

# Bendigo Orienteers

Newsletter December / 2023



Above: David Brownridge with his trophy for setting the Best Leg in a 2023 course. Photo: Jenny Ball

The November issue of this newsletter was to be the last for the year 2023 but there are sufficient items to produce a December issue and to wish you all a Merry Christmas. We hope that you will re-join early next year for an exciting year of Orienteering in our local bush.

The Break up event was held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November at Victoria Hill reserve and 20-30 members turned up, some with partners. A really nice BBQ social evening was held in good conditions. A highlight was the presentation of Life Membership to Daryl Fleay. Thanks to Julie Flynn and Neil for organising things.



Daryl Fleay being presented with Life Membership by President Neil Barr  
Photo: Jenny Ball.

## Life membership by Neil Barr

Every once in a while our club recognizes a substantial and sustained contribution to the club over many years by awarding an Honorary Life Membership. In 2023 another person was added to the small list of Honorary Life members. Here are the speech notes used to announce the award.

“If any of you watch the SBS quiz show that comes on before the news, you will know of a segment “Slow Burn”. Here is a slow burn for you.

This person attended the inaugural meeting of the club in 1977.

After a year as President, this person acted a Treasurer for six years.

This person followed this by acting as Public Officer for another 16.

This person has been involved in the creation of seven of the club’s maps. In doing so, certain pits on the Wildflower Drive map were named in this person’s honour.

It is course setting where this person has made his greatest contribution to the club. This has included setting for the WOC spectator events, State Championships, Australian Championships, World Ranking events.

Such is the reputation of this person as a course setter, there are Melbourne orienteers who make the drive to Bendigo specifically when they see this

person's name listed as setter, but will come for no other local event. This explains why the only local event I can remember with over 100 entries was one set by this person on Diamond Hill South.

Perhaps the greatest legacy of this person has been his enthusiasm for mentoring aspiring course setters. He has instilled in other course setters (including myself) -THE AIM IS NOT TO MAKE A HARD COURSE, BUT TO MAKE AN ENJOYABLE COURSE. I like to think of this as a course which orienteers enjoy and which enables them to feel they have navigated well in a challenging course... in other words, a course that flatters them.

Yes, I have learnt from this person and changed my course setting in response. I have acted as a controller for this person and I can tell you it was an easy task. Not only does this person make enjoyable courses, but also enjoyable course setting experiences.

So, I ask that **Daryl Fleay** come forward to accept a token of our esteem for his contribution to the sport of orienteering in Bendigo.

## The Vera Shelton Award

The VS is awarded annually by the President for the person or persons who the President judges has made an outstanding contribution to the club in the past year. The trophy is named in honour of the late Vera Shelton, who passed away whilst orienteering on One Tree Hill. It has been awarded each year since 1995 (with the exception of 2020 and 2021)

The first recipient was Ian Johnson, awarded by Colin Walker in recognition of Ian attending every Bendigo event in the year. There are now 22 names on the trophy. The front is full and the back is now being used.

The President chose two people as the 2023 winners. There are two previous precedents for this cop out when you don't want to make an impossible decision.

This year the trophy went to - Ross Slater and Craig Feuerherdt

Craig stepped down from President after a long stint before and through covid when it was almost impossible to escape the role. Rather than take a well-earned break, Craig took on the role of Treasurer to bed down a new era of digital banking for the club. This will stand the club in good stead for the future and I am very grateful.

Ross has been Secretary. This simple sounding role has included many additional tasks that Ross has taken. Perhaps the most important has been setting up our events on Eventor for the coming season. Without this work, there would be no events. When faced with the decision to cancel the 3hr twilight event, Ross was the person to put up his hand to organise. Again, I am grateful for this contribution to the club.

I will let Craig and Ross decide where the trophy lives for the next 12 months. Observation- The Vera Shelton Trophy is now full, and putting name plaques on the back is not sensible. Its time for a new trophy. My recommendation is that the next trophy be named in honour of the orienteer who made the current Vera Shelton trophy – Peter Creely.

## The Golden Leg Award

In 2010 John Chellew set the courses on the Sedgwick North map. The first leg on his course 1 was masterful. It generated much discussion and the consensus was that it deserved an award – so Peter Creely made one. The trophy has a map of John's Golden Leg and a golden leg. Each year club members vote for the winner based on a selection of the best legs drawn from LiveLox uploads.

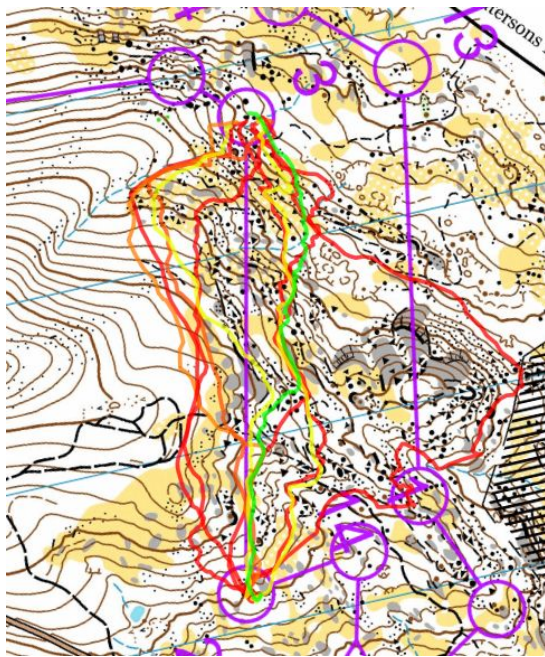


2023 was the tenth awarding of this trophy. Previous winners were John Chellew, Daryl Fleay, Ilka Barr (twice), Jim Russell, Peter Searle, Clare Brownridge, Neil Barr and Lorraine Leversha and Nola Juniper. If you want to have a crack at winning this award, you need to see what type of legs win, volunteer to organise an event and importantly, set on a suitable map. The list of past maps on the award are – Sedgwick (twice), Kooyoora (twice), Mt Tarrengower, Wattle Gully, Mandurang, Mt Egbert and Kalimna. What each of these maps have in common is lots of contours.

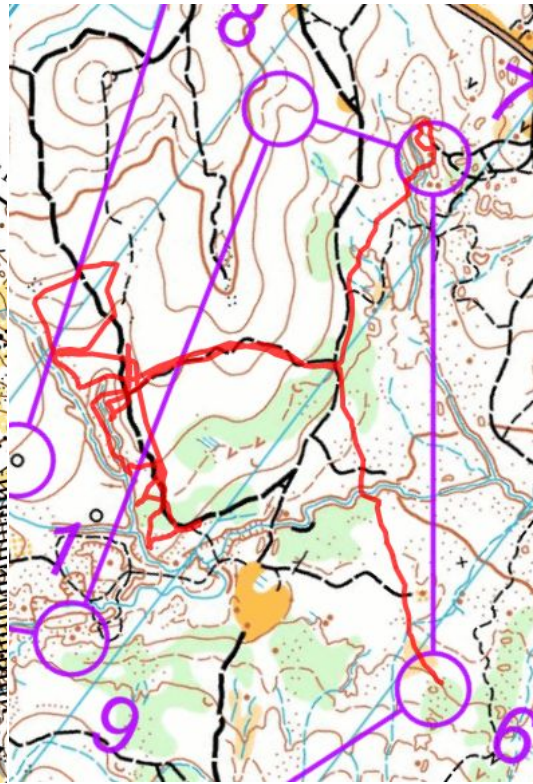
The voting for 2023 was close with eight members receiving votes from their peers. The place getters were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> David Brownridge on Mt Tarrengower 23 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Neil Barr on Psalm Singing Gully 20 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Craig Feuerherdt on Mt Kooyoora 16 points

Other setters recognized by votes from the club members present were Peter Forbes, Julie Flynn, Ricky Thackery, the Tavernas and Ted van Geldermalsen.



*Golden or Best leg*



*Noodle leg*

## **The Noodle Award**

The club subscription to the LiveLox service allows orienteers to automatically upload their route traces for all to see. For the orienteer this gives the opportunity to review one's run and look for ways to improve performance. It helps course setters assess how successful were their attempts to set challenging legs – and we all benefit from this. Finally, the uploads every now and then provide amusement for the masses. It seems 2010 was a good year for award inauguration. In that year Julie Flynn set a frightening leg that took runners across some of the vaguest Mosquito Creek terrain into a series of parallel gullies. One orienteer spent over an hour in a failed search for the first control before giving up and walking back to the start, passing very close to the elusive control. There was consensus on seeing the uploaded GPS route that this achievement merited some tangible recognition. Once again, Peter Creely created an award. The trophy features a boxed replica of Chinese noodles and a copy of the map with the route of the first winner.

There have been six winners since 2010. All are experienced orienteers who let matters get away from them for a short time, and were considerate enough to upload their route to LiveLox. I won't list the past winners, but instead note the spirit in which the award has been received by one member. He commissioned a running top with his noodle printed on it and the words – "Don't follow me – I won the Noodle Award". I have often wondered if the club should invest in an emblazoned running top for the winner annually.



This year the award was won by another experienced and quite fast orienteer with a runaway tally leaving the other placegetters (all related) a long way behind.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Thea Richardson 41 votes
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Charlie Richardson 21 votes
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ben Orphin 20 votes

### **2023 Medallions (by Neil Barr)**

We announced the winners of the various classes in our local event series. The criteria for selecting the winners was as follows-

- Open to club members only
- Based upon the best 11 of the 17 Bendigo Bush events
- To qualify an orienteer needed to participate in a minimum of 4 events in any class
- Each course had separate awards for male and female.
- Points were allocated according to placing amongst club members - 10 points for 1<sup>st</sup>, 9 for 2<sup>nd</sup> etc

M1	1. Ben Goonan	2. Bryan Keely	3. James Robertson
W1	No award		
M2	1. Neil Barr	2. Charles Brownridge	3. Don Cherry
W2	1. Louise Hall	2. Thea Richardson	3. Jackie Knee
M3	1. Peter Searle	2. Peter Forbes	3. Nigel McGuckian
M4	1. John Wilkinson	2. Owen Pomeroy	3. Coel May
W4	1. Tamara Cottingham	2. Keely Williams	
M5	1. Leon Slater and Patrick Symes		
W5	1. Bridgit Slater		



Photo: Neil Barr and Patrick Symes (with his medal from Course 5).

A few observations:

- In some classes the count of eligible club members was low. There were none in Women's Course 1, and few in Course 5.
- Of 22 medal winners, only four were in attendance to collect their medal. As a club we need to consider the investment in medals at the end of the season.
- A shortage of trophies on hand led to a decision not to award trophies this year. If you still have one from last year, we would appreciate its return.
- If you missed collecting your medal for 2023, it will be available at the first event next year.

## **Bendigo 2023 committee:**

President: Neil Barr Vice President: Julie Flynn Treasurer: Craig Feuerherdt  
Secretary: Ross Slater Members: John Wilkinson, Nola Juniper.  
More committee members are welcome.

### **Send in reports / articles.**

Please forward any articles for the newsletter to John Wilkinson,  
[johnwbmw@gmail.com](mailto:johnwbmw@gmail.com) as Word documents, and photos separate as  
JPG's.

**Thank you to those who have contributed to the newsletter this year.**

**Merry Christmas to everyone.**

**END**