

# Bendigo Orienteers

06 Newsletter July 2024



Above: Enjoying soup at the end of the Score event at Mandurang.

## **Score O event June 29<sup>th</sup>**

Prue Dobbin organized a score event at Mandurang south on Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately it was a cold and wet day but around 40 competitors braved the conditions to compete. In this type of event you have to get as many controls as you can in the time allowed. This means competitors can go in any direction they wish. Wet clothes were the order of the day. Prue made a large pot of soup for competitors to enjoy when they finished and this was really welcomed. Thank you Prue. Clare also brought some cake.

Thanks to Neil, Prue and those who helped to pack up in the wet. Controls had to be collected the next day – again, thanks to those who volunteered.

## **Services to Orienteering in Victoria award.**

Jim Russell recently received an award for Services to orienteering in Victoria. This is Orienteering Victoria's top award and is presented in recognition of outstanding service to Victorian orienteering, particularly over the preceding 12 months. The award was presented to Jim for his organisation of the NOL weekend, the annual Bendigo ToDay weekend, Victoria's NOL manager, and constant support of finishes, result displays, and assistance at the Schools Championships.

**Congratulations Jim – well done !**

## Course setting on Mosquito Creek 6<sup>th</sup> July by Neil Barr

Analysis of your course setting efforts helps you learn to set better courses next time. It also improves your orienteering by helping you recognize the challenges set by other course setters. Winsplits and Livelox are excellent tools for this so take advantage of them. Here is my analysis of my recent course setting effort on Mosquito Creek. I had some successes – legs with fair control placements (a subject for another article) that challenged many orienteers.

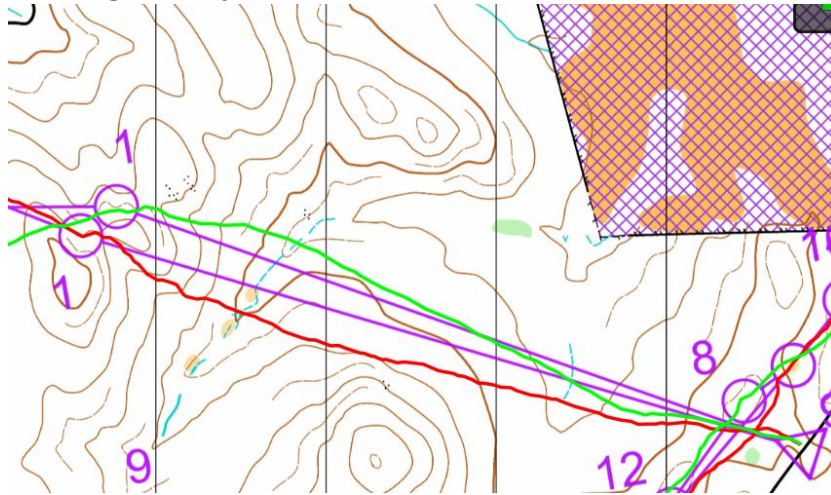


Figure 1 Successful compassing to control 1

**C1,2 Leg 1:** The first leg was a variant on a classic leg set by Julie Flynn that led to the creation of the Noodle Award. This time Courses 1 and 2 had different controls at the top of different gullies and offset from the saddle to an adjacent shallow gully (Figure 1). The challenge for the orienteer was to navigate across a 1.3 km long, featureless leg and hit the correct gully.

I expected that some would navigate up the incorrect of these two gullies and then be beguiled by the wrong control to the south west. Half of the runners in these courses navigated without error, based on data from Winsplits and Livelox. Two examples of successful execution of the leg are shown in Fig 1. Both orienteers basically followed a bearing with small adjustments towards the end based upon their reading of the contours.

The obverse to the success statistic is that 50 per cent of runners on these courses made a significant error. Seven lost significant time (over 10 minutes), and another four did not find the control at all. The main errors were running up gullies A or B (Fig 2). In gully B a simple orientation of the map would reveal the problem. The gully runs north, not west. Gully B is more problematic because it is aligned in the same direction as gully C. However, once arriving at its top, the absence of small gullies to the left should help relocation. In the error shown, the orienteer has turned right on the assumption they are in gully C without interpreting the terrain near the saddle.

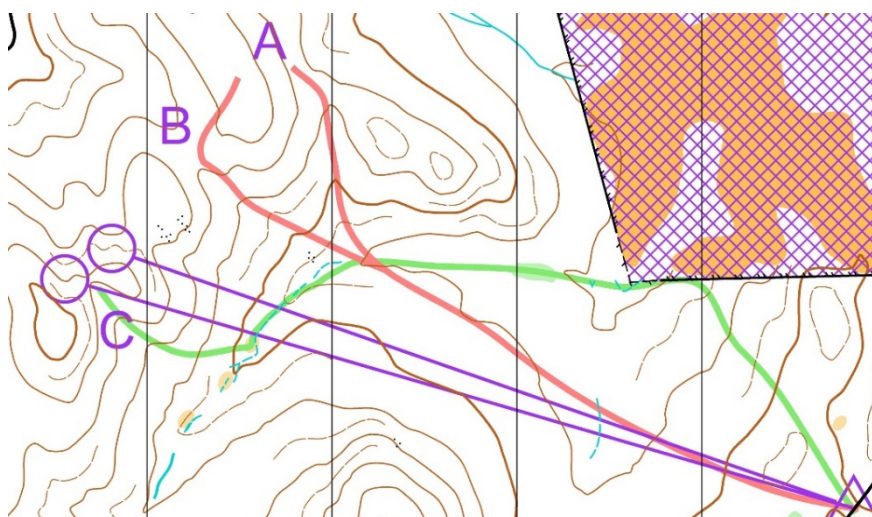


Figure 2 Errors and a solution for control 1

The green line in Figure 2 shows a suggested longer but safer route for those not confident with their compass. It breaks the leg into three shorter legs. The first is an easy trip to the fence

corner – in fact a moderate course leg this day. The second is up the broad gully to the west until arriving at the water course bend. From here the third stage is either further along the watercourse to the next bend (obvious) and up the nearby gully to the course 1 control, or heading on a bearing diagonally up the hill to the middle gully to the Course 2 control. Map orientation and a little thinking should make the leg safer. If lost, don't just run around hoping to see the control. Treat your situation as a test of deduction with the map and terrain providing the clues. What can you see around you (eg what direction is the gully heading?). Work out where on the map this might be true.

**C1,2 Legs 2,3:** The next navigational challenge on the course was to be leg four. The course needed to get the competitors on courses 1 and 2 to control 93 to start leg 4. If I took them straight to this control (green line on Figure 3), the result would be a “dog-leg”. Competitors would likely run into control 93 over the saddle and then back out over the same saddle. This is not good course setting for two reasons. First, runners leaving control 93 show the runner approaching where the control is located. Second, it is boring to run over the same ground twice. The solution was to place a control between 107

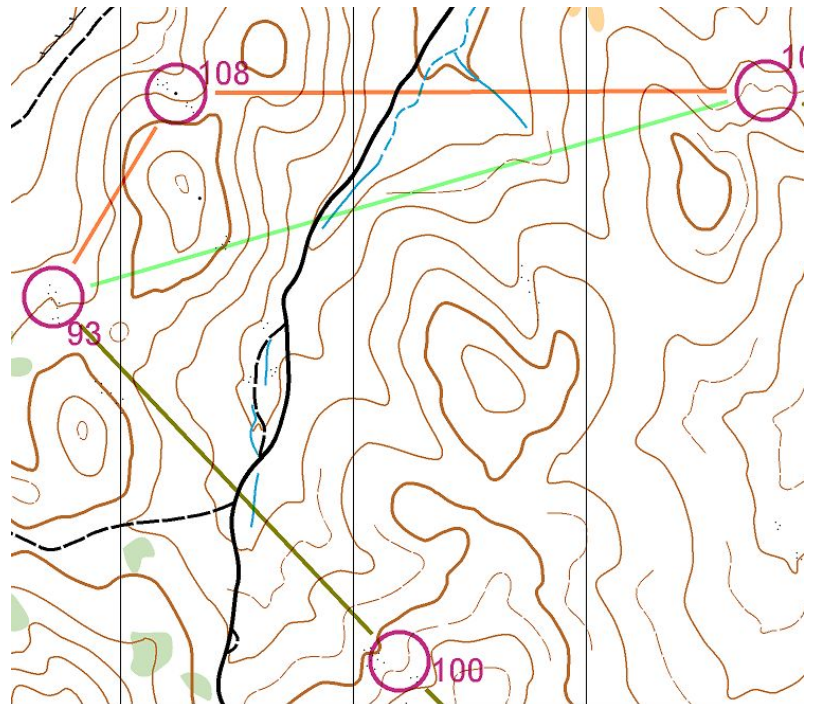
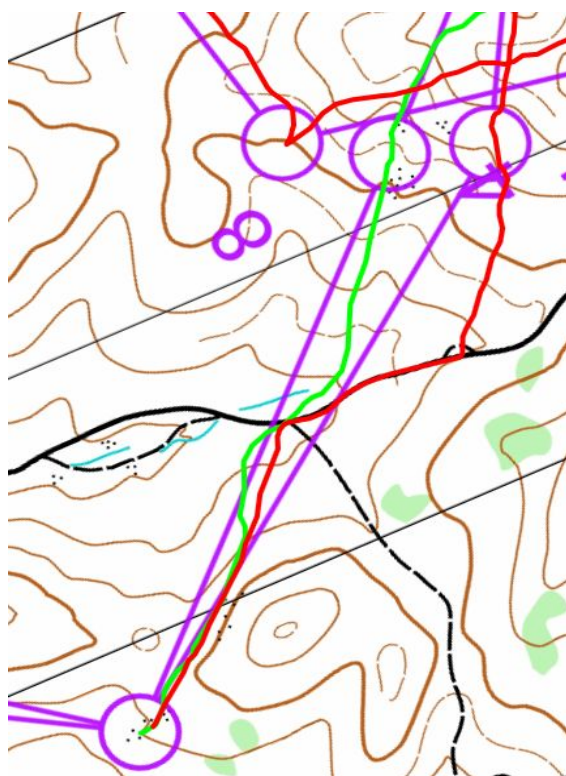


Figure 3 Legs 2,3



and 93 (orange line on Figure 3). As a bonus, I could use one of the two “new” boulders I found whilst field-working.

**C1,2 Leg 4:** Control 93 was the beginning of another parallel gully challenge. There are three parallel gullies, each with a control (Figure 4). That meant two decoy controls and for course 1 and course 2. Each of these controls was more than 60 metres apart as required by orienteering course setting rules. Condes course setting software has a tool to highlight any controls you place too close to each other. Unlike leg 1, this leg caused few problems for orienteers. The road before the gullies provided

Figure 4 Leg 4 into parallel gullies

two clear attack points and most used these to set up the run into the correct gully. In retrospect this was a poorly designed leg. It might have worked if tracks had been removed from the map. Future course setters might consider a traverse into the three gullies from the left to avoid the track-based attack points.

**C1,2 Leg 5:** The following fifth leg was another parallel gully challenge. Course 1 went from 94 to 102 (the red line on Figure 5) Course two went from 100 to 106 (orange line) These legs were carefully arranged:

- Both controls were placed down the main gully past the bend or in a side gully so the control flags were not visible whilst running down either of the parallel gullies.
- The two courses crossed over each other. This was to encourage following another competitor to perhaps the wrong control.

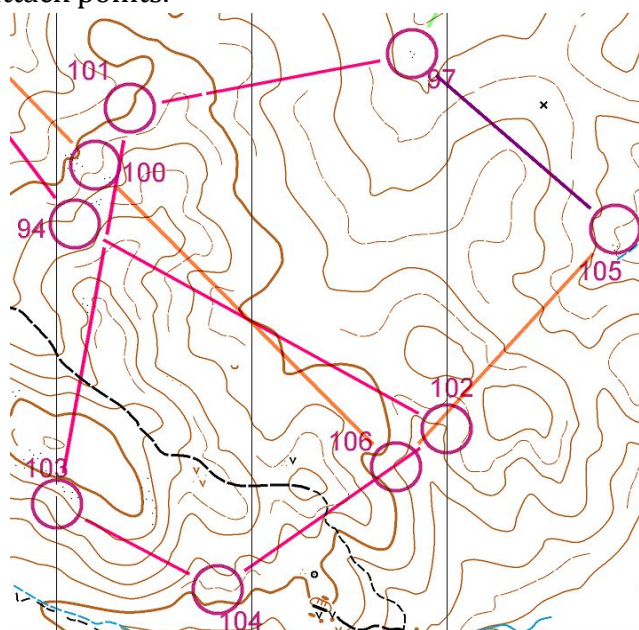


Figure 5 Where courses 1 and 2 diverged

Course 2 competitors had little trouble with this leg. Forty per cent of course 1 competitors lost time. This may be because the direct line on course 1 went over some vaguer contours towards the end. It may also have been because the success of course 1 runners on the previous leg may have induced over-confidence.

**C1 Leg 6:** From control 5 courses 1 and 2 diverged. Course 1 competitors were off to 104, facing a hanging gully challenge. After crossing the track they have four gullies to cross... except that not all gullies go to the top of the hill. If you are too high on the hill you will cross only two gullies. Only 14 per cent made errors here as the leg was short. Most LiveloX traces show runners heading purposefully lower to avoid climb and to be sure of their gully count.

**C1 Leg 7:** The leg from 104 to 103 was a “transport” leg, the main purpose being to set up the following leg from 103 to 101.

**C1 Leg 8:** This leg was a new challenge – descending a branching spur network. If you follow the spur from the track at the ridge top you need to make four “left or right” decisions as the spur branches. Descending spur legs with lots of branching are hard to find so make use of any you come across as a course setter. Control 101 had also acted as a decoy control on leg 4. On this leg there were controls 94 and 100 to act as decoys in return. A third of course 1 competitors lost time here and in at least one case the decoy controls caused this time loss.

**C1 Leg 10, C2 Leg 6, C3 Leg 3:** Control 105 was again placed in one of a number of parallel gullies. Course 2 runners descended a gully into the area and had no problems. Course 1 runners made a descending traverse into the gully and a third lost time. On the same leg, going slower, course 3 runners had few problems. I could have improved this leg for course 1 by dropping control 97. This would have made the leg much harder. Lesson for course setters is to check whether you need each control. What does

the course look like without the control? Sometimes getting rid of a control improves the leg.

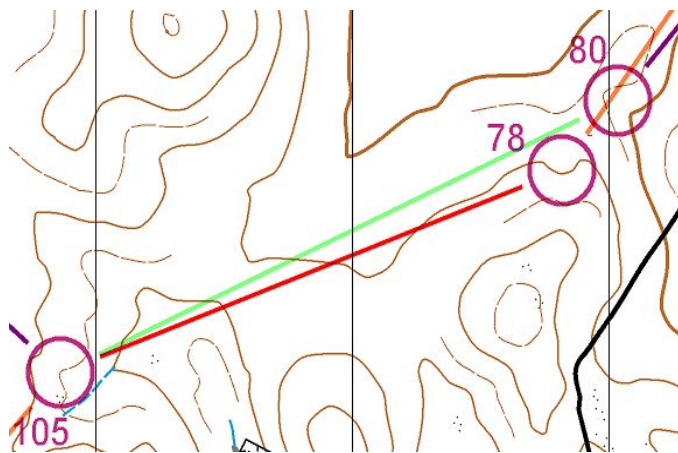
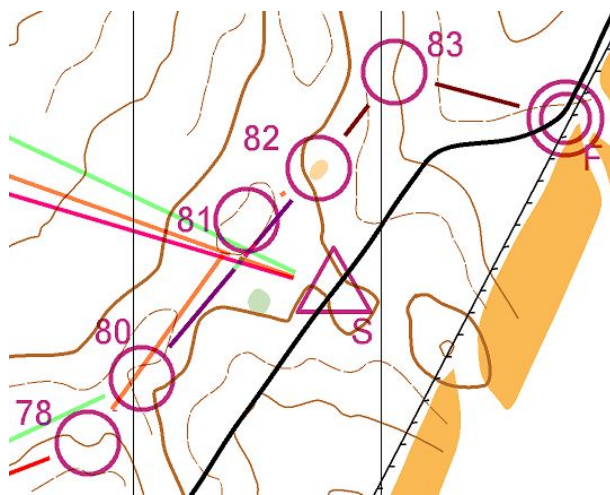


Figure 6 Heading back to the ridge

**C1 Leg 11, Course 2 leg 6, Course 3**

**Leg 4:** This was the leg to return runners to the ridge near the road (Figure 6). I thought that control 78 might be challenging, but it didn't work out that way with competitors on C1 and C2 having little trouble. Control 80 was an afterthought to split course 3 runners from the other hard courses. I thought it would be a modest challenge, but was surprised that a quarter of course 3 runners lost time on it.



**The final run along the broad ridge:**

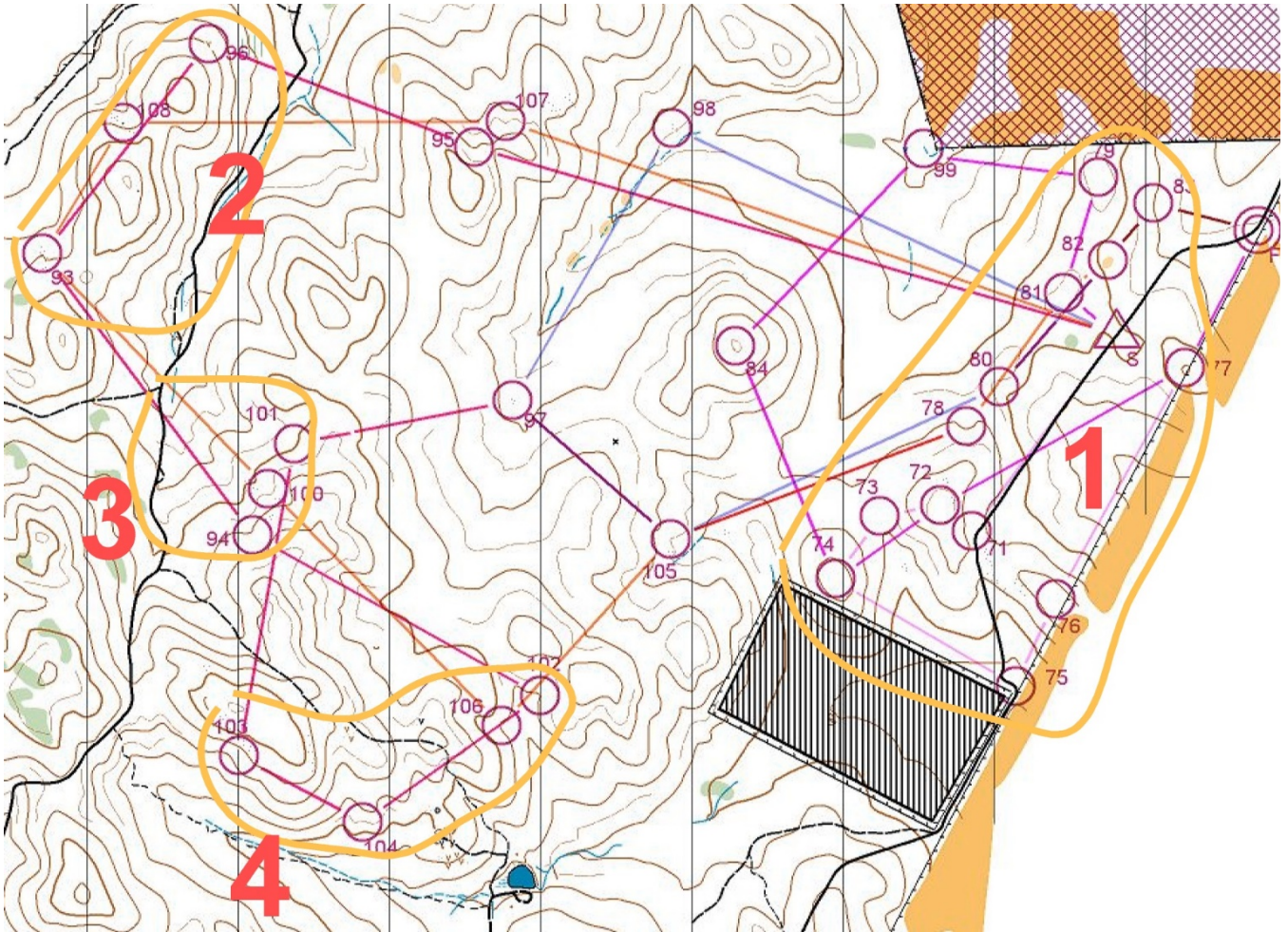
There isn't much detail near the start area but I managed to find three control points in vague features and divided them between three hard courses (**Error! Reference source not found.**). I thought 81 and 82 might cause some problems, but it was the last control whose only purpose was to ensure a run along the road was not a viable route choice. Eight competitors lost time here. Lesson – concentration wains with one

Fig 7. Three controls along the ridge to finish.

control to go so design your last control so competitors have to actually navigate to it.

**Efficiency:** Course setting is often a compromise between course quality and organizational efficiency. More controls can mean more work. I used 30 controls which is a little more than the average for a local course of about 25 (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The additional controls improved the course quality, but I was careful to manage the workload. Quite a few controls were closely clumped together (Groups 1 and 3 accounted for 16 controls). Most were in groups near an access road (Groups 1,2,3 and 4), although one of these roads required a 4wd. This left only seven controls that required a longer walk. These were all in the middle of the trackless area that makes Mosquito Creek special as an orienteering venue.

Thanks to Neil, Colin, Gary, John, Jenny, Nola and Julie who helped collect controls – we didn't finish packing up until sunset ! The club would like to see more members remain at the event until the last competitor is in. This is a safety issue in case we have a missing competitor.



*Figure 8 All the controls.*

### **Membership 2024.**

**As at 29 June we have 91 members-5 new ones this month. 75 adults - 30 female/ 45 male and 16 juniors.**

**Welcome to new members and renewals: Gary Greely, Michael Tolhurst, Shannon, Williams, Rebecca Beagley, Isobel Horne. (From Nola Juniper).**

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.

### **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:**

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> August** Bendigo Score event – Napoleon Gully (Woodvale) . Setters Zac Allen, James Pemberton.

**10<sup>th</sup> August** Bendigo bush O – Adelaide / Apollo Hills. Setter: Michael Loughnan.

**17<sup>th</sup> August** Bendigo bush O – Argyle forest (Heathcote). Setter: Louise Hall.

## Helping young member of Bendigo Orienteers....

Bendigo Orienteers congratulates Keely Williams on her successful selection to the Victorian Secondary Schools team. The club committee decided at its July meeting to contribute \$400 towards the costs involved for Keely to travel to NSW for the Australian Orienteering Championship carnival this year. This is a wonderful opportunity for Keely to establish friendships and practice her orienteering skills in a competitive environment. She should also have a lot of fun. Well done Keely.

## 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.

## 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**

	Bendigo Orienteers	Bendigo Orienteers	Victorian Series	Ballarat Series
	National	Albury Wodonga	Rogaines	Sprints
Saturday Date	Saturday Events	Saturday Venue	Sunday Events	Sunday Venue
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?		