

PUNCHLINE

Dandenong Ranges Orienteering Club Inc

www.drocorienteering.com.au

Incorporated Association Registered Number A0003225B

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WOW, WHAT A WEEK!

The first week of March was a stunner! First we claimed almost half of the Park and Street Championship titles, including the Open Womens winner and runner-up, at Bellbird Dell on March 1. Then we went on to win two Relay Championship titles the following Sunday at Darebin, including the blue-ribbon Course 1 title. Our combination of Simon Rouse, Asha Steer and Peter Hobbs snatched victory from the crack Bendigo teams, winning by just 7 seconds in a very exciting finish. Not only that, but our Mixed team of Pam King, Denise Pike and Sarah Davies crossed the line first on Course 5. The efforts of our 10 teams saw DROC as the runner up in the Rockhopper Trophy in our best result ever.



You can read more about both events in this issue, and see some fantastic photos too. Let's hope the rest of 2017 is just as exciting and successful!

DIARY DATES 2017

- ▽ Sprint Double Header, Sunday May 21, Yarra Valley Grammar School - course setters Peter Hobbs and Sarah Davies
- ▽ MelbushO, Sunday July 23, Plenty South - course setter Andras Bogdanovits
- ▽ EndurO, Saturday August 12, Loughnans Link - course setter Phil Torode
- ▽ Victorian Sprint Distance Championships, Sunday November 25, Monash University - course setter Peter Dalwood

DROC IN 2017 AND BEYOND

As you saw on the cover, DROC has made an amazing start to the year - let's hope it continues. So where are we as a club right now? Well, going from strength to strength!

Not so long ago, DROC was dismissed by many as a small to medium club whose main interest was in streetO, with a handful of members who dabble in the odd bush event. Even now, some people seem surprised when they hear DROC members announced as winners - but they shouldn't be. Here are a few facts about DROC that you may not know:

- ▽ DROC is the third largest of the 11 Victorian clubs, behind only Bayside and Bendigo; we are one of only three clubs to have more than 100 members. We also have a very high proportion of junior members, currently at 16.
- ▽ DROC's participation at park and street events has been growing, and is now close to overhauling BK's numbers.
- ▽ DROC has the highest number of Millennium Club Legends of any club - 17 out of 42. And we had the top four placegetters in the MEFTY award (Most Events for the Year) in 2016.
- ▽ DROC was the dominant club at the recent Park and Street Championships, boasting 6 of the 13 Champions.
- ▽ DROC won the prestigious Course 1 title at the Victorian Relay Championships, and was second in the overall points tally, behind only Bendigo.
- ▽ DROC has been represented at international, national and state level by Lanita and Asha Steer, Peter Hobbs, Simon Rouse, and Sarah Davies. Lanita finished her Junior career as the reigning Australian Champion in Sprint, Middle, and Long Distance, and was a 5 time JWOC team member. Asha and Lanita both won Australian Schools Individual Championships, and were instrumental in seeing the Victorian Nuggets Junior Womens team win the national title on more than one occasion.
- ▽ While the rest of us have not quite reached those lofty standards, we have a growing number of keen participants in bush orienteering, and we are regularly seeing 20-30 members at State Series and MelbushO. A record 19 members earned Orienteering Australia merit badges in 2016.
- ▽ DROC's members are accomplished sprint orienteers, with 5 current Champions and 5 runners-up at last year's Sprint Champs in Bendigo. DROC members always turn up in droves to Sprint Into Spring.
- ▽ DROC members are keen rogainers too, and have had many successes over the years.

DROC has a well earned reputation for organising events, including national and state championships - this year we're presenting the Victorian Sprint Champs in November, 10 years after the first Champs were held there. In recent years we have run:

- ▽ 2016 - Victorian Relay Championships, Brimbank; Park and Street Championships, Mulgrave
- ▽ 2015 - Australian Sprint Championships, Ballarat
- ▽ 2013 - Australian Easter 3-Days final day, Bendigo (with Bayside); State Series,
- ▽ 2012 - Victorian Sprint Championships, Haileybury
- ▽ 2011 - Victorian Relay Championships, Ballarat
- ▽ 2010 - WOC 25 special anniversary event, Kooyoora - awarded Event of the Year

- ▽ 2009 - Victorian Sprint Championships, Deakin; Australian Schools Relay Championships, Bendigo
- ▽ 2008 - National League Relays (with Tuckonie)
- ▽ 2007 - Victorian Sprint Championships, Monash (the first to feature all age groups and attract 100+ entries)

DROC has always been at the forefront of innovation and technical expertise, contributing significantly to the success of programs such as MelBushO and Sprint Into Spring. We were the first club to introduce uniforms. We've introduced new formats and event types, some of which have been widely adopted as standard.

DROC has a very strong financial position, a growing and enthusiastic membership, a dedicated committee, a high level of technical expertise, and a practical and collaborative approach. All of these attributes will stand the club in good stead as we continue moving forward.

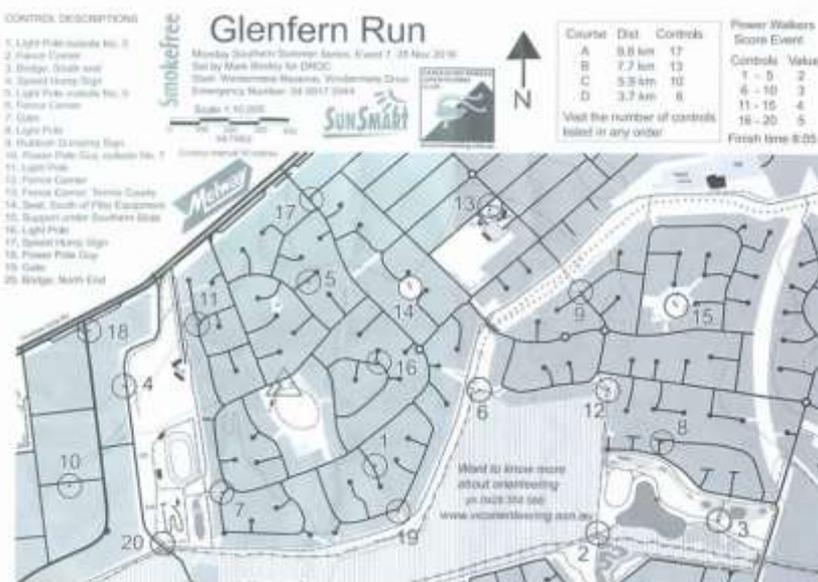
DROC PRESENTS SPRINT DOUBLE

We are very excited to be presenting the first ever Sprint State Series in Victoria, on Sunday May 21 at Yarra Valley Grammar School in Ringwood. This is a brand new map, and a fantastic venue for sprint orienteering. There will be two races on the day (late morning and early afternoon), with times for each race added to produce final results. Course setters Peter Hobbs and Sarah Davies have something special up their sleeves to provide an action packed event for all competitors. We encourage all DROC members to come along and enjoy a great day. Entries will open on Eventor at the end of April, and close on Wednesday May 17. JWOC jam will also be on sale, including lots of varieties of jam, chutneys, pickles, and our new range of fruit cordials.

MILLENNIUM CLUB NEWS

Reg Saunders is the latest member of the Millennium Club, completing his 1000th event at Heyington Heights on March 8. Reg, along with Legends Tony Bird and Denise Pike, received his commemorative certificate and key ring at the Awards Night. Denise completed her 1000th event at Deakin Uni on February 8th. DROC now has 17 Millennium Club Legends.

PARK STREET COURSE SETTER OF THE YEAR



The prestigious Park Street Course Setter of the Year was announced in March. While the winner was Kris Ruuska (ARDF) for Waterford Valley, DROC had a runner-up in Mark Besley for Glenfern Run (left), and honourable mentions to Phil Torode (Forest Chase), Ian Greenwood (Loughnans Hill), Lynbrook Gums (Andras Bogdanovits), Wheelers Hill (Peter Dalwood) and Koonung Crossing (Ray Howe). In particular, the courses by Ian, Andras and Ray were commended for particularly interesting layouts. Well done all!

MEMBER NEWS

REMINDER: Membership renewals were due on January 1. If you haven't paid yet, this will be your last issue of Punchline ... Please complete the [form](#) and send payment asap to continue your membership. If you have kids under 21 who would like to compete, there is no membership fee - simply add their names to the membership form, or let me know and I will register them as DROC members in Eventor.

A big welcome to our newest members Riley Anastasi, Nick Maddock (right, at the Relays), Eloise and Zoe Morris, Sammy Love, and John Wong, who have all joined the club recently. Apart from John and Nick, all of these new members are juniors, which is fantastic.

Riley has been running hard and learning to navigate on C course over summer, thanks to girlfriend/coach Asha! Nick has been blitzing it on B course, and had the 5th best leg on Course 2 at the Relays - definitely one to watch. Eloise and Zoe have joined, along with mum Emma, and they're already old hands at MelbushO. Sammy competed very successfully at the Primary Schools Champs last year, and has since completed her first MelbushO course. John discovered orienteering over summer and has improved rapidly to be a strong contender.



VICTORIAN RELAY CHAMPIONS!

The 2017 Relays were held very early this year, on a park map in Melbourne. Despite clashing with a rogaine, DROC fielded 10 teams - the most of any club - we love our Relays! Early drizzle at Darebin did not dampen our spirits or enthusiasm. The course setters had set sprint style legs, ie a lot of short legs with direction changes. Darebin is deceptively steep in places, and we were slowed by having to scramble up and down some of the slopes to reach several controls. The "moderate" course was a lot more physical than it should have been, but we managed well and enjoyed the challenge.

We only entered one team on Course 1 - Simon, Asha and Peter. They were up against fierce opposition from the highly fancied Bendigo teams 1 and 2, a team from MFR which looked the goods, and a team from each of BK and YV. All the 'graveyard chat' was about which BG team would win ... they didn't reckon on DROC! Simon finished leg 1 in first place, just seconds ahead of the Bendigo 2 team. Asha held her own to keep our team in second, 3 minutes down on Bendigo 2, but more importantly, 4 minutes ahead of Bendigo 1. Pete then ran the second fastest leg of the day, overhauling BG2, and finishing only metres ahead of the fast finishing BG1, while the DROC contingent of supporters erupted!

Prez Pete writes: *What a great day it was. I'm so stoked with our win in course 1. In the grave yard, whilst waiting, there was some banter about which BG team was going to win, especially as BG2 had quite a lead at the final change. But Simon and Asha had really solid runs and, speaking to Leon later, he was not aware that he was behind me - and I wasn't aware that I was in front of him because he was not in the grave yard at the time Asha came through. It was only at the third last control that we realised what was happening! I had a very solid run - other than a 30 second error at one control and I pretty much nailed the course and just had one of those days where I was in the zone. If only that could happen more often!*

Not to be outdone, our Mixed team of Pam King, Denise Pike and Sarah Davies also brought home first place. Pam kept in touch with the field to be a narrow 5th but only 40 seconds down. Again it was a Bendigo team out in front; Denise brought our team up to second, but with a 10 minute deficit to

make up. Over to Sarah, who smashed it and crossed the line 5 minutes ahead of the next best team. Fantastic effort!

We had a number of people in only their first or second relay. New member Nick Maddock showed his huge potential with a brilliant run on Course 2. Damian, Helen and Karen were determined to finish without a MP, and were delighted when Karen crossed the finish line to give the team an intact result. Huge thanks to Karen who stepped in the night before to replace an injured Andrew, who came along to support the club despite having a badly swollen ankle. That's team spirit!

Other good performances were a 4th place on Course 3 to Peter Yeates, Peter Grover and Jenny Mitchell; a 3rd fastest leg by Ian Dodd, and the determination by our juniors to keep going and complete difficult courses - they all stepped up to the challenge. Thanks also to team manager Ilze Yeates who kept us all on track as well as well fed!

Have a look at this video of the start:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BxVp7Lc3GQQycV9rZUc1a3h3SWs>

SUMMER SERIES RESULTS

Southern Series: DROC made a clean sweep of the four Runners Courses!

A1 - Andrew Hester 1st, Ian Davies 2nd
B - Jay Kerley 1st
C2 - Stuart McWilliam 1st
PW1 - Helen Kerley 1st
PW3 - Ilze Yeates 2nd

A2 - Ian Greenwood 3rd
C1 - Ian Dodd 1st, Reg Saunders 2nd
D - Denise Pike 1st, Debbie Dodd 2nd
PW2 - Allan Miller 3rd

Eastern Series:

A1 - Peter Hobbs 2nd
B3 - Ian Greenwood 1st, Ray Howe 2nd
C2 - Reg Saunders 1st
D1 - Debbie Dodd 2nd
E - Tina Smith 2nd
PW5 - Newbury Navigators 2nd

B1 - Lanita Steer 2nd, Jay Kerley 3rd
C1 - Tony Bird 1st, Asha Steer =2nd
C3 - Stuart McWilliam 1st
D2 - Pam King 1st
PW3 - Allan Miller 2nd, Ilze Yeates 3rd

Northern Series:

B - Ian Dodd 1st, Ray Howe 3rd
D - Debbie Dodd 2nd

C - Phil Torode 1st, Reg Saunders 2nd
PW - Ros King 2nd

WORLD ORIENTEERING DAY

This year's World Orienteering Day event in Melbourne will be at Mullauna, on Wednesday May 24, as part of the Autumn Series. WOD events are registered worldwide - last year there were over 250,000 participants, setting a World Record! So come along and be part of history. In addition to the event, there'll be a fun trivia quiz (with prizes) afterwards to see how well you know your local orienteering history.



RELAYS PHOTOS

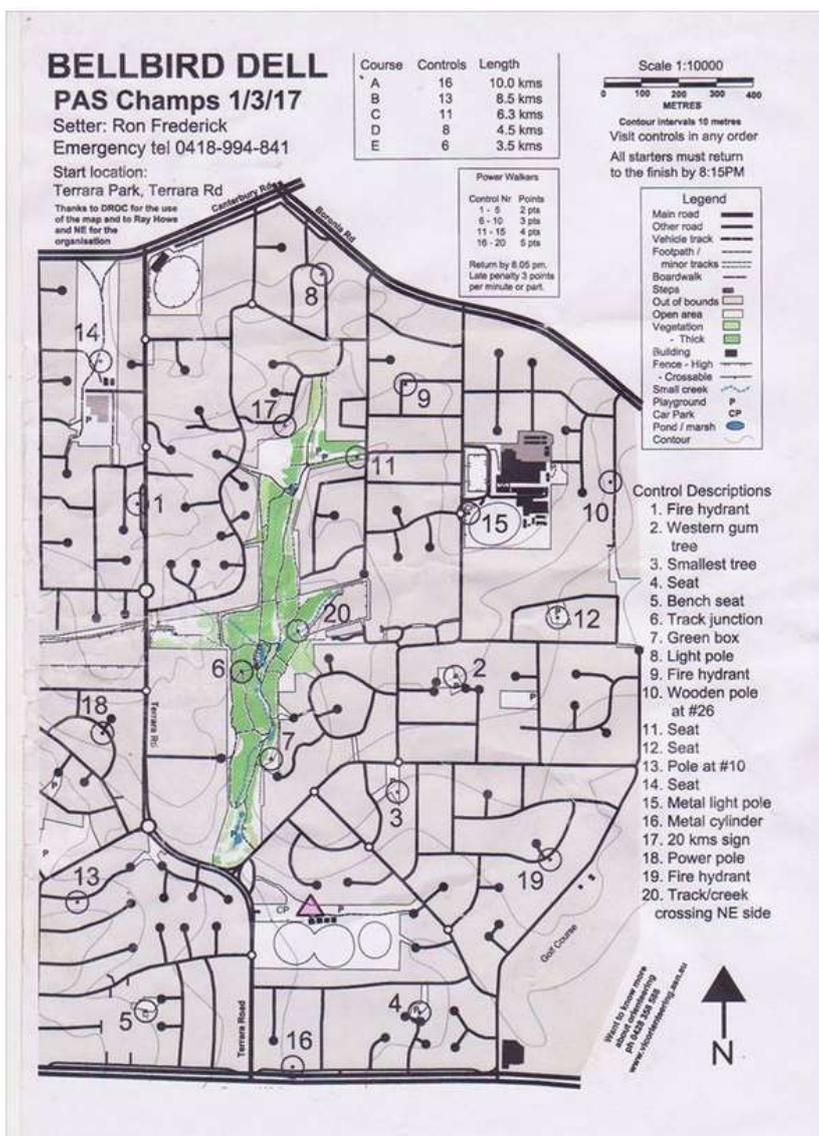


DROC DOMINATES PARK AND STREET CHAMPIONSHIPS

DROC's Bellbird Dell map was selected for the 2017 Park and Street Championship, because of the mix of terrain it offered - an interesting street layout with lots of small cut-throughs, some hills, and Bellbird Dell itself, where there are enough narrow tracks to force everyone to read their map carefully. There is a large car park and toilets - in other words, everything required for a great Champs. Pam did a lot of work to update the map, ready for Ron Frederick (NE) to plan courses that exploited every aspect.

To compete in the Champs, you need to win one of the half dozen Qualifiers in preceding weeks. Because the Champs are age group based, this sees some people forced onto courses other than their normal choices - some run longer, others shorter. I'd had a tough lead-in, as a D runner having to tackle the C course. After placing 2nd in three qualifiers, I finally made it at the last one, at Edwardes

Lake after having one of those great events where the shortest route leaps off the page at you, but not at anyone else (yes, they happen about once a year). I joined 16 other DROC members Peter Hobbs, Ian Davies, Colin Pearce, Ian Dodd, Ian Greenwood, Stuart McWilliam, Peter Dalwood, Tony Bird, Asha Steer, Lanita Steer, Janine Steer, Denise Pike, Peter Grover, Lyn Greenwood, Ros King and Helen Kerley.



It was a really tough physical course, long and steep, on a hot night. The shortest route was almost impossible to judge, and many found themselves heading out to the extremes of the map to pick up the one control that they needed to make up their quota. The Dell caught out a lot of people as well. All in all it was a great Champs with deserving winners.

Lanita and Asha had the closest battle for honours on the Open Womens course. It was the hottest field in years, and at the end the sisters were separated by a handful of metres, with Lanita taking the title.

By the end of the night, DROC had claimed 6 of 13 Championship titles, easily the best performed club - with an

additional 7 placegetters as well. Congratulations to Champions Lanita Steer, Janine Steer, Ian Davies, Tony Bird, Peter Grover and Helen Kerley. Runners up were Colin Pearce, Asha Steer, Denise Pike, Lyn Greenwood, Ros King. Third places went to Peter Hobbs and Debbie Dodd.

PREZ SEZ - Peter Hobbs

Simon Rouse, originally from Auckland New Zealand, has become one of DROC's strongest orienteers. A quiet achiever and a regular at bush orienteering events locally and interstate, I thought I'd find out a little about what makes Simon tick....

Peter Hobbs: *You've been in Melbourne for several years now. What brought you to Melbourne and when did you arrive?*

Simon Rouse: I lived in Melbourne from 1998-2000 while studying at The Australian Ballet School but more recently I moved to Melbourne for a job with Fonterra at the start of 2012.

PH: *You spent some time in Europe. Tell us a bit about that.*

SR: I lived and worked in Denmark for four years and in Germany for about eight months. I was still working in the theatre back then and working abroad is relatively common or even necessary for dancers in Australia and New Zealand.

PH: *Over the past couple of years you've become a really good orienteer! What are a few things you've done to improve your orienteering?*

SR: Doing as much bush orienteering as possible (more than 60 events most years) which means a lot of time driving to Bendigo. The other big help was joining an athletics club and training with people who are much faster than I am. And just increasing the distance I run each week.

PH: *When and where was your first orienteering event?*

SR: It was an event in Auckland at Hobsonville on 19 June 2011. Had no idea what I was doing but I loved it and was hooked.

PH: *You were first leg runner in the victorious DROC, Course 1 team at the 2017 Victorian Relays. Tell us about your run.*

SR: After visiting the wrong first control I settled into a good rhythm. I lost a bit of time at one of the controls on the steep hillside on the eastern side of the map looking in the scrub in the wrong gully. The rest of the run was pretty smooth. It wasn't such a technical course but there were some pretty rough areas. A great result for DROC.

PH: *Where did you grow up in New Zealand?*

SR: I was born and raised in Auckland before moving to Melbourne to study in 1998.

PH: *Tell us about one of your best and worst orienteering experiences?*

SR: The worst would have to be a street orienteering event I did in Auckland not long after discovering orienteering. I ran off the map, had no idea where I was or how to get back to the start and ended up going into a supermarket (the only place still open) and asking for directions. By the time I got back everyone had packed up and left. I was lucky I didn't spend the night on the streets. Some of my best results have been at the Easter carnivals. Day 3 of the 2016 Easter competition at Foxlow Flats in Canberra was one of the best. One of those rare occasions when everything goes right and you just flow through the controls.

PH: *You work in the supermarket/supply/data industry. Tell us a bit about that?*

SR: I've moved from a background in food science to more of a data analysis role in food product sales. There's a bit of tracking price and promotions of products in the supermarkets and looking at broader retail and consumer trends. I'd rather be orienteering to be honest!

Keep Sunday 21 May free in your diaries because Sarah Davies and I are course setting State Series event 2 at Yarra Valley Grammar in Croydon. It is the first time the map has been used and the first time a State Series event has been of sprint format. There will be two sprint events: one traditional sprint followed by another sprint with a twist. The campus includes technical areas of buildings and passageways plus a couple of ovals which make for excellent viewing of spectator controls. The start and finish arena will be located in front of a grandstand and we will be aiming to create an arena atmosphere. It is not often that a State Series event is located in DROC's heartland, so why not come along and make a day of it.

Happy Orienteering, Peter Hobbs

GOING BUSH

We are now into the Bush orienteering season, and there are lots of great weekend events to choose from. If you want to learn how to navigate in the bush but don't want to travel too far, try one of the MelbushO series of Sunday morning events. These are ideal for newcomers and families, while offering a challenge to experienced orienteers as well. You can choose your own course, from Long or Short Hard, Moderate, or Easy. We have coaching available too. At MelbushO events, no pre-entry is required, and you can start any time between 10 am and 12 noon. Check www.melbusho.com for details. If you are happy to travel a little further afield, why not try a VicBushO? These are exactly the same type of event, just a longer drive from Melbourne.

Once a month, you can test your skills further at a State Series. Like MelBushO, you can choose any course, and they vary in difficulty from Hard to Very Easy. Start times are from 10am to 12.30pm. These events are typically near Ballarat, Castlemaine or Bendigo, and you can usually make a great day out by having lunch at a nearby café or bakery, and visiting regional attractions in the afternoon. Newcomers are very welcome, and you don't have to be an expert navigator to take part. DROC always takes along a club tent and flag where you can gather before and after your run, leave your gear, and meet other club members. If you'd like a lift, some coaching, or a loan of a compass, just contact Ian Dodd or Peter Yeates. These events require pre-entry using [Eventor](#) - check the calendar.

Older juniors (secondary school age) can compete at the Victorian Secondary Schools Championships in May, then join the Junior Squad, attend special coaching sessions and camps, and perhaps be selected for the Schools Team to travel to New South Wales in September. This is the best fun you can have! Check the [Schools Competition calendar](#) for 2017.

Then there are the Carnivals - a fantastic week away interstate or even overseas, with 6 or more events over 9 days; or perhaps a triple header over a long weekend. In 2017, why not head to Wagga Wagga for the 3 days of competition over [Queens Birthday weekend](#), or to Bathurst for the [Australian Orienteering Championships](#)?

CBD-METROGAINE VS THE ENDURO - PETER YEATES

At 4.20pm on a fine Sunday afternoon, Ilze and I sat in our car in the driveway wondering how we were going to manage to get out and remembering why we gave up Rogaining more than 10 years ago. 16 kms in just less than four hours was the reason, and we had seized up. But it was an enjoyable four hours with Debbie, as the Legends of StreetO gave the Rogainers a run (walk) for their money in what was essentially a double Enduro.

But they got more than 400 entries, so why don't we? Admittedly the setting was spectacular, Melbourne at its best. We had planned a casual walk towards Albert Park Lake, skirting around the first signs of scaffolding for the coming Grand Prix and then across into the gardens near the Shrine, then a few in the Botanic Gardens and an amble through the Kings Domain, Southbank for coffee and then the tram back down Clarendon Street to the finish if we were running late. What could possibly go wrong?



Legends of StreetO can get a sniff. "Look there is an 80 pointer just there" and "if we duck across the Morell Bridge into Goschs Paddock we can get that 90" and the next thing you know the pace had quickened. Doing a stretch along "the tan", Debbie regaled us with the story of the night she got locked in the Gardens walking home from work and had to climb the spiked topped gate (in a mini skirt) to get out. Pausing for a refreshing coffee outside the Arts Centre was to prove our undoing, as we spotted a tram route option (using public transport was permitted) between controls 91 and 94, which would allow us a clever double back to get two 70s and an 80 near the South Melbourne Market. So we cut across a Southbank footbridge, dodging the bridal party.

Then it was down Banana Alley onto Enterprize Wharf, back over Queens Bridge and on towards the tram stop at Clarendon Street. We were even lucky at the traffic lights, there was a tram waiting and we leaped (sort of, after 12kms) on board, grateful for the pause. "I don't think this is right" said Debbie as the tram turned west down Whiteman Street, "but no harm done, we can get off near Cecil St and do 77 first." "****" said Debbie, as the tram continued to turn and head off down the light rail track towards Port Melbourne. I mean, who looks at tram destination boards during an Orienteering event? The things Rogainers have to put up with! Getting off at an unscheduled stop near waste ground somewhere near Montague St, we worked our way back on to the course but had left ourselves no time to pause at the South Melbourne Market for a refreshing dim sim or several, which is the only reason I agreed to enter. But the pressure was on during the last five controls, dodging traffic, surging through bemused diners in street cafes and short cuts up cobbled lanes saw us safely back with a few minutes to spare.

Afterwards, Ilze subsided on the round-a-bout whizzer in the Hash House Park and I couldn't even summon the energy to give her a push.

It was a great event with many wonderful control sites. There were close to 400 points to be had around Victoria Harbour and more than that in the City proper extending to the Treasury and Fitzroy Gardens in the east. The base map was a colour print of Melways and was mostly up to the task. So, we ask again, why don't 400 people come to our EndurOs?



Congratulations to Street Orienteering regular Michael Hayward and his team mate Maria Main who came 1st in XV but with a stunning 3rd place Overall.

DROC also had winners:

- Alicia and Lauren - 1st Women
- Peter and Denise - 1st XSV
- Peter and Pam - 1st UV
- Ainslie - 2nd WSV
- Stuart and Frankie - 4th MV
- Merv and Bev - 4th UV

Pat and Allan came 7th in Ultra Vets despite finishing early, and Peter Chen was in 54th place having taken a novice on her first event. For the record the Dodd/Yeates team came 9th in XSV and 72 overall despite our lethargic early pace and our unexpected detour into the wilds of Port Melbourne.

So, heads together for Team DROC, we need to make the Enduro as good as this.

PETER AND ILZE'S VENICE ORIENTEERING RACE

With photos from the headcam

2015 was a troubled year for the Yeates clan. Peter broke his leg at Aus Champs only weeks before we were to return to Italy for one more go at the Venice Orienteering race. The year dragged by but on November 8th 2016 there we were, on the Riva degli Schivioni, gazing out onto one of the world's most extraordinary views.

These are NOT pictures from some tourist brochure. Ilze took them. As I recently wrote in our travel blog "Today the sun came out and we went for a walk over the Accademia Bridge. This is what we saw. After a year of pain and grief, my heart sang again. Pete"



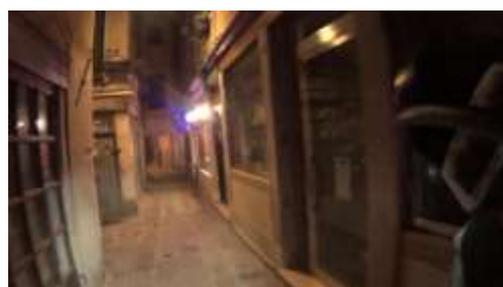
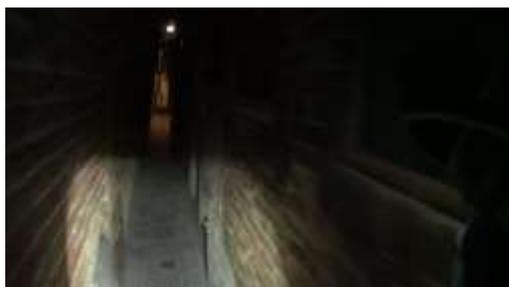
I recently heard a quote, "If you are not moved by the sight of the Grand Canal it's time to call it quits". But we had no time for the views on that particular evening, cold, crystal clear and with a full moon; we had come to race. Two Legends of Street Orienteering lining up at the start boxes of the most iconic orienteering event with a degree of difficulty off the scale. Were we worried? Naah its bread and butter stuff really (well, perhaps just a bit twitchy?)



Don't forget to clear and check and then line up behind the correct map and wait for the long beep.



OFF. We were both to run the same course and the best route choice to control 1 was from inside the start triangle. Ilze picked it first time. Turn right, and off into the Venice night.



Some of the calles, (lanes to the ignorant) were dark and narrow, others more brightly lit but with a confusion of small campos (plazas) and little sottoportegos (covered passages) branching left and right to keep you on your toes.



Then there were canals to run alongside and numerous bridges to look for. Shops and shoppers to dodge around and Venetians nibbling their chiccetti (delicious small snacks taken with a cold glass or three of Prosecco) in the street outside the little bars.



Orienteers appeared and disappeared at regular intervals, drawn like moths to the flame as the controls appeared, and others were popping in and out of the smaller sottoportegos.



The larger campos were a dazzle of light and crowded with noisy party goers. Others were cluttered with restaurant tables that often hid that little calle you were looking for.



Photographers were hiding in the maze.

Didn't I just come past this cafe going the other way?



Then it was out onto the Via Garibaldi, easier running, but we were looking for the tenth calle on the left. Is that number two or three? We could follow the runner in front but I think ours is the next one.



All too soon it's control 11, a Venetian wellhead, and then it is just one to go - a mooring bollard for a poor man's boat and the race up the finish chute.



ARRIVO.

It was a relief, tinged with sadness. It was over all too soon. It had been difficult and just a wee bit terrifying, and absolutely the best race of my life. I came 7th in M70, I beat Swedes. Ilze also finished well. If you come this way YOU MUST DO THIS.

Will we be back? I can't bear to think that we won't. So, we're off to buy a Tattslotto ticket and cross our fingers!! (PS we will ... November 2017, en route to Norway for the Hurtigrute cruise and the Northern Lights)