

Bendigo Orienteers

02 Newsletter March 2024



Above: Enjoying the bush at the Come and Try O event at Myers Creek.

What has happened and what is in the offing (Neil Barr)

Our local orienteering season kicked off over the past month with some notable events and activities. Jim Russell delivered another successful season-opener Bendigo To-Day event using a new map of new terrain to the west of Inglewood. I think the event is best summarized by the comment of a South Australian orienteer who has attended most of the To-Day series over the years – “Best.To-Day.Ever”.

Over the last weekend Julie Flynn ran the first of our two annual “Come and Try It” events on the Myers Creek map. Over 50 newcomers attended, making for a reasonably busy afternoon. We hope to see a few new faces at our regular events. Time will tell. A day later two teams of Bendigo Orienteers participated in the Victorian Relays held in Royal Park, Parkville. Both teams completed their courses without mispunching and achieving a second and third place. Mispunching was the order of the day.

The regular season of 5-course events starts this coming Saturday with an event near Lightning Hill, on the northern outskirts of Eaglehawk. Be prepared for a long leg on the two longest courses. Following that is the Easter carnival in South Australia. Twelve Bendigo Orienteers have entered. Good luck and accurate running for you all.

Come & Try It ... (by Julie Flynn)

We held our first Come & Try It event using the Myers Creek map in Kangaroo Flat on 16th March. We used the same maps and courses planned for the event which was cancelled in 2023 due to a Total Fire Ban.

At least 51 people attended the event and they chose either an easy or a moderate course. Most of these were family groups (parents with young children) or adult friends doing this in pairs. There were about 4 adult newcomers who came alone and went around their course independently. It was a joy to see the pleasure that a young man from the Philippines got from the event. This was his first experience in the bush and he loved seeing kangaroos for the first time.

Thanks to the following members who showed up to help: Jim Russell, Charles Brownridge, John Wilkinson, Nigel McGuckian, Neil Barr and Jenny Ball. The success of these events depends on having members there to help the newcomers.

We asked people after their course to rate their enjoyment and challenge out of 5 and whether they would attend again.

We used facebook to advertise this event and it worked well. This was the source of information reported by a large number of our newcomers.

Everyone reported high levels of enjoyment of their course and most found the challenge in their course not too difficult. No one got lost and they all stated they would like to come orienteering again. They were given information about the next 3 events and we are hoping to see some of them next Saturday at the event on Lightening Hill. If you see someone who looks like a newcomer, please introduce yourself to them and offer some assistance to help get them started.

There is another Come and Try event scheduled for Thursday 25 April, which is the Anzac Day holiday. Thank you Julie for organizing this event (Ed.).

Report on Bendigo ToDay event.

Jim Russell organised and course set this two day event on February 24/25 weekend on the new map of Whela Hill which is just west of Kooyoora. Saturday evening's event was a sprint with 3 courses and 54 entries. Course 1 was won by Patrick Jaffe (MFR). Best Bendigo members were James Robertson (6th) and David Brownridge (5th). Course 2 was won by Sophie Taverna followed by Evan Barr (Bendigo). Alison Radford (Bendigo) came 3rd in Course 3.

Sunday mornings event was a Hagaby with 66 entrants. Course 1 was won by Patrick Jaffe with James Robertson 3rd. Sophie Taverna came 4th in course 2, and Alison Radford 3rd in course 3, with Charles Brownridge 4th. Well done to Jim for organising the event and to those who entered or helped out. Some comments from competitors are listed below.....

Prue Great area, great courses and great mapping by Neil. Can't wait to visit the area again.

Jenny C. Best Bendigo ToDay ever.

Evan Great new map by dad, probably his best yet I reckon. Great courses by jimbo.

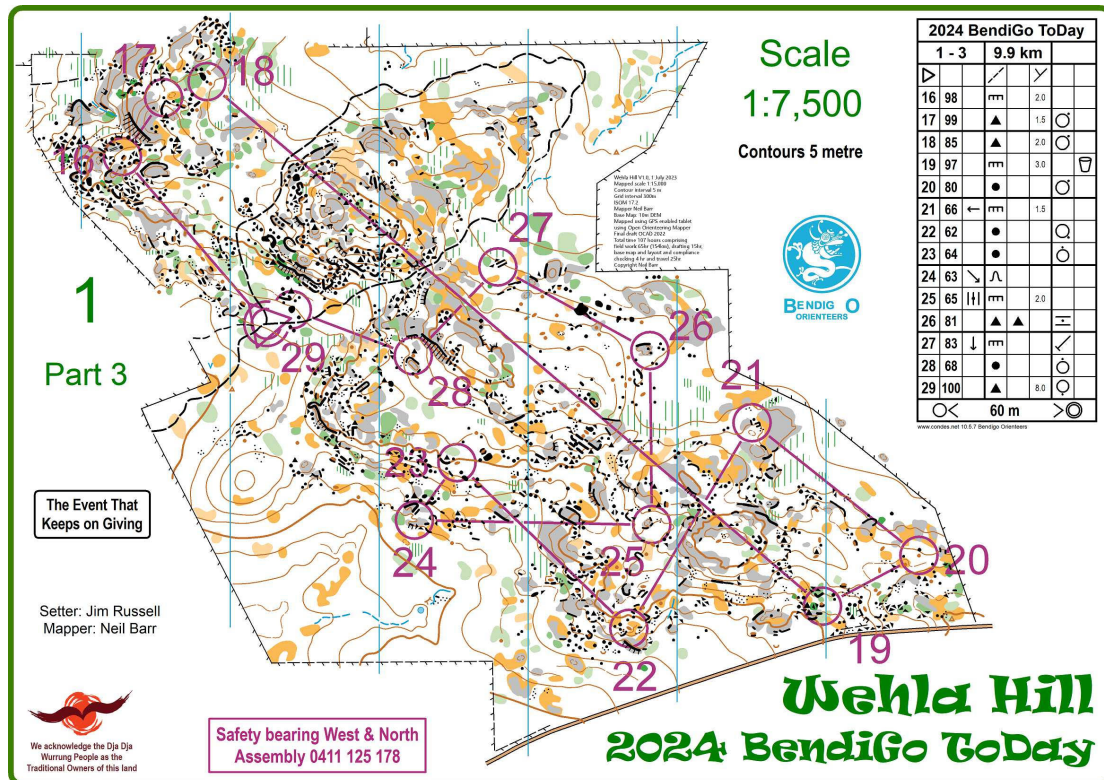
Warwick I've been to plenty of your ToDays, and I think this one was the best!

Tash Hagabys are my favourite of all orienteering events, and what a great area!

Bridget Weeeee orienteering is amazing.

Blair It was a great event as always.

Carolyn It's great socially as well as for the orienteering



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.

To rejoin, go to Eventor Australia on the web, 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 11th March 57 people have renewed their membership.

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:

23rd March Bendigo Bush Series on Lightning Hill (Fiddlers Green East). Organiser: Neil Barr
Normal 5 courses in old mining terrain, erosion gullies, open bush. Eaglehawk area.

6th April Bendigo Bush Series Dead Bullock Gully. Organisers: John Wilkinson/ Jenny Ball.
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 Nigel McGuckian

Looking back By Terry Davidson.

One of the club's early members was Margot Jones who orienteered actively for some few decades from the 1980s. She will be remembered by the 'long-established' of the club who will remember the names of some of her close orienteering friends of that time - Vera Shelton and Phyllis O'Brien. Even close associates of that period may not have been aware that she was quite a talented amateur artist and also inclined to an unusual sense of humor. Friendly and helpful to Terry and Sue Davidson when they arrived as new-comers to the club, she

once sent a page of cartoons to them making a comment on some of the 'perils' involved in the sport. They took the sending to them of these cartoons, not as a serious 'warning', but as a light-hearted 'Margo' joke. Margot is currently living in a village in Strathdale.



Club Relays Report – March 17th.

The club relays O event was held in Royal Park on Sunday March 17th. A small team from Bendigo took part. In course 1, the team of James Robertson, Keely Williams and David Brownridge placed 2nd. In course 3, the team of Prue Dobin, Nicole Williams and Jim Russell came 3rd.

Well done to these competitors and for representing Bendigo Orienteers.

Bendigo 2024 committee:

President: Neil Barr

Vice President: John Wilkinson

Treasurer: Craig Feuerherdt

Secretary: Ross Slater

Members: Nola Juniper, Julie Flynn, James Robertson.

Next committee meeting – 8th April.

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.

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