

# Bendigo Orienteers

05 Newsletter June 2024



Above: Assembly area at the MTBO event at Walmer forest, near Castlemaine.

## **MTBO event June 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Our club was host to a MTBO (Mountain Trail Bike Orienteering) Vic Series event at Walmer forest near Castlemaine on Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup>. The organisers were James Robertson and Jim Russell. There were 57 entries of which 6 were from Bendigo. Helpers were Peter and Dianne Searle and John Wilkinson. In Course 2 for women Katherine McMillan rode well to come 2<sup>nd</sup> and in course 4 women Prue Dobbin came 1<sup>st</sup>. In the score event Louise Hall came 2<sup>nd</sup>. Competitors enjoyed the courses. Thanks to James, Jim and Jayne Sales and helpers.

## **O Vic weekly news.**

If you don't already get the weekly e bulletin from Orienteering Victoria, then here is the link:

[www.vicorienteering.asn.au/get-involved/o-news-weekly/](http://www.vicorienteering.asn.au/get-involved/o-news-weekly/).

## **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.

### **Report: Pilchers Bridge Bush O event 25<sup>th</sup> May.**

A cool but fine day saw 68 entries for this event set by Don Cherry. The area used was in the Pilchers Bridge forest near Eppalock. Don set some interesting courses in open bush terrain that contained few tracks.

Course 1 was won by Torren Arthur followed by Simon Rouse, with Richard Goonan 4<sup>th</sup> and Ben Goonan 5<sup>th</sup>. Course 2 was won by Moira Kuffer with Bendigo's Julie Flynn 3<sup>rd</sup>. Zac Allen won course 3 with Katherine McMillan 3<sup>rd</sup> and Charles Brownridge 4<sup>th</sup> close behind. John Wilkinson won course 4 with Alicia Martin 2<sup>nd</sup>. Course 5 saw Owen Pomeroy 1<sup>st</sup>, with Coel May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Thank you to those who helped collect controls and to Don 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 1<sup>st</sup> June we have 86 members, 71 adults – 28 female/43 males and 15 juniors..

**Welcome to new members: Mark Laidlaw, Matthew Farrington, Maika Ward and Mary Holland.**



Which way will we go ?? Photo by Dianne Searle.

## OVic forest course setter of the year ...

Club member Michael Loughnan recently was awarded OVic Forest course setter of the year. The editor (JW) asked him for a brief report. Here it is ...

“This evening, I was having a quick scroll through the Orienteering Vic Weekly Bulletin. I was surprised to see my name as the forest course setter of the year at the OV AGM awards. Very unexpected!

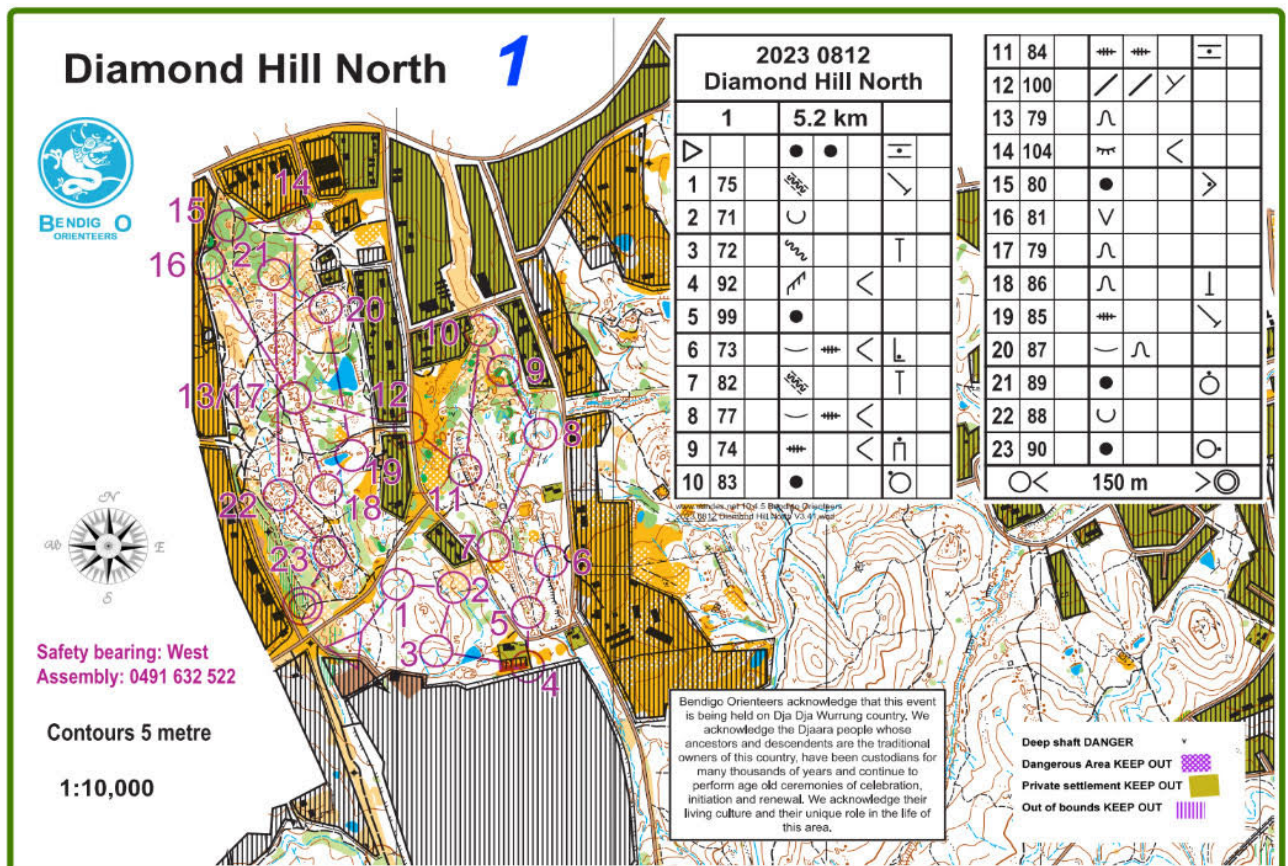
After a quick search, I figured it was for the Diamond Hill North event, which made total sense, as it was a really good course (if I may say so myself). See the course below.

Those who know me well, will know that middle distance in hard, technical terrain is my style of orienteering. That means I set courses to that style, which is what I did. It doesn't look too hard on the surface, but the terrain flow caught a few people out (see Livelox).

Unfortunately, due to other competing events that weekend, the turnout was a little bit on the low side, but it was still nevertheless a good day. For those who missed the event, I am course setting on Adelaide & Apollo Hills on the 10th of August 2024, and everyone is welcome.

I would also like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped out at the event, as it is not possible without other helpers who picked up controls, printed maps, organized permits, etc.”

**Congratulations Michael – well done (Ed).**



## 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:

29<sup>nd</sup> June Bendigo 2 hr Score event at Mandurang Setter: Prue Dobbin

For new members – a score event involves getting as many controls as you can in a set time. Sometimes controls are worth different points.

6<sup>th</sup> July Bendigo Bush O event at Mosquito Creek – setter Neil Barr.

27<sup>th</sup> July Bendigo Bush O at Kangaroo Gully – setter Lorraine Leversha / Nola Juniper.

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

## Wheel Cactus Working Bee Report by Julie Flynn.

Wheel Cactus (*Opuntia Robusta*) is an invasive noxious weed and classified as a Weed of National Significance. It is native to Mexico and grows readily in dry and arid areas. One Tuesday in May a small number of orienteers from Bendigo worked with Parks Vic rangers to kill wheel cactus growing at Mt Egbert. This was our 3<sup>rd</sup> working bee to attack these nasty weeds at that site. In the past we have been provided with injectors and glyphosate to inject directly into the plant's end plates. These have not always resulted in plant death, unfortunately some plants which had been injected are scarred but still thriving.

At the most recent working bee we paired with the rangers. We used drills to make a hole in the base of the plant and the rangers injected a more toxic poison into the plants.

You might wonder what this has to do with orienteering. Wheel cactus has large sharp spikes and very small hairy spikes. It is nasty to run or fall into. It grows very thick and makes route finding very difficult. If this weed is not treated it takes over large areas of really good orienteering terrain which become inaccessible to everything.

Wheel cactus is similar to prickly pear. It grows sweet fruits that many birds enjoy eating and the seeds of the fruit pass through the birds' bodies and deposited in the bird's droppings. A plate can fall off one plant and start growing by putting roots down where it fell....

When Neil made the map of Mt Egbert, he included the locations of all the wheel cactus weeds he saw while field working the area. When we go out to kill cactus, we take an orienteering map with the wheel cactus locations marked. The area is divided into smaller sections and we each cover a small section to make sure all the cactus in that area is treated. It's very helpful for Parks Vic staff to know that we take a systematic approach to this task. We are also trying to build a good relationship with Parks Victoria and showing their staff that we are serious about looking after the areas we enjoy using for orienteering. The team leader is keen for this to become a regular activity.

Some of us are planning to do a free TAFE course in late June which will qualify us to use the poisons that can more efficiently kill wheel cactus.

**Our next working bee is scheduled for Wednesday 3 July, and we encourage any interested members of Bendigo Orienteers to get involved. Please let Julie Flynn know if you are able to attend and help to kill wheel cactus on that day.**

**Email: [julieflynn@fastmail.fm](mailto:julieflynn@fastmail.fm)**

	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	Woowoorkerang - 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	Kooyoora 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](mailto:johnwbmw@gmail.com) as Word documents (in Times), and photos separate as JPG's