



## Newsletter 20/5

September 2020

### EDITORIAL

Hello all. Owing to COVID there has been little action in the forest and so apart from email messages to keep people updated, not much gossip or information to fill a newsletter. However, with the orienteering season coming to an end we thought it best to make contact again.

Since the last newsletter in June we have had a few local events, and since Stage 3 lockdown, the COVID Rogaine at Mandurang and MapRun events have been available. Thanks to the MapRun Team of Nigel & Tom McGuckian, Jim Russell, and Jimmy Cameron we have been able to continue orienteering within the regulations and at a time that suits. Keep an eye on Eventor for more events.

In this issue John Wilkinson and Terry Davidson have provided some interesting background to two of our maps – Peter The Great and Wildflower Drive, and with Spring in the air golf balls and wildlife at Mandurang also feature.

### News from the September Committee Meeting

It was decided to cancel our Classic events scheduled for September.

The fate of October events as well as the end-of-year event listed for October 17 will be considered at the October Committee meeting. Hopefully, regulations may be eased by then to allow something meaningful to take place.

Plans are underway for both our 2021 events as well as the Orienteering Victoria calendar. The guiding principle for both is – where practicable – to reschedule events that were to take place this year.

Anne Robinson has taken on the job of taking orders for the club uniform – see later in this newsletter for details.

As mentioned in an email message we have a number of secondhand SIAC sticks for sale at \$65. Contact Jim Russell if you are interested.

The Committee decided to commit \$500 toward the purchase of 20 new S-11 SI control boxes for use at Victorian MTBO events. These specialized units have a range of 1.8m and will ensure MTBO events are able to use the latest technology.

It was noted that all people listed as Eventor club administrators must have Working With Children accreditation.

Dianne & Peter



Lorraine and Nola at COVID-style registration, Birds Reef

## NEWS

### New Babies

The club has been very pleased to welcome to the world some new 'prospective' members. Congratulations to James Robertson and Jayne Sales on the birth of Stanley, who has already conquered the novice course a few times, and to Ross Slater and Merrin on the arrival of Vivian.

### Blue Jack Gully Reservoir – a history

Orienteers who took part in Bendigo's O event on Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup> on the Peter The Great map would have noticed the reservoir at the finish – the Blue Jacket Gully reservoir – a picturesque area in the Whipstick forest. There was also much evidence of gold mining in the area of the courses. Here is some of the mining history. Others may know more about the area.

### BLUE JACKET REEF (BLUE JACKET GULLY) MINE AND ALLUVIAL WORKINGS

On the eastern side of Blue Jacket Gully there is a line of shallow reef workings several hundred metres in extent. The mullock heaps are from 3 to 4 metres high and the shafts have been partially filled. Some of the holes have since been used for the dumping of domestic rubbish. To the west of this line of workings, extending down the slope towards the bottom of the gully the ground has been extensively hydraulically sluiced to bedrock. The site contains representative examples of three shallow reef workings, and later re-working of the surface alluvia with improved technology. It is easily accessible and has the potential to educate and illustrate several important periods in the development of Bendigo mining. It forms the central portion of a network of workings along, and in the vicinity of, Blue Jacket Reef which was one of the early reef systems worked in the area.

The Blue Jacket Reef Mining Heritage Area is bounded on the west by Lennon Road between Prowse Road and the junction of One Eye Gully and Opossum Gully, on the south by an eastern branch of One Eye Gully, on the east by a line 75 metres east of the reef workings in one of the northern branches of One Eye Gully, extending northwards to the reef workings in Blue Jacket Gully and then further north and east at the same distance along Blue Jacket Gully and Peter the Great Gully to a cross track between the Eaglehawk-Neilborough Road and Whipstick Road, on the north by this cross track, on the north west by a line 75 metres north west of Peter

the Great Gully and Mosquito Gully to a point on the line of Lennon Road extended.

Although sluicing began on Bendigo in 1874, when a secure supply of water became available from the Coliban system, it is unlikely that such operations began in this area before the construction of the Eaglehawk syphon and Blue Jacket Reservoir in 1885/1886. As there is little re-growth over the sluiced area, however, it seems more likely that the sluicing was undertaken in the period 1931-1936, when there were over a thousand alluvial miners reported to be at work in the Bendigo district.

**John Wilkinson**

### An Orienteering Assembly Area - Erniold Street

Orienteers may be familiar with one of our past start areas on the Wildflower Drive map, and anyone who drives the road to Strathfieldsaye may know the sign off to the north where the road crests near Victory College. The unusual name interested Rob Upton of the Bendigo Historical Society enough to do some research and place an item in the Society's newsletter. The following is an abridged version of that article.

In 1959 when I was living in Hobart the local newspaper, The Mercury, ran a story about an eighty-three year old man who had just completed a cycling tour around Tasmania. This fellow from the mainland was Ernie Old. With me now living in Bendigo, I wondered what is Ernie Old's name doing in Bendigo?

The Australian Dictionary of Biography plus other web sites gave me some clues.

Ernest Old was born in 1874 at Barry's Reef, near Blackwood, Victoria, one of nine children. With his brothers, Ernie worked on his father's Dingee farm until, in 1896, he moved to Swan Hill to develop land owned by the family. It was here that Ernie began to cycle competitively, finishing 8th in the Warrnambool to Melbourne race in 1901.

In 1902 he enlisted in Australian Commonwealth Horse and went to South Africa, but the Boer War ended before he saw any action. At the outbreak of WWI he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force and went to Gallipoli and then on to the Western Front where he was badly wounded and repatriated home at the end of 1917 and to resume work as a blacksmith.

Arrival in Melbourne 1947



[As his World War I Service Grant, Ernie was allocated 20 acres of land in Bendigo. When he first saw the land he proclaimed it “only good for the birds”. To keep the land he had to reside on it for at least two weeks each year. So Ernie came and camped there. After the land was sold in the late 1960's for development, local residents had the street named in his memory.]

In 1945 he tried unsuccessfully to enlist in the AIF working as a smithy in construction work and in that year he challenged himself to ride from Melbourne to every State Capital.

Thus began a series of long cycle rides that made him a national figure. In 1945, he rode 1828 km Melbourne to Sydney and back in 9 days. In 1946, 1831 km Melbourne to Adelaide and back in 8 days; 1947, 4024 km Melbourne to Brisbane and back in 23 days as well as 9650 km Melbourne to Darwin via Adelaide and back; 1948, 7250 km Melbourne to Perth and back; 1951/52, 9650 km Melbourne to Fremantle and then back via Canberra to Sydney in 102 days.

In 1955 he wrote to the PM, Robert Menzies, offering his services to do a national bike ride as publicity for the Melbourne Olympic Games. His offer was refused as the PM thought that at 81 years old Ernie might well kill himself. However, at age 83 he did an outback ride to climb Ayers Rock and in 1959 he completed his Tasmanian tour, finishing in Hobart, thus finally cycling to every capital city.

His last ride was in 1960 – from Melbourne to Bendigo. He died two years later at the age of 88.

**Terry Davidson**

## Golf Balls anyone?

Strange things found when using O maps...  
Tony and I enjoyed the Covid Rules Rogaine at Mandurang. A lovely treed area with lots of orchids, insectivorous plants etc. Strangely we both came back with newish golf balls - Tony found his near control 49 and Alison found hers

between 52 and 35. A good distance apart and where do you find fairways or greens???

Does anyone play golf that would like them?

**Alison Radford**

While picking up tapes from the Covid Rules Rogaine, Dianne Searle found a further six golf balls! There must be someone nearby practising their golf - fodder for the crows?



## A new test for Covid-19

This is a new and easy test for the horror of Covid 19. It's simple, quick and positive (or negative if you see what I mean).

Take a glass and pour a decent dram of your favourite whisky; then see if you can smell it. If you can, then you are halfway there. Then drink it. If you can taste it then it is reasonable to assume you are currently free of the virus because the loss of the sense of smell and taste is a common symptom.

I tested myself 7 times last night and was virus free every time, thank goodness.

But I will have to test myself again today because I have developed a throbbing headache which can also be one of the symptoms.

## Club shirts with V neck in latest design

We are again taking orders for club shirts. As we cannot provide shirts for you to try on at the moment, please consult the chart below to choose your size, by measuring a shirt you have at home that is the desired fit. Measurements are all in centimetres and are for HALF chest width (taken at underarm), HALF hem width (taken at hem) and FULL length (taken from the highest point on the neck to the hem). Note that Womens shirts have a slightly curved side



seam, they are wider at the hem/hip than at the chest.

### Prices

Adult shirts are \$50 short sleeve and \$55 long sleeve - **navy** and grey design.

Junior shirts are \$20 short sleeve and \$25 long sleeve - **red** and grey design.

**To order:** Contact Committee Member Anne Robinson on 0401 042 135 or [annerobinsonqq@gmail.com](mailto:annerobinsonqq@gmail.com).

The first batch of orders will be placed at the **end of September 2020**. Payment will be by deposit to the club account and pickup from Strathfieldsaye or at a future event. Anne will provide details.

Size Range	½ chest (cm)	½ hem (cm)	length (cm)
<b>Kids</b>			
K8	41	41	57
K10	43	43	59
K12	46	46	62
K14	49	49	65
<b>Womens</b>			
K14	49	51.5	67
K16	52	54	69
S	53	55	72
M	56	58	76
L	58.5	60	79
XL	60	62	82
<b>Mens/Unisex</b>			
S	54	54	73
M	56	56	76
L	58	58	79
XL	60	60	81
2XL	63	63	83
3XL	65	65	85



## Springtime in Bendigo Forests



Shingleback lizard at Prince of Wales



His cousin at Sedgwick







**Club details:**

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Vice-President: Jim Russell

Secretary: Peter Searle

Treasurer: Lorraine Leversha

Newsletter Editors: Dianne & Peter Searle

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