

Bendigo Orienteers

Newsletter April / 2023



Photo by Don Cherry (Come and Try event)

Highlights...

Welcome members to the April edition of Bendigo's O newsletter.

March 26th saw our first Come and Try event for the year and 1st April saw our first Saturday series event run on Stumpy Gully map – and we had a good number of people turn up for both events. See report on Come and Try from Julie below.

At Stumpy Gully, best on C1 was Bryan Keely, C2 Shayne Hill, C3 Allan Kuffer, C4 Warwick Davis and C5 Akira Hill. Thanks to Ross Slater for course setting and organising the day. Results on Eventor.

At the Vic Club Relays on April 2nd in Ballarat, the only Bendigo team (David Brownridge, James Robertson and Wai Nang Chung) came 6th in C1.

There are two large state events in April and early May that Bendigo is organising – we need your help (see below) !

Membership for 2023

Your 2023 membership fee is due now and it can be paid via Eventor. This year 2023 our membership fee has been reduced to \$35 to encourage more people to join.

Please update your contact details when re-joining.

Coming events

Our events for this year are listed on Eventor. Please also enter via Eventor.

15 April ... Local: Royal George (Eaglehawk). Setter: Peter Forbes.

22/23 April ... MTBO Castlemaine Vic champs (Bendigo is organiser) **Help needed.**

29 April ... Local: Wildflower Drive. Setter: Anne Robinson.

6 May ... NOL and State Series Day 1, Castlemaine (Wattle Gully map). **Help is needed as Bendigo is the organiser. See below.**

7 May ... NOL and State Series Day 2. Wattle Gully map. Help needed.

13 May ... Local: Sedgwick. Setter: Don Cherry

NOTE: Helpers are always required at club events, especially at the end when controls have to be collected (if each member helps out at 4 events for the year it makes life much easy).



Photo. J. Wilkinson Assembly at Stumpy Gully 1st April 2023.

Come and Try Orienteering Report, 25th March, Ironstone Hill (By Julie Flynn).

About 60 people participated in this event, most came with family or friends. Seeing people smile as they approach the download on completing their first orienteering event makes me smile and warms my heart! Providing a fun experience for new orienteers is enjoyable and also vital for the survival of our sport.

Many of the newcomers from this CATI event will attend events over the next few weeks and we must continue to openly welcome them and help them to enjoy orienteering. This means chatting with newcomers and showing them you are interested in their orienteering experience. For most of them, how they are welcomed

over the next few weeks will determine whether they continue to orienteer. Please take an interest, get to know some newcomers and find out if you can support their skill development.

We offered two courses: an easy course 5 of 2.5km and a moderate course 4 that was 3km. Ironstone Hill can be a bit confusing because the tracks are sometimes unclear. Most people did course 5 (18 groups), with 5 groups doing course 4, and 2 individuals and one pair who completed both courses.

When we asked for feedback, 84% of respondents scored their enjoyment at 5 out of 5, with a few scoring 4/5 and one child scored their enjoyment at 3/5. All attendees stated they would like to come again.

Social media was again the main source of information about this event, 78% of people nominated facebook. Two people found information from websites (City of Greater Bendigo and Bendigo Orienteers). Two families had attended an event at White Hills Primary School earlier in the week, organised by Craig Feuerherdt at the Botanical Gardens where over 100 students and their fathers participated.

Acknowledgement of volunteers:

Thanks to the following club members for volunteering your time, helping people enjoy an orienteering event and making this so successful: Jim Russell, John Wilkinson, Jenny Ball, Charles Brownridge, Don Cherry, Ilka Barr, Anne Robinson and Peter Searle.

The bushland reserve that we call Ironstone Hill has much adjacent new housing under construction, and the bushland is strewn with rubbish, mostly blown there from the nearby building sites. Thanks to several of our volunteers who tidied up the assembly area before people arrived. The bushland adjacent to the assembly area was much more attractive as a result.

Thank you for your efforts Julie (Ed.).

Changes to Bendigo 2023 committee:

President: **Vacant** Vice President: Julie Flynn Treasurer: Craig Feuerherdt
Secretary: Ross Slater Members: John Wilkinson, Nola Juniper.

April 22/23 ... Victorian MTBO Sprint Championships - Volunteers needed

The 2023 Victorian MTBO Championships will be held near Castlemaine on the 22/23 April. The Sprint and Middle events will be on Saturday, with the Long event on Sunday.

Bendigo is the organising club for the Sprint event with James Robertson course setter and Peter Searle organiser. As the Sprint and Middle events use the same mapped area, Bendigo and Bayside will share the running of the two events.

Bendigo will look after the start for both events and Bayside will provide a finish team.

Volunteers needed: A team of 6 people will be needed to set up and run the start procedure for each competition. The Sprint team will be needed from 9.00 am and the Middle team from 1.00 pm. Each start will take approximately 75 minutes.

If you can help out in the morning, the afternoon, or both, please let Peter Searle know ASAP at: pd.searle@bigpond.com or Ph 0448 158 131

Sat May 6th + Sunday May 7th 2023 Helpers Needed

Bendigo Orienteers is also organising the Vic Series event / NOL event on Saturday May 6th at Spring Gully Castlemaine (near Fryerstown). Helpers are needed for this event. There are 3 events on Saturday and 2 on Sunday.

Organiser: John Wilkinson, Ph 54706349 or email <johnwbmw@gmail.com>.

Helpers needed ...

1. Parking and set up on Saturday morning (4 persons)
2. Start (3 persons)
3. Registration Sat morning, afternoon. (2+2 persons)
4. Results / finish desk. (2 persons).
5. Control collection (8 persons maybe Saturday or Sunday pm).
6. General helpers (4 persons).

Further details will be sent out via email before the event. Let John know if you can help.

Notice from O Vic President.

At the OV AGM in May, I will be standing down from my role as OV President. I have been flagging this intention for several years; originally I intended to stand down in 2022, but I stayed on last year to assist with the National carnival.

I have talked to various people about joining the board, without success. I am hoping you can assist by talking to your own members, or even considering joining the board yourself.

The carnival last year demonstrated the strength and skill of our volunteer base. Thankfully this year we can take a break from the big events and re-charge, as we start to organise ourselves for Easter 2025. The roles on the board are both challenging and rewarding, so I am hoping that in this 'quieter' year some new faces can join.

Please take some time to consider this request so the remaining board members are not required to carry a heavier burden. I will be at the relays this weekend, and available to discuss roles on the board at any time, cheers Carl.

Regards,

Carl Dalheim

President | Orienteering Victoria.

END