

# PUNCHLINE

Dandenong Ranges Orienteering Club Inc

[www.drocorienteering.com.au](http://www.drocorienteering.com.au)

Incorporated Association Registered Number A0003225B

ABN 76 002 329 218

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Memberships  
Maps  
Junior Rep  
Clothing  
Punchline Editor

Peter Hobbs  
Peter Yeates  
Sarah Love  
Ian Dodd  
Debbie Dodd  
Pam King  
James Love  
Peter Yeates  
Debbie Dodd

[peterhobbs64@hotmail.com](mailto:peterhobbs64@hotmail.com)  
[pj.i.yeates@gmail.com](mailto:pj.i.yeates@gmail.com)  
[sarah@gsjs.org](mailto:sarah@gsjs.org)  
[idodd@inet.net.au](mailto:idodd@inet.net.au)  
[debbiedodd@inet.net.au](mailto:debbiedodd@inet.net.au)  
[quincrick@bigpond.com](mailto:quincrick@bigpond.com)  
[james@gsjs.org](mailto:james@gsjs.org)

Committee Members Peter Dalwood, Ian Davies, Peter Grover, Allan Miller, Pat Miller, Denise Pike, Tina Smith, Bev Trease, Ilze Yeates



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## NEW YEAR, NEW LOOK

As DROC starts its 41<sup>st</sup> year, we thought it was time to update our Lyrebird logo - see above. "Lyrebird 2020" retains our striking red, white and blue colours, and our "bird on a hill" - but now has two legs instead of one, and looks more ornithologically correct! Thanks to Stuart McWilliam, who created the new look, when he wasn't busy riding his bike to an event (which he does 4 times a week, all the way from Werribee!)

You'll see the new logo start to appear on such items as the website, some new club tops, and our flag.

## SPRINTING IN SPRING, SUMMER - AND AUTUMN!



Sprint Into Spring and the Vic Sprint Champs (photo) are behind us, but there's plenty to look forward to for fans of the fast and furious! Over Summer, look out for PopUp Sprints and Sprint Training Sessions with Orienteering Victoria's Coach in Residence, Frederic Tranchard (Fredo).

In March, there's the amazing Melbourne Sprint Weekend, back for its third edition, and likely to be massively popular as the orienteering world prepares for the first ever Sprint World Championship. Entries are now open on Eventor.

For those of you lucky enough to be heading to New Zealand for their Sprint Tour in January - enjoy and good luck!

## DIARY DATES

Here are our major events for 2020 - another massive year in store! Course planners are needed for most of these events - please contact Debbie if you would like to have a go.

### ▽ MONASH INDOOR OUTDOOR SPRINT, Sunday January 19 2020



Back by popular demand! We'll be heading back to the incredible Learning and Teaching Building (LTB) at Monash Clayton, for a second Indoor-Outdoor event. This time, both formats will be combined into a single race. Choose your own course - Long Hard, Short Hard, or Easy - and any start time between 10.30 and 11.30am.

DROC is supporting the Coach In Residence program. Fredo from France is planning the courses, and all proceeds will go towards ensuring that Victorian orienteers continue to receive top level coaching for several months each year.

Help us keep costs down by entering online at Eventor by THURSDAY JANUARY 16 to reserve a map; pay on the day at Registration. Entry is \$12 for adults and \$6 for juniors. [Enter here](#)

### ▽ MELBOURNE SPRINT WEEKEND, March 7-9 2020



Three days, six races! The biggest Sprint weekend in Australia is back for 2020. New venues include Overnewton College and Granite Hills Park, while favourites Deakin Burwood, LaTrobe Bundoora, VUSA and Penola College make a return. You must enter online by February 23<sup>rd</sup>. [All details here](#)

Ian Dodd is the course planner for Latrobe Bundoora, which features the hugely exciting 4-person Sprint Relay.

### ▽ BIKE-O 75 SILVAN RODE, Sunday March 22 2020



DROC is hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> race in the popular BikeO 75 Series, in the spectacular tall trees of Silvan. Great for newcomers to mountain bike orienteering! You have 75 minutes to score as many points as you can, riding forest trails within an hour's drive from Melbourne.

Course planner: Graham Wallis  
[Find out more here](#)

### ▽ EPPALOCK 3-DAY, Queens Birthday Weekend, June 6-8 2020

We're joining forces with Bendigo Orienteers and Melbourne Forest Racers, to put on another fantastic three days of forest orienteering; this time in everyone's favourite spur gully area, Eppalock.

Day 1 will be organised by Bendigo, at Mosquito Creek. Day 2 will be the final of the 2020 Vic Autumn Bush series, hosted by DR and MFR, and Day 3 will be a fun wrapup to the weekend. Sunday and Monday will have a common arena close to Lake Eppalock.

There is plenty of camping and other accommodation nearby, as well as in Bendigo, a short drive away. Start planning now!

**COURSE PLANNER NEEDED FOR SUNDAY AND/OR MONDAY!**

## ▽ MELBUSHO POLICE PADDOCKS, Sunday July 12 2020

DROC is making use of a new map which is bound to be popular, as it is right in the heart of Melbourne's south eastern suburbs in Rowville. Venue for recent Schools Champs, the map will get an upgrade for MelbushO. As always, you'll be able to choose any of the five courses, enter and pay on the day, and start any time between 10am and 11.30am. MelBushO events are a fabulous way for newcomers to try bush orienteering, and for regulars to brush up on their skills without travelling for hours.

**COURSE PLANNER NEEDED!**

## ▽ SPRINT DOUBLE RMIT BUNDOORA, Sunday August 23 2020

Schools team coach and DROC Prez Peter Hobbs is planning a Winter Sprint Extravaganza, to get everyone nicely prepped for the Australian Champs. The RMIT Bundoora campus is ideal thanks to the variety of terrain it provides. Part of our junior coaching program, but open to all comers.

## ▽ MELBOURNE CITY RACE, PORT MELBOURNE, Sun November 29 2020



We're excited to announce the return of the Melbourne City Race in 2020! This year our map will be Port Melbourne, featuring the scenic delights of the beachfront, and the incredible complexity of the streets and lanes of this historic part of the city. Saturday will be the Victorian Sprint Champs (venue tba), followed by the City Race itself on Sunday morning.

Peter Dalwood is already preparing another spectacular map, and we hope to have an indoor Event Hub to add to the buzz. Stay tuned [www.melbournecityrace.com.au](http://www.melbournecityrace.com.au)

**COURSE PLANNER NEEDED!**

## MEMBER NEWS

This time around we have some welcomes, and some welcome backs!

New member - Daniel Schneider (right) joined the club in December. Daniel is a pretty handy runner, having grown up and gone to school with Asha Steer. Daniel's been a regular face at streetO and sprints, and doing very well at both.

Lesa Muir rejoined the club in September, after a couple of years absence.

Colin Pearce has been a welcome sight at Summer Series, dropping in a couple of times during a break from their round-Australia trip to catch up with family and friends. Colin is loving his nomadic lifestyle and has plenty more of the country to see!



While Melbourne is a cool change for the Pearces, Peter Kovassy is feeling the heat! Back in Victoria for a few months, Peter is more used to snow than sizzle, but is enjoying the Monday series.

German orienteer Marie Herrnholt will join DROC for a few months while here on a student exchange. Arriving soon, Marie will be at the Monash Sprint, then as many events as she can fit in during her visit. Marie is taking up our pro-rata membership offer for overseas orienteers.

## 2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

2020 memberships were due by January 1<sup>st</sup>. If you haven't yet renewed, you can do so via Eventor - use the link that was emailed to you, as the easiest way to renew and pay for yourself and other family members.

If preferred, you can pay by cash or bank transfer - see details on the [Membership form](#).

## THE MILLENNIUM CLUB

Helen Kerley (below) has reached the milestone of 750 Park Street events, upgrading her Millennium Club status to Companion. Congratulations Helen!



## DROC SHOP

The DROC Shop is open for business and ready to get you kitted out for 2020 and beyond! We sell Sportident sticks (including SI Air sticks for those who want to speed up their race), and a range of compasses suitable for newcomers, at very reasonable prices.

We also sell Pro-Tech gaiters, fingerbands, and Silva headbands. [Prices can be found here](#). We bring the Shop to most events, including MelbushO. You can order by sending an email to [droc@iinet.net.au](mailto:droc@iinet.net.au).

We also have a range of running tops and jackets, in various designs and sizes. Contact [Peter Yeates](#) to find out what's in stock.

## GET WELL SOON

On the way to recovery - Christine Palmer (hip surgery) and Ian Greenwood (knee op). Ian's knee repair must have been urgent, as he missed the DROC Christmas Party! He sent us greetings from his hospital bed. We wish them both, and anyone else injured, a speedy recovery and a swift return to orienteering.



## PUNCHLINE SCANNING PROJECT COMPLETE

Almost every issue of Punchline since 1979 has now been scanned and made available online, thanks to Wayne and James Love, and Peter Hobbs. Since then, members have been busy reliving the glory days! Check out this fantastic treasure trove of history and nostalgia [here](#)

## THE FAMOUS DROC CHRISTMAS PARTY

Despite temperatures in the high 30s, a big crowd gathered at Blackburn Lake, hoping to catch SantO Claus as he handed out (frozen) chocolate treats to all well-behaved orienteers! Afterwards, everyone feasted on the delicious spread provided. The highlight was the Newburys' Choc-O-late Ripple cake - half orange, half white, just like an orienteering flag! A merry evening was had by all, and it was a lovely way to celebrate 2019.

## JUNIOR WINNERS AT PRIMARY SCHOOLS CHAMPS



Joel Crothers was a clear winner at the Primary Schools Southern Zone Championships, held at Police Paddocks in Rowville. Joel won Grade 4 Boys by a huge margin of 27 minutes. Congratulations!

Sammy Love placed second at the Eastern Zone Champs at Maroondah Reservoir, in Grade 6 Girls. She was less than 2 minutes behind the winner, and a comfortable 6 minutes ahead of the third placegetter.

Joel and Sammy will be joining other Victorian under-14s at a special 2-day holiday training program in mid January, honing their Sprint skills before the Monash sprint and Melbourne Sprint Weekend. Look out!

## RECORD NUMBER OF OA BADGES

At the Christmas party, we handed out a new record of 25 Orienteering Australia badges, earned during the past 2 years.

Badges are earned at Championship and national events, and recognize competitor performances relative to winning times.

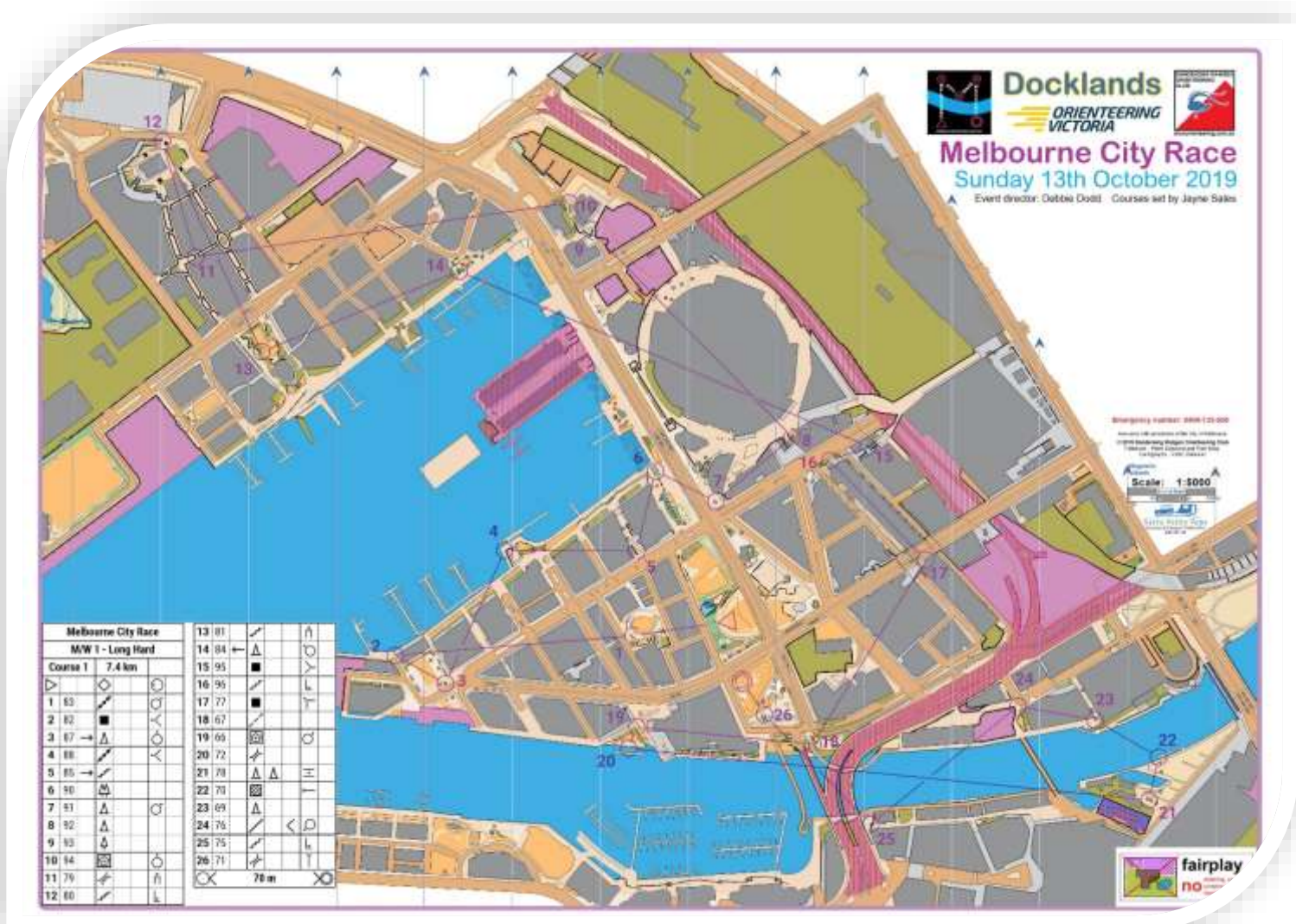
Every year, DROC has more and more members receiving their Gold, Silver or Bronze badge! Here are the 2019 recipients:

SALLY	BARLOW	W16	BRONZE
PETER	DALWOOD	M70	GOLD
IAN	DAVIES	M60	SILVER
SARAH	DAVIES	W17	GOLD
DEBBIE	DODD	W55	BRONZE
IAN	DODD	M60	BRONZE
PETER	GROVER	M75	BRONZE
PETER	HOBBS	M35	GOLD
PAMELA	KING	W65	SILVER
AMBER	LOUW	W16	SILVER
JAMES	LOVE	M16	SILVER
SAMMY	LOVE	W12	SILVER
SARAH	LOVE	W45	BRONZE
WAYNE	LOVE	M45	SILVER
STUART	MCWILLIAM	M60	BRONZE
GLENN	MEYER	M40	SILVER
SIMON	ROUSE	M40	GOLD
DAMIAN	SPENCER	M40	GOLD
ASHA	STEER	W20	GOLD
JANINE	STEER	W55	SILVER
LANITA	STEER	W21	GOLD
MARTIN	STEER	M50	GOLD
HELEN	WALPOLE	W40	GOLD
ILZE	YEATES	W70	BRONZE
PETER	YEATES	M70	SILVER

## MELBOURNE CITY RACE

Have you seen the highlights video from the 2019 Melbourne City Race? There are many DROC stars in there, so check it out, and share it via your social media - we want as many views as possible!

[MCRW 2019 Highlights Video](#)



The Melbourne City Race at Docklands was the biggest urban event of the year and the first of its kind in Australia. Drawing a big crowd of regular locals, along with lots of eager interstate and overseas travellers, and plenty of newcomers, the MCRW is set to become a regular event on the orienteering calendar.

Peter Dalwood's map of Docklands, with its multiple levels and other intricacies, drew plenty of praise. Jayne Sales set challenging courses in true City Race style. The DROC crew ran the event in smooth style - in spite of a last minute crisis when a crucial footbridge was suddenly closed for maintenance!

Competitors took in the sights of Victoria Harbour, Waterfront, and Southbank. It was a true City Race with a European flavour as we mingled with large crowds around Polly Woodside. A bunch of very excited competitors compared routes and swapped stories afterwards, while enjoying perfect weather!

Most pleasing was the number of juniors who took part, and who featured strongly in the results, which were not divided by age. DROC's podium placegetters were James Love, Joel Crothers and Sarah Davies (all 2nd), with top 10 results from Peter Hobbs, Simon Rouse, Ian Dodd, Sarah Love, Sally Barlow and Asha Steer. Joel was also presented with the Best Male Newcomer award, sponsored by Yarra Valley Vans.

Look out for details of the 2020 Melbourne City Race, at [www.melbournecityrace.com.au](http://www.melbournecityrace.com.au)

## PARK STREET NEWS

Plenty of club members have been out and about, enjoying Summer Series events on weeknights. We've seen some great courses set. Here are my highlights of the season so far:

*Wattle View* - Sally and the Newburys found a previously unmapped "greenway" while they were planning the course. Local residents have created a colourful garden along one stretch.

*Bunjil Run* - excellent first course set by Ben Fullard, using a great new start at the western end of Glenfern Run. Control 7 looked so near, and yet was so far. One of the most talked about courses of the series.



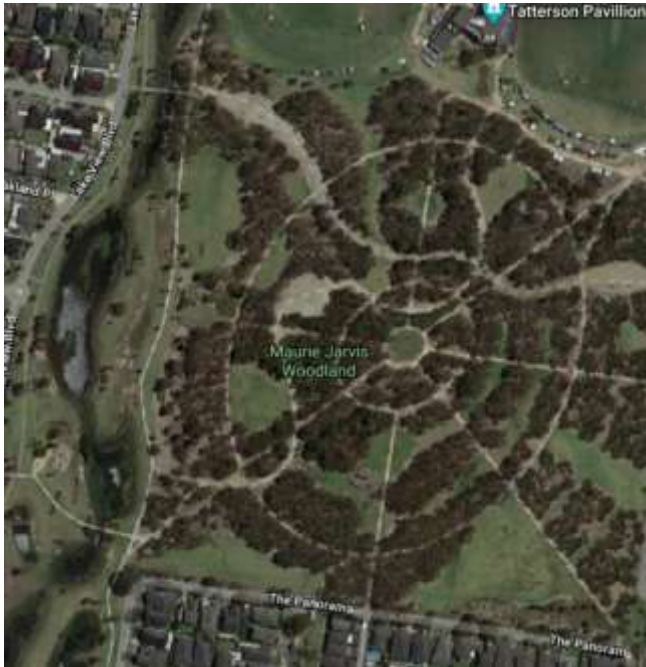
*Monash Mayhem* - Ian Davies did a great job planning courses from an awkward start location, and we relished the chance to practice our campus navigation skills, with the added challenge of an old version of the Uni map. Ian threw in compulsory controls for the A course to create even more Mayhem.

1. Eastfield sign POLE
2. Creek Trail sign POLE
3. Big POLE
4. Fence POLE
5. Give way sign POLE
6. Green steel box near some wooden POLES
7. Traffic light POLE
8. Western tree that could be turned into a POLE
9. Swing POLE
10. Small tree near a POLE
11. Basketball POLE
12. Guy wire attached to a POLE
13. Heritage Tree sign POLE
14. Old horse jump POLE
15. Picnic table POLE
16. No trucks POLE
17. Gate POLE
18. Midget POLE
19. Big tree opposite a POLE
20. Bus stop POLE

*Croydon Poles* - Ian Greenwood got creative by placing all 20 controls on features that sounded like poles (left) - but weren't!

*Dingley Village* - Pam worked her mapping magic to bring this little-used map back to life, and Joel Crothers did a fantastic job planning courses on it. Unfortunately due to thick smoke haze we had to postpone the event; it will be fixtured as part of the Saturday Series. Make sure you come along!

## NEW MAP - TATTERSON



We're looking forward to the debut of our new Tatterson map, by Peter Grover. Taking in Tatterson Park, with its sporting complex, chain of lakes, and fascinating "tree maze", and the intricate street network of the adjoining estates, this map is sure to be a crowd pleasing addition to our map library.

Tatterson Park is on 48 hectares located in Keysborough, and includes Springers Leisure Centre. The park has a 20 hectare woodland in the centre, three sportsgrounds, a regional playground, and extensive wetlands and walking tracks.

Tatterson Park's regional playground, a World of Insects, features ladybugs, ants, beehives and a giant magnifying glass.

Come along and bring the kids on Monday January 20!

## PARK STREET CHAMPIONSHIP 2020

The 2020 Park Street Champs Final will be held on the Mulgrave map, on Monday 24 February, hosted by Bayside Kangaroos, and set by former Course Setter of the Year, Judi Herkes. Once again, we expect the Champs to be hotly contested in all grades.

To be eligible, you'll need to compete in one or more of the Qualifiers, in the preceding two weeks. You'll also need to be a financial club member, and to have completed at least 6 events in the current Summer Series - runners must have completed at least 6 Running events (any course) and power walkers must have done 6 or more PW events.

The Melbourne qualifying events are:

- Wednesday Feb 12 - Ruffey Lake
- Monday Feb 17 - Tirhatuan Park
- Tuesday Feb 18 - Maribyrnong Parklands
- Wednesday Feb 19 - Koonung Crossing
- Thursday Feb 20 - Norris Bank



Ray Howe (above, with Ian Greenwood at the 2016 Park Street Champs) is stepping down as the Champs Coordinator after a number of years in the role, with Michael Stillwell (NE) taking over. We owe Ray, and assistant Dale, a massive THANK YOU for all the work he put in to establish the Champs as a significant annual event.

Medals will be presented at the Awards Night on Wednesday April 1 at Maroondah Triangle.

Check the Champs web page during February for all details, rules, and results

<https://www.vicorienteeing.asn.au/parkstreet/champs/>

## *OUR FLIGHT OVER ANTARCTICA - Pat and Allan Miller*

We were scheduled to depart Melbourne at 5.30pm on New Year's Eve and return at 6.30am on New Year's Day, flying Qantas in a Boeing 747-400. When we arrived at the nominated boarding gate we were astounded to see the large number of our fellow passengers, all identified by coloured lanyards. We were also greeted by a 5 piece jazz band who were to accompany us on our flight!

We took off on time and flew over the Bay and then over Tassie. At this stage it was quite cloudy and we hoped the skies would clear by the time we reached Antarctica. It took about 4 ½ hours until we approached the coast and by now the skies had cleared and we could see blue sea below us. We saw what appeared to be small white boats but quickly realised that these were our first sightings of icebergs. As we approached the sea ice surrounding the continent, larger flat topped icebergs appeared which had broken away from the main ice sheet.

Once over the land we were confronted by large expanses of snow - some flat and level and others patterned with crevasses and parallel ridges. We realised how difficult it would be to travel over this terrain. Then there were buildings below us which were Australia's Casey Base, and anchored in the nearby bay was the orange supply ship - Aurora Australis. We continued - mainly following the coast line - and were rewarded with spectacular views of black rocky outcrops jutting out from the white snow. We even passed a ship stuck in the ice.

Obviously not every passenger can have a window seat, so there was much movement around the cabin as people tried to take photos of the spectacular scenery below. There was a seat rotation system so as to enable as many people as possible to get a chance of being close to a window.

Being New Year's Eve, we counted down to midnight (Melbourne time) then we welcomed the New Year with champagne, and singing of Auld Lang Syne accompanied by the jazz band. It was rather disconcerting to see the bright sunshine outside in what was the middle of the night.

We continued flying over glaciers, strangely patterned sea ice and lots of snow, until it was time to turn for home. As we flew north the sun disappeared and we started to reach the pre-dawn semi-darkness. As we left Antarctica most people (us included) dozed until we were woken with breakfast!

Arriving at Tulla about 6.40 am we disembarked and our amazing adventure was over. We have included some pictures from a website as we did not take any photos ourselves, but we have ordered a DVD of the trip and will organise to show it at a DROC meeting.



## ANOTHER SPRING OF SPRINTING

This year's Sprint Into Spring series had a decidedly wintery feel to it, with cold, wet, windy weather at most of the events thanks to the late appearance of Melbourne's summer. Nevertheless, we had another great series of top quality Sprint events, kicked off with the Melbourne City Race Weekend, and capped off with the Victorian Sprint Championship at Kardinia College in Geelong. We also loved the new Macedon Ranges Sprint Series run by CHOC. DROC once again had great success, showing off our Sprinting prowess at all events.

### SIS 1 - Edgewater

This was also the first race of the Melbourne City Race Weekend, and was our first ever Friday evening Sprint. We were unsure whether people would go for the timeslot, but we had 150 participants, with ranks swelled by a healthy number of interstate runners, overseas runners, and newcomers. Courses were a bit longer than normal, to fit the City Race format. The highlight was Asha Steer's second place in a red hot field of top female Sprinters, and strong performances from Peter Hobbs, Damian Spencer, Ian Dodd, James Love, and Helen Walpole.

### SIS 2 - Kensington

Another first as we hit the streets of Kensington, this race also featured a memorable Hill Climb leg and some tricky stuff in the Stockyards section. I gatecrashed an auction and was very careful to run with my arms firmly by my sides as the auctioneer was calling the hammer on \$1.2 million!

### SIS 3 - Kurunjang

A new map in Melton saw a win to James Love on Sally Men, and top five finishes for Ian Dodd, Helen Walpole and Damian Spencer.

### SIS 4 - Eltham College

A return to one of our favourite venues, Eltham College never gets any easier! DROC members were moving into Jersey contention. A sizzling run from Peter Hobbs gave him a top 5 finish on Mo Men, and Asha took out Mo Women. James Love and Martin Steer were second and third on Sally Men, and Janine Steer was fourth on Sally Women.

### SIS 5 - Cornish College

The tiny school area has been extended by a fantastic new building, adding another dimension to this map, which has a huge variety of terrain thanks to its mini farmyard, golf course, and lake. Top performances from Simon Rouse and Peter Hobbs on Mo Men, Asha Steer on Mo Women, James Love and Damian Spencer on Sally Men, Helen Walpole, Sally Barlow and Sammy Love on Sally Women, and Joel Crothers on Usain. Meanwhile Sprint and Hill Climb specialists Sarah and Wayne Love were continuing to gather valuable points in their Jersey quests.

### SIS 6 - Oxley College

This was DROC's event, and Sarah and James Love took on course planning; James is a student here and knows the campus inside out. They did a great job using all the complexity that the small hilltop campus offers, and tested us on the open legs as well. Asha Steer scored another victory, while Damian Spencer and Janine Steer both had top 5 finishes on their respective courses.

### SIS 7 - Darebin Parklands

The finale was a change of scene as we swapped campus for parkland. Final points were at stake! DROC dominated Sally Men with 6 of the top 10 - winner was Ian Dodd, second Damian Spencer, with James Love, Andrew Perkins, Stuart McWilliam and Wayne Love the other four. Helen Walpole was third on Sally Women, and Elijah Spencer was 7<sup>th</sup> on Usain.

## JERSEY WINNERS

Our 2019 Jersey winners were Sarah Love (Mo Women Green), Damian Spencer (Sally Men Green), Wayne Love (Sally Men Polkadot) and Sammy Love (Sally Women Polkadot). Asha Steer was 3rd overall on Mo Women, and James Love was third overall on Sally Men. Congratulations!

## SPRINT PHOTOS







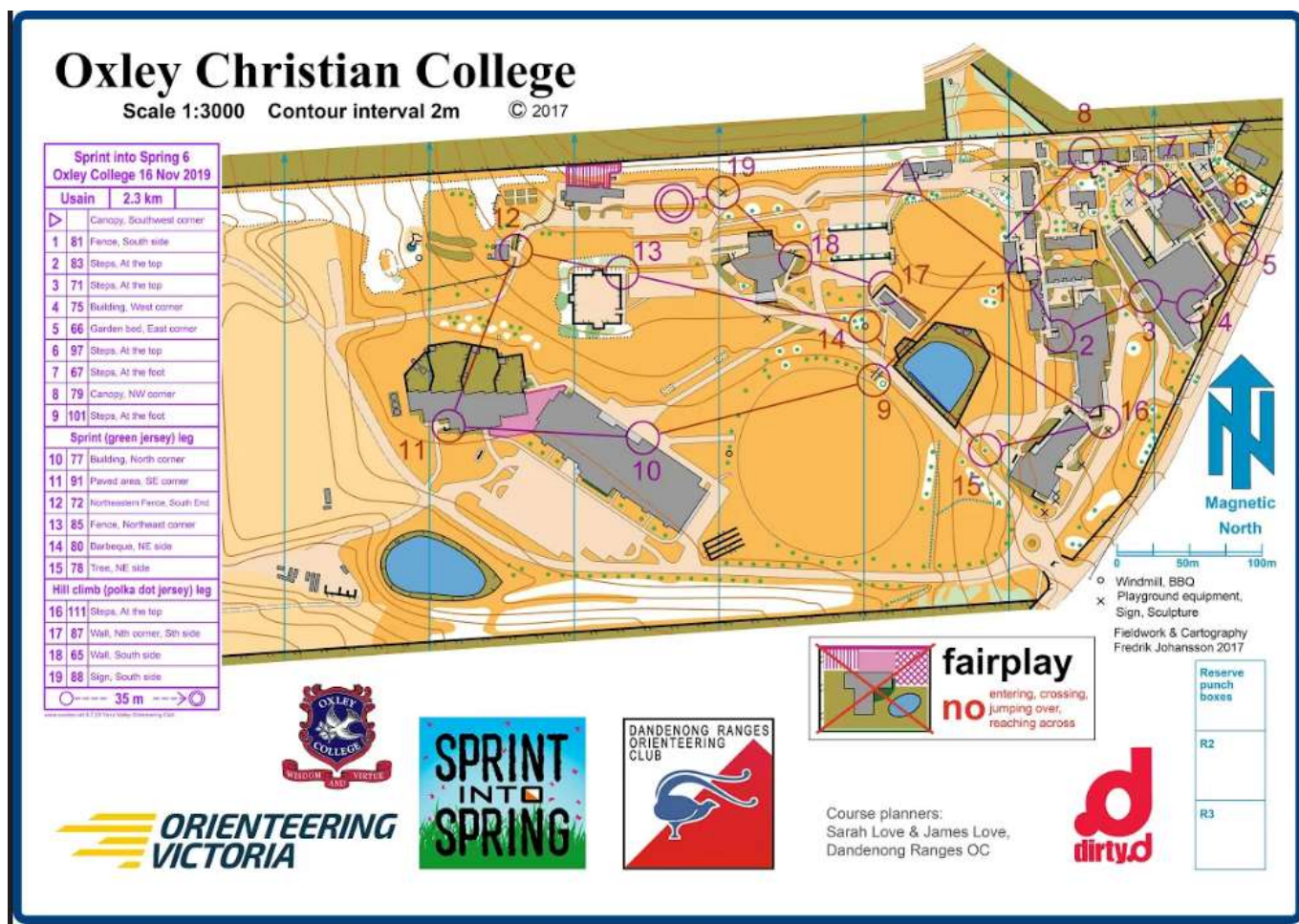
We had a great day out at Kardinia International College at Geelong, venue for the 2019 Victorian Sprint Champs. Last used in 2016 for the Melbourne Sprint Weekend, everyone was looking forward to testing their sprint skills at this complex campus. Reading fine detail and keeping map contact were more important than speed, as tiny cut throughs offered the shortest route choices.

➤ Winners and Victorian Champions: Sarah Davies, Janine Steer, Peter Dalwood

➤ 2nd Placegetters: Sammy Love, Helen Walpole, James Love, Martin Steer

➤ 3rd Placegetters: Sally Barlow, Asha Steer, Sarah Love, Pamela King, Stuart McWilliam





The “Usain” course, for juniors and newcomers, at Oxley College.

## SEEN ON THE STREETS

I was rather perturbed to be confronted by a very large tiger in a tree, “guarding” a control, at a recent streetO event in Heathmont this summer - until I remembered that the Mighty Tigers won the 2019 Premiership by a mere 89 points!

I wonder how long he will be on proud display, terrorising any local magpies, crows, eagles, hawks, swans, lions, kangaroos, cats and dogs?

*Seen anything unusual during a streetO event? Send a photo to the Editor*



## WORLD O MAP

The enterprising Swiss have O-mapped the world! Using open source mapping, you can go to any part of the world and download a map section to use for an orienteering event. While not intended for serious competition, the map is designed to be easily accessible from any device connected to the internet, and can be downloaded as a pdf as well. Check it out at <https://o-map.ch/>



## PREZ SEZ - Presidents Report 2019

It is with pleasure that I table the President's Report for the 40th year of operation of the Dandenong Ranges Orienteering Club (DROC).

This year (22 October 2018 to 27 October 2019) the club has organised approximately 35 orienteering events, covering a wide range of formats comprising of:

- summer series street-o events
- night street-o events
- Saturday afternoon events including an Enduro
- a MelbushO event
- the Monash indoor / outdoor sprint double
- teaming up with MFR to co-coordinate the QB Weekend events, including the Victorian Middle Distance Championships



Street orienteering continues to be the club's core activity in terms of participation and event organization, however our presence in the more technical bush and sprint orienteering disciplines remains strong. We continue to set technical events including State level events, MelBushO events and a sprint training session for juniors.

This year DROC orchestrated Australian Firsts: an official indoor sprint and the Melbourne City Race. Peter Dalwood's efforts in updating the Monash University map for the indoor / outdoor sprints and mapping Docklands for the City Race were sensational. Peter Grover's mapping of new areas is also noted.

DROC continues to retain a presence in mountain bike orienteering and rogaining. We continue the use of SportIdent and event registration technology with Ian Dodd taking a leading role in coordination. Our SportIdent system is still used frequently and DROC has custodianship of the O-Lynx registration software and tablet which is owned by Orienteering Victoria (OV).

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding performances of club members who have competed in various local, state and national level events during 2018-19. Unheard of in past years but now commonplace, DROC has eight members competing at either State or National level. Amber Louw, James Love and Sally Barlow represented Victoria in the Australian Schools Championships, among other events (Sarah Davies also selected but did not compete due to study commitments). Graham Wallis won the Course Setter of the Year for the Kingsclere streeto event in 2019, whilst 10 year old Joel Crothers is believed to be the youngest course setter we've seen, successfully setting the winter streeto event at Cavills Corner. The President and Committee applaud these achievements and will continue supporting the club's junior members.

The club's membership has been generally stable this year with 98 individual members (76 adult, 14 junior, 8 life members) compared to 102 last year. DROC's website continues to present the club positively and the on-line version of Punchline continues to be well received and reduces administration effort. Meanwhile, Wayne Love, James Love and the President successfully scanned all pre-electronic editions of Punchline, with the view to making these available on the DROC website.

Financially, the club has continued to preserve a strong asset position and will make a small profit this year. The traditional Christmas dinner was again a popular festivity with approximately 50 people in attendance after a summer series event at Bulleen. During the evening a record 22 Orienteering Australia Merit badges were awarded.

2019 was the club's 40th anniversary year, celebrated in style at a streeto event in Ferntree Gully in January, including a pre-event fashion parade, post-event cake eating and socializing, and the biggest Monday night attendance for years with a turnout of 108 including 44 DROC members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members who have volunteered in one or more capacities this year. I can't possibly list the efforts of all volunteers however the following list gives an indication of efforts that members have put into the club and the sport in general:

- Debbie Dodd - Punchline and e-news editor, website curator, membership secretary and general organiser of many things. Debbie plays a huge role in the day to day operation of the club particularly through her efficient coordination of the events DROC organises. Co-chair of Urban Orienteering Committee, Wednesday summer streeto Coordinator, main OV liaison and takes a leading role in managing the OV website.
- Ian Dodd - Treasurer, equipment manager, SportIdent expert and always a helping hand. Ian regularly provides technical support for timing and SI systems at events including non-DROC. On behalf of the Committee I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution Debbie and Ian make to DROC and orienteering generally.
- Ray Howe - Streeto Champs Coordinator.
- Mark Besley and Ian Davies - scoring and control cards. Ian also assists with the Victorian Junior Squad catering/fundraising.
- Peter Yeates - Saturday streeto coordinator, coordinating uniform sales, duties as Vice President, equipment management and always coming up with ideas.
- Peter Hobbs - Co-coach of the Victorian Junior Squad.
- Vic Sedunary - management of park and streeto accounting.
- Pam King and Peter Grover - mapping and secretary duties.
- Committee members - assisting run the club.
- Members - making the club.

A strong core of dedicated members have continued devoting their efforts to the operation of the club, steering it in a 'northerly' direction. I encourage all members to become involved in the club and its activities. There are some new faces on the committee this year which is great; and we would always welcome more. Things such as course setting, participation in club relays or simply offering to pick up a few controls after a club event are all easy ways to contribute.

The year ahead is shaping up to be a busy one, with the usual allocation of park-street, MelBushO and sprint events, plus we are likely to be coordinating the Queen's Birthday weekend again and setting a sprint double header.

I would like to thank all club members and the Committee who have contributed to the operation of the club this year and I wish the President and Committee well for the upcoming year.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



The DROC AGM was held at a new venue last year, when the Love family generously offered use of their house and BBQ. We had a fantastic spread whilst enjoying views over Mt Evelyn. After a short meeting to elect office bearers, we sat back and enjoyed some wonderful photos and travel stories, which got everyone's feet very itchy!

There was one change to the Committee. After many years in the role, Peter Grover retired as Secretary, and Sarah Love took on the position. We'd like to thank Peter immensely for all his hard work keeping our records accurate and up to date, and we wish Sarah well in the job. All other positions remain unchanged, and we look forward to another successful year for the club.

