

# PUNCHLINE

Dandenong Ranges Orienteering Club Inc

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

Incorporated Association Registered Number A0003225B

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## VICTORIAN SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIPS, MONASH CLAYTON

The 2017 Sprint season Grand Finale was hosted by DROC, using Peter Dalwood's fantastic remap of Monash University at Clayton. Last used in 2007, it was almost unrecognisable, and in my opinion is now a much better sprint venue, as there are a lot more buildings and courtyards, and much less open space. Superbly organised by Pam King and strongly supported by a large and enthusiastic DROC crew, it was a great day in spite of the weather. DROC performed strongly, and we congratulate the winners and placegetters - particularly Helen (below), who beat World Masters multiple gold medallist Jenny Bourne!



Sprint Champions - Sarah Davies, Martin Steer, Helen Walpole, Peter Grover, Denise Pike, Simon Rouse

Second placegetters - Debbie Dodd, Amber Louw, Sammy Love, Janine Steer

Third placegetters - Ian Davies, Luca Bogdanovits, Arika Bogdanovits, James Love, Sarah Love

[Maps and courses](#)

*More print news and photos inside!*

Smokefree

SUN SMART

## **DIARY DATES 2018**

**SATURDAY JANUARY 13 - SUMMER 75 MTBO, MT EVELYN** Course Planner - Graham Wallis  
DROC is hosting the first of 2018's Summer 75 MTBO events, at Mt Evelyn, on Saturday January 13. Discover mountain bike orienteering on an evening bike ride. Explore the new map which will take you along the Aqueduct trail, and tracks and paths along Olinda Creek. Riders have up to 75 minutes to visit as many controls on the supplied colour map as possible, in any order.

Enter on the day - register by 5.45pm, start between 6pm and 6.15pm.

Fees: Adults \$12, Juniors \$6. Map boards and Sportident e-sticks available for loan.

<https://www.vicorienteering.asn.au/go-orienteering/mountain-bike-orienteering/summer-mountain-bike-series/>

### **TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27 - PARK AND STREET CHAMPIONSHIPS, VALLEY LAKES, EAST KEILOR**

The 2018 Park Street Championship will be held at Valley Lakes, in East Keilor. Eight Qualifying races, held all over Melbourne, and in Geelong and Macedon, will provide an exciting leadup to the Final. Qualifiers commence on February 7. Click here for more details

<https://www.vicorienteering.asn.au/orienteering-carn/park-street-championship/>

### **SUNDAY MARCH 4 - SPRINT TUNEUP**

A repeat of the highly successful sprint training held by Peter Hobbs, but aimed at all ages  
Details and venue to be confirmed

### **SATURDAY MARCH 10-MONDAY MARCH 12 - MELBOURNE SPRINT WEEKEND**

Three days - six amazing races! Online entries open mid January. Details at

<https://www.vicorienteering.asn.au/orienteering-carn/melbourne-sprint-weekend/>

### **WEDNESDAY MARCH 14 - SUMMER SERIES AWARDS NIGHT, RINGWOOD EAST**

Join us for the final Eastern Summer Series event at Maroondah Triangle, set by Phil Torode; followed by the traditional BBQ and Awards Night. Presentations include Champs medallists, Millennium Club inductees, Course Setter of the Year, and Monday/Wednesday Summer Series winners.

### **SATURDAY JUNE 9 - QUEENS BIRTHDAY DOUBLE HEADER, MALMSBURY**

Victorian Bush Series, organised by DROC, followed by the Club Relays on Sunday June 10

### **SUNDAY JULY 1 - MELBUSHO, ELTHAM LOWER PARK - Course Planner - Sarah Davies**

### **SATURDAY JULY 7 - ENDURO AT GLENHUNTLY GALLOP - Course Planner - It Could Be YOU!**

## **MEMBER NEWS**

A big welcome to new members Sarah Love, Melanie Bahlo, Muriel Neilson, and the Quelle family. Sarah joins Wayne, James and Sammy, and is already proving herself a natural, with a podium finish at the Sprint Champs. Melanie has been a regular on Wednesday nights, competing on E course, while Muriel has been to almost every event this summer and is making an impact on the Power Walker division. Curtis, Finn and Campbell have been along to MelbushO and a Monday Summer event.

Membership renewals are now due for 2018 - thanks to the many members who have already renewed! Once again, DROC offers club membership for just \$30, which includes Orienteering Victoria membership. Juniors (ie under 21) can join or renew for no charge. Non-participating/social members can renew for \$10 per household, which entitles you to receive Punchline, but there is no OV membership. Members who take part in events must renew as Participating members.

Payment by Eventor is preferred - simply click on the renewal link, which is emailed to you at regular intervals until you renew. You can renew for yourself and other family members in the same transaction, and pay with PayPal or POLI. Remember to update any contact details that may have changed, including Sportident stick numbers (if Santa was nice enough to bring you a new one). You can also pay by cash, cheque or bank transfer.

## ***THE MILLENNIUM CLUB***

Peter Dalwood (below left) has achieved Legend status of The Millennium Club, after completing his 1000<sup>th</sup> event in October 2017. Jay Kerley (below right) became an Associate member by completing his 500<sup>th</sup> event on the Waterford Valley map in Rowville in November.



[Rankings at 31 December](#)

## ***THE MEFTY AWARD***

Each year a perpetual trophy (creatively carved from Tasmanian huon pine by Vic Sedunary) is presented to the orienteer who completes the most Park Street events in a StreetO year (start of Summer fixture to the end of Spring fixture). Eligible events are those listed in the official Park Street Orienteering fixture except Sunday events. This award is titled The MEFTY Award (Most Events For The Year).

The 2017 MEFTY winner is Stuart McWilliam (right), with a record total of 166 events out of a possible 189! Stuart has set a record that may never be broken - a remarkable achievement given that he lives in Werribee! Stuart claims his tally would have been even higher had he not been caught up in traffic on several occasions. We can't think of a more deserving winner.



## ***ORIENTEERING AUSTRALIA MERIT BADGES***

To cap off an incredible year for DROC, our members achieved a record 20 Merit Badges, awarded by Orienteering Australia. These badges recognise performances at National events such as State and Australian Championships, and the Australian 3-Day Easter competition.

**GOLD:** Peter Hobbs, Martin Steer, Ian Davies, Peter Dalwood, Sarah Davies, Asha Steer, Lanita Steer  
**SILVER:** Simon Rouse, Andras Bogdanovits, Ian Dodd, Janine Steer, Debbie Dodd, Pamela King  
**BRONZE:** Ian Dias, Merv Bendle, Mark Besley, Peter Yeates, Peter Grover, Chris Bendle, Denise Pike

## *SPRINT INTO SPRING; SPRINT INTO AUTUMN*

2017 saw another hugely successful Sprint Into Spring series, with six races held on Saturday afternoons across Melbourne. Many DROC members took part, competing hard for coveted Jersey points. Janine Steer was involved in a photo finish for the Yellow Jersey on the “Sally Pearson” course; it all came down to the very last race at Latrobe University, which featured a challenging multi level format, and where Janine earned enough points to claim the Jersey. Lanita Steer also emerged with a hard fought Green (sprint leg) Jersey, on the “Mo Farah” course. Third place overall behind sprint stars Liis Johanson and Tash Key would have had national selectors taking notice. Sarah Davies also had an exceptional series, taking third overall on the “Sally” course.

During the series we launched a new map, “Oxley College” in Chirnside Park. Featuring a small but very complex campus area, adjoining some larger areas of open space, the map was quite challenging and a lot of fun. The courses, set by Ewen Templeton, featured a map flip. Our thanks to Ian Greenwood for arranging use of the venue.



Asha Steer also made her course planning debut during SIS, tackling the first event at the University of Melbourne. Asha set up some very clever tricks and traps, setting up some great short legs that were the hot topic of conversation afterwards.

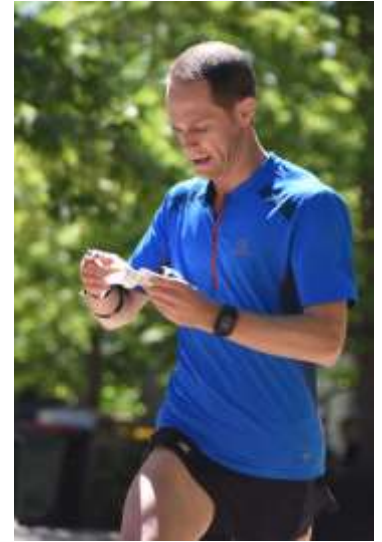
The Melbourne Sprint Weekend makes its long-awaited return in March 2018, with six races over three days. They might be only short, but the high intensity competition makes this a test of endurance. Venues include Caulfield Grammar (new); Yarra Valley Grammar; Monash University (remapped southern section); Kardinia College in Geelong (everyone’s favourite from 2016); and two venues to be confirmed. The first four races will be National League (NOL) events, including a World Ranking event, the Australian University Championships, and a Sprint Relay - a program that will be a big drawcard for locals and interstaters.

But you don’t have to be a speedster or sprint expert to take part - newcomers are more than welcome, and you can enter just one or two, or all six races. Details: <https://www.vicorienteeing.asn.au/orienteering-carn/melbourne-sprint-weekend/>

Get Tuned Up - we’re planning a special training day on Sunday March 4, after the success of Peter Hobbs’ junior training day last year at Eltham College. This one is for all ages, so come along and get the jump on your rivals! Look out for details by email.



*SPRINT INTO SPRING PHOTOS*

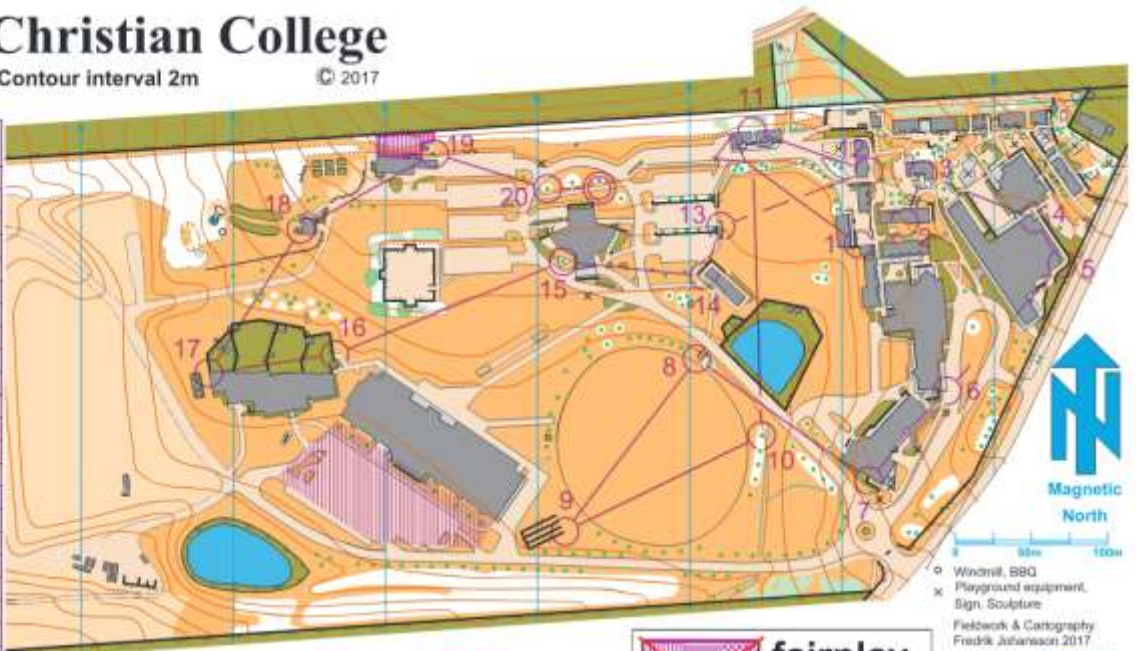


# Oxley Christian College

Scale 1:3000 Contour interval 2m

© 2017

Sprint into Spring 2 Oxley College 21 Oct 2017	
Usain Bolt	2.2 km
1	78 Canopy SW corner
2	83 Perce, SW corner (middle)
3	58 Building, NE corner (middle)
4	85 Canopy, SW corner (middle)
5	84 Building, SW corner
6	73 Canopy, SW corner
7	59 Wall, W corner (middle)
8	78 Mainway, At the top
Sprint (green jersey) leg	
9	79 Southern Perce, NE End
10	80 Northern Tree, S side
Hill climb (polka dot jersey) leg	
11	81 Western Building, NE corner
12	97 Building, NW corner (middle)
13	87 Mainway, On the top of
14	77 Canopy, W corner
15	96 Single tree, S side
16	91 Path / Fence junction
17	32 Perce, W side
18	93 Canopy
19	94 Cabinet, S side
20	95 Single tree, S side



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission

OXLEY COLLEGE  
EST. 1962

## SPRINT CHAMPS WINNERS

Simon, Denise, James, Janine, Sarah, Peter



## NEW MAPS

Not only do we have a brand new map of Monash Clayton (large enough for two separate sprint events), and of Oxley College (smaller but deceptively difficult), but we've been fortunate enough to have been offered Bayside's Lysterfield map, for foot orienteering (BK will retain the mountain bike version). This map has great potential for MelbushO and for training, offering a great alternative to Wellington Chase. A map update will be carried out this year, ready for first use in our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, 2019.

We're also gradually mapping Chirnside Park, as the golf course is redeveloped; starting with the western side of Edwards Road - look out for this map on a Saturday in 2018. And we're keeping a firm eye on new developments on Bellbird Dell and Forest Chase, which will open up new areas of parkland and/or residential streets, and give us more flexibility in use of these maps.

Nortons Park will be mapped in colour as part of the new Saturday Park Series (see below), with other DROC maps earmarked as funds are available.

Sharing maps between clubs is something that allows all clubs to offer top class events. We've seen this work really well in MelbushO and Sprint Into Spring. In 2018, DROC will combine with CHOC and MFR to run a fantastic double header weekend in June, in Malmsbury, using CHOC's "Kookaburra Rises" map. OV President Mark Hennessy will plan courses for our event, and DROC and MFR will pool their expertise to organise two great days of bush orienteering. This collaborative approach allows all clubs to play to their strengths, and play their part in putting on a calendar of top level orienteering throughout winter.

## CHANGES TO PARK AND STREET

First up, let's be VERY CLEAR - there WILL be cake on Saturdays! Phew! The Urban Committee has, however, instigated a couple of changes, which we hope will be popular with regulars and newcomers.

The Saturday afternoon series will introduce six "Park" events. These will use colour maps which are predominantly park based. These six events will be interspersed with regular Saturday events. They will be score events, with mass starts at 2pm as normal, and the usual A, B and PW courses. Scores will count towards overall series results, and of course you'll earn Millennium Club points. The difference will be that most controls will be placed in parkland, making these events more family-friendly. We hope this format will be attractive in particular to MelbushO participants, and we will use some venues such as Eaglemont Flats that have drawn crowds to that series. While they are not intended as a substitute for MelbushO, each will be timed to follow directly after a MelbushO.

Another change for Saturdays will see EndurOs scored as part of the overall results. To achieve this, there will be A, B and PW courses offered, to match the regular courses - A will be 120 mins, B will be 90 mins, and PW will be 120 mins. As a result, the full Saturday program will offer 22 events, all part of the overall series.

The UOC (represented by clubs and series coordinators) had a robust discussion about two other proposed changes, and your feedback on these was invaluable. One was to include a mid series break in the Monday winter program. This proposal will not go ahead; but expect to see some larger maps



used twice during winter, to allow us to remove some less suitable maps. The final proposal was to discontinue the Thursday Summer Series; instead, this will become a “boutique” series of 8 events in the northern suburbs, freeing up some eastern maps (like Koonung Crossing, Park Orchards and Yarran Dheran) to use on other nights in Summer. The current geographic boundaries between Monday and Wednesday Summer Series will be loosened up, to remove constraints on these series. So if you are a regular participant on a particular night, expect some fresh new maps next Summer!

## SEASON TICKETS

One of the bugbears with season tickets is that they are sold for a specific series, and cannot be “mixed and matched” across different series. This is a disincentive for some to participate on “another” night, even though the venue may be appealing, or they may have missed “their” night. The answer may be a coupon style system, ie purchasing entries in blocks of 25/50/100 tickets, which can be used at any event. However, it’s not clear how this system would be administered - how would we know when someone has used up their allocation? How do we ensure that their participation has been recorded? Of course there are ways to do this, but they involve organisers collecting some sort of physical ticket, or ticking off a list. It has been suggested that people could pay in advance, then receive credit at season end for unused “coupons” (based on the number of events attended), but this is potentially a messy financial exercise.

If you have any ideas about how a coupon style system could work, without imposing additional work on volunteers, we’d love to hear from you!

## POSITIONS VACANT - MONDAY WINTER AND WEDNESDAY WINTER COORDINATORS

Due to work commitments and travel plans, Debbie and Ian Dodd are not available to coordinate the Monday or Wednesday winter series. The job simply involves bringing along a small amount of equipment, and ensuring that course setters have been organised for each event in the series. The coordinator also makes pre-event announcements, and may be called on to make decisions about whether an event goes ahead (eg in severe weather). If this sounds like something you could do, please contact me at [debbiedodd@inet.net.au](mailto:debbiedodd@inet.net.au), or see me or Ian at an event over summer. Winter series runs from mid March to mid October; and the roles can be split between two or more people per series.

## *NEW ORIENTEERING VICTORIA WEBSITE*

Have you seen the new OV website? Grant funding was used to engage a web designer, who gave us the basic structure and “look”, plus some tools for content management; the rest was up to us. Debbie Dodd and Margi Freemantle were tasked with populating the new site with words, photos, news articles and links. They were assisted with contributions from Ian Dodd, Lanita Steer, Rob Fell and Peter Cusworth, while Ryan Davies is currently working on migrating the Results archive.

The site has received overwhelmingly positive feedback. It is colourful, fresh, dynamic, and easy to navigate. There’s lots of information for newcomers, and for the regulars, all our favourite features have been retained, such as Park Street event reports, Millennium club tallies, the Organisers Toolkit, and much more. We’ve also posted a LOT of photos.

It’s much easier to keep the new site up to date, with some neat features like a “major events” template, different content styles, feature photos, and eye catching links. There’s a direct “plugin” to Eventor, so you can check upcoming events and results without leaving the site. The administrators have almost full control over what appears on the site, making it easy to be flexible and responsive. Phase 2, planned for 2018, involves improving the Park and Street events and results.

All your old links and bookmarks remain unchanged. Check out [www.vicorienteering.asn.au](http://www.vicorienteering.asn.au)



## CAVILLS CORNER CHRISTENED

First mooted on the day of Wally's funeral, agreed by the DROC Committee at the AGM, and put to an Extraordinary General Meeting of members on December 20, the proposal to rename the Cathies Corner map as Cavills Corner received unanimous support and acclaim.

The first Wednesday event for 2018 was a fitting time to hold the first event on the rechristened map. For those querying the lack of an apostrophe, the map honours both Wally and his daughter Sue - who was also a very keen orienteer, and who in fact dragged Wally along originally. Sue was the organiser of the first bush event I ever went to, at Wellington Chase.

Wally's two surviving daughters, Linda and Caroline, joined us for the occasion, as did 110 competitors, including some we haven't seen for a while, and some new faces. We made a short speech and took some group photos, then as maps were handed out we quickly realised there was a shortage (thanks to the printers, who misinterpreted instructions). In true Wally fashion, an on-the-fly solution was quickly found. People either photographed the map with their phones, or found a friend to share with, which made for a very convivial evening. There were lots of comments later about how much fun it was to "run with friends" - after all, that's what the evening was all about. Wally would have loved it!

Oh, and next time you find yourself on the corner of Harold and Templeton Streets in Wantirna, find the second-from-the-right casuarina tree on the north side of the corner. Look up and see if you can spot a small silver plaque "Cavills Corner 2018". Thanks Wally - you changed our lives for the better, and for that we will always remember you.

### The Map





*Top left: the DROC gang  
Top right: Cavills Corner plaque on tree  
Centre left: Linda and Caroline under the plaque  
Centre right: a Wally Waffle?  
Bottom left: the crowd  
Bottom right: Linda and Caroline with the new map*



## *AINSLIE AND PETE'S EUROPEAN EPIC ADVENTURE - Ainslie Cummins*

Our adventure took in travel by plane, train, car, taxi and bicycle, and as with any good orienteer a lot of walking accompanied by a trusty map - mostly on paper but also electronic.

At the end of August Peter and I flew to Helsinki, a modern city with a historic island fort. We tried buckwheat pancakes topped with trout eggs - not to be recommended. We then crossed the Baltic Sea to Tallinn in Estonia. It is a fairytale cobbled medieval city surrounded by a wall with lots of conical turrets. We stayed at a spa resort where we met up with the people we ride with in Melbourne, who we were to do an eleven day bike ride through the Baltic States.

The riding was generally flattish through cropping country, conifer forest, bog land and rocky coastlines. In Estonia we visited a number of Germanic manor houses and rode along the shore of Pepsi Lake, a poorer area and the centre of onion growing, before visiting the University town of Tartu. There was only a very brief time spent in Latvia visiting the art nouveau capital of Riga. Lithuania brought a ride through coastal holiday resorts to Klaipeda, a city full of sculpture. It was a very wet day along the Cursian Spit, a bus transfer to the Lithuanian capital Vilnius (below), which is full of restored baroque churches, and a day trip to the ancient capital of Trakai with a quaint castle on an island in a lake.



Cold beetroot soup served with hot roast potatoes - yum! Boiled glutinous potato dumplings filled with savoury mince - interesting. Yoghurt drink mixed with ground rye - avoid. The three capital cities were restored, cultural gems, but these countries have a history of occupation with today being the longest ever period of independence.

We then flew to Scotland for 3 weeks to stay with my cousins in Glasgow and Stirling. We visited the Isle of Arran where my relatives originate from; Glasgow, Stirling, Edinburgh and Lowland Scotland. We were entertained grandly with much family chatter. Haggis, tatties and neaps - yum! Scenery to die for, but freezing gales off the Atlantic and Scotch mist made it a land I am glad my grandfather emigrated from.



At the end of September we flew to Girona in Spain. When we went to pick up the car, the car hire firm said we would not be able to drive out of Girona the next day as they thought the police would

blockade the roads due to the illegal Catalonia referendum. After asking what to do we parked on the edge of town and left early in the morning to drive up into the Pyrenees. There were lines of police vehicles on the outskirts of Girona. We stayed at the most beautiful village of Castelfollit de la Roca (below) with our apartment hanging off the edge of a cliff.



Our Scottish host took us to join in the street party at the referendum polling booth. The people were all in high hopes of an unrealistic independence. In this little village there was none of the violence that occurred in the big cities but there was a provocative police presence that confiscated the ballot box at one stage. It appeared that the Spanish government had not handled the referendum well and had antagonised a lot of the population.

Peter did a very good job of driving. We had asked for a small car and what we got was a very large people mover. We were very glad of the tablet and its mapping package as the narrow one way, steep streets with lots of roundabouts provided a navigational nightmare. It was even worse when we got to Andalucía. We drove almost to the French border in the Pyrenees, which was beautiful, then visited the Dali Museum enroute to Cadaqués, the most picturesque white village on the vivid blue Mediterranean (below). Beautiful walking but the wind at Cape de Cres was so strong you could not stand up.



We visited the interesting Roman and Greek ruins at Empuries before arriving at Begur. Even though it was beautiful weather these Costa Brava resorts were empty and it was hard to find somewhere to eat. Unfortunately I must have had a bad meal which caused a night of food poisoning, which wiped us out for the next couple of days.

We took a train to Barcelona which is a magical city. The Gaudi Sagrada Familia was my personal highlight of the whole trip. I devoured most of the Gaudi buildings while Peter came to some and then went off to find some other things. The city centre displayed ornate historic wealth and the botanical gardens were the best we saw in Spain.

Our time in Catalonia with demonstrations, politically charged people and helicopters buzzing overhead made it a bit tense. It was good to fly to Malaga to join the Exodus walking group in the Alpujarras. I had not realised Spain was so mountainous. This region at the base of the snow capped

Sierra Nevada Mountains was quite spectacular. We had a very good British born guide who had lived in the region for 15 years and another 10 interesting Brits to walk with.

The five days of walking from Berchules was not easy. We saw an amazing irrigation system high in the mountains, providing water to little Moorish influenced white villages with terraced fields growing cherry tomatoes and beans. We visited Spain's highest village with its famous Jamon industry. We ate jamon nearly every day. We then walked on into the wilderness closer to the snow with panoramic views to the sea, before being transferred to Granada where I was so lucky to get a returned ticket to the Alhambra's Nasarith palaces. It was good to see the Alhambra at a slower pace as it is certainly a spectacular ornate building and garden full of colour in Moorish style. We had an encounter with some pick pocketing gypsies but were awake to their antics and they got nothing except dirty tissues.

Next, a train to the sherry capital of Jerez where we visited the Diez-Merito sherry bodega. We hired another smaller car to explore Andalucía. We certainly saw a lot of clifftop fortresses, surrounded by ancient white villages with narrow winding cobbled lanes made for horses and carts. Walking in the Grazalema NP (below) was again spectacular in the rugged limestone wilderness, which made us appreciate the guide we had in the Alpujarras. It was more of a challenge to know where to go as few people in that area spoke English and our Spanish was even poorer. Ronda was a stunning location, with an impressive bull ring but very touristy. The drive through the cork forests was beautiful but Gibraltar was in cloud.



A train to Seville brought us to another beautiful historic city. The Seville Alcazar (palace fort) gave Peter a better idea of the intricate wall carving and the ornate Moorish stucco work which he had missed in Granada's Alhambra. Seville's Cathedral was so big and so ornate it was overwhelming. It certainly displayed Spain's historic power and plundered golden wealth. Each of Spain's major cities and Catholic churches needed to outdo one another in opulence. There were many beautiful historic public buildings and I was impressed at all the painted tiles which decorate much of the city.

Another train trip to the smaller Cordoba. The white and terracotta arches of the Mezquita (original mosque with a cathedral in the middle) was unforgettable. The gardens of the city and especially those at the Alcazar were formal, well kept and impressive.

Finally we visited Madrid for 8 days. It was noticeably colder in Madrid, and absolutely freezing the day we visited Segovia with snow on the nearby mountains. It was the first time we put away the shorts since Scotland. I thought the Cathedral in Seville was ornate but the Royal Palace was even more over-the-top extravagance. I have never seen such big crystal chandeliers. We built up to this excess with a visit to the fairytale turreted Alcazar at Segovia, then the El Escorial Monastery, both once royal palaces, to the pinnacle of baroque lavishness in the Royal Palace.

I had my fill of world famous art with the Prado being the most memorable. Central Madrid was full of beautiful historic buildings, plazas with fountains and monuments, and churches big and small. Even the smallest had grandly gilded altar pieces while the most magnificent cathedrals were smothered

with frescoes on every surface. The Grand Via lived up to name with its grand architecture and designer shopping.

Jamon - yum! Paella- yum! But the Spanish don't know what vegetables are and I found it very hard to be eating tapas at 10pm when my bed was beckoning. I don't think I would make a very good Spaniard.

After a few days in London it is back to Oz. All these places were great to visit but after 13 weeks and 3 days it was good to be home to the best country in the world. We are so lucky to be Australians.

## ***CLUB ACHIEVEMENTS RECOGNISED AT CHRISTMAS GATHERING - Peter Hobbs***

DROC's end of year party was a great opportunity to catch up with friends, enjoy a festive feast, and acknowledge the club's achievements. After streetO at Highbury Hill on Wednesday 20th December, approximately 50 members stayed behind for the annual Christmas gathering. This year we had a record 20 Orienteering Australia merit badges to present (listed below)

The club also recognised the continuing achievements of Lanita Steer, recently selected to the top tier Australian High Performance squad in only her first year as a Senior; Lanita will be eligible for selection to the top level national representative teams. Asha Steer was also recognised for her continuing selection in the National Junior Development squad, putting her in line for selection to JWOC and other national junior teams. The outcome - make more jam!

We also acknowledged Wally Cavill's passing and unsurpassed contribution to the club and orienteering generally, thanks to a great speech from Peter Grover. Peter moved that the Cathies Corner (Wantirna) map should henceforth be known as "Cavill's Corner", with the first event under the new name to be held on Wednesday January 3 2018. This was unanimously endorsed by all present.

From time to time the Committee acknowledges members for significant service to the club and this is recognised in the DROC constitution in the form of Life Membership. This year the Committee nominated Debbie and Ian Dodd. The nominations were worded as follows:

On behalf of the committee, I'd like to nominate two new Life Members - Debbie and Ian Dodd. The basis of the nomination for both Debbie and Ian is for their excellent service to DROC over a long period of time - but a secondary reason for the nomination is for their services to orienteering generally as a sport. And I have no doubt that this helps promote a positive image of DROC to the rest of the orienteering community - and is probably a factor in the club's record membership numbers.

### Nomination for Debbie

- Vice President of Orienteering Victoria from 2006-2009.
- Debbie is the current co-chair of the Orienteering Victoria Urban Orienteering Subcommittee which is credited with playing a significant part in OV meeting its participation goals.
- Always one of the first people to arrive at an event to help any club with set up and one of the last to leave.
- A friendly face for newcomers to approach and has been instrumental in recruiting many members to our sport and to DROC.
- Debbie was one of a small group responsible for establishing the popular Sprint into Spring series and the 2016 Melbourne Sprint Weekend.
- Debbie is the main person updating the OV and DROC websites, ensuring that there is always a recent news article available to keep things fresh and up to date.
- As a competitor, Debbie has completed 1823 Park & Street events since 2000, the second most of anyone. Debbie is a "Legend" member of the Millennium Club.

- “Family Dodd” appeared in April 2000 on the DROC membership list in edition 108 of Punchline (now up to 182).
- Debbie became DROC membership secretary in 2001 - held ever since.
- By January 2001 the Dodds hosted a committee meeting and set a course at Forest Chase.
- This year both Debbie and Ian have been inducted as life members of OV.
- Debbie does so much behind the scenes of the club such as being membership secretary, e-news editor, Punchline editor, the main person updating the DROC website - and helping run many aspects of the club, including a lot of the day to day tasks such as as responding to emails, co-ordinating course setters, co-ordinating DROCs events on the day and being really sociable and friendly with everyone, including new comers and new members. I have anecdotally heard this has resulted in new comers selecting DROC as their club.

### Nomination for Ian Dodd

- Ian was President of Orienteering Victoria from 2006-2010.
- Ian has become the expert finish tent supervisor at every major Orienteering Victoria event since that time.
- Ian has been a dedicated Park Street series coordinator since he took the role over in 2010 - co-ordinating all of the Wednesday night series throughout the year. Ian arrives early to ensure the event is set up, and like Debbie, is usually one of the last to leave.
- Ian established a SportIdent subcommittee to streamline event management and make the best use of technology to help organise and operate bush events.
- Being a keen accountant, Ian has been assisting the Orienteering Victoria Treasurer with bookkeeping and accounting for the last 11 years.
- Ian provides the computer and entry system at all MelBushO events, using the OLynx program on tablets, which many of us are familiar with.
- It is not unusual to also find Ian in the finish tent at many non-DROC events making sure things are under control.
- As a competitor, Ian has completed 1458 Park & Street events since 2000 and has Millennium Club “Legend” status.
- Ian was a DROC Committee member in 2000.
- Ian was DROC Vice President in 2002.
- Ian was President 2003-2006.
- Ian has been Treasurer since 2010.
- Ian and Debbie created the first DROC website in 2001.
- Similar to Debbie, there is a lot that Ian does behind the scenes for the club including all of the treasury work, kitting out his garage with shelving to store a lot of the DROC equipment, bringing the equipment along to every DROC event plus to non-DROC events, handling all SI and control related matters, regularly posting results immediately after an event and the list goes on ...

The motion to induct Debbie and Ian as life members was unanimously endorsed by the group with a round of applause and a few words of acceptance from Debbie and Ian (telling the story of how they were almost recruited to Bayside Kangaroos instead of DROC). Then, as is customary at the DROC Christmas gathering, everyone rushed to get dessert!

### ***PRESIDENTS REPORT 2017*** - Peter Hobbs - 29 October 2017

It is with pleasure that I table the President’s Report for the 39<sup>th</sup> year of operation of the Dandenong Ranges Orienteering Club (DROC). This year (20 November 2016 to 29 October 2017) 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
- 3 Sunday events including a State Series sprint double-header
- 2 Sprint into spring events

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 has continued to grow. We finished a club-record second in the Rockhopper Trophy this year on the back of some sensational performances at the Victorian Club Relays. We continue to set technical events including a State Series event, sprint events, Mel Bush-o events and a sprint training session for juniors.

As in past years, DROC continues to retain a notable presence in mountain bike orienteering and rogaining. We continue the use of SportIdent and event registration technology and this year held an SI training session to spread knowledge amongst other clubs. Our SportIdent system is still used frequently and the club's O-Lynx registration software and tablet, which was purchased by Orienteering Victoria (OV) in 2014 with DROC retaining custodianship, is also used regularly.

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding performances of club members who have competed in various local, state and national level events during 2016-17. Unheard of in past years but now commonplace, DROC members regularly compete in the Girls Junior and Senior Elite and Men's Open Elite National Orienteering League. Asha again represented *Australia* in the Junior World Orienteering Championships and ANZ Challenge at the Oceania Championships, and Lanita's successes at junior level have no doubt helped her successful transition into the senior elite class this year. The achievements of both girls this year have again been significant and are too long to list here. Meanwhile, Sarah Davies continues emerging as a strong junior in the W16 class, competing alongside Amber Louw for Victoria in the Australian Schools Individual Championships, among other events. The President and Committee applaud these achievements and will continue supporting the club's junior members.

The club's membership has been stable this year with 110 individual members (86 Adult, 18 Junior, 6 Social). It is notable that the club has a record 18 juniors. The new OV membership structure introduced three years ago appears not to have had any negative impact on DROC's membership numbers or administration. We adopted several international orienteers from Finland and Germany as members, which led to the creation of a new short-term membership category for visiting international orienteers. DROC's website continues to present the club positively and paper based publication of Punchline has been replaced with an on-line version which has been well received and reduces administration effort.

Financially, the club has continued to preserve a strong asset position and will make a small profit this year. Several successful fundraising ventures have again raised funds to support the club's juniors and will likely be required again in 2018. Former DROC President Ian Greenwood continues as the DROC representative on the Urban Orienteering Subcommittee, which is co-chaired by Debbie Dodd. The traditional Christmas dinner was again a popular festivity with approximately 50 people in attendance after a summer series event at Tunstall Junction. During the evening, a record 19 Orienteering Australia Merit badges were awarded and Lanita Steer was acknowledged for her fantastic 2016 season.

On a sad note, two long standing and founding members passed away this year - Geoff Key and Wally Cavill. Both were instrumental in forming the club and keeping it afloat during tough times. It is possible that the club may not exist had it not been for Geoff and Wally.



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 co-ordination of the events DROC organises. Also awarded life membership of OV for outstanding service to the sport.
- Ian Dodd - Treasurer, Wednesday street-o coordinator, equipment management, SportIdent and SI-stick expert and always a helping hand. Also awarded life membership of OV for outstanding service to the sport. On behalf of the Committee I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution Debbie and Ian make to DROC and orienteering generally.
- Ray Howe, Mark Besley and Ian Davies - scoring and control cards. Noted that Ray Howe received the OA Services award for his statistics work and park and street championship co-ordination.
- Peter Yeates - co-ordinating uniform sales, duties as Vice President, equipment management and always coming up with ideas.
- Vic Sedunary and Tina Smith - management of the Park and Street-O accounting.
- Ilze Yeates for match-day coordination of DROC's relay teams.
- 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. However as each year passes, it becomes more notable that we've had only three new people on the DROC committee since 2003. We would love some new faces on the committee to bring new ideas and share duties more widely around the membership base. I encourage all members to become involved in the club and its activities. 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 do this.

The year ahead is shaping up to be a busy one, with the usual allocation of park-street, Mel Bush-o and sprint events, plus we're organizing the 2017 Victorian Sprint Orienteering Championship and have put our hand up to coordinate a State Series event.

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.

*Pictures from the Junior Sprint Training Day, published in Australian Orienteer magazine*



*WITH UNRESERVED APOLOGIES TO WOMEN EVERYWHERE (but I couldn't resist)*

I have a little Satnav, it sits there in my car  
A Satnav is a driver's friend, it tells you where you are.

I have a little Satnav, I've had it all my life  
It's better than the normal ones - my Satnav is my wife.

It gives me full instructions, especially how to drive  
"It's sixty miles an hour", it says, "You're doing sixty five"

It tells me when to stop and start, and when to use the brake  
And tells me that it's never ever, safe to overtake.

It tells me when a light is red, and when it goes to green  
It seems to know instinctively, just when to intervene.

It lists the vehicles just in front, and all those to the rear  
And taking this into account, it specifies my gear.

I'm sure no other driver, has so helpful a device  
For when we leave and lock the car, it still gives its advice.

It fills me up with counselling, each journey's pretty fraught  
So why don't I exchange it, and get a quieter sort?

Ah well, you see, it cleans the house, makes sure I'm properly fed  
It washes all my shirts and things, and keeps me warm in bed!

Despite all these advantages, and my tendency to scoff,  
I only wish that now and then, I could turn the bugger off.

*Pam Ayres*

