

Bendigo Orienteers

10 Newsletter November 2024

Editorial ... the last event for 2024.

The orienteering year for 2024 has ended with the last local event being the twilight score event in the Browns reef area. Competitors had the choice of doing a 1 hour or 2 hour event. The course setters Nigel McGuckian and Phil Robertson required entrants to get as many controls as possible in their time chosen. Conditions were good for this time of the year. About 30 competitors took place.

In the one hour event Patrick Symes scored 80 points in 59:38 min followed closely by Jessica Symes only 8 seconds behind and then Kylie Crossona further 5 seconds behind Jessica.

In the two hour course first place was achieved by Richard Goonan with 240 points in 1:32:04 hours. Ted van Geldermalsen was second with 230 points in 1:58:30. Clare Brownridge was third on 220 points in 1:51:35.

Full results are on Eventor.

Well done to everybody who competed.



Above photo: The one hour start at Landry's road. Photo by Di Searle.

Series results for the 2024 season (By Neil Barr)

It's clear that most (if not all) Bendigo Orienteers compete in our events for the enjoyment of navigating their way through a forest orienteering course. There is a secondary buzz in achieving small victories on the day – did I beat my brother/partner/friend? To help this extra frisson the club has calculated a series score for each of the courses in our Bendigo Bush events.

The calculations:

- Results in the standard 5 course Bendigo Bush count towards the series score.
- The series and calculations are only applied to the results of club members.
- In each event, the first Bendigo Orienteer placegetter receives 10 points. The second receives 9 points, third receives 8 points and so on down to 10th and below who all receive 1 point.
- The final score is the total of the best X events where X half the total number of events plus one. This year there were 12 Bendigo Bush events so the result was calculated on the best 7 scores for each orienteer.
- Some trophies are awarded for performances in these series based on placings and a minimum number of events entered.

From the results below you can quickly deduce that to score well you need to run in more than half the events in the season. There are a number of households where there is the potential for a healthy competition. Next year there will be 12 (and possibly 15) Bendigo Bush events, depending upon the choices of organisers. This means the series competition will be based on between 6 and 8 best scores. The intention is to update the state of the series regularly through the season.

Course 1

	Score	Events counted
Ben Goonan Mens A Trophy	70	7
Derek Morris	52	7
David Brownridge	38	4
Michael Loughnan	26	3
Charlie Richardson	24	3
Ben Orphin and Thea Richardson	17	2

Course 2

	Score	Events counted
Don Cherry Mens B Trophy	67	7
Neil Barr	59	7
Louise Hall Womens B Trophy	52	7
Tim Turnbull	51	7
Tony Radford	43	5
Julie Flynn	38	5

Course 3

	Score	Events counted
Jenny Ball	58	7
John Chellew	58	7
Zac Allen	44	6

Peter Searle	30	4
Nicole Williams	29	4
Keely Williams	28	3

Course 4

	Score	Events counted
John Wilkinson	58	6
Tamara Cottingham	51	6
Patrick Syme - Sub Junior Trophy	50	7
Alicia Martin	45	5
Desiree Petit	31	4
Dianne Searle	23	3

Course 5

	Score	Events counted
Kim Carter	37	4
Ed Crosson	35	4
Mary Holland	34	4
Andrew Crosson	30	4
Penny Edwards	19	2
Jemma Carter	17	2



The “very tall” and “catching up tall”. (Patrick S. and Michael L.).
Above photo by Don Cherry.

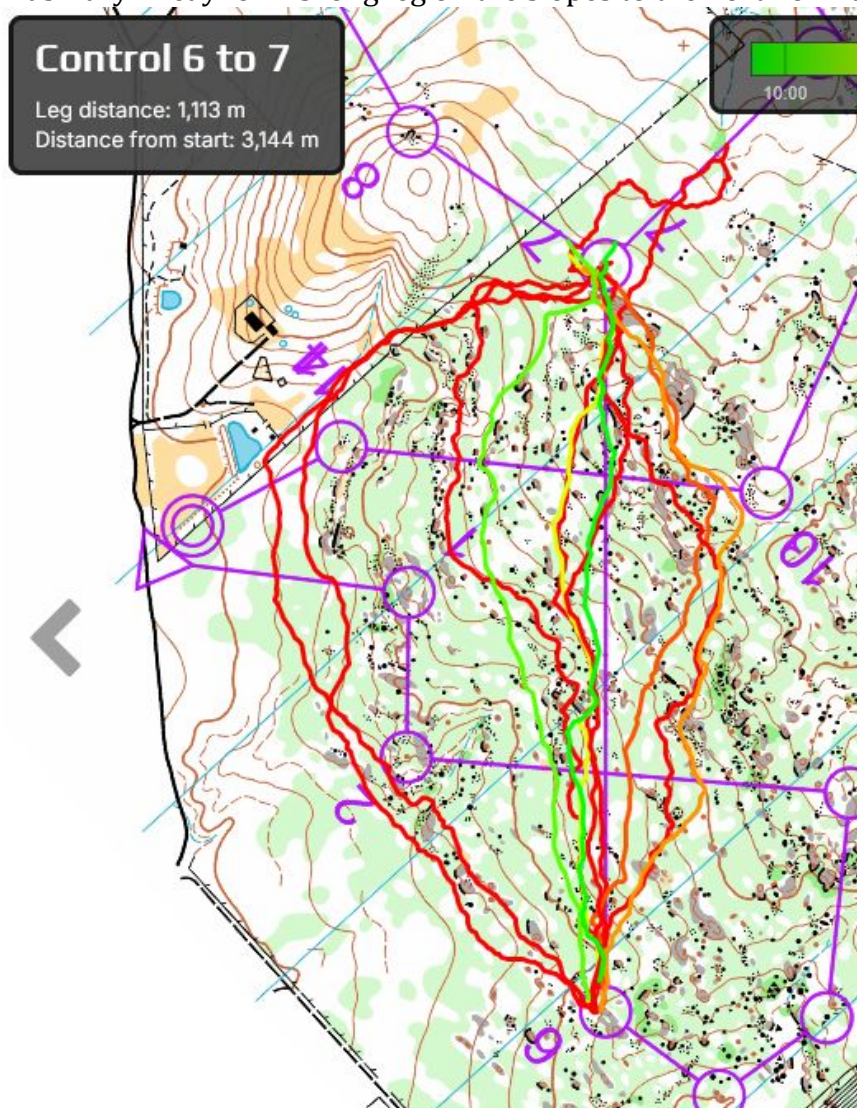
Special Club Trophies awarded for 2024 (By Neil Barr)

The special Club Trophies are a part of the Bendigo Orienteering Club tradition. They are designed to celebrate the joy of orienteering and the efforts made to allow us to enjoy the sport.

The Golden Leg

The Golden Leg Trophy is awarded to a course setter who creates an orienteering leg that is judged to challenge orienteers with interesting route choices. The award is recognition of the efforts of our course setter/organisers and encourages excellent course setting. The winner takes temporary possession of the Peter Creely crafted trophy that features a golden mannequin leg and a reproduction of the leg that won the original award.

This year there were 11 nominations from 9 course setters. Club members voted on the nominations at the End-of-Year Break-Up. All nominations received votes. There was a very close tussle between two, with the winner pipping second by 29 to 28. The winner was Daryl Fleay for his long leg on the slopes to the north of Mt Kooyoora.



Many route choices are set offering the runner the option of over the hill or the long way round on the track. This leg was in trackless terrain and the choices were between navigational certainty and distance, and between speed and directness. The three options were:

- Straight, but with the greatest navigational challenge.
- Left through faster terrain below the rocks then along the fence line to an attack point at the saddle. This was longer but less navigationally challenging.
- Right up to the main ridge then along the ridge passing large bare rock areas as attack points. This was a compromise between the longer easier navigation of the right route or the speed and risk of the direct route.

If you don't normally attend the Break-Up event, come along next year. You get to review the best of course-setting by club members and may learn a trick or two yourself. If you would like to win the award, then put your name down to organise an event. Maps like One Tree Hill, Sedgwick, Tarrengower, Kooyoora and Lockwood offer the chance to create a leg worthy of nomination.

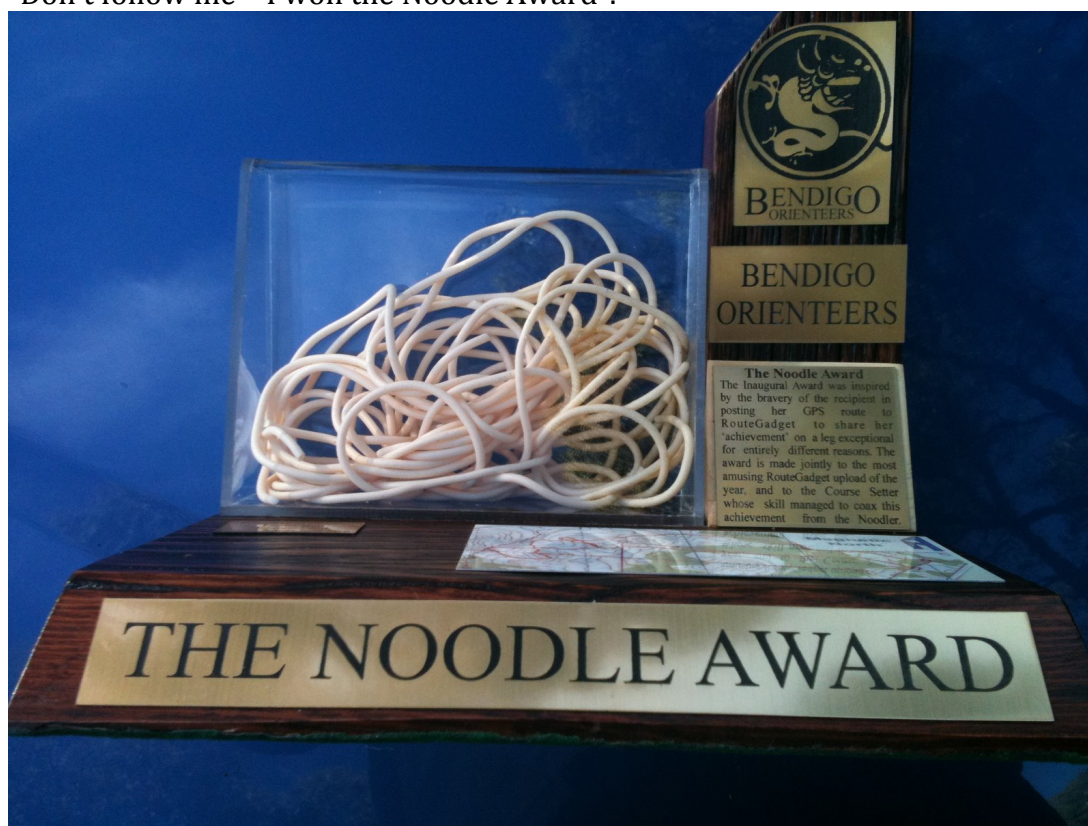


Daryl (middle right) receiving the best leg trophy. Photo by Don Cherry.

The Noodle Award

The Noodle Award is a celebration of the persistence of the average orienteer. We all make mistakes, particularly early on in our orienteering journey as we come to grips with the harder navigation challenges. These mistakes sometimes become noodles – running in circles or back and forth whilst persisting in not finding the control. The Noodle Trophy was created in honor of a particularly impressive noodle nearly 15 years ago. The scene was the first control on a Mosquito Creek course. The late Peter Creely crafted an impressive trophy that features Perspex enclosed imitation Chinese noodle, normally seen in the front windows of lower-priced Chinese take-away

establishments. You might think the award would be shunned by members, but it is almost a rite of passage in the club to have your name inscribed on the trophy. One past winner went so far as to have the back of his club running top inscribed with the words “Don’t follow me – I won the Noodle Award”.



This year there were 15 nominations for the Noodle Award. All but one had the evidence of a GPS route uploaded to Livelox. Club members gave votes to 13 of the nominated 15 noodles, but there can be only one winner, and this year it was **Charlie Richardson**.

To ensure the survival of this wonderful award, I encourage all of our members to upload their routes to Livelox. If you have a GPS watch, you can automate the process through Strava or Garmin Connect. Don’t worry about embarrassment. You will have plenty of company in the noodle world and maybe you can join the legion of past winners of the award.

The Vera Shelton Award

The winner of this award is chosen by the current club President in recognition of a significant contribution to the running of the club. The award is named after a prominent club member who passed away whilst competing in an event on One Tree Hill. Vera was a dedicated entrant in our local events and continued orienteering well into her later years. This year the award was made to Peter Forbes. For many years Peter has undertaken the little recognized task of applying for the permits required to run our events. This year Peter took up a job in Mildura so has not attended many of our events. On top of this, he experienced significant acute health issues. Despite these challenges he was willing to once again create and submit the applications for our event permits. He was not present at the Break-Up, for obvious reasons, so we have a photo of him receiving another award in 2019 – the “dreaded” Noodle. If you see Peter at an event next season, thank him for his work.



Reinvigorating old trophies

Quite a few of the club's traditional awards have been in slumber. The reasons are multiple – changing membership structure, the loss of key organisers and the covid lockdowns. Next year we hope to re-introduce at least two of these awards.

The Golden Sandshoe

This venerable award was instituted in 1983 and was awarded every year until 2016. The winner was decided at an annual score event with results adjusted according to a handicap system. I know of no-one who can or is willing to explain the handicap system, but we will create one if we must. The back story to the award is significant. The trophy highlights a golden KT-26 sandshoe in less than new condition. It is actually

falling apart. The story told to the writer is that this is one of the shoes worn by Jim Russell at the 1983 Victorian Orienteering Championship. KT-26 shoes were not the shoe of choice for athletes, being the cheapest “runner” available on the market. Jim was a dark horse at the event but surprised the orienteering community by winning despite a strong field of established elite orienteers. The club immortalized this moment by creating this award.



The Black Crow

The Black Crow Award is explained by the words on the trophy – “A tribute to lack of thought”. You could consider this the sister to the Noodle trophy, but in the field of organisation rather than navigation. For many years club members would be on the lookout for examples of lack of thought of other club members. These were voted on. One of the more amusing nominations was of a club member who commenced driving a portable toilet home from an event whilst someone was still sitting on the same toilet. Strangely that nomination was not the winner that year. The winner may have been the overseas traveller who left his bag locked to a post at a French railway station and brought the rail system to a standstill whilst they checked the bag to see if it concealed a bomb. The search for the winning nomination consumed some members, particularly the late Peter Creely, who was keen to add any possible candidate to the monthly newsletter. The spirit of the Black Crow can be seen in the following letter to the editor in 2003.

In the last newsletter the Club President Neil Barr cast a serious slur against my character. In his “Presidential Preamble” he asserted that I feigned stupidity in order to win a Black Crow nomination. I wish to set the record straight. Yes, I did pick up a control for race 4 after race 1. Yes, it was 300 metres away from the control I was meant to pick up. And yes, it was a novice control. However, I have a logical explanation. I am stupid. I certainly do not need to feign stupidity as Neil contended. It comes quite naturally. Furthermore, I will prove this fact on several more occasions during the year and leave you in no doubt as to the authenticity of

my stupidity. I contend that this cretinous act not only warrants a Black Crow nomination, but at this stage is the clear and outright winner. Neil of course has a hidden agenda – he desperately wants to win the Black Crow award for himself. In casting doubts about the genuineness of my stupidity, he is attempting to steal votes. This underhand tactic will not work. Time and more idiotic acts on my behalf will ensure that the Black Crow finds its appropriate home in Sedgwick. CW

Response: As editor of this newsletter I find it totally unacceptable that the President can, and has, used his position of authority to try and discredit Colin's stupidity. If anyone else has acts of legitimate stupidity bank-rolled by our president, please bring them to my attention. It takes years of practice to be stupid. You cannot feign stupidity.

Postscript: None of the persons mentioned in the above correspondence won the Black Crow that year. Maybe you will report the person who will win it in 2025? Apologies to Louise and Michael who made creditable efforts to win the Black Crow this year but were foiled by the absence of a competition.



Membership update 2024 (from Nola Juniper).

As of 1 November we have 101 members-1 renewal this month (Ilka Barr).

83 adults- 34 female/ 49 male and 18 juniors.

To join, 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.

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 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.

The Committee wishes you a Merry Christmas and a happy New year.

Thank you for being part of the club this year.

We look forward to seeing you return for next years exciting O events.

The first event will be the usual Fowl and Fizz in early February.

Cheers,

John Wilkinson,

Vice Pres. and editor.

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