

Bendigo Orienteers

08 Newsletter September 2024

Report Bush O event August 17th



Above: Argyle forest – used for the O event on August 17th (Photo by Louise Hall).

Louise Hall and Tim Turnbull organized a bush event at Argyle forest near Heathcote on Saturday August 17th. Unfortunately it was a cold and wet day but around 50 competitors braved the conditions to compete. Wet clothes were the order of the day. Everybody enjoyed the courses that took competitors thru bush, hills, erosion gullies and water channels to provide interest. Course 1 was won by Richard Goonan followed closely by Ben Goonan then David Brownridge. Don Cherry won course 2 and Sophie Taverna was first in course 3. Course 4 was won by Alicia Martin and course 5 by Zekie Goonan.

Thanks to Louise and Tim and to those who helped to pack up in the wet.

Wildflower Drive

On 31st August Wendy Taverna (with Dale and Sophie) from the Central Highlands O club (CHOC) and Bendigo ran a bush O event on the Wildflower drive map (Bendigo East). The terrain included water channels, eroded gullies, open bushland. To make things more challenging, tracks were removed from the maps for courses 1, 2 and 3. Such variety always provides interest. Around 70 people competed. Ben Goonan won course 1, Don Cherry course 2 and Jenny Ball course 3. Fastest on course 4 was Alicia Martin followed closely by John Wilkinson and Patrick Symes. Zekie Goonan was fastest on course 5 followed by Cliff Curtiss.

Well done to everybody who entered and thanks to the Taverna family and their CHOC helpers - we appreciate your efforts and look forward to having more combined club events.



Above: Assembly area at Wildflower drive.

Kooyoora O event

A nice sunny day greeted us in the north end of the Kooyoora forest on 7th September. The courses were set by Daryl Flea who used a variety of granite and bush features in his zig zag courses. A feature was the bright yellow wattle that was prominent in all areas used. Around 50 competitors took part. Granite areas such as this are one of the hardest areas in which to navigate partly because there are so many boulders, fallen trees and thick bushes that make visibility ahead limited. Course 1 was won by Ben Goonan with Richard Goonan second. Bruce Arthur won course 2 and Alex Tarr course 3. Course 4 was won by Susan Water with Jenny Ball second. John Wilkinson was first in course 5 followed by Fiona Connor second. Well done to everyone esp. Neil Barr and Julie Flynn who manned the assembly area on the day and to those few who helped pack up. Neil and Julie had to return to collect some controls the next day. Thank you Neil and Julie.



Above: View from the top of a high hill on courses 3, 4 and 5. Photo by Jenny Ball.

Membership update 2024 (from Nola Juniper).

As of 1 Sept we have 99 members-4 new ones this month. 81 adults - 33 female/ 48 male and 18 juniors.

Welcome to new members and renewals: Simon Beasley, Ed Crosson, Kylie Crosson, Andrew Crosson.

Membership of Bendigo Orienteers for 2024 is \$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.

The Bendigo (and Heathcote) Bushwalking Book - The Story So Far.

By Neil Barr

Two weeks ago the club took delivery of 500 copies of the book 'Take a Forest Walk- Thirty-Five Bushwalks in Bendigo and Heathcote'. The book was written by a small team from Bendigo Orienteers and the local ACF branch. Key contributors were Julie Flynn, Daryl Fleay, Neil Barr and Bronwyn Silver. The book contains descriptions of 35 walks, over 90 photographs of the scenery and wildlife of the area and 43 maps.

The book idea arose in an ACF meeting that was attended by some Bendigo orienteers. Around the table it became clear that a walking book would be attractive to three parties. The ACF wanted to encourage local residents into the Bendigo forests to learn more about the local environment. The City of Greater Bendigo had just published the results of a recreation survey and discovered that the most popular recreation in the city was walking and was looking for a vehicle to support local walkers. Bendigo Orienteers wanted to encourage map reading and navigation in the forests and attract new participants to our sport. A team quickly self-assembled with strong skills in photography, mapping and layout, and with a deep knowledge of the local forests. The City of Greater Bendigo provided a grant for printing and work started.

After a little over a year of (at times frantic) work, we hosted a book launch at No. 7 Reservoir. Members of our club, the ACF and the City of Greater Bendigo spoke to a gathering of approximately 60 people. Julie was interviewed on local ABC morning program, stimulating a multi-day listener feedback on favourite walks. The book has taken off much more quickly than we expected. After a little over fortnight half of the 500 print run has been sold. The takings are being set aside for a probable second print run.

The last section of the book contains a couple of pages explaining orienteering maps and the sport of orienteering, and invites those who enjoyed using the book to try the sport. In a couple of years we will know if this has been a useful investment of our time to promote the sport. Until then, members may benefit from the creation of two new orienteering maps required to describe two walks in the book.



Photos: The book launch at Number 7 reserve, Sept 4th. Photos: Neil Barr.



Google and the Lost Art of Reading Instructions by Louise Hall.

Please obey directions provided by the organiser

We're probably all guilty of it at one time or another. Jump in the car, click into Maps, and off we go. We know where we're going, what could go wrong...Whelp.

At the recent O event at Argyle, the area received over 12mm of rain on Friday night. Minor tracks that were only slightly dodgy while placing controls during the day, turned into impassible sludge 12 hours later.

One small car got themselves bogged while driving to the event; rescued by another orienteer in a 4WD. I still don't know where they went, and neither do they. Travelling from the south, they should have been able to follow Mrs Google into a safe all-weather road and make it unscathed to the event. As the course setter(s), we successfully tested both Google and the road itself.

After the small car had given up and gone into Heathcote for a coffee, they then looked at the instructions, followed them, and found the event location.

There was some discussion post-arrival. I think the most salient point was that "We Are Orienteers" ... theoretically capable of reading a map and being able to identify that we are - or not - on the correct road. And perhaps, even, reading the instructions that your course setter puts on Eventor for your edification.

I have been to several events this year (Tallarook and Creswick) where the instructions say very loudly DO NOT FOLLOW GOOGLE. She will lead you up hill and down dale - which may very well be the shortest route - but she will not get you to the event.

Is it time, perhaps, to leave Artificial Intelligence to the muggles. The days of following a VicRoads reference with the yellow newsletter in our lap or scrunched against the steering wheel are long gone, but at least we usually ended up where we were supposed to be. Or, you know,

"always make sure to follow the organiser's driving directions".



Section of the Argyle forest (photo: Louise Hall).

Help still 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 every 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.

The committee meets monthly on the first Monday at 7.30 pm at the Barr/Flynn house: 168 McKenzie St. The meeting is mixed format with some attending physically and others attending online.

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

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.

Saturday Date	Saturday Events	Saturday Venue	Sunday Events	Sunday Venue
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		