



Newsletter 22/5

May 2022

EDITORIAL

Just three Bendigonians made it to Easter 2022 – Alison and Tony Radford (see report below) and Jim Russell. Jim ran a creditable 14th in M21E. Past member and now Tasmanian resident Lachlan Cherry finished 11th. Bendigo/Yarra Valley member Ted van Geldermalsen came first in M65A. Well done all. This issue Neil Barr gives us an insight into mapping 'The Granites', and we have another new map from Neil to look forward to coming up soon at Tarnagulla. You may have wondered why North is at the top of our maps. Wonder no longer with the explanation on page 4.

The Victorian Championships are coming up soon at Eldorado. Great areas and great maps – see you there! Australian Championships are coming your way in late September.

Enjoy.

Dianne and Peter

NEXT CLUB MEETING: Monday, 6th June, 5.30pm, H2OX Office, Old Mill, level 1/35 Wills St, Bendigo

COMING EVENTS: MAY

For full details and entry details of each competition please go to the Eventor website at:

www.eventor.orienteering.asn.au/Events

Bendigo & Local Events

Date	Title	Map	Setter
Sat 14 May	Bendigo Bush #5	Mt Kooyoora	David Brownridge
Sat 21 May	Bendigo Bush #6	Wildflower Drive	Michael Loughnan
Sat 4 June	Bendigo Bush #7	Tappit Hen	Neil Barr
Sat 11 June	Course Setters Choice	Mandurang – Coolibah	Colin Walker

Other Victorian Events

Sat 28 May	2021 Victorian Middle Championships	Little Kangaroo Crossing	Eldorado
Sun 29 May	2022 Victorian Long Championships	Kangaroo Crossing	Eldorado

Bendigo Orienteers Club Meetings

Date & time: First Monday of every month (except January) at 5:30pm

Location: H2OX Office, Old Mill, level 1/35 Wills St, Bendigo

All members & non-members welcome. The meetings are open to everyone, not just committee members, feel free to come along and share your thoughts.

Club details:

President: Craig Feuerherdt
Vice-President: Jim Russell
Secretary: Ross Slater
Treasurer: Alison Radford

Website: www.bendigo-orienteers.com.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/bendigoorienteers

Newsletter Editors: Dianne & Peter Searle

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Vale Judy Edward

Bendigo Orienteers members were saddened to hear of the passing of long-time member Judy Edward, wife of Lawrie and mother of Nick and Ben. Judy was an enthusiastic club stalwart who enjoyed the challenges of bush navigation alongside many other outdoor pursuits.

Judy was club president in 2004 and 2005, and along with Lawrie, took on the big task of organising and running the registration centre in Bendigo for the World Masters Championships in 2002, processing 1200 overseas and local orienteers through the system efficiently.

We extend our sympathy to Lawrie and family at this sad time.



Judy Edward (centre) as chair of a Bendigo O-meeting, 2005

Vale Rob Plowright

We are saddened to hear of the sudden death on April 29, in Mishima, Japan, of Rob Plowright aged 62. Rob was a member of the Australian team at the 1985 World Championships in Bendigo and on retirement from elite competition became a sought-after mapper for orienteering competitions in Australia and other countries throughout the world. He had lived in Japan for many years with his wife Masumi, sons Rui and Caio. Our thoughts are with his immediate family at this time.



Rob Plowright (front) Australian team member, WOC 85, Bendigo

Easter at Kingaroy 2022

Our trip to Queensland started late (due to the family there having Covid), but we had a few days in Emerald (to acclimatise to the Queensland heat) before the 700km journey south (with our daughter and 2 grandsons who had never orienteered), with a stopover at Cania Gorge NP (about 100km south of Biloela) to meet some Adelaide friends where we walked several marked routes.

The Easter 3 days (or 4 for those who ran on Good Friday) were well attended (about 600 competitors), had a lot of granite, long grass and even wheel cacti. Days 1 and 2 used the same assembly area and last control. Day 3 was thicker and steeper.



Grass trees, Day 3, Easter 2022

Our grandsons ran the Novice M12 course, being shadowed (when we could keep up). They both enjoyed the courses with lots of tapes to follow, the camaraderie of other children in the assembly area and the certificate at the end. Unfortunately there is no orienteering in Emerald but there is BMX racing!

In the W70s, Alison was lying 1st after 2 days but made a bad route choice through the lantana on Day 3 to finish 3rd overall. In the M70s, Tony had two ordinary, one bad and (finally on the last day) one good run to finished 7th overall. Jim Russell ran the elite courses as a Victorian Viking.



Alison



Tony

Queensland orienteers put on a great carnival, the weather was sunny and not too hot and the maps were fairly easy to interpret. With results available through on-site wifi but not displayed, the social side of chatting and comparing routes around the results was missing.

After Day 3, we set off back to Emerald but only managed half way before dark descended. The boys missed the first day of school. We came home to cold weather. We brought back a packet of Kingaroy peanuts as a memento and find we could have bought them at the local supermarket.

Alison & Tony Radford

The Granites – new old terrain for orienteering

Possibly thirty years ago Orienteering Victoria commissioned master mapper Alex Tarr to find unmapped terrains across Victoria that might be suitable for a World Orienteering Championship. The subsequent report assessed many areas across Victoria and classified them as suitable for World, Australian, State or local events. Very few terrains achieved the highest status of World Championship material. One that did was The Granites, north of Korong Vale. It was deemed suitable for a Short format World Championships (as was Mt Korong).



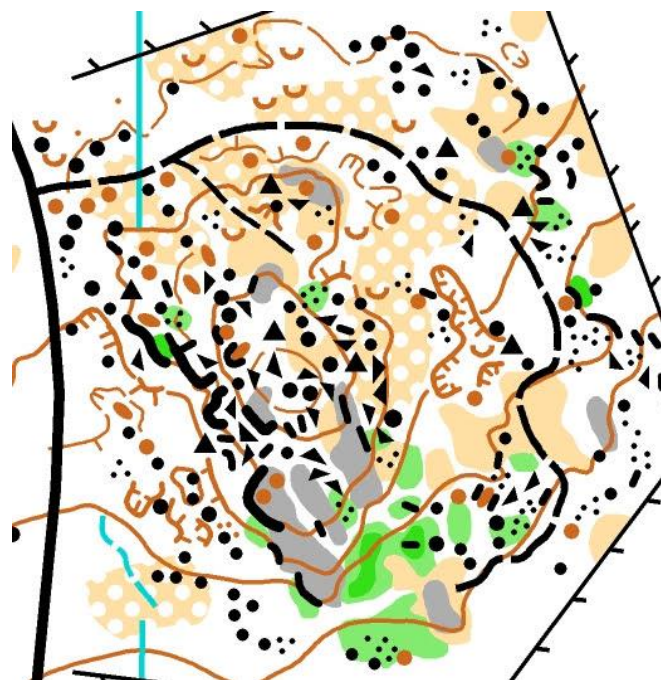
The Granites terrain

Since that time, the Short Orienteering format has gone the way of the dodo, and the increasing complexity of a World Orienteering Championship has made it highly unlikely one will ever be held again in Australia. Over the years several terrains identified as World Championship quality have been mapped for Australian events – including Barambogie and Mt Korong. The standout terrain in the Black Range near Stawell is unavailable for orienteering due to planning laws. What was left were a couple of locations in the Loddon Shire. These might have been suitable for the upcoming Australian Championships carnival, except for the small problem of finding accommodation for 250 school orienteers and entourage and the distance from Melbourne.

A couple of years ago I decided it was time to introduce these terrains to the orienteering community. Luckily, I had taken a punt some years ago and convinced the club to commission analog photogrammetry for The Granites as the last job by Chris Wilmott on the last operating photogrammetry machine in Australia before it was sold for scrap iron value. There is no lidar data for this area. Armed with the photogrammetry contours and a GPS enabled tablet, I headed out into the terrain and started to teach myself to map granite. Twenty-one trips later, over five weeks of full-time mapping and 107 kilometres of walking, I had a map. A few weeks ago a relatively small number of orienteering tragics made the hour long drive from Bendigo past Serpentine and Borung to sample the pleasures of orienteering on The Granites. Others made the massive trip from Melbourne. The word “pleasure” is appropriate. In his AttackPoint blog Bruce Arthur described the terrain as one of the most enjoyable orienteering areas in Australia.

If you missed out, you will probably have to wait until 2025 for another chance. The area might be considered for the Easter carnival in that year. Either way, an event will take place then. Do not fret. I have mapped another nearby area that also featured in Alex Tarr’s report, and eventually three others that Alex missed, as well as completing the mapping of Mt Korong. Each will be special, though perhaps not quite reaching the standard of The Granites. There will be one event on each over the next few years.

Neil Barr



The Granites - map sample

Why North?

Author Jerry Brotton presents a five-part series exploring each of the four cardinal directions in turn – north, east, south and west – and the possibility that, in the age of digital mapping, we are being left disoriented.

Throughout history, the cardinal directions have been crucial to virtually all societies in understanding themselves in relation to the wider world. More than points on a compass, they are ideas in their own right – creating their own political, moral and cultural meanings. They've shaped how we divide the world geopolitically into East and West (Orient and Occident) while contrasting the Global South with the industrialised Global North drives much current development policy, especially around climate change.

North is the cardinal point at the top of most world maps, although historians and cartographers have never really agreed why – even as digital mapping threatens to de-throne it's position. It's also the most contradictory of the of the four directions, associated with vast wastelands and uninhabitable cold but also great beauty, revelation and the navigational truth of the North Star.

So why is north at the top of most world maps? The four cardinal points on a compass are defined by the physical realities of the magnetic North Pole (north-south) and the rising and setting of the sun (east-west) but there is no reason why north is at the top of maps - any other cardinal point would do just as well. The convention was developed by the western world. So why not put west at the top? Well, early societies refused to privilege the west because it was the direction of the sunset, where darkness and death reigned. For medieval Christianity, east was at the top, because that was the direction of the Garden of Eden, shown on many mappae-mundi. On early Islamic maps south was at the top, while Chinese maps used north because the emperor looked 'down' southwards and everyone else looked 'up', north.

(Article courtesy of BBC 4. For further details on this series that considers the four cardinal directions, go to <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0016h2w>)

2022 Australian Championships Carnival

Is coming soon to a forest near you! Bendigo is fortunate to be located in some of the best orienteering terrain in Australia. This September the Australian Championships Carnival will be held on varying terrain in locations close to

Bendigo. One of the iconic competitions on the Australian orienteering calendar the 10-day carnival is open to runners in all age ranges and abilities.



Bendigo Orienteers are committed to organizing the Australian Long Championships on terrain near Maldon on October 1, with Julie Flynn the person in charge. This will be a major event with over 500 competitors expected so there will be many jobs for Bendigo members to do on the day to make it a success.

For full details go to the carnival website on: <http://aoc.orienteering.asn.au/>



An example of granite orienteering terrain near Maldon

Garfield goes orienteering

