



02 Newsletter

March 2026

Welcome to the March Newsletter

Following the success of the nineteenth edition of the Bendigo ToDay (thanks Jim) the season proper gets underway with Julie Flynn's CATI event on March 14. Details of events in our local area up until May 9 are included below.

This newsletter is sent to members listed in 2025 and 2026. The next newsletter will be sent to 2026 members only. Gentle hint: update your membership to 2026 if you haven't done so already!

Dianne and Peter

Presidents Report

The new committee met on 2nd March and began setting things up for the 2026 year.

Two events have been held – the Fowl and Fizz and the Bendigo ToDay event. Thank you to the organisers – both events went very well, esp. Jim Russell's ToDay event which attracted 100 entrants. We start the normal Saturday afternoon bush events next weekend March 14th with a Come and Try event on the Wildflower Drive map, followed by Peter Searle's event on 21st March on the same map. March 28th is Myers Flat (Jenny Ball). In the middle of Easter is Diamond Hill South (John Wilkinson). Hopefully we will see you there.

The committee this year welcomes two new members – Jessica Symes and Peter Forbes. There is still a vacancy for Vice President.

President – John Wilkinson

Vice President – vacant

Treasurer – Craig Feurerherdt

Secretary – Prue Dobbin

Members – Jessica Symes and Peter Forbes.

Membership – Nola Juniper

Newsletter – Peter and Dianne Searle

The committee is focusing on updating existing policies and procedures with a view of making things easier to manage in the future. We are also trying to get some training done on the use of the computer to record results.

John Wilkinson

COMING EVENTS

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

Saturday March 14

Event type: CATI
Map: Wildflower Drive
Organizer: Julie Flynn
Start: From 12:30 pm

Saturday March 21

Event type: Bendigo Bush #1
Map: Wildflower Drive
Organizer: Peter Searle
Start: From 12:30pm

Sunday March 22

Event type: Maxi 3hr or 1.5hr
Map: Hepburn Diggings, Daylesford
Organizer: Nillumbik OC

Saturday March 28

Event type: Bendigo Bush #2
Map: Myers Creek
Organizer: Jenny Ball
Start: From 12:30pm

Sunday March 29

Event type: Vic Series 2
Map: Mt Tarrengower, Maldon
Organizer: MFR

Saturday April 11

Event type: Bendigo Bush #3
Map: Diamond Hill South
Organizer: John Wilkinson
Start: From 12:30pm

Saturday April 18

Event type: Bendigo Bush #4
Map: Smiths Reef
Organizer: Lorraine Leversha
Start: From 12:30pm

Sunday April 26

Event type: Vic Series 3
Map: Nerrina, Ballarat
Organizer: Bayside Kangaroos

Saturday May 2

Event type: Bendigo Bush #5
Map: Kalimna Park, Castlemaine
Organizer: Clare Brownridge/MFR
Start: From 12:30pm

Saturday May 9

Event type: Bendigo Bush #6
Map: Mt Egbert "The Granites"
Organizers: Prue Dobbin
Nigel Mcgukian
Start: From 12:30pm

MTBO Events

Sat 18 April MTBO Series 1 Chiltern

Sun 19 April MTBO Series 2 Yackandandah



Craig modelling new O top

Fowl & Fizz, AGM 2026

By tradition, the Peter Creely Fowl and Fizz event is combined with the club AGM. This year the score event was organized by our President, John Wilkinson at the Dead Bullock Gully map in Kangaroo Flat. As part of proceedings presentations were made to trophy winners from the 2025 season.



John C, Prue D, John W.



John W, Patrick S.



Julie F, Tony R, John W.



Neil B, John W.

Aurora January 20 – John Wilkinson

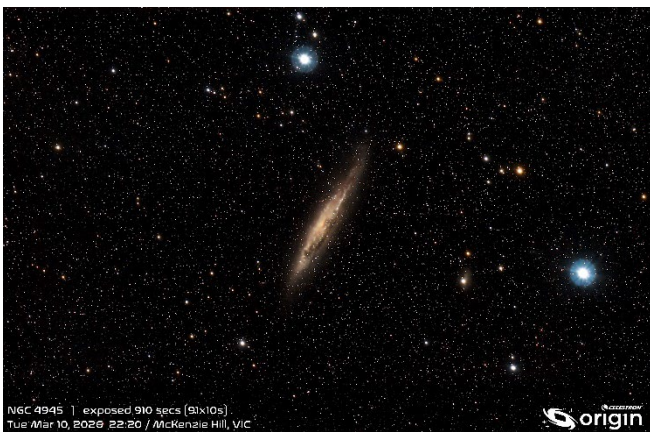
An Aurora with a brilliant display of purple and green light was seen in the southern night sky about 11 pm on Tuesday night 20th January. I captured this image on my iPhone image from McKenzie Hill in Castlemaine. The Aurora lasted about 1 hour.

The Aurora was caused by a Coronal Mass Ejection from the Sun sending out charged particles that get trapped in our atmosphere around the poles. The charged particles interact with gaseous molecules in our atmosphere and produce light rays of different colours.



Aurora over Castlemaine

More recently John – an experienced astronomer – captured an image of an elliptical galaxy in the constellation Centaurus. This time using a telescope.



Elliptical galaxy

First Aid Training available

The club is sponsoring people to attend a St John First Aid course. Several members recently attended and report the course was excellent! Members are to enrol themselves using the following link and then present their receipt and certificate to the club for a refund.

<https://www.stjohnvic.com.au/checkout/?course=18566&type=selectaclass>

New club uniforms available soon



A new running top has been designed for the club incorporating the re-designed dragon logo and colour scheme. These tops are being produced by Oland in Bulgaria and will be available in their "aero" material (lightweight but not see through, perfect for our warmer climate). A set of sample tops will arrive for everyone to try them on for size/fit before making an order.

At the last club meeting it was agreed that members would receive \$25 off the cost of a running top (around \$50 each). In addition, we will also be offering a jacket (design to be confirmed) which will also be offered for \$25 off the final price.

Details on how to order will be provided in future newsletters.

Craig Feuherdt

Garmin watch band available

A watch strap compatible with Garmin watches is available free if anyone is interested. See Alison Radford for details.

