

# Bendigo Orienteers

Newsletter 1 / 2023



## Editorial... By John Wilkinson

Welcome members to another O year. This year starts off as usual with a foot O event – the Peter Creely Memorial Fowl and Fizz on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February. This event will be a score / scatter type event where you have to get as many controls as you can in one hour and in any order. You loose points if late back. Course setter John Wilkinson has planned the event on the Dead Bullock Gully map with the start and finish at Crusoe Heights Reserve in Kangaroo Flat. You must start between 8 am and 8.30 am. Entry is free to members. At the end of the event there will be the usual chicken and drinks (free) and the AGM.

## Calender of Events 2023

Our events are listed on Eventor and it has the events for this year listed already. We are also looking for people to course set each event. Please advise the Secretary (Ross Slater) of your interest. There are some events listed for newcomers to course set (help is available if you ask).

Jim Russell is organising the BendiGo ToDay this year at Boot Hill, a new Neil Barr area near Dunolly on the 25th and 26th Feb. The event is on [Eventor](#), and also on our [website](#). Keep watching for details.

## Membership for 2023

Your 2023 membership fee is due now and it can be paid via Eventor. Last year 2022 our membership fee was \$50 and it may be the same or less (decided at the AGM). If the fee is lower and you have already paid you will receive a refund of the difference.

## Notice of the AGM (Sunday Feb 5<sup>th</sup>)

The AGM is always an important meeting but next year will see plenty of change in the committee. After 3 years as President Craig Feuerherdt is stepping down. The position of Treasurer is also vacant. The committee roles aren't arduous but it is essential they be filled. Please consider helping out this year.

## Newcomers welcome in 2023! By Julie Flynn.

After successfully implementing our Come and Try It events last year, Bendigo Orienteers is offering a series of events early in the 2023 season to encourage newcomers to try orienteering and enjoy the experience while they are learning the basics...

This series starts in March with 2 Come and Try It (CATI) events on consecutive Saturdays: **18 March: Myers Creek (Kangaroo Flat)**

**25 March: Ironstone Hill (Jackass Flat)**

These free CATI events are designed for newcomers, with 2 courses offered: course 4 (moderate level navigation) and course 5 (easy navigation).

After the CATI events the following 3 foot orienteering events in our calendar will include the normal 5 courses at bush locations close to Bendigo, so that all attendees can enjoy orienteering and our newcomers will be able to access these events easily. We need members to volunteer to organize these events and be available to support newcomers:

**1 April: Stumpy Gully (Maiden Gully)** (followed by the Easter weekend - no local events)

**15 April: Royal George (Maiden Gully/California Gully)**

(followed by the MTBO Vic Championships on 22 April, which Bendigo is organizing)

**29 April: Wildflower Drive (Strathdale/Strathfieldsaye)**

Again, we invite Bendigo members to attend the CATI events to provide guidance and support so that newcomers can enjoy their experience. Last year we had 12 members available to help newcomers and there were over 100 newcomers who attended either one or both of our CATI events (mostly in family or friendship groups). Many of these newcomers attended more events throughout the season. Seventeen became members of our club. Our members who volunteered at the CATI events reported that they enjoyed helping others to learn orienteering. The most effective advertising for these events is via friends and Facebook, so please remind your friends about these events, and our club will again boost the advertising on social media. The details of these events can be found on Eventor, so you can tell your friends.

Anyone who wants to help out at our Come and Try events must have a current Working With Children card or have made an application for one.

Applications can be made online at the following site (copy and paste this url):

<https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>

If you are a Bendigo member and want to help at a Come and Try It event, please let Julie Flynn know (email: [julieflynn@fastmail.fm](mailto:julieflynn@fastmail.fm) or 04295496422)

## What does 2023 offer the orienteer? By Neil Barr.

We are standing on the cusp of a new local orienteering season. This year the club fixture offers 26 local events – reduced a little from previous years. This count

includes six training events and 16 Bendigo Bush events. The highlights depend on your point of view.

For those seeking orienteering close to Bendigo, the regular season starts with events at Stumpy Gully, Royal George and Wildflower Drive. You can't get much closer to town than these and still enjoy good bush orienteering.

For the orienteer seeking challenging terrain, there are two new maps in the fixture. One is gravel pit mining terrain near Dunolly. This is the venue for the Bendi-Go To-Day on the last weekend in February. The other new terrain is scheduled for mid-May. This is Mallee and reef mining terrain on the edge of Inglewood. This is very different to anything else in Victoria. These maps won't be used in 2024, so don't miss out. In mid-September there are events on Mt Korong and at Kooyoora. If you can't get lost here, you probably never will.

If you are looking for an easy way to try course setting for the first time, there are six training events on maps close to town. These events are scheduled on the day before State events so we expect entrants will be limited to local orienteers. The format will be simpler than usual. We expect no more than 15 controls will be used and there won't be a computer to manage. It should be a stress-free introduction to the joy of setting courses and confusing your friends.

Some orienteers like to travel to State events run by a variety of orienteering clubs. There are ten or so this year in a mix of terrains. Some are on bush terrain around Castlemaine and Daylesford. Think of these as a Bendigo local event (much the same format) but with someone else doing the work (except that Bendigo is organising one of these State events at Campbell's Creek). Some other State events are in mixed park and bush terrain close to Melbourne or Ballarat.

Finally, for those who like to travel to big national carnival events across Australia, 2023 has three carnivals, none organised by our State. The first was in Tasmania over January. If you missed that one, then you only have to wait till Easter when there are events in granite terrain around the Cooma area. The end-of season Australian Championship carnival is in Western Australia and it continues the granite theme. For the travelling orienteer this is a chance to combine orienteering with a trip to see the West.

Whatever your tastes, 2023 offers something for you. Grab the opportunities. You never know when the next lockdown will hit..

## Committee for 2022

President: Craig Feuerherdt

Vice President: Jim Russell

Secretary: Ross Slater

Treasurer: Alison Radford (and Craig)

Committee members: John Wilkinson, Julie Flynn,

Newsletter for 2022: Peter and Dianne Searle.