

President's Report

Greetings everybody. We are nearly at the end of the year – only two events to go.

First, I would like to congratulate our members who entered the Australian MTBO (Mountain Bike Orienteering) championships in Creswick/Ballarat on Oct 9 – 11. Terrific results were obtained by Jim Russell, James Roberston, Katherine McMillan, Michael Tolhurst and Ian Mack (see further report in this newsletter).

Our first batch of new club running tops have finally arrived and will be distributed at coming events. Thanks to Craig Feuerherdt and others for their help in getting these organised. It will be nice to see the new tops in action at the Twilight event on Oct 31st in the Whipstick. Thanks to Prue Dobbin and others for organising this event which will conclude with a BBQ – it will be great to socialise after the event. Please enter via Eventor.

Our final event will be a social one – a meal at the National Hotel in High St, Bendigo on Weds 11th Nov. Please book your attendance and pay \$15 per head thru Eventor. (See Coming Events, below for details) Partners welcome – if you have trouble prepaying let us know numbers before the event, and pay on the night - but please don't just turn up.

It has been a long year but everything went well and we had a lot of really good O events for members to compete in. Thanks to all the organisers and helpers – we can't do it without you.

The club reached 100 members this year which is very pleasing. Best wishes to those new members and we hope to see you in the bush next year.

We require a Public Officer for ATO requirements and I am grateful that our Treasurer, Craig Feuerherdt has filled this role in the short term.

There will be a general meeting in early November and all are welcome to attend online.

Next year will be our 50th Anniversary Year so we look forward to more great O events to commemorate this occasion.

Trophies:

A reminder to return any perpetual trophies you might have at either the twilight event (preferable) or the Social Dinner. Also, they can be returned to Jenny Ball (12 Graemar Crt, Kangaroo Flat) drop at front doorstep in a bag.

Cheers to all,
John Wilkinson
0493 706 448

president@bendigo-orienteers.com.au

Vale Hania Lada

On September 24th, Hania Lada lost her life following a road accident on the Melba Highway. Hania and daughter Ella were on their way to the Oceania Championships in Canberra when the accident happened. Ella was not seriously injured.

Hania and her family were members of Yarra Valley OC and have been involved in orienteering for over 30 years. In recent times Hania was the editor of our national magazine, *The Australian Orienteer*. She was also involved in attracting school-age children to foot and mountainbike orienteering in Melbourne.

David Goddard, President, Yarra Valley OC expressed his thoughts on Hania's passing.

'Hania Lada showed the best of what a committed orienteer can bring to us. She gave of herself and, aided by her personality, energy and integrity, involved others with efficiency and intelligence in useful things.

Following the tragedy of her untimely death, orienteers at the Oceania Championships hugged each other in the arena, and even out on the course. This conveyed the precious experience of our knowing and caring for people that enter our lives through orienteering, yet it abruptly reminded us to do it while we still can.'

Bendigo orienteers express their sympathy to Hania's family

A commemoration of Hania's life in orienteering is being planned, with a tentative date of Sunday, November 29 at the Burwood campus of Deakin University to coincide with the Victorian Orienteering Sprint Championships. Please refer to Eventor and coming issues of the Orienteering Victoria Weekly Bulletin for further information.



COMING EVENTS

Saturday 31 October Whipstick Witch Hunt



A reminder about the Whipstick Witch Hunt twilight zone score event to be run on the evening of Saturday 31 October. The course is set and a roving witch anointed. All we need is a few more entries for the 3-hour, 2-hour and 1-hour score events, that start at 3pm, 4pm or 5 pm depending in which course you choose.

The club will provide a BBQ afterwards at the Woodvale Recreation Hall and you are asked to bring something to share, your plates and your drinks. Prizes for the 'Ugliest Outfit' and the 'Worst Home Cooking'.

It should be fun - enter here: [Whipstick Witch Hunt](https://eventor.orienteering.asn.au/Events/Show/23460).

Wednesday 11 November End-of-Year Dinner

The End-of-Year Dinner will be held at the National Hotel, Cnr High and Violet Streets, Bendigo. 6pm start, a private room has been booked.

The cost per member and their immediate family members is \$15 per head plus the cost of any drinks or desserts. The club will pay the balance of the cost of each main meal.

The club will announce the winners of each class in the Bendigo Bush Series, plus present a few other awards. The winners of last year's perpetual trophies are asked to return them to John Wilkinson (phone - 0493 706 448).

Pre-entry / pre-payment through Eventor is required: [Bendigo Orienteers End-of-Year Dinner](https://eventor.orienteering.asn.au/Events/Show/23460)

News & Views

Club Uniforms

The new club running tops have finally arrived and will be available to people who have ordered them at all coming events (including the Witch Hunt and the End-of-Year Dinner).

A reminder that you can order your own club jacket etc here: [Bendigo Orienteers Virtual Store](https://eventor.orienteering.asn.au/Events/Show/23460). Prices range from \$18 for a hoody. Jacket prices include a \$25 club subsidy. If you would like to try on the items in person, you can visit the Breach Apparel store at [14 Trantara Ct, East Bendigo Victoria 3550](https://eventor.orienteering.asn.au/Events/Show/23460)

Bob Brown to visit Bendigo

Former Australian Greens leader and environmentalist Dr Bob Brown is appearing in Bendigo for a live "Bob Brown in Conversation" event hosted by Sally Warhaft.

The event will be at the Capital Theatre, View Street Bendigo, **Thursday November 12** commencing at 6 pm. Tickets are \$5 - \$20 available through The Capital or Wheeler Centre.

Ted and Margi's 2026 Europe trip

My favourite orienteering event is the annual OO Cup 5 Days. It started in Slovenia about 20 years ago and is organised by the same core team every year led by Ivan Nagy. They have become very good at it. Traditionally the events are held on complex karst terrain which has lots of sink holes and rock detail. Ivan makes all the maps. Some years he plans all the courses.

In 2017 Ivan found and mapped some previously unused karst terrain in Ain province in France and in 2018 he took his organising team to France and organised the OO Cup there, treading on a few toes in the French Orienteering Federation along the way. There were 3,000 competitors. Since then, the event has been back to France twice and in 2022 it was held in northern Sweden.

Then, at last year's event which straddled the Italy/Slovenia border, they announced that they would be taking the OO Cup to County Kerry in Ireland in 2026. Margi and I had never been to Ireland in our travels so this looked like the time to go.

We arrived in Dublin on 7 July. The woman at the café next morning warned us that Ireland was having a heatwave. I asked what that entailed in Ireland and she said, "sunny skies and temperatures in the mid-20s". We thought we could probably cope with that. After a quick day tour of Dublin, we headed to Sligo and spent the next two and a half weeks making our way slowly down the west coast. The weather was settled and sunny with mostly cloudless skies the whole time, not at all what we had been warned to expect.

I climbed Benbulbin near Sligo, cycled the Great Western Greenway from Westport to Achill Island, hiked the Glencoaghan Horseshoe around six of the 12 Bens peaks in Connemara National Park, hiked in The Burren (rocky karst landscape), ran The Gap of Dunloe, climbed Carauntoohil, Ireland's tallest peak at 1,038m, and walked to the westernmost point of Ireland's mainland. We also visited some pubs, attended three folk music concerts, and visited tourist attractions including the Cliffs of Moher from both land and sea, a chocolate factory and a perfumery

in the Burren, a sweet treats guided walking, eating, and history tour of Westport, and Dingle's Oceanworld aquarium.

After all that it was time to start orienteering. The local Kerry Orienteers club organised a fun indoor event in a secondary college on the afternoon of 25 July and the OO Cup ran from 26 – 30 July.

This year the OO Cup attracted 2,000 entries making it by far the biggest orienteering event to have been held in Ireland. There were 289 entries from Switzerland, 232 from Ireland, 170 from both France and UK, 163 from Czech Republic, and 100 or so from several other countries. It was one of the most evenly distributed international fields I've seen. Australia had 27 entries including Blair Trewin, Tim and Liz Hatley, David Knight and me from Victoria.

The first three days were on a map called Black Lakes in the hills around the Kilgarvan wind farm all using the same event centre, an unappealing quarry. The road in was a 9km rough gravel road, on which some drivers went painfully slowly. Organisers had arranged for a tyre repair business to be on site and they were kept busy. One day we were parked right under the swinging blades of a windmill. The speed and noise of the blades whizzing past just above us was impressive.



Wind turbine OOCup, Ireland, 2026

Day 1 was fairly fast open mountain terrain, marshy with plenty of positive features. Day 2 was cool and misty causing low visibility and making it more challenging, similar to running in a forest. Day 3 was clear and the windmills aided navigation. Days 4 and 5 were on a map called Crohane which is nearer to Killarney and had a much nicer access road and event centre in a field in the

valley. The courses were up on the plateau, and it needed a 1km+ walk with 200m climb to get to the start and then the same walk from the finish back down the hill to download. The terrain was worth it – spectacular rolling moorland with lots of marshes and cliffs and contour detail. At the OO Cup, overall results are based on total times from all five days – you can't drop a day, so you have to take extra care not to mispunch. In some classes, half the field are out of contention by the end. I've now done 50 races at ten OO Cups and mispunched once. That is once too many. It was on Day 5 in 2023 when I was leading after four days. I was expecting Eoin Rothery from Red Roos to be a strong contender in M70, but when we arrived in time for my fairly late start on Day 1, Eoin had already run, and mispunched. Unfortunately, he had punched the wrong first control. What a disappointing start. With that information in mind, I set off carefully and after a bit of confusion arrived at what I hoped was control 1 but it didn't have the right number. What's more it was a different control again from the one that Eoin had punched. I had to go right back to the start and do it again more carefully. On Day 5 again I had to cut my losses and go back to the start triangle when things weren't making sense.

Our friend Mikko Sani from Finland mispunched on Day 5. I made it through and ended up in second place overall in M70 behind Markku Helle from Finland who went on to win the gold medal at the WMOC long final a fortnight later. Third was Georg Gittmaier who told me he had good memories of running at WOC at Kooyoora in 1985 representing Austria. The top 3 in each class are awarded free entry to next year's OO Cup which will be back in Slovenia in karst country.

From Ireland we flew to Frankfurt and then drove to Fichtelberg in northern Bavaria where I competed in the Bavarian Forest 5 days. The first four days were all in different overlapping parts of the same forest using the same event centre with varying length walks to the start but usually finishing at the event centre. The forest was mostly pine trees with undergrowth and lots of granite rock features including some very big boulders. Some of the rock mapping didn't seem as clear as we

are used to in Victoria. Here is a headcam video (with stream of consciousness commentary in French) giving an idea of the terrain:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1-cVdS_b74

Day 5 was a fairly simple urban sprint in nearby Weissenstad. I had frustrating little mistakes every day in the forest races and was in third place after day 4. However, the Day 5 sprint enabled me to leapfrog into second overall. Being in Bavaria, the prize was a bottle of beer.

Then it was back to Frankfurt for our flight to Warsaw and drive down to Rzeszow for World Masters Orienteering Champs.

The WMOC sprint qualification course was a bit simple but the Sprint Final course in the centre of Rzeszow was more interesting and included some artificial barriers to increase the route choices. It was flat and fast and suited me in theory. However, on the day I felt slow and hesitant in places. Eoin started 1 minute after me and caught and passed me by halfway. With three controls to go he was in the gold medal position according to Winsplits, but he lost concentration, made a mistake, and finished 8th. I finished in 12th Place.

The forest qualification and Middle Final were in a fairly flat and simple looking forest east of Rzeszow. We had walks of 3.1km and 1.3km respectively to the start on these days. Even though the courses looked simple there were parts with lower visibility and runnability and you had to keep good direction through the green and sometimes a less direct route was better.



Ted in the lush forest of Poland. And then See p9

For the forest qualification race M70 had four heats with just over 60 competitors in each.

The top 20 in each heat qualified for the 80 person M70A Middle Final. I finished 10th meaning that I would start in mid-field for the Middle final. I had a better run in the final and finished in 15th place, a considerable improvement on my starting rank of 40th. This is more satisfying than going the other way.

The next day we went for a look at the model event for the long final. The map had looked horrendous – very detailed, green and steep and quite difficult to read. However, once we were out in the terrain, I got excited. It was really interesting, detailed gully spur terrain with nice soft leaf covered ground and the green was soft to push through. You had to be very careful with direction though. The model turned out to be a good representation of the terrain for the Long Final. It was a tough course with plenty of climb but once again really nice forest to run through and even though I made a couple of sloppy mistakes costing 6 – 7 minutes all up and finishing 18th, I enjoyed this race the most of the whole trip. It was a good way to end. From there we went to Warsaw for a few days sightseeing and then home. Margi enjoyed doing all the urban events including the indoor event at Killarney, Day 5 in Bavaria, and the sprints at WMOC.

Event Reports

Bendigo Bush Series #18, One tree Hill September 12

Peter Forbes organized the final Bush Series event for 2026 on One Tree Hill. Peter set slightly longer courses than usual to prepare people for the Vic Long Champs the following week. Being Spring wildflowers were in abundance and to help runners identify the many species on display Peter and wife Debbie had photos and descriptions of those endemic to the forest. Thanks, Peter.

Victorian Short Championships Sep 19

The Short Championships were held on the Tappit Hen map at Tarnagulla. Ted van Geldermalsen planned challenging courses in complex gold mining terrain with a normal one minute spacing between competitors in the morning race, followed by a chasing start in the afternoon. An unusual feature of the afternoon race was the control at the Wimmera Highway road bridge where runners had to travel under the bridge to punch the control!



David Knight (Bayside OC) at the bridge control
(Photo: Bruce Arthur)

Results: (18 members took part)

Overall placings in the top three:

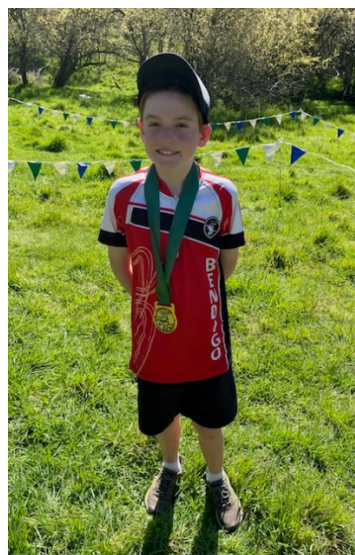
1 st	Keely Williams	Class 2
2 nd	Ed Crosson	Class 4
3 rd	James Robertson	Class 1
3 rd	Tony Radford	Class 3
3 rd	Andrew Crosson	Class 4

Victorian Long Distance Championships Sep 20

The Long Distance Championships were held on a new map at Metcalfe. The terrain comprised mainly spur-gully with scattered gold mining. Twenty three members competed 12 of whom placed in the top three in their class.

First placings:

Patrick Symes	M10A
David Brownridge	M40A
Keely Williams	W18A
Ted van Geldermalsen	M70A
Alison Radford	W75A
Tony Radford	M75A



Patrick Symes 1st, M10



David Brownridge 1st M40A

Oceania Championships – Canberra October 3-10

The Oceania Championships comprised events on consecutive weekends, together with three Australian School Championship events (ASOC) in the intervening week. Keely Williams was a member of the Victorian Senior Girls team.



Keely, Oceania Champs 2026

See Keely's report on her experience of the Oceania Championships on page 8.

Results:

Oceania Middle Distance Championships (5 members competed)

1 st	Julie Flynn	W55AS
2 nd	Ted van Geldermalsen	M70A
3 rd	Alison Radford	W75A

Oceania Long Distance Championships (11 members competed)

1 st	Lachlan Kent	M45AS
1 st	Michael Loughnan	EOD Hard
1 st	August Kent	M/W10N
1 st	Keely Williams	W18A
2 nd	Julie Flynn	W65AS



The Radford pair, 1st, W75A and M75A

Second placings:

Katherine McMillan	W21A
Jessica Symes	Long Open B
John Chellew	M80A

Charles Brownridge	M75A
Jim Russell	M65A

Third placing

Prue Dobbin	W65A
-------------	------



Lachlan Kent 1st, M45AS

Oceania Sprint Distance Championships

(10 members competed)

2 nd	Jim Russell	M65A
2 nd	August Kent	M/W10N
2 nd	Tony Radford	M75A
3 rd	Ted van Geldermalsen	M70A

Australian Mountainbike Championships

The 2026 Australian MTBO Championships were held in the Creswick/Ballarat area over the weekend of October 9-11

Five riders from Bendigo competed in events over the weekend – James Robertson, Jim Russell, Katherine McMillan, Michael Tollhurst and Ian Mack,

As well, five members assisted in the running of the event: Ted van Geldermalsen, Prue Dobbin, Dianne and Peter Searle, and Don Cherry.

Results:

Mass Start Event Friday October 9

1 st	Jim Russell	M60
2 nd	Ian Mack	ebike short distance

Middle Distance Sat (am) October 10

3 rd	Ian Mack	ebike long distance
-----------------	----------	---------------------

Sprint Distance Sat (pm) October 10

1 st	James Robertson	M21
-----------------	-----------------	-----

Long Distance Sun October 11

2 nd	James Robertson	M21
-----------------	-----------------	-----



Jame Robertson M21



Michael Tollhurst M21

Oceania Report - Keely Williams

The 2026 Oceania Carnival began with the middle distance on the new Bogong Creek Map. The terrain was a mixture of technical rock and open running. I ran in W20E and placed 16th, 10th Australian. The run was reasonably smooth through the technical terrain and then some larger mistakes towards the end of my run as I grew tired. It was a warm day with a lengthy finish chute that I'm not sure many people enjoyed! The following day, we remained in Namadgi National Park and headed up to Honeysuckle Creek. The day was much cooler with a light drizzle of rain. The relay started with a hectic mass start with many people trampling into single file through the thick forest. The terrain was dense and quite prickly in places with an indistinct track running through the map, mixed with marsh and granite. I ran well, returning in 3rd for W20E, however unfortunately as a team we ended with a mispunch.



Victorian ASOC team

The rest day was welcome by most before commencing the ASOC and Flight of the Bogong Carnival at the Orana Steiner School. It was a much warmer day on a small campus. The event was a technical sprint with lots of barriers, uniquely shaped buildings, skinny hallways and chaos. It was a slow run for me, with lots of stopping to check my map as I ran into barrier after barrier with a final outcome of 19th, 6th Australian. It was a disappointing run for me but no time to dwell on it. On Wednesday was the Long on Mt Ainslie which I ran and enjoyed significantly greater. Mt Ainslie was quite a steep, but open map which led to lots of fun with different route choices on the long legs; with many people choosing to take the flatter route along the track at the base of the mountain. I had a good start to my run before my first long leg where I drifted off my bearing and climbed significantly higher than I needed to, but the remainder of my run was reasonably clean and just a bit slow because of the hill and heat. I had placed 11th overall and 4th equal Australian. To end off the ASOC carnival we participated in the relay on the Pine Island map. Spirits were high with zinc and hairspray to share as well as a pump-up speech to get everyone in the mood. The day was another warm one with another crazy mass start with lots of kids falling as we headed downhill into the intricate granite and green. The course included a unique loop and a mixture of easy running legs and short technical rocky legs which proved to be quite the challenge. I had an okay run, returning in 8th and our team overall placed 10th, 4th Australian Team.

Another rest day was well deserved before heading into stormy conditions and torrential rain at Mt Stromlo. The starts were long and were all delayed by 45 minutes due to the heavy rain and lightning which was striking the mountain. We waited in the ASOC vans and shelter watching as people ran the 300m finish in the pouring rain. I had one of the latest starts, starting at 1.05pm which allowed the rain to stop and I only had a light mist spray when I was on the top of Mt Stromlo. I ran in W18 and ended up taking away a gold. I shocked myself with my run but I enjoyed it a lot as it was a very clean run with lots of slippery rocks, mountain bike trails and route choices. The final area of the map had so much water in it, the river crossing definitely messed

with many people and many ended up going for a swim.

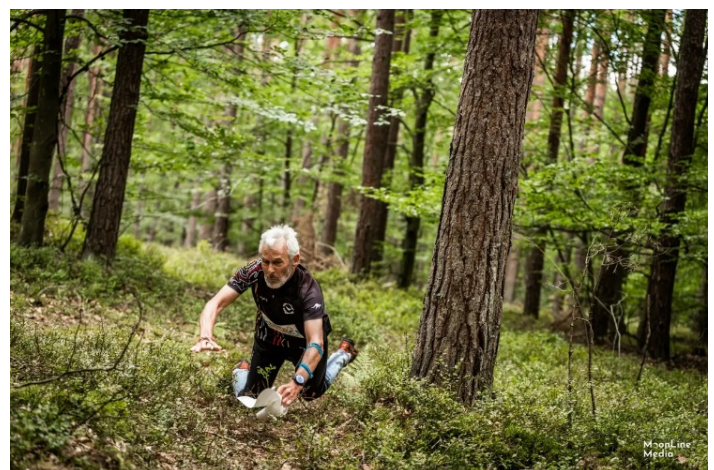


Senior Girls Honour team

To end the carnival, we ran at ANU (Australian National University), back to running W20E. I sat in quarantine for a while before heading out for my run. It was a fun campus and I found the navigation easier than the ASOC sprint except for the final area of the campus which explored the intricately detailed daycares. My run was full of small mistakes and I placed 12th overall and 7th Australian. Overall I really enjoyed the carnival and am very sad to have experienced my last ASOC. Although to make the ASOC Australian Honour Team and win an Oceania gold medal, I would call it a very successful carnival in the ACT.

Keely Williams

And then



.....it happens to the best of us!!