

Bendigo Orienteers

04 Newsletter May 2024



Above: Assembly area at the Come and Try (CAT) event on 25th April.

Bush O at One Tree Hill

The event at One Tree Hill on the 20th of April attracted 66 entries and 55 cars which filled the parking area around McGuckin's house in Tannery lane. The start finish area was in the garden that was pleasant for the orienteers finishing their courses after the challenge of the steep and rocky hills to the north of Tannery lane. The courses proved to be challenging due to the steep terrain and the times were longer than anticipated. The courses had a number of long legs early and short legs with changing direction near the end. The bush is beautiful at this time of year and the weather was classical Bendigo autumn. I apologise to the less experienced orienteers as I made course 4 and 5 too difficult.

I hope I didn't put anyone off orienteering.

From Nigel McGuckian, course setter.

Come and Try #2

The club held its second Come and Try event on Thursday 25 April, which was the Anzac Day. The area chosen by course setter Julie Flynn was in Eaglehawk. And consisted of old gold mining, open bush and erosion gullies. We had at least 50 people again at the event, and it was so good to see people return with a smile on their face. These events are only successful when there are sufficient members there to assist. The club is grateful for members time and effort to welcome newcomers and help them to have a positive experience of orienteering.

Thank you Julie for organizing this event (Ed.).

Congratulations – a baby boy !

Congratulations goes to Chris and Jackie Naunton on the safe arrival of a baby boy – Theodore was born on Good Friday. Maybe a future O member.

Help Needed... .

1. Computer.. The club is in need of members who can help operate the computer system on event days. Help is available to show you how it works. See Neil Barr if you are interested.
2. Parking cars at events sometimes needs helpers as the course setter is often busy getting competitors started etc. If any member sees parking issues – please feel free to help park cars in an orderly manner.
3. Control collection is required at the end of an event (3 pm). We always require people to help collect controls or help pack up gear – just see the organizer / course setter on the day and offer your services.



Photo above: Assembly area at Sedgwick.

Report: Sedgwick North Bush O event 11th May.

A cool but fine day saw about 70 entries for this event set by Ted Van Geldermarslen. The area used was in the north end of the Sedgwick forest. Ted set some very interesting courses – the harder courses involved a long leg that had competitors choosing different routes.

Course 1 was won by Bruce Arthur followed by his son Torren, with David Brownridge 4th - being the best from our Bendigo club. Course 2 was won by Sophie Taverna, followed by Shayne Hill. Isobel Byne won course 3 with her mother Jacqui close behind. Xavier Ough won course 4 with John Wilkinson 2nd and Akira Hill 3rd. Course 5 saw Kim and Jemma Carter 1st, with Bendigo's Mary Holland 5th, Roger De La Rosa 7th.

Thanks you to those who helped collect controls and to Ted for course setting/organizing.

Membership 2024.

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 6th May we have 82 members. **Welcome to all the new 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:

25th May Bendigo Bush Series. Pilchers Bridge. Setter: Don Cherry

2nd June Vic Series 2 (state event) Glenluce north

22nd June Bendigo Score event Mandurang Setter: Prue Dobbin

There are other events run by other clubs close to Bendigo – see Fixture below.



Having fun at orienteering.... Photo by Di Searle.

Keeping our events happening ... By Neil Barr (President)

My first orienteering event was in mid-1992 on the Mandurang-Coolibah map. I still remember that day, starting out full of confidence that I could navigate... and ending up confused before the first control. After my bout of hubris, I recovered and finished the course and was hooked. Within a year I was attending the Easter and Championship carnivals.

That first event was over 30 years ago. Much has changed in the sport since then, and I wonder if perhaps our thinking about our local event management has kept up with these changes. Thirty years ago the club was organising 30 events each year, with a policy of one organiser and gear to be kept small enough to fit in one car boot. There were only four courses to set.

- Competitors found out about events by reading the newsletter.
- Controls were hanging kites and most organisers placed them on the morning of the event.
- Every event was “enter on the day”, and entry fees were paid cash into a money box using an honour system.
- Between 40 and 50 people attended, and almost all were from Bendigo.
- The single organiser drew master maps for copying onto one of a large stock of mass printed maps without courses.
- Competitors drew their course on a map in competition time and managed their own timing.
- After the event the organiser spent quite some time typing up the results which were then included in a newsletter.
- The cash was counted, banked and reported by the treasurer to the club and levies were calculated manually and paid to the State Association.

Many aspects of event management have changed since then, but three stand out as causing profound changes to local event management.

- Electronic timing, Eventor and on-line entry
- Permitting for events
- Localisation

Electronic timing introduced SI boxes on stands and then locks and wires to protect them. The club lost two SI boxes to theft at our first electronic timing event! Electronic timing streamlined quite a few tasks associated with our events, but they have made the process of control placement and collection more complicated. It takes more time to place and collect controls. The use of a computer has almost eliminated all of the post-event work in the analogue age, but the operation of the computer at the event seems to act as a barrier to potential volunteers. It often requires a tent for protection. Our easy erection tents can't fit in a car boot so we need a club trailer. So someone needs to be able to tow the trailer. Not everyone has a tow bar on their vehicle.

In the 1990s we didn't need to apply for permits for events. At the breakup event at the end of the year we had a blank whiteboard, a selection of maps and marker pen.

Anyone interested in organising an event chose a map and a date and wrote it on the whiteboard. Today we have to start the fixture planning process in the middle of the previous year. There is little flexibility. We have to agree to event dates and locations before most volunteers are able to make a commitment to run the events. Permit conditions now stipulate that there is to be no parking off roads. Many of the areas we

had used for event locations are now unsuitable with these conditions. The club is still coming to terms with this issue.

Localisation is my word to describe the preference for organising events closer to home. In the 1990s Melbourne clubs organised enough events distant from Melbourne on good terrain that few Melbourne orienteers saw the need to attend Bendigo local events. Only Bendigo region residents attended Bendigo events. The trend since then has been to organising events closer to home. In the year before Covid-19 the Bendigo club was organising almost three-quarters of the technical bush orienteering events in Victoria. Almost half of the competitors at Bendigo events lived outside the Bendigo region. Our attendance numbers have at times been over 80. Some time ago we expanded from four to five courses to spread the course load and cater to a wider range of orienteering aspirations.

These thoughts have been precipitated by discussions at the last club meeting where we discussed issues of parking and Enter-On-Day procedures. Both of these are challenging for event organisation at the moment, and prompted day-dreams of how easy it was 30 years ago. Our club has for years tried to stay as close to the club ideal of events capable of being organised by one person. The only change we have made has been to seek volunteers to operate the computer. The Bendigo event model has been adopted by other clubs, but I notice when attending these events that those other clubs don't have one or two people organising the event. They have more.



Photo by Di Searle... Peter was chuffed to find a working blower dumped at the CAT.

Parking ... by Neil Barr (President)

The permits for our club events require us to park on roadsides and not to park off-road. This can be challenging for event organisers as many of the roads we use are narrow and do not have space for parking. At recent events we have had up to 55 cars and we have not fully complied with our permit requirements. We can all do our bit to reduce this problem.

Organisers: The club is interpreting the permit instructions as avoiding parking on any vegetation. Organisers can help by carefully choosing their event site to minimise the risk of parking on vegetation. How much space is available? Do you need someone to help with parking? Can you start on land that isn't managed by Parks or DEECA? Set an example of where to park.

Competitors: Please don't drive off bare surfaces or roads to park on vegetation. You might have to park further from the event than you wish.

Volunteer to help with parking management: At a number of recent events a few of us have looked at the parking situation and taken on the ad-hoc role of managing parking. If you arrive at the event early, please consider the parking situation and if it looks dubious, volunteer to help manage parking. The organiser will appreciate your help. Arriving drivers will also appreciate well-informed advice on where parking is available.

Enter-On-Day

Operating the event computer can be easy or challenging. What makes the difference is the number of Enter-On-the-Day entries. There will always be EODs for the Easy and Moderate courses and we need to manage these. At a recent event we had 20 EODs, and only a modest proportion of these were on the easier courses. This put strain on the event desk as at one point we had two people managing computer entry, novice instruction and parking. It didn't really work. In the rush, errors in entry were made and this was more work to sort out during the finishing process.

- Please make every effort to enter via Eventor. Entries close Friday evening by which time a reliable weather forecast is available. We all forget sometimes, but we shouldn't forget regularly.
- Consider volunteering to manage the computer. I have just updated the instruction book for managing the computer at the event desk. The instructions are in the computer box. Look over someone's shoulder to begin learning the process.
- Consider volunteering to help with newcomers who might need some instruction.

The club discussed this issue at the most recent meeting. Some issues considered were the missing competitors issue and reporting of participation.

- Limiting EOD entries to Course 4,5. The alternative for harder courses would be an all controls map and no entry into the computer- ie no result.
- Reducing the EOD entry fee down to the normal fee as it clearly isn't a disincentive (which one committee member predicted some time ago using Game Theory).
- A separate EOD self-entry process using a QR code.

These matters are still under review. The main criteria considered when assessing any changes will be whether they simplify or complicate event management on the day of the event.

	Bendigo Orienteers	Bendigo Orienteers	Victorian Series	Ballarat Series
	National	Albury Wodonga	Rogaines	Sprints
Saturday Date	Saturday Events	Saturday Venue	Sunday Events	Sunday Venue
May-25	Bendigo Bush	Pilchers Bridge Central-Axe Creek		
Jun-01	Bendigo MTBO	Walmer	Vic Bush 2	Glenluce North
Jun-08			Maxi 3hr	Glenlyon
Jun-15	Rogaine	Muckleford		
Jun-22	Vic Bush 3	Racecourse Ck - Beechworth	Vic Bush 4	Beechworth Gorge
Jun-29	Bendigo Bush or Basic (TBD)	Mandurang Sheepwash	Ballarat Classic 5	Mt Beckworth- Clunes
Jul-06	Bendigo Bush	Mosquito Creek-Axe Creek		
Jul-13	Rogaine - Glenluce	Woowookerang - Ballarat	Rogaine Glenluce	Granite Hills - Sth Morang
Jul-20			Vic Bush 5	Tarrengower
Jul-27	Bendigo Bush	Kangaroo Gully		
Aug-03	Bendigo Bush	Napoleon Gully- Eaglehawk		
Aug-10	Bendigo Bush or Basic (TBD)	Peter the Great - Epsom		
Aug-17	Bendigo Bush	Argyle-Heathcote		
Aug-24			Vic Bush 6	Chewton
Aug-31	Bendigo Bush or Basic (TBD)	Wildflower Drive- Strathdale	Vic MTBO Champs	
Sep-07	Bendigo Bush	Kooyoorra North- Inglewood		
Sep-14	Rogaine	Kara Kara	Vic Middle	Blackwood
Sep-21			Vic Long	Nuggety-Maldon
Sep-28	Australian Champs	Armidale NSW	Australian Champs	Armidale NSW
Oct-05	Australian Champs	Armidale NSW	Australian Champs	Armidale NSW
Oct-12	Rogaine	Whroo		
Oct-19	Twilight?	Mandurang Coolibah		
Oct-26	Twilight 2hr?	Marong Forests		
Nov-02	AWOC Championship?	Chiltern?		

Bendigo 2024 committee:

President: Neil Barr Vice President: John Wilkinson Treasurer: Craig Feuerherdt
 Secretary: Ross Slater Members: Nola Juniper, Julie Flynn, James Robertson.

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

