

Bendigo Orienteers

01 Newsletter February 2024



Above: Enjoying the bush at the Fowl and Fizz O event.

Editorial (by J. Wilkinson)

Our club began the 2024 year with the Peter Creely Memorial Fowl and Fizz O event on Sunday morning 11th February. The event was held on the Ironstone Hill map with an early start to avoid the heat of the day. 18 controls were put out by Ross Slater and 3 members managed to find all controls in the one hour allowed – fastest was David Brownridge, followed by Jim Russell and Neil Barr. Everybody had a good time and were surprised by the high water level in some of the dams on the map. The usual chicken and champagne were enjoyed by everyone after the event. Results are on Eventor. Thanks to those who attended and helped out.

After the event the AGM was held and the following committee was voted in.

President: Neil Barr

Vice president: vacant but now filled by John Wilkinson

Secretary: Ross Slater

Treasurer: Craig Feuerherdt

Committee: Julie Flynn, Nola Juniper

Presidents Report for 2023

Welcome to all the keen orienteers willing to get up early on a Sunday morning. Thanks for the effort. This being the AGM, tradition requires that the President gives a report of the past year. First observation is that the club got through 2023 after a number of months without a President. Never feel yourself to be indispensable.

The Fixture

Our club organised 28 orienteering events in 2023. This included 2 feature events, 16 Bendigo Bush events and 10 lower key events such as this one.

This was 55% of all the bush orienteering events ran in the State. The definition of bush is pushed a little to the park end of the spectrum closer to Melbourne. If you count technical bush orienteering the percentage is closer to 65%. What our club chooses to do with our fixture is important for bush orienteering in Victoria.

The fixture next year will look a little different. The club will organise 20 events including 9 Bendigo Bush. The number of Bendigo Bush events has been shrinking since the covid pandemic. In 2022 the club ran 21 Bendigo Bush events. In 2023 this fell to 16, and is now down to 9. This is in response to trends in volunteer numbers in our club. The same challenge is being faced by many sporting clubs and service organisations across the country.

This decline in the number of Bendigo Bush events doesn't mean there will be less opportunity to get lost in the bush each weekend. What we have done is try to avoid running a Bendigo event on a weekend when there is another orienteering style event in Central Victoria. This might be an orienteering event run by another Victorian club, or a rogaine in some of the better terrain between here and Ballarat. Eureka Club in Ballarat is organizing more bush events this year on some really good maps.

For the volunteers supporting the club events, particularly the small number of computer operators, this change in the fixture reduces the volunteering burden. Some of our lower-key events will not require the use of a computer, further reducing this burden, and hopefully also making it easier for members to learn course setting skills in a relaxed environment.

At the end of the year we hope to canvas the membership to gauge how well this fixture change has been received.

[Bushwalking Book](#)

The club is not sitting still in the face of the near universal trends in a volunteerism recession. We are trying a new approach – publishing a walking book with 35 walks around Bendigo and Heathcote. A similar book in Mt Alexander has entered its third print run in a short time. The book of walks around Daylesford is also selling well.

Our book will be somewhat different from the Castlemaine and Daylesford publications. All the maps will be orienteering standard, the walks will look like easy and moderate courses, and will gradually increase navigational challenge. The book will finish with a section on orienteering and how to attend events around Bendigo. We are hoping that the enjoyment found in walking the walks we have chosen will encourage a small number of people to try local orienteering.

The council has supported the project with a \$10,000 grant. Much of the work has been undertaken by Daryl Fleay and Julie Flynn.

[Easter 2025](#)

As if organizing our event and producing a bushwalking book isn't enough, work continues to bubble along organizing the national Easter competition in 2025 with four local orienteers and one from Ballarat pulling it together under the umbrella of Orienteering Victoria. The events will be on really good terrain that most orienteers will find to be a new experience. Two of the course setters learnt to orienteer as youngsters around Bendigo – Clare and James.

The Easter events are auspiced by Orienteering Victoria rather than individual clubs. So whilst our club is not organizing the event, we will need help from our membership to make the event a success. So keep Easter 2025 free for the chance to experience great orienteering within an hours drive of home, and to help the rest of us make the event happen.

Membership 2024 now due....

Membership of Bendigo Orienteers for 2024 will remain at \$35 for adults and \$6 for juniors (under 21). Entry to events will also remain at 2023 rates. We have paid our affiliation fee to the VOA for \$950 and we have to pay about \$140 per event to Parks Vic for a permit to run each event.

To rejoin, logon to Eventor Australia, login and select My Pages and check your contact details and other info. On the left side hit My Memberships and your name should come up. Click "Apply for Membership" then select year as 2024 and follow the info and pay by Pay Pal.

As of 14th Feb we have 28 people renewed membership. Last year we ended up with 97 members.

Coming O events for 2024

Details of our events are on Eventor (through which you should also pre-enter).

At the end of this newsletter is a Fixture of this years events. The Fixture also lists other events in this region run by other clubs that you may like to enter.

Coming up are:

24th/25th Feb Bendigo ToDay event (two days).

16th March Bendigo Come and Try event. Organiser: Julie Flynn

23rd March Bendigo Bush Series on Lightning Hill (Fiddlers Green East). Organiser:

6th April Bendigo Bush Series Dead Bullock Gully. Organiser: John Wilkinson

This event will have the normal 5 courses, SI timing etc. in old gold mining, eroded gullies, and open bush terrain. Area is between Kangaroo flat and Lockwood.

20th April Bendigo Bush Series. One Tree Hill Organiser

Contact the Secretary, Ross Slater if you want to organize an event.

Vic Relays

The Vic Relays are on March 17 in Royal Park. Ross Slater is the team coordinator for our club.

Your entry is paid by the club. Let Ross Slater (Secretary) know if you want to go. <secretary@bendigo-orienteers.com.au>

Bendigo 2024 committee:

President: Neil Barr

Vice President: John Wilkinson

Treasurer: Craig Feuerherdt

Secretary: Ross Slater

Members: Nola Juniper, Julie Flynn.

Send in reports / articles for newsletter.

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

Fixture for 2024 on next page

An Orienteering Fixture for Central Victoria in 2024 next page

Date	Saturday		Sunday	
	Event	Location	Event	Location
24-Feb	BendiGo ToDay	Whela Hill (Inglewood)	BendiGo ToDay	Whela Hill
Mar-02			Sprint	Uni of Melbourne
Mar-09	Sprint weekend	Ballarat	Sprint weekend	Ballarat
Mar-16	Bendigo CATI	Myers Creek	Vic Relays	Royal Park
Mar-23	Bendigo Bush Series	Fiddlers Green East		
Mar-30	Easter 3 Days	Riverland South Australia	Easter 3 Days	Riverland (SA)
Apr-06	Bendigo Bush Series	Dead Bullock Gully	Ballarat Classic 1	Nerrina, Ballarat
Apr-13	Rogaine	Daylesford	Rogaine	Daylesford
Apr-20	Bendigo Bush Series	One Tree Hill		
April 25	Bendigo CATI	St Justs Point		
Apr-27	Ballarat Classic 2	Petticoat Gully, Creswick		
May-04			Vic Bush 1	Eppalock
May-11	Bendigo Bush Series	Sedgwick North		
May-18			Rogaine Ballarat Classic 3	Fryerstown Bryce's Flat, Creswick
May-25	Bendigo Bush Series	Pilchers Bridge Central		
Jun-01	Bendigo MTBO	Walmer	Vic Bush 2	Irishtown, Chewton
Jun-08			Maxi 3hr	Glenlyon
Jun-15	Rogaine	Muckleford	Ballarat classic 4	Enfield
Jun-22	Vic Bush 3	Barambogie (Chiltern)	Vic Bush 4	M&M Land, Eldorado
Jun-29	Bendigo Basic or Bush	Mandurang Sheepwash	Ballarat Classic 5	Mt Beckworth, Clunes
Jul-06	Bendigo Bush Series	Mosquito Creek		
Jul-13	Ballarat Classic 6	Woovookerang	Rogaine Melbourne Bush	Glenluce South Morang
Jul-20			Vic Bush 5	Tarrengower, Maldon
Jul-27	Bendigo Bush Series	Kangaroo Gully		
Aug-03	Bendigo Bush Series	Fiddler's Green west		
Aug-10	Bendigo Basic or Bush	Peter the Great Gully	Ballarat Classic 8	?
Aug-17	Bendigo Bush Series	Argyle (Heathcote)		
Aug-24			Vic Bush 6	Chewton
Aug-31	Bendigo Basic or Bush	Wildflower Drive	Vic MTBO Champs	
Sep-07	Bendigo Bush Series	Kooyoora North		
Sep-14			Vic Middle Champs	Blackwood
Sep-21			Vic Long Champs	Nuggety, Maldon
Sep-28	Aus Champs	Armidale NSW	Aus Champs	Armidale NSW
Oct-05	Aus Champs	Armidale NSW	Aus Champs	Armidale NSW
Oct-12			Rogaine	Whroo
Oct-19	Twilight?	Mandurang Coolibah		

Oct-26	Twilight 2hr?	Marong Forests		
Nov-02			AW Championship	Wodonga