



## 05 Newsletter

July 2025

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### In this Issue:

It's winter, and the cold and wet at the last few events prove it! Quite character building! In spite of the weather members have been out and about at a range of different events as illustrated by the event reports below.

At the July club meeting it was decided to support members who wished to undergo First Aid training with St Johns Bendigo. Details are in this newsletter.

As well, the issue of SI sticks was raised and these are available via the club at \$60. Also, an SI stick renaming day has been organized for the Smith's Reef event on August 9. If your stick needs renaming here is your chance to get it done!

James Robertson has been selected in the Australian MTBO team to compete at the World Championships in Poland in August. Congratulations James and good luck!

Dianne and Peter

### President's Message

Hi Everyone,

The club has run a few events since our last newsletter. On the 14<sup>th</sup> June, Michael Loughnan set an event on the White Hills No 4 map. This area contains a geological reserve with lots of old sedimentary features, scrub and washaways with few big trees. It is an area different to what we are used to and so made for interesting route choices. This area also has the slowest run rate of all our maps so courses were shorter but times longer than usual. Thankyou Michael for setting the courses in a challenging area.

On July 5<sup>th</sup> Louise and Tim set an event on the Mosquito Creek map near Eppalock. Typical vague bush was used for the courses. You have to be careful in this area not to lose your way as there are few prominent features to relocate from. A few competitors were late finishing – time to remind people that as 3 pm approaches you should be returning/back at the finish – controls are collected from 3 pm. If you are doing a long course don't start too late and keep an eye on the time. Thank you to those competitors who stayed after their run to help collect controls (and to look for people who may be lost).

The club is considering buying a defibrillator – these are expensive but well worth it if someone requires the use of one. This will be at all events as is our first aid kit. We are also organising an accredited first aid course (reimbursed by the club) for those members who are interested.

There have been some changes on Eventor by the OA working group. Improvements have been made to the registration of casuals so they can quickly register themselves and other members of their family in a single process. If a casual takes out club membership within the same year, the casual membership is removed after they have completed payment of their club membership. The date of birth has been replaced by Year of Birth (YOB) which is now selectable from a pull-down list. For orienteering we only need YOB so this change will remove the possibility of someone maliciously obtaining DOB data and using it for identity theft. Please check your details on Eventor during the year.

See you in the bush,

John Wilkinson



## COMING EVENTS

Local Bendigo and nearby Victorian events coming up in June are listed below. For full details, including directions to each event go to the Eventor website.

### Saturday July 12

Event type: Bendigo Bush Event

Map: Kimbolton

Organizer/Course setter: Colin Walker

### Sunday July 20

Event type: Ballarat Classics #4

Map: Hepburn Regional Park

Organizer/Course setter: Eureka Orienteers

### Sunday July 27

Event type: Vic Series #6

Map: Irishtown

Organizer/Course setter: Bayside Kangaroos

### Saturday August 2

Event type: Bendigo Bush Event

Map: Sedgwick South

Organizer/Course setter: TBA

## Recent Events

### Vic Series #4, June 7, Sailors Diggings, Daylesford

Thirteen Bendigo Orienteers signed up for what turned out to be a cold and wintry day. The courses used much of the forest affected by the recent bushfires. Third places were achieved by Gus Kent (5M) and David Brownridge (1M).



This person didn't read the event organizer's recommendations.  
"The forest is very charred and burnt. You will get covered in blackness! Don't wear white!!



Charles Brownridge at Sailors Diggings



Burnt forest at Sailors Diggings



### **Vic Series #5, June 8, Chapel Flat, Creswick**

An even colder day at Creswick saw 11 brave souls sign up with wins coming for Lachlan Kent (4M) and James Robertson (1M). All members of the Williams family came third.

### **Bendigo Bush Event, June 14, White Hills #4**

As mentioned in the President's Report, Michael Loughnan set challenging courses in this area severely affected by mining operations.



Michael Loughnan hard at work at the White Hills #4 event

### **Victorian Schools Sprint Championships, June 30, Monash University**

Two Bendigo runners represented their schools at this event in which they had to navigate their way around the buildings at Monash University. Patrick Symes from Kennington Primary (Boys 3-4) came 8<sup>th</sup> on his course and Keely Williams from Mount St Joseph Girls College Altona (Girls 11-12) placed first on her course. Congratulations to both juniors on a great effort.



Kelly Williams and Patrick Symes at Schools Sprint Championships

### **Bendigo Bush Event, July 5, Mosquito Creek**

There are a hundred and one things that go into running a successful orienteering event, and a hundred and two things that can go wrong. Today was one of those days where everything looked like smooth sailing, but our two technical gurus were paddling frantically under the surface dealing with an unfunctional laptop. We owe a big thank you to both Jim and Neil for driving back into Bendigo on a rescue mission; thanks to Jim, in particular, who had to forgo his Course 1 run getting the replacement laptop caught up.

Technical misadventure aside, it was a lovely, clear, sunny day, and sheltered from the icy wind inside the forest. The bush is starting to green up after our dry spell, with the prickly Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*) catching anyone who got too close.

Mosquito Creek lived up to its reputation as Noodle territory, claiming a handful of scalps across the top four courses. However, I was very relieved to see that all of the Course 5 starters completed their run. This is not an easy map for novice orienteers, with zero tracks and vague handrails. We had put out dozens of bright orange tags along the safest route between controls, but you still had to keep all your wits about you. Livelox shows many people from all five courses taking full advantage of the novice tags up to the Finish control. You're welcome. :-)

We had 59 finishers registered in Eventor, with only 21 from BGV. That's two-thirds (64%) who came from outside our catchment area, although some of the casuals might yet be converted. Bendigo runners took out top spots in courses 1, 2, 4, and 5. Special mention must go to James, who managed to run off the top end of the map and still recover to take out Course 1 by over a minute. Sorry James, that's not nearly noodle-worthy enough!

If you don't already, please consider linking your Strava to Livelox so your route uploads automatically. You can also upload a GPS route manually from your fitness app. It's helpful to course setters and other participants to see how you tackled each leg. Click the Livelox link from the website or Eventor to find out more.

Louise Hall





Prickly Hedge Wattle – the curse of Mosquito Creek



Tim Turnbull keeping a low profile at Mosquito Creek.

## Orienteering Dinosaurs

Peter Yeates (not an orienteering dinosaur) is a member of Dandenong Ranges Orienteering Club and has been crafting toy dinosaurs for novice orienteers at Melbourne Park events for some years. Gus Kent, one of our youngest orienteers happened to be at the recent Westerfolds Park event and was delighted to receive his dinosaur.



Gus Kent with his dinosaur



Peter Yeates hard at work.

## **St Johns First Aid Training Course**

At the July club meeting it was decided to encourage members to undertake first aid training. Having a number of people trained in the latest developments in first aid will be of benefit to both members and the club. While the number of incidents requiring first aid are mercifully few, it is prudent to ensure that trained members are available.

Upcoming courses provided by St Johns First Aid Bendigo are on **Wednesday, August 6 and Monday September 11**. Both courses are from 8:30am to 1:15pm and held at 267 High Street, Golden Square and cost \$195.00.

If you are interested google 'St Johns first aid course Bendigo' and scroll down to the date that suits you and sign up. Treasurer Craig will reimburse you for the course costs on completion.

## **SI Stick renaming day is here!!**

If your SI stick needs renaming, Jim Russell will be available to assist you through the process at the Smith's Reef event on **August 9**. Put it in your diary now.

## **SI Stick purchases**

One benefit of membership is that you are able to purchase SI Sticks through the club. These come in different types, each with their [advantages and disadvantages](#). For further information, and purchasing, contact club member [Jim Russell](#).

Price: SI Stick 9 \$60.00