are 9 people who have volunteered in the past but did not this season.

	Count
Significantly decreased attendance	4
Age	3
Migration	1
Did volunteer this season anyway	1

- In short, we are unlikely to find new volunteers without changing attractiveness of our events (so people attend more regularly) and reduce the burden of event organisation.
- Looking to the future, 75% of our current organisers are aged over 65. Those over 65 have more time to organise an event doing tasks mid week, but fewer will be doing this in 5-10 years time
- I have compared our fixturing with some regional clubs with similar sized regular local membership. We are perhaps on the high side of delivery as we make a longer season.

Ideas to improve our position

- Assume all new volunteer organisers will be able to work as a team with someone more experienced.
- Develop a less onerous event format. (Fewer controls, no locking, and more)
- Increase the local socialization option at events. This perhaps means making use of friendly venues with infrastructure (Sedgwick, Woodvale etc).
- Add information to the survey to find what events local members most like to attend (distance, format, season, terrain)
- But we need to do this without increasing overall workload of the current volunteers. Possible? Perhaps we need to decide what we will no longer do...

Approach to fixturing

- Apply for permits for events to match survey responses.
- Apply for a small number of additional reserve events in fixture holes, but do not put these in the Eventor fixture unless an organising team volunteers. Might be another club, or a member of another club. Advertise availability of events on Saturdays so members of other clubs see them.

How to make an easy to organise event format

- Courses 2-5 with 2 hard courses lengths 3 and 6k
- Choose a map where long legs are possible with an area abounded by roads. This minimizes the number of controls. Maps such as Sedgwick, One Tree Hill, Lyell Forest. Not maps like One Eye North, Fiddlers Green where lots of tracks mean lots of controls.

- Use a course setting style to minimize distance to walk to controls without compromising navigation.
- Aim is to have few enough controls to allow placement on Saturday morning. Only lock the course 5 controls.