

PUNCHLINE

Dandenong Ranges Orienteering Club Inc

www.drocorienteering.com.au

Incorporated Association Registered Number A0003225B

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Issue 201

July 2022

JUNIORS AT DROC

Dandenong Ranges Orienteering Club is proud to support our junior orienteers at all levels, from kids taking part in their very first event, to members of national teams selected to represent Australia overseas. We've just introduced some really exciting initiatives, which lead the way when it comes to helping all junior orienteers learn, grow, and have fun! Kids like Elijah (below) will reap the benefits as they progress. Here's how we currently support junior orienteering:

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP IS FREE - we don't charge a fee for members under 21.

KIDS RUN FREE - we offer free entry for kids under 21 at many of our events.

LYREBIRD AWARD - from 2023, we will sponsor an annual award of \$500 to the best Junior Girl as selected by Orienteering Victoria (formerly the Rockhopper Award).



VICTORIAN JUNIOR SQUAD AND SCHOOLS TEAM - we donate a significant amount annually, through event income, donations and fundraising, to the Victorian junior squads and teams. In 2022, DROC will contribute towards the Schools Team uniforms for the Australian Schools Championships.

DROC TEAM MEMBER SUPPORT - we contribute towards travelling expenses of our Club juniors selected to the Victorian Schools team, or to Australian teams for JWOC, WOC, World University Champs, or World Games.

ADDITIONAL TEAM MEMBER SUPPORT - beginning this year, we will invite other individuals or clubs to apply for funding, to support their own travelling team members to JWOC, WOC, WUOC or World Games. Successful applicants will enter a resource sharing arrangement with DROC, for coaching and other joint activities, as well as support and assistance to run our events. In 2022, Melbourne Forest Racers received this funding, which will assist their four Australian representative team members to travel and compete on the world stage.

We strongly encourage our juniors to participate in activities at every opportunity, at programs such as Learn to Orienteer, Junior Camps, Primary and Secondary Schools competitions, and regular events like MelBushO. We also help juniors become involved in course setting, mapping, or event organising.

During the school holidays a juniors training camp was held in the Bendigo region. Despite a few juniors missing due to Covid or pre planned holidays, it was still a great turnout.

The camp was a wonderful opportunity to get back into the bush, brush up on skills, learn new techniques, and for some juniors this was their first outing on granite. This was also a chance for many juniors to catch up after so long, and meet lots of newer members. And some eager youngsters are now keen to be on the schools team when old enough.

Two full day sessions were held, the first at Mt Tarrengower and the second at Chewton Garfield Water Wheel. Training sessions were varied, including trying things like mass start relays, route choice options between the same controls to see the difference between taking a safer but longer route and a shorter more challenging route, and what suits each individual. Add in some general chatting around bonfires and it was a fantastic few days for all.

Sarah Love



The Learn to Orienteer Program taught me many new skills. I began orienteering in 2019 after Pam King did a program at school. I loved it straight away as I have always had an interest in maps and asked my parents if I could join an orienteering club.

I went to many park street events and did my second bush event as a 10 year old at the Creswick Victorian Championships. I also planned my first park street course when I was 10.

With Covid disrupting everything over the last couple of years, it has been challenging to go from the very easy courses I did as a 10 year old, to the more difficult longer courses I am doing now. Being an orienteer whose parents have never done orienteering before is also a challenge, as they don't know the correct way to teach me.

The Learn to Orienteer Program was a great help to me. It went right back to the basics, such as knowing how to orientate your map and included fun games such as running to north, east, south and west. We learned about attack points and catching features as well as the basics on contours and gullies.

Each week we practiced the skills and got the opportunity to run around a course. It was all done in a fun, supportive environment and I got to meet many new people. I enjoyed every minute of the program.

Joel Crothers

DIARY DATES - 2022

Add these DROC event dates to your calendar; entry and payment for our feature events should be made online via Eventor. Online entries open approx. 2 weeks before each event unless stated otherwise:

Sunday July 17 - MelbushO, Jells Park

A new venue for MelBushO, this is sure to be popular! Course planners: Peter and Ilze Yeates. [Information and online entry.](#)

Sunday August 14 - Vic Spring Series, Eppalock

Enjoy fast, open spur gully terrain in everyone's favourite forest. Course planner: Ian Davies. [Information and online entry.](#)

Friday September 30 - Australian Sprint Championship, Salesian College, Sunbury

DROC will be the host club for the biggest Sprint race on the calendar, as part of the AusChamps Carnival. <https://aoc.orienteering.asn.au/> Entries Now Open!

Saturday October 8 to Sunday October 9 - Melbourne City Race Weekend

The MCRW returns in 2022, with a Saturday double header in Melbourne's south eastern suburbs, and another incredible Melbourne City Race on Sunday at Williamstown. www.melbournecityrace.com.au
Entries open early August.

Sunday November 13 - RMIT Bundoora Sprint Double

Two events in one! This campus is large and varied enough to hold two different sprint races in one action-packed day. Course planner: Peter Hobbs. [Information and online entry.](#)

MEMBER NEWS

We are delighted to welcome new members to DROC - Catherine Bates, Chris Klep, Jon Franklin, Callum Vidor, and Anthony Churchward. Welcome aboard, and we hope to see you coming along to lots of orienteering events! Callum is now a regular at streeto, and has been performing strongly in PW division 1 on Wednesdays. Chris, Jon and Anthony already have several MelbushOs under their belts.

We've also welcomed Lanita and Mat back to Victoria, after relocating back from South Australia.

VIC AUTUMN-SPRING SERIES - DROC LEADING THE WAY

The first four events have been held in the 2022 VASS - the first series that will see some overall results since 2019! Events have so far been held at Sandon, Enfield, Sailors Diggings, and Glenlyon; with five more events to come during August and September.

On the Mens 1 course, Simon Rouse is sitting in third, with a handy lead over the rest of the field. Ian Davies leads the way on 2M, and Ray Scaddan is also in the top 10. Damian Spencer is out in front on 3M, and Frankie Shin, in his first full year of bush orienteering, is top of the table on 4M. Keep going guys! Check the standings at <https://eventor.orienteering.asn.au/Standings/View/Series/174>

DROC SHOP

The DROC Shop is open for business, and ready to get you kitted out for 2022 and beyond! We sell Sportident sticks, including SI Air sticks for those who want to speed up their race. [Prices can be found here.](#) Order by sending an email to 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. The DROC shop also has a bunch of free stickers!

PREZ SEZ - PETER HOBBS

Finally it seems things are settling down to some sort of new-normal. The orienteering calendar, as well as our everyday lives, have been able to proceed in a more or less planned fashion; unlike the previous two years. Many of us have had the dreaded covid virus or similar flu-like ailment that is going around - and I do hope that everyone has pulled through these okay.

I finally arrived back in Australia in mid-April, but have only been to a few orienteering events thanks to being struck down by a bad cold and basically playing catch-up with everything since.

Thanks to a mountain of work by Debbie Dodd, backed by the Committee, DROC has implemented a structured funding stream that directly benefits Victorian juniors, with emphasis on supporting DROC juniors and representative team members. Plus there is potential to support other clubs' representative team members (with priority given to juniors), provided that they make a meaningful and agreed contribution back to DROC such as coaching, course setting, giving a talk etc. I think this is a great initiative as it "gives back" to the sport and supports our juniors, but will also see DROC receive some coaching and general assistance in return. As far as I am aware this is first time such a scheme has been implemented in the Victorian Orienteering scene and it will be interesting to see what transpires during piloting over the next 1-2 years. Of course, the Committee can adjust the scheme if required, as time goes by. At the time of writing there has already been one application for support and I anticipate that we will receive more.

Speaking of juniors, I have put my hand up to be one of the coaches for the Victorian Junior Team at the Australian Schools Championships (ASC) this year. I quite enjoyed doing it in 2019, which coincidentally was the last time that the ASC or Australian Championships were held. Unfortunately all of the Senior team members from 2019 never had another opportunity to compete in the ASC thanks to covid. Many of the then-Juniors will be competing as Seniors this year, whilst there is an entirely new crop of Juniors which is great to see, given the lack of orienteering since 2019, which made it difficult for the current day Juniors to engage much in orienteering at all.

Fingers crossed for a successful week and nine days of great weather like in 2019!

Happy Orienteering!
Peter Hobbs

VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIP DOUBLE HEADER WEEKEND

Many DROC members headed up to north eastern Victoria at the end of May, for what turned out to be a wonderful weekend of technical granite orienteering. The events were the Victorian Middle Distance Championships 2021, and the Victorian Long Distance Championships 2022 (yes, our calendar is rather strange this year, as we play catch-up).

Simon Rouse continued his excellent run of form, winning the Middle Distance title in M45, in a really strong field; then placing second in the Long Distance.

Other placegetters were

Middle Distance - Janine Steer 2nd, Elijah Spencer 2nd, Damian Spencer 3rd, Peter Yeates 3rd

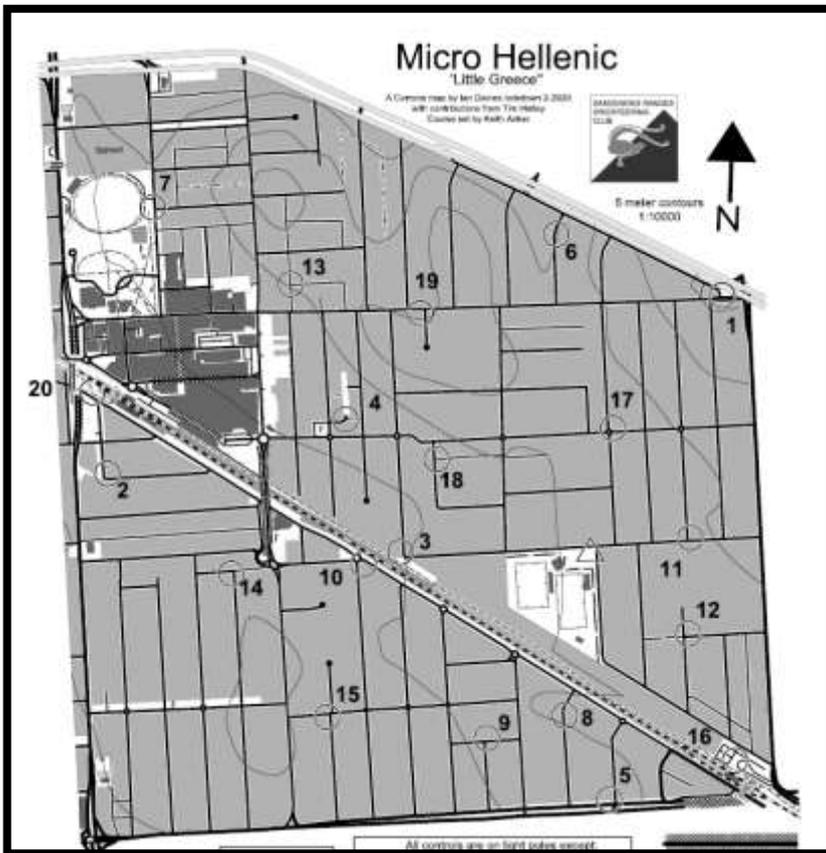
Long Distance - Sarah Love 3rd, James Love 2nd, Damian Spencer 3rd, Wayne Love 2nd,



PARK STREET WINTER SERIES

It's certainly been a character building winter, with a very wet and cold first half. Nonetheless, numbers are slowly starting to increase again, and we've also had some gorgeous crisp, clear and still evenings. Saturdays have been a mixed bag weather-wise. DROC members have been to the fore in setting courses, and it's been great to see some first timers doing a great job.

The "Spring" series is already underway on Monday and Wednesday evenings, while the Saturday Series continues right through until September.



TOP COURSES

Here's a selection of maps from April to June. Winter Series maps are available online to use any time, with MapRun6. [Download them from here.](#)

We also debuted "Micro Hellenic" (Little Greece) - a new map of Oakleigh, drawn by Ian Davies and Tim Hatley. The bisecting railway line created some consternation - but the highlight was the hot jam donuts on sale at the soccer club afterwards!

This page: Micro Hellenic; Abbey Walk (David Coysh)

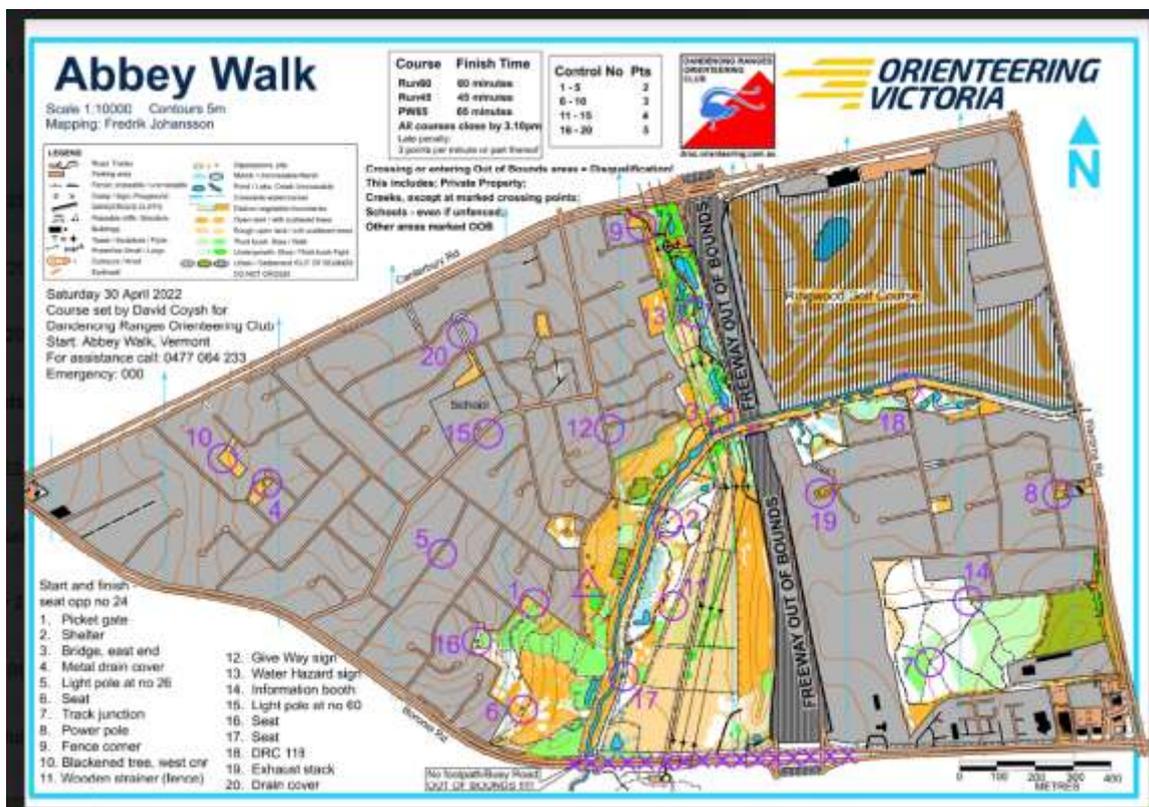
Next pages:

Balwyn North - Damian Spencer

Cavills Corner - Andrea and Lauren Jackson

Mulgrave - Rhys Eddy

Tally Ho - Mike Whitton



Balwyn North

Monday 11 Apr 2022

Start Location : Car park
between Tannock & Sylvander Sts
Balwyn North

Course Setter : Damian Spencer

Phone number for assistance:
0448200611

In an emergency,
call 000

Scale 1:10,000

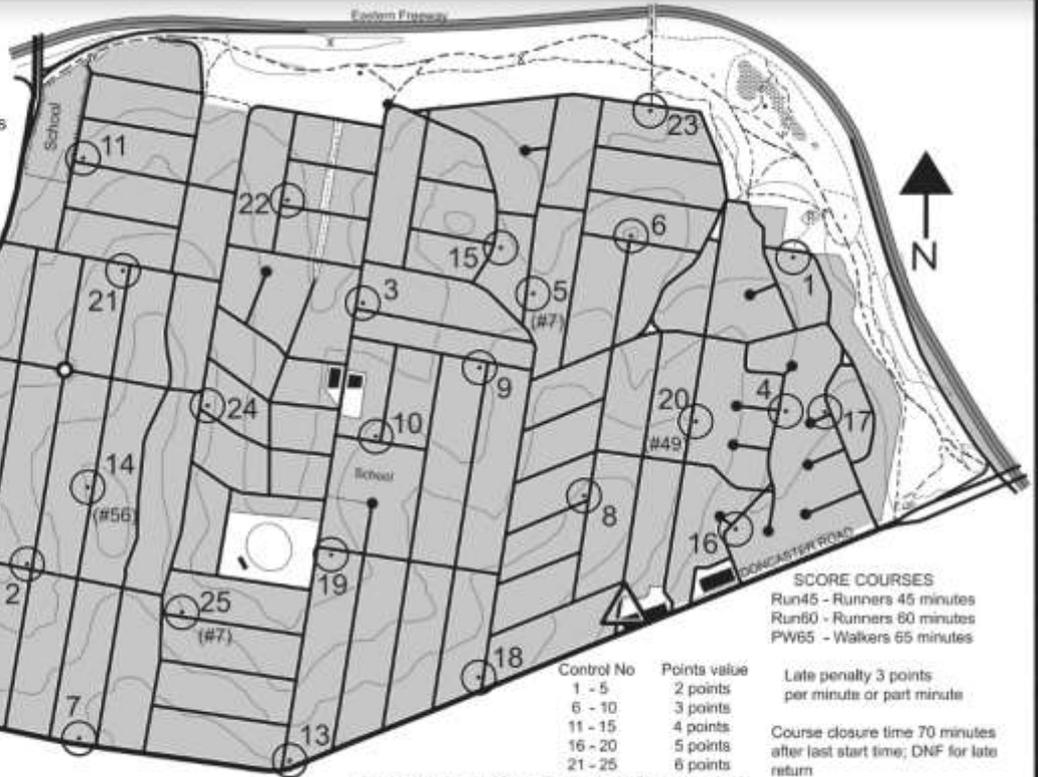
0 100 200 300 400
METRES

Contour interval 10 meters



BULFERN ROAD
DONCASTER ROAD

Want to know more
about orienteering
ph 0428 356 588
www.vicorienteering.asn.au



SCORE COURSES

Run45 - Runners 45 minutes
Run60 - Runners 60 minutes
PW65 - Walkers 65 minutes

Control No	Points value
1 - 5	2 points
6 - 10	3 points
11 - 15	4 points
16 - 20	5 points
21 - 25	6 points

Late penalty 3 points
per minute or part minute

Course closure time 70 minutes
after last start time; DNF for late
return

Visit controls in any order - all controls are on light poles.
Crossing or entering Out of Bounds areas = Disqualification. This includes:
• Private property, schools (even if not fenced), service station forecourts

Cavills Corner

Wednesday 7 Apr 2022

Autumn Classic Series Nr 1

Start location: Milpera Reserve, Milpera Crescent, Wantima

Course setter: Lauren & Andrea Jackson

Phone number for assistance: 0409 135 020

In an emergency, call 000

PLEASE NOTE

Crossing or entering Out of Bounds areas
= Disqualification

This includes:
Private property
Schools (even if not fenced)
Service station forecourts
Creeks, except at marked crossings
Fences shown as uncrossable



SCORE COURSES

Run45 - Runners 45 minutes
Run60 - Runners 60 minutes
PW65 - Walkers 65 minutes

Late penalty 3 points
per minute or part minute

Control No	Points value
1 - 5	2 points
6 - 10	3 points
11 - 15	4 points
16 - 20	5 points

All starters must return
to the finish by 8:05 pm

All controls are on
light poles

Scale 1:10000

0 100 200 300
METRES

Contours 10 mtrs

www.vicorienteering.asn.au



Mulgrave Brainwave

PARK STREET WINTER SERIES 2022
 Event day and date: Monday 30 May 2022
 Start location: Southern Reserve, Mulgrave
 Course setter: Rhys Eddy & Jacqui White

For assistance, call 0417 060 347
 In an emergency, call 000
www.vicorienteering.asn.au/parkstreet

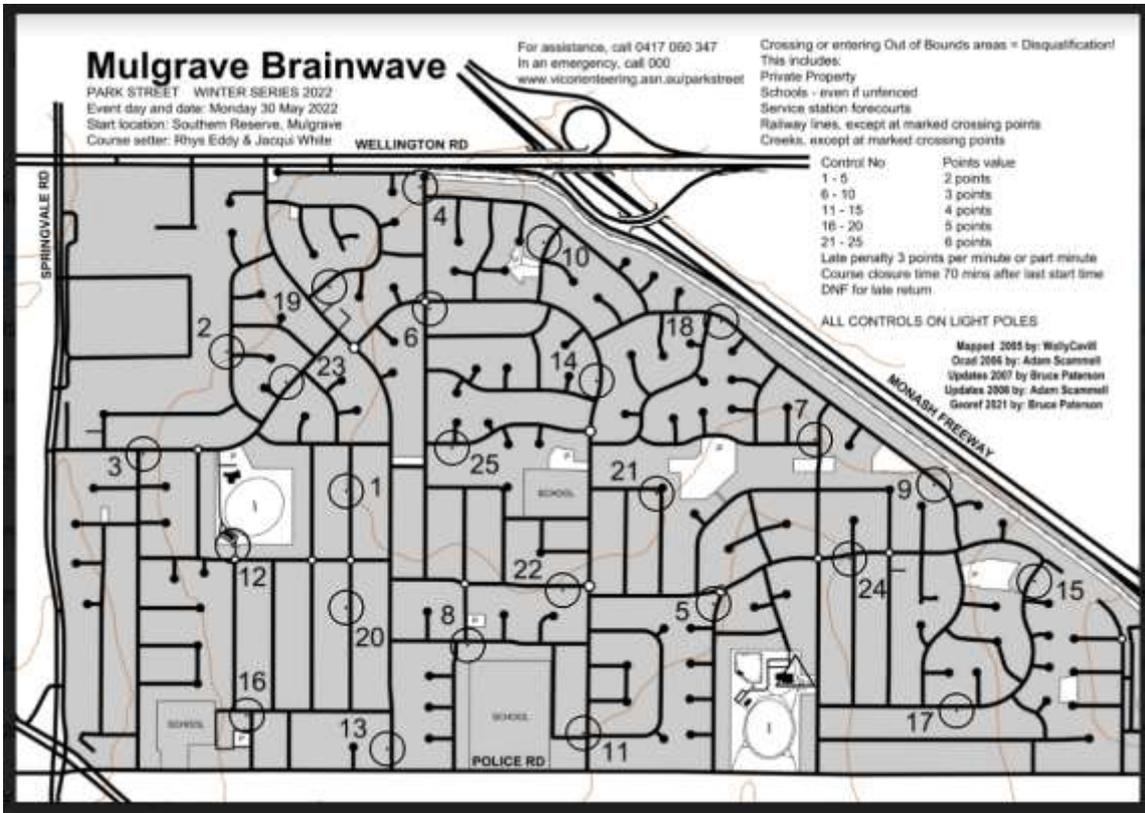
Crossing or entering Out of Bounds areas = Disqualification!
 This includes:
 Private Property
 Schools - even if unfenced
 Service station forecourts
 Railway lines, except at marked crossing points
 Creeks, except at marked crossing points

Control No	Points value
1 - 5	2 points
6 - 10	3 points
11 - 15	4 points
16 - 20	5 points
21 - 25	6 points

Late penalty 3 points per minute or part minute
 Course closure time 70 mins after last start time
 DNF for late return

ALL CONTROLS ON LIGHT POLES

Mapped 2005 by WallyCavill
 Draft 2006 by Adam Scammell
 Updates 2007 by Bruce Paterson
 Updates 2008 by Adam Scammell
 Georef 2021 by Bruce Paterson



TALLYHO Monday 13 June 2022

www.vicorienteering.asn.au/parkstreet
 Start Location : David Crawford Reserve,
 Orchard Street, Glen Waverley
 Course setter : Mike Whitton

For assistance ph : 0434 602 488
 In case of an emergency phone 000

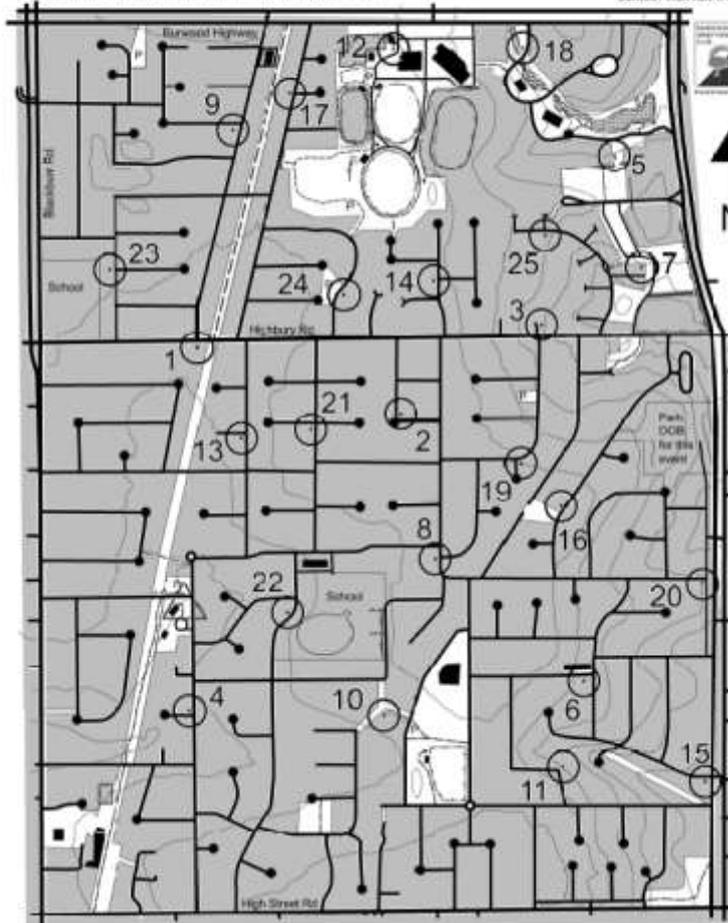
All starters must return to the finish by 8.05pm

SCORE COURSES
 Run45 - Runners 45 minutes
 Run60 - Runners 60 minutes
 PW65 - Walkers 65 minutes

Late penalty 3 points
 per minute or part minute
 All controls are on light poles
 Visit controls in any order

Controls	Value
1 - 5	2
6 - 10	3
11 - 15	4
16 - 20	5
21 - 25	6

Scale 1:10000
 0 100 200 300 METRES
 Contour intervals 5 metres



DROC FIRST AID KIT - Peter Yeates

The previous system of a centrally-held OV first aid kit has become unsustainable. It was overly large to transport, and contained a number of superfluous items. DROC decided to put together its own kit, for use at larger and/or more remote events. So in addition to access to the regular Street O kit, we now have a Large Event Kit.

This consists of the usual bandages, dressings, tapes, swabs etc, in sealable containers. In addition, there are two purpose-specific snake bite compression bandages, several safety blankets, and a small “bum bag” with basic needs and water that can be taken into the field for an immobile patient.

This will be available to view in the back of the Yeates vehicle for the next few weeks and we ask that event organisers and other members familiarise themselves with it. The issue of a defibrillator is a matter of ongoing discussion and the committee would appreciate any input.



Remember the ABC of first aid.

- Airways. Is the patient breathing.
- Bleeding. Control bleeding and remove hazards.
- CPR. If needed, you cannot be over enthusiastic.
- C also stands for CALL FOR HELP. This is this 21st century and help is only a phone call away.

We encourage all members in install the Emergency+ app on their device. Apart from making it easy to contact 000, SES and the Police, it also tells the Operator your location and GPS coordinates.

May we never need it for more than an ingrown toenail.

The DROC Committee would like to express their appreciation to Peter and Ilze, for putting this kit together, and for looking after first aid requirements at Park Street and bush events over a number of years.

AUSTRALIAN EASTER 3 DAY AND GOLD COAST SPRINT WEEKEND

For Victorian orienteers, Easter in Queensland was the first chance to travel for a major carnival since early 2021. We were promised open, fast running with little undergrowth, in and around Kingaroy, a new area. "Yes please" we said, after the horrendously thick vegetation of 2021. We reckoned without the rain - after one of the wettest Autumn seasons on record, everyone was anxiously watching the parlous state of the Queensland roads and dams. Add to that the angst around airport chaos, and it seemed like a miracle when we landed in Brisbane on the appointed day, with our luggage, to be greeted with lovely sunshine which held out for most of the trip.

Prologue (Good Friday)

As the first day of Easter competition features highly civilised, post-lunch starts, we had time for some local sightseeing. A short drive took us to Lake Somerset, where jetskiers were happily disturbing the serenity. We couldn't see the appeal - but then they probably can't comprehend why we would choose to run around in the forest. Each to their own...

The prologue was on a lovely private property called Taromeo. Billed as a "sprint", it certainly didn't fit that description. The terrain was open paddocks with scattered rocks, with more complex rock on the steeper slopes. We had to cross the same creek four times. Long grass slowed things down - the winning times were not as quick as they should have been, and they should have cut off the final (and pretty superfluous) last loop for us non elites.

I was making my way quite efficiently around the course, largely by using elephant tracks, with controls appearing on queue. It all came unstuck on no 10. Having become blasé about map reading, I drifted carelessly down a slope on the wrong angle, lost the lead-in trail, and hit the creek in the wrong place. I wasn't the only one - but I wasted a good 5 minutes minnowing around fruitlessly. Nevertheless I enjoyed it up to that point, but the final loop was just more of the same, and way too long. I was on the Womens Elite course, and wondering why they didn't provide a shorter option for those of us who aren't gazelles.

Easter Day 1

Today marked the start of the proper Easter 3 Day competition, where the war of attrition starts. One Mispunch, and you are out of contention for the whole comp - game over. Even if you are holding up the bottom of the

results, there is satisfaction to be had in completing all three days intact. That was my aim, having no delusions of grandeur.

Our destination was Reedy Creek, about 30 minutes west of Kingaroy. It was a civilised 6.30am wakeup, and we were out the door an hour later. The dirt track into the arena was one of the roughest I've encountered - and it had just been graded! We arrived in the arena to see people were already finishing, and positioned ourselves in the shade, with an excellent view of the final control.

Pete departed first, followed by Ilze, then me half an hour afterward. Pete and I were on the same course; Ilze's was slightly shorter. Today was proper Middle Distance, with winning times around 30-35 minutes - which meant I could expect to be about an hour.

It was a nice clear map with lots of yellow splodges, indicating open areas, with lots of smaller black splodges, indicating rocks. The direct route to the first control went straight through green stripey stuff, indicating evil Queensland vegetation that may seek to strangle you. So wisely I went round it, following a small goat track (minus any small goats).

The next 5 legs were all technical, from rocky bit to rocky bit, trying to pick the boulders from the boulder clusters from the bare rocks from the cliffs. It went remarkably well; I was starting to feel confident, as I was leading others in and reading the rock perfectly. After no 6, we had two legs across more vague. I found no 7 with no problems, and thought "I've got this". Big mistake. I got complacent, and drifted off to my left into a gully. Yes you have all heard this story before, more than once...

Luckily there was a very obvious termite mound, which I relocated from. As I climbed back up the hill (grrr) I saw a rock that looked right - but it had a cluster of water cups and containers, which weren't indicated on my map. I started doubting myself - but everything matched, other than the pile of white plastic strewn around the base of the control stand. I checked the number- phew, it was mine! I'm not sure of the rules - surely if water is placed at a control, the map should tell you? Pete actually decided it wasn't his control, and spent considerably longer looking for it than I did. I wondered if this was protest-able.

Hoping that was my only error for the day, I headed across a clearing towards no 9. Control description= "distinctive tree". Really??? There were several piles of rocks and lots of trees; nothing distinctive about any of them. Why not use a rock feature - there were plenty of those. Turns out the tree was just dead (which I guess distinguished it from the living ones?). I wasted a good 5 minutes hunting for this one. Finally found it, straight into the last control, and finish. Despite my mistakes, I was looking forward to more tomorrow.

Easter Day 2

My enthusiasm was tempered at 5am, just before the alarm went off, and the world outside was still dark. We dragged ourselves out of bed and were on the road at 6, the sky brightening with promise of another lovely day.

There was an upside and a downside to my pre-9am start. The upside - cooler weather, and shorter queues for food afterwards. The downside - the elephant tracks through the long grass had not had time to form definitively. The map looked much the same as yesterday - hardly surprising given it was the same venue - but my course was 800 metres longer. I left the start triangle confidently, reminding myself to stay focused at the end, so as not to repeat yesterday's errors.

No problem there as it turned out - I got all my errors over and done with on the first two controls instead! Relying too much on being able to read both rock and vegetation, and not enough on a good accurate compass bearing, I found myself meandering around in very long tangly grass, past various nondescript rocks, and open areas that may or may not be the right clearing. After a while I realised I needed a Plan B. Heading north to an unmissable watercourse, then relocating and navigating back to my control, seemed the best solution. It seemed to take ages, and I was beginning to seriously doubt the wisdom of my Plan B. Plan C was to turn around and head back to the start, and begin over again - this would involve a degree of slinking and hiding, to avoid embarrassment.

Luckily I popped out in a clearing with a rock - but even better, with two of my fellow competitors, and a control! Phew - I'd stumbled across it using the tried and tested "hope and pray" method. Fifteen minutes lost already. Things could only get better ...

I picked my way down a rocky slope with grass grabbing at my feet, towards a nice flat cleared area. Find the three termite mounds and follow

them uphill, to the rocky spur above. I did all that, but could not spot the flag. I decided I was too low, so climbed some more and hunted some more. I found a control, but it wasn't mine. I think my lip began quivering at this point. It was all going wrong.

Retreat back down to where I was before, and there is my control sitting up and waving at me. Why couldn't I see it before??? I looked at my watch - 30 minutes gone, and still 8 controls to go. I sighed, and mustered my intestinal fortitude.

The next section of the course was much less rocky and grassy, and my pace quickened. Now I was easily recognising features, and moving in straight lines. The controls flowed nicely, navigating aided by accurately mapped termite mounds in the flat, vague, Queensland scrub. Leg 6 was the "long" leg, but it was straightforward - more termite mounds, cross a creek, cross another creek, sight an enormous boulder off to my right, and straight in to my control.

Now I was amongst huge and very identifiable rocks, with several controls placed along a long spur. I simply followed the line of the spur, ticking the rocks off as I went. This section was really fun and I wished we had a few more controls in there. I finished with no further issues.

Easter Day 3

It seemed normal now to get up at 5am, and we moved efficiently around the house, doing what we need to do to get ready and depart at daybreak. Today, day hadn't quite broken, thanks to a heavy fog that was hanging in the valleys, severely reducing visibility. It finally dispersed into another clear blue sky and warm temperatures.

Our destination was another farm property at Maidenwell, south of Nanango. The rocks here were huge, and they were interspersed with grass trees, their emerald needles glistening in the sunlight. The arena was spectacular, and we could see at least half a dozen potential final controls, dotted about an enormous amphitheatre-like broad gully and the surrounding forested slopes.

I've learned that the more inviting the terrain looks from the arena, the less likely it is to actually live up to expectation. Straight out of the start triangle, we were on very uneven and boggy ground, the grass longer and thicker than either of the last two days (how much does it

grow overnight? I wondered). I found it very difficult to move through, and just plodded slowly along, trying not to fall over hidden rocks or logs, twist my foot in a hole, or get tangled up in the grass. It took a lot of concentration. Luckily the rock features were obvious, being so big.

It quickly became clear that the course setter wasn't intending to give away the locations, and was quite happy for the oldest competitors to have to clamber up and down steep slopes in order to reach the flags. This became a source of real frustration. Control 2 was on a 5 metre boulder which I spotted from about 300 metres away. But it seemed to take forever to get there, wading through hip high grass, and brushing aside the spiky tips of the grass trees. There was nothing to be done other than press on, with teeth gritted.

Eventually I reached what I thought was the last control - thankfully out of the rocky slopes and thick vegetation, and in a large open clearing. Problem was, it wasn't actually my control at all; I just wanted it to be, but wishing it so didn't make it happen. My control was back up in the rocks (of course), which I thought was rather mean, having already spent a considerable amount of time in them already. Grumbling, I hunted round in the wrong rocky bit - my only significant error of the course. But I'd been so slow anyway, it barely mattered. It was a huge relief to finish, and get out of there. No bling, but mission accomplished - no mispunches, and another Easter done and dusted.

In between the two events, we had a day of driving to our waterfront apartment in Labrador - stunning views of Surfers Paradise and The Broadwater greeted us from every window, and there was an icecream shop not fifty metres away. Heaven! Ilze and I went ballooning over the Scenic Rim; we explored The Spit, admired the views from the Skydeck observation tower, and drove down the coast to Coolangatta, trying to picture what the border looked like when Queensland was fiercely determined to keep out any virus-riddled southerners. We enjoyed a social event in sand dunes - hot and hard work on the legs, but great fun and something different.

Gold Coast Sprints Day 1

This is what we came for - two days of Sprint orienteering, with four races. The weather

turned overnight, and we had heavy and frequent showers ahead of us. I was in "Womens Public Competitive" class - with the slightly unfortunate acronym of WPC. This was one down from the Elite courses, and had all the good, fast age groupers - including some World Masters medallists - and me. I only picked it because the course lengths were about right.

First, we headed to Benowa State High School, an old-fashioned campus with most of the buildings in neat rows, but some demountables to add to the confusion - and plenty of fences. It took me longer than it should have to orientate myself at the start triangle, as I was facing three identical buildings, all at slightly different angles. Once I got that sorted, I had a pretty smooth run. The course planner squeezed a lot out of the area to make it quite tricky. I took some conservative routes to play it safe. The rain hit hard as I was on my way to no 14, so I finished with sodden shoes, socks and clothes. I could have saved a couple of minutes here and there, but was pretty consistent throughout.

Our next outing was to Griffith University - a much larger, and very different style of campus, with many "big box" buildings, a lot of complexity in the gardens, stairs and ramps, and irregular shapes. There was a small grandstand which was the perfect (and dry) place to spectate from. We had fun watching the elites flying up the finish chute, which was almost the length of the athletics track. I tried to imagine myself at that speed, and failed.

Now it was our turn. With only 11 controls over 2.4 km, there were going to be some longer "run" legs, where I would lose time. None of my legs were straightforward or gratuitous - even at the end of the longer ones, you had to read your way into the circle very carefully, and be very aware of control placement so that you were on the right side of an uncrossable wall, or down the correct half of a split ramp. The planner had done a great job of forcing us to pay attention to the small details.

I took it carefully, and managed an error free run all the way to no 9. Then I came unstuck en route to no 10, leaving the control on the wrong angle, taking the wrong road, and navigating by the wrong row of buildings. It wasn't until I came to a halt at a dead end, that I realised I was wrong, wrong and wrong. There was nothing for it but to retrace my steps and start again. My splits tell me I lost 3 minutes, but it felt like much more. Surprisingly I wasn't last - half a dozen were slower than me and quite a few mispunched. So I took that as a "could do better" but not a disgrace.

Gold Coast Sprints Day 2 - Knockout Sprint

Today we had sunshine, with short showers. This meant dry socks! The morning races were the Knockout Qualifiers. We were placed into random heats, where the top three went through to the Semifinal; the rest of us went into the Consolation finals. My heat had two World Masters medallists, and two speedy juniors. So no pressure. I resigned myself to hanging off the back.

It was a very compact school, and the arena was right in the middle of it. It was clear there were no long run legs, so speed wasn't a huge factor. There weren't too many obstacles apart from some fences and walls, and I found the map very readable. Things were complicated by having a pivot control which we visited three times. On the second visit, I got careless, and didn't run far enough before I started looking for it. On the third visit, I was so focused on doing it properly, that I almost forgot to punch the previous control - the closest I'd come to a mispunch all week! I left it on a bad angle, and found myself heading towards a control I'd already been to. From there it was downhill across the grassy slope into the spectator control, back up the hill into the buildings, then down alongside the fence to the finish. I was, of course, Knocked Out.

A quick stop home for lunch, and we were soon on the road again for our final event. This was at another high school, and turned out to be quite similar to the morning venue - a tight campus with lots of canopies to follow,

complicated by some multi levels, requiring careful choice of ramps and stairs.

The organisers had gone to some lengths to engage the crowd with a spectator-friendly arena. An unexpected entertainment was watching people leap over the creek between the map boxes and the start triangle! I took one look at the creek and opted for the perfectly legitimate, and far less embarrassing, bridge crossing. That earned me a few cheers - and I didn't lose any time at all.

From the end of the bridge it was through a covered walkway and into the maze. Again, we were confronted by numerous stairs, and walkways in all directions. Everyone in my consolation final had the same map, but the leaders had already dashed off while I was still figuring out a feasible route to no 1. I was going to have to navigate on my own rather than try and catch the pack.

This was my cleanest run of the weekend, with no errors. Again, it was clearly readable, and I found myself able to make route choices on the run, instead of standing still or moving slowly. Once again, the final control presented a route choice of a creek leap or a flat run across a bridge. No prizes for guessing my preference!

Afterward we had great fun watching the Knockout Finals, and cheering on the Victorians - a great way to wrap up two brilliant days of sprint orienteering! Oh, and my flight home landed on time and with my luggage.

TOP RESULTS

- Prologue - Simon Rouse, 7th (of 82, Open Long)
- Day 1 - Asha Steer 5th (W20E); Simon Rouse 3rd (M45A); Stuart McWilliam 10th (M65A)
- Day 2 - Simon Rouse 3rd (M45A); Frankie Shin 9th (M Open B)
- Day 3 - Simon Rouse 3rd (M45A) and **THIRD OVERALL**
- Gold Coast Sprint race 3 - Peter Yeates 3rd (Open Hard Short)

CAKE O - Sarah Love

Last week was the Boys Birthday - so cake time. I decided to continue with the orienteering theme from last year- actually looked not bad in real life but definitely didn't photograph well. It was chocolate ripple cake this time, made up with hills and gullies and cracks etc. Lots of boulders & thickets etc. Not sure if this one was for James or Wayne? Definitely not a course for me.



EASTER PHOTO GALLERY



Top: Stuart happy with his top 10 finish; Frankie completes his first Easter 3 Day course
Bottom Pete opts for the bridge, not the creek leap; Ilze all smiles at the sprints

OV SERVICES TO ORIENTEERING AWARD FOR 2021 - Sarah Love

The Services to Orienteering award for 2021 was awarded to Debbie Dodd. Debbie is involved in our sport in so many areas. Any competitor in Park and Street would see Debbie at various events around Melbourne, however Debbie's involvement goes wider and deeper than Park and Street events.

Debbie has a number of official roles; Eventor Administrator and Membership Officer, Park and Street Committee co-chair, Sprint Series Coordinator, and un-officially, our COVID response coordinator. In the last two years Debbie's involvement with how we have responded to COVID restrictions has been enormous - just this one activity has required constant attention, and the creation and updating of numerous documents and online content.

Debbie, along with Margi Freemantle, are key to the management and content on the OV website, and structure and documents on Google Drive.

These activities occur weekly, and also include content and updates to our Facebook page. Debbie also leads our involvement on various working parties at a National level. Orienteering Australia has been working for some time on a uniform membership policy; Debbie represents Victoria in these activities.

During the periods of lockdown in Victoria, Debbie led a group of people in a number of areas. Expanding the use of MapLink - providing maps for anytime use when organised events were not possible. The Summer Anytime Series was highly successful at re-engaging participants during the transition out of lockdown; and attracted plenty of newcomers who are now coming to our regular events. Anytime Park MapRun courses - another alternative for when organised events can't happen - have reinvigorated the use of our permanent courses.

They are just the official roles, and not including all the items the Debbie quietly manages behind the scenes - being a 'go to' contact for all sorts of questions, issues, or ideas.

Congratulations to Debbie as the recipient of the Services to Orienteering award; and thank you for another year of enormous contribution to Orienteering in Victoria.

EVENT REPORTS - MUD GLORIOUS MUD

DROC kicked off its 2022 Sunday program on Mothers Day, with a mountain bike orienteering event which saw us return to Mt Robertson in Kinglake - last used for a DuO in 2008! Graham Wallis undertook course planning, and found that many of the roads and tracks in much poorer condition. The arena was on the western edge of the map, providing easy access into the plantation. It was a wet day, which kept numbers down, and most riders went home with thick layers of mud to clean off their wheels. Graham set up a major route choice right from the start triangle, and shorter routes were notable for being much rougher and wetter than longer ones.

Next up was MelBushO at Birdsland, on the Sunday of the June long weekend - an even wetter and colder day, with showers bouncing off the ranges throughout the event. Luckily the Environmental Education Centre has a lovely wide verandah - but again, it was a day when numbers were reduced as staying indoors seemed a more sensible option.

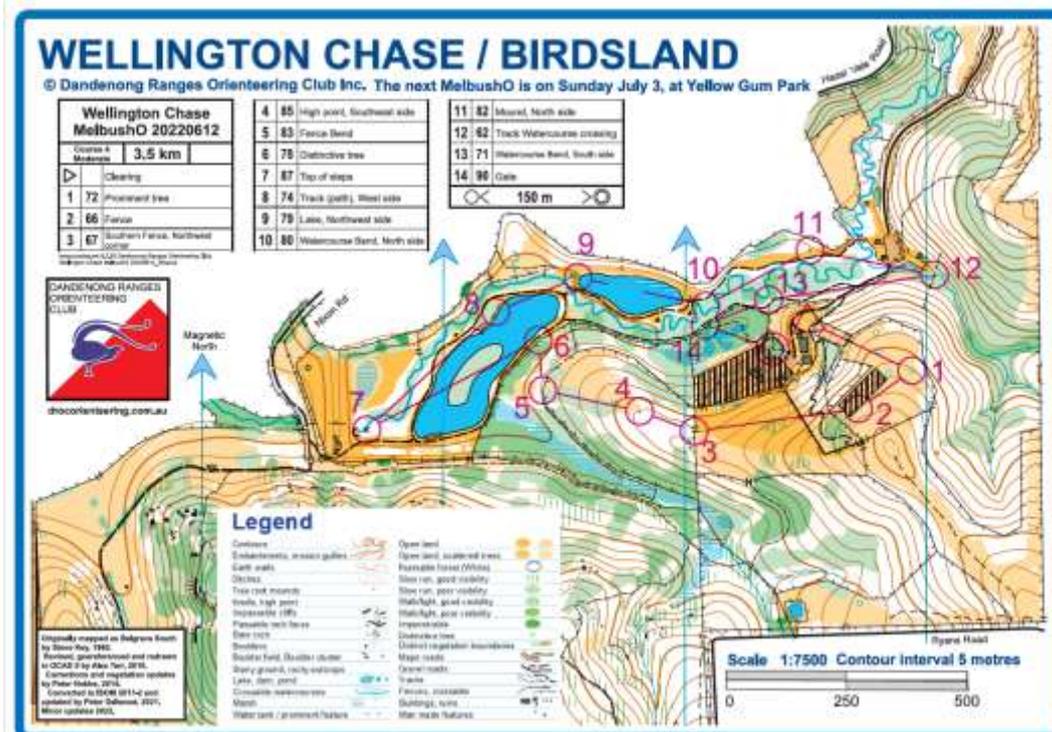
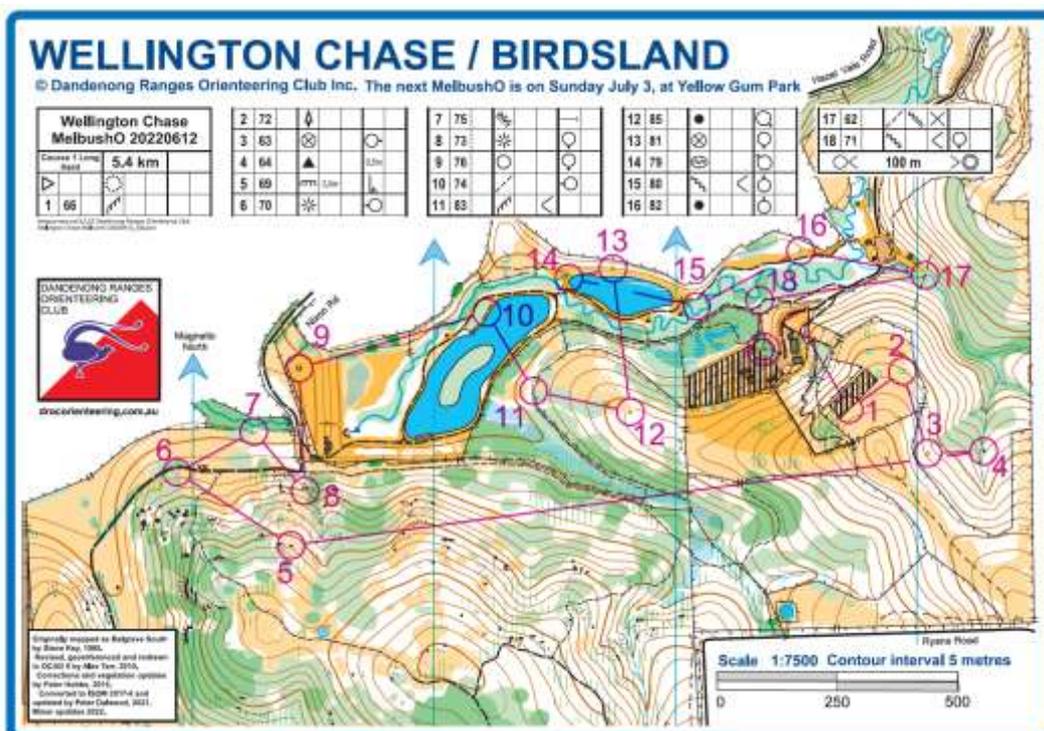
This was the first time the Dodds have set a bush course, despite long experience with streeto and sprints. The aim was to clearly target the audience for each course, and make use of the two very different terrain types. Courses 1 and 2 began with a climb into the rocks, and both featured a long leg



with numerous route choices, before finishing with lots of short sharp legs and changes of direction, around the Birdsland lakes. Course 3 traversed gentler contours, as it is meant to be hard navigation but physically easy. The moderate (and very popular) Course 4 made use of more handrails such as fences, and obvious features, to bring competitors up and over the hill behind the arena, before their Birdsland loop. Course 5 - Easy - had the younger and less experienced orienteers racing the wetland trails.

There was some anxiety about water levels in various places, but all courses had route choices that avoided creek crossings. We still had to contend with large puddles and a very slippery boardwalk. Despite the weather, we had happy competitors who enjoyed whatever level of challenge they chose to take on.

Here's hoping for more sunshine and less mud, for the remainder of our Sunday events!



MELBOURNE CITY RACE WEEKEND - SNEAK PEEK AT THE SATURDAY DOUBLE HEADER

The third Melbourne City Race Weekend takes place on October 8 and 9, with two lead-in races on the Saturday, before the main event at Williamstown on Sunday.

New maps are being prepared, and course planning is getting started, so it's a great time to take a sneak peek at the Saturday double header.

The weekend kicks off on a brand new map - Waverley Stadium. We've been itching to map and use this area for years - and now that there is a huge new playground and open space area, with plenty of parking, we can! This compact and complex map is just made for sprint orienteering. Older members may remember making the trek out to "Arctic Park" on Saturday afternoons, to watch the Hawks or the Saints play at their home ground. Maybe you went to see one of the many headline rock bands that played there; or like me, you witnessed your first World Series Cricket day-night matches, in the heady times of the Packer Rebellion.

These days, it's a quiet residential area with a dense network of narrow streets connected by multitudes of tiny open spaces. The heritage-listed oval and stadium are the centrepiece.

Damian Spencer has taken on the job of mapping and course planning, with assistance from Peter Dalwood. Here is a section of the base map, with all the details now being fieldworked and filled in:



You can look forward to a choice of three Sprint length line courses (Long, Medium, Short/Easy), on a full colour map at 1:5000 scale, to scramble your brain.

Just a short drive away lies Tattersall Park, in Keysborough. We've used the black and white version of this map a few times for Summer Series event, but this time it will be in full colour.

This park has a bit of everything - lakes and watercourses, sporting pavilions, bridges and boardwalks - even a whimsical bug-themed playground, featuring giant ants, beetles, and ladybirds. But it will be the notorious “tree maze” that will be front and centre of the action!

Mapped for DROC by Fredrik Johansson, course planning is well underway by Toby Cooper. Toby has spectacular spectator legs in store, as well as some great route choice legs in the small streets and adjoining parks. Pivot controls and head to head starts will be sure to set up some great competition. Course lengths will be Short (ie a little longer than Sprint). You can expect a truly mindbending park race here.

Below is a teaser from the Tatterson map, along with some of the features:



After all that, you will be perfectly prepped for the main City Race on Sunday morning!

Entries for all three Races open on Eventor in early August. Set aside both days for a fantastic weekend of City Racing - and keep up with all the news at www.melbournecityrace.com.au

WORLD ORIENTEERING DAY - MELBOURNE STREETO MAKES INTERNATIONAL HEADLINES

Our Park Street event at Templestowe Heights on May 11, turned out to be one of the first World Orienteering Day events in the world. As such, it generated global interest when the International Orienteering Federation featured it as the lead story on their website.

<https://orienteering.sport/world-orienteering-day-well-underway/>

DROC's Stuart McWilliam and Frankie Shin featured in the photos (which were snapped at the last minute after a request from the WOD organisers). Phil Torode was the “bike rider” mentioned in the article.

Sixty five countries took part in WOD, hosting 612 events, with over 85,000 participants - although well down on the record number of almost 400,000 in 2019.



LOLA'S FIRST NIGHTO

Young Lola Maddock was on hand to help dad Nick with the course planning and map handout, at Bennettswood, a recent Monday night event. It was Nick's first time as course setter, so luckily Lola was on hand to make sure it all went smoothly!

