

PUNCHLINE

Dandenong Ranges Orienteering Club Inc

www.drocorienteering.com.au

Incorporated Association Registered Number A0003225B

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Issue 187

January 2019

DROC TURNS 40!

Dandenong Ranges Orienteering Club was founded in December 1978, and held its first event in January 1979. This year marks the club's 40th anniversary! Here's a snippet from our early history:

It was way back in late 1978 when the Key family, Ron Harvey, Bob Correa and others decided to form an orienteering club based in the Dandenong Ranges region. DROC was born, maps were made, and the first series of events began in 1979. Events were run on Sundays in summer, and the maps used were Lilydale, Mt Evelyn, Strath Creek, The Basin, Heathmont and Studley Park. The club's membership grew rapidly, thanks to strong support from the local Maroondah newspaper, involvement with local schools and a program of instruction for novices using a permanent course on Carinya Cutting. By March 1979 there were 80 members, although a newsletter from that time noted that "only 15 members are really addicted and compete in open events". Meetings were held regularly at "Correa's Cave" and featured half-hour indoor orienteering courses!



2019 will be a year of celebration, as we bring you some exciting Australian "firsts" - the first Indoor Sprint, at Monash Clayton in June; the first Melbourne City Race in October, and our first Bush Championship for many years, at Creswick on the Queens Birthday weekend.

Our anniversary will kick off with a celebratory cake on Monday January 28 (the Australia Day holiday) at Koolunga, set by one of our longest-serving members, Carl Stemp, and on one of our true Dandenong Ranges maps in Ferntree Gully. All the details of our Fabulous 40th year are inside!

Picture: The Love family were all Jersey winners at Sprint Into Spring! From left - James, Wayne, Sarah and Sammy.

2019 - OUR 40TH FABULOUS YEAR

What's On:

Monday January 28 - Koolunga - Party Time!

- Celebrate our 40th anniversary with a special Park Street event at Koolunga (Ferntree Gully). No party would be complete without a cake! [Find Out More](#)

Wednesday April 3 - Ringwood East - End of Summer Series

- Final Summer Series event and Awards Night/BBQ, Maroondah Triangle. After a special course set by Yours Truly, enjoy a delicious BBQ and dessert, followed by our end of summer presentations. [Find Out More](#)

Queens Birthday Weekend (June 8-10) - Creswick - 3 Days in the Diggings

- DROC is joining forces with MFR to present three days of Middle Distance Mayhem and Madness! Using the intricate erosion features of the Creswick Diggings map, the weekend starts on Saturday with the final Vic Autumn bush event. On Sunday, we present the 2019 Victorian Middle Distance Champs; and on Monday, we wrap up the weekend with a fun Score event. Accommodation can be booked in Creswick, Ballarat or Daylesford. This is one weekend of top class orienteering you don't want to miss! [Find Out More](#)

Sunday June 30 - Monash Clayton - Inaugural Indoor/Outdoor Sprint Double

- We are so excited about this one! Partnering with Monash Clayton, we'll be holding the very first Indoor Sprint race in Australia! Using the stunning, multi-level Learning and Teaching Building, you'll need all your sprint skills as you puzzle your way through the course. Followed by an Outdoor sprint to provide double the fun! [Find Out More](#)

Sunday July 14 - Yellow Gum Park - MelbushO

- An oldie but a goodie - one of our favourite MelbushO venues. The removal of a number of fences has opened up the map. Enjoy a great mix of forests, open hillsides, cliffs, and erosion detail. Like most of Plenty Gorge, kangaroos are abundant, and with picnic tables and toilets, it's a perfect venue for family day in the bush. [More about MelbushO](#)

October 11-13 - Melbourne City Race Weekend

- Another concept borrowed from Europe, City Races have grown hugely in popularity, attracting hundreds of eager competitors from around the glob. Paris, London, Rome, Barcelona - now Melbourne! The first MCRW will feature a Friday night Sunset Sprint, a Saturday Sprint Into Spring, and the Sunday City Race. Find out more at www.melbournecityrace.com.au

Other events in 2019:

- Park Street Championship Final - Thursday February 28, St Helena [More Details](#)
- Oceania Carnival - September/October 2019, Wagga Wagga and Wangaratta [More Details](#)

Orienteering takes you anywhere you want to be - where will you go in 2019? Besides these events, club members are planning to compete in the New Zealand Nationals at Easter (South Island), the World Masters in Latvia, The Scottish 6-Days, the Iceland 3 Days, the Aargauer 3 Days in Switzerland, the Darmstadt City Race in Germany ... any others? Share your travel stories and future plans!

TWO BIG FIRSTS FOR DROC, MELBOURNE ... AND AUSTRALIA!

We are beyond excited to be introducing two new race formats to the Australian orienteering calendar this year - Indoor Sprinting, and City Racing.

In 2018, we did some field research in Europe (well, someone has to...) and experienced them first hand. Peter Dalwood and Pam King competed in the much talked about Indoor Sprint in Denmark as part of the World Masters (as featured in *Australian Orienteer* magazine's September 2018 issue), while Ian and I took part in the London City Race, which has been attracting up to a thousand competitors for the last 10 years.

It's time to bring these races to Australia. Melbourne is ready to be the first - are you?

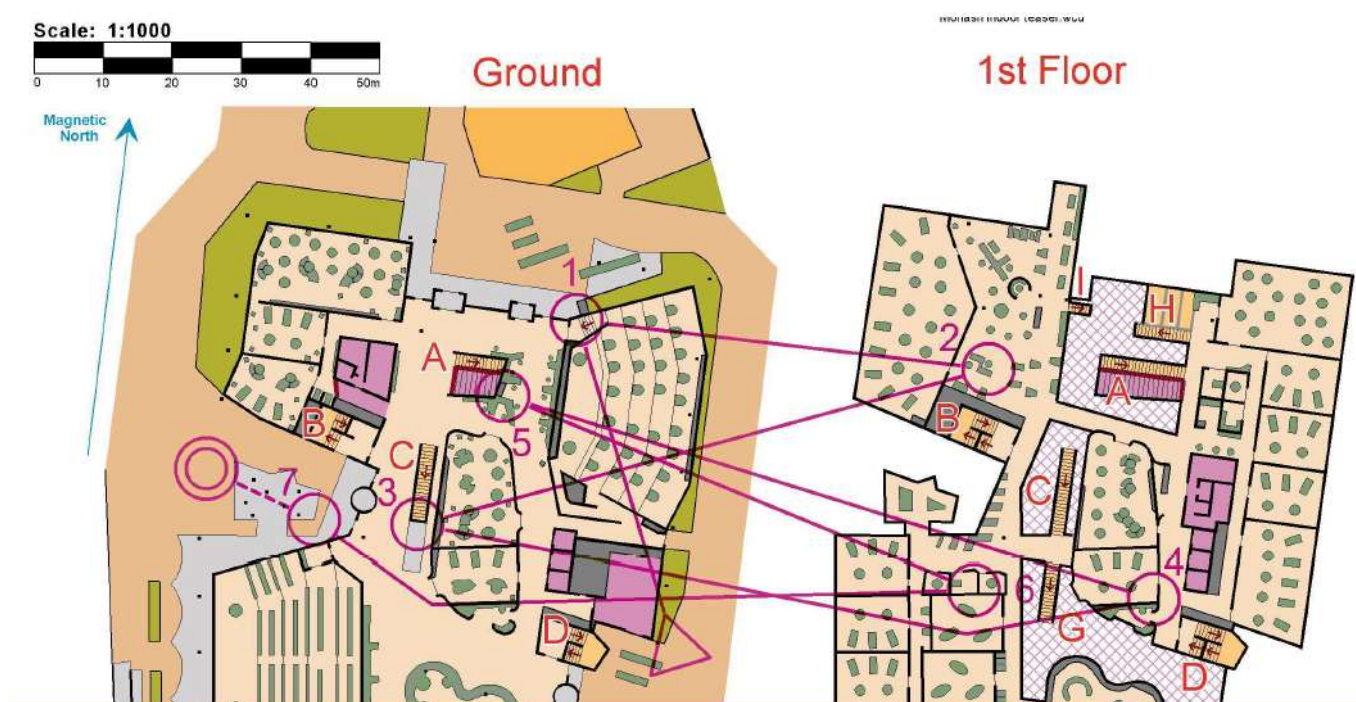
MONASH INDOOR/OUTDOOR SPRINT DOUBLE, SUNDAY JUNE 30

Ever since we first laid eyes on Monash Uni's incredible new Learning and Teaching Building, we've had designs on it for an indoor sprint. Would they let us race around their shiny new showpiece, or would they deem the risk too great? We're delighted to say that the Monash team is on board as partners, and are as enthusiastic about the idea as we are!

Drawing on the mapping technique used so effectively in Denmark, and the amazingly detailed base map provided by Monash, Peter is now working on a very different type of puzzle - how to translate multiple levels, numerous stairs (some of which don't seem to go anywhere), and all sorts of oddly shaped spaces, into a readable map? Here's a sneak peek - but you'll have to come to the event to see the finished product for yourself!

The Indoor Sprint will take place in the morning, followed by a classic Outdoor Sprint, using the rest of Monash's Clayton Campus, in the afternoon. There'll be a range of courses to suit everyone; though you'll need to be fit enough to climb stairs(!) More information, and online entry, will be available in Eventor after Easter.

Here is a preview of what the map and courses MIGHT look like ...



MELBOURNE CITY RACE WEEKEND, OCTOBER 11-13 www.melbournecityrace.com.au

London, Paris, Rome, Barcelona - now Melbourne! City Races have taken Europe by storm recently, with a rapidly expanding calendar, and an ever-growing fan base.

The first-ever MCR weekend is timed perfectly to fit in with the Oceania Carnival. Continue your orienteering road trip from Beechworth, down the Hume, and discover Melbourne from a new point of view, with three days of top quality urban racing. What a great way to extend your holiday!

City Races are medium-long distance events in sprint style - complex urban areas, short legs, lots of direction changes and route choice - but with courses 3-10 km in length. They feature colour maps at 1:4000 or 1:5000 scale, and Sportident/SI Air punching.

Locations are carefully chosen to showcase the host city and its landmarks. While ours are still under wraps, the Melbourne City Race venues will be easily accessible by public transport. Enjoy all that Melbourne has to offer - fabulous food, amazing shopping, and accommodation for all budgets.

Preliminary program:

Friday October 11 - Sunset Sprint. An evening urban sprint to get you revved up and ready.

Saturday October 12 - Sprint Into Spring Race 1. A classic sprint distance campus race, part of Melbourne's massively popular Saturday afternoon Sprint series.

Sunday October 13 - the big one! The inaugural Melbourne City Race on Sunday morning is a long distance urban event that will take you to places old and new.

Don't miss the chance to say "I was there in 2019!"

Thanks to Stuart McWilliam for designing our logo!



COURSE PLANNERS NEEDED!

As you can see, 2019 is a busy year, and we need some course planners for our feature events:

Queens Birthday - seeking a course planner for the 3-day weekend events, to work in conjunction with Melbourne Forest Racers. You may be asked to plan one of the races, or work together to plan both (the Monday event will use the same controls as the previous two days).

Monash Sprint Double - seeking a course planner for the Outdoor sprint at Monash Clayton.

MelbushO - seeking a course planner for the event at Yellow Gum Park. Ideal for a first time bush course planner.

Please let me know asap if you are interested.

MEMBERSHIP

A big New Year welcome to our two new members, Trish Lamb and Joel Crothers.

Your 2019 membership is due for renewal as at January 1. The easiest way to renew is to use the emailed link from Eventor - just a couple of clicks to select your membership type, then use PayPal or POLI to pay. Renewal instructions are also [here](#).

Don't forget to update your Eventor profile if your contact details or Sportident stick number have changed.

If you prefer, you can pay by cash or cheque. Please notify me of any changes of address, email or contact phone number.

Membership remains just \$30* for adults, and free for juniors (under 21). Membership includes both DROC and Orienteering Victoria, which means you can take advantage of these [benefits](#).

*Orienteering Victoria fees are \$35. DROC pays \$5 of each adult OV membership, and \$6 of each junior OV membership, for its members.

DROC SHOP

The DROC Shop is open for business and ready to get you kitted out for 2019! The DROC Shop sells Sportident sticks (including SI Air), and compasses at very reasonable prices. We also sell Pro-Tech gaiters, fingerbands, and Silva headbands. [All details and prices are here](#). We bring the Shop to most Park and Street events, as well as MelbushO events. Send an email to droc@inet.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.

JUNIORS UPDATE

At the DROC Christmas party, it was our great pleasure to award three of our up and coming Juniors with an encouragement award - a gift card from Rebel Sport. These were awarded to Amber Louw, James Love and Samantha Love. Amber and James were part of the Victorian Schools Team. All three juniors did an outstanding job during Sprint Into Spring, winning jerseys - see report elsewhere. We look forward to seeing their continued enthusiasm in 2019.

Sarah Davies has joined Amber and James in a special one on one coaching program with the British coaches, Nathan and Jo, following on from the junior camp. DROC has provided funds to allow these invaluable coaching sessions to take place during the summer holidays. Sarah also did a great job course planning at Cornish College for Sprint Into Spring, and has been the "meeter greeter" at various events during the year. We wish her all the best with her final year of school in 2019.

SPRINT SUCCESS

Another Sprint season has come and gone, with an unprecedented level of success for DROC, taking out no less than 6 jerseys! Congratulations to Helen Walpole (Mo Women Polkadot Jersey); Wayne Love (Sally Men Green Jersey); James Love (Sally Men Polkadot Jersey); Amber Louw (Sally Women Green Jersey); Sarah Love (Sally Women Polkadot Jersey); and Samantha Love (Usain Women Green Jersey). Everyone put in a lot of consistent hard work to earn their prize over the seven races.



The season kicked off with a return to the wonderful Caulfield Grammar campus at Wheelers Hill, previously used for the Melbourne Sprint Weekend. I missed that race, so was excited to have another chance. It lived up to its promise, with the course setter making full use of the many twists and turns. Luckily the map scale was increased to 1:3000, and careful map reading got most of us around. There was a control in a multi level playground that proved particularly difficult, and the first leg of the Sally course was an absolute classic. First points were gained in the Jersey comps, with Sarah Davies second in a sizzling run, and Sarah Love winning the Sprint leg. *Pictured: Nick Maddock*

The next race was organised by DROC, at Cornish College, a new venue. The campus is very small but tricky to navigate, and the outlying area held plenty of interest with an island, a min golf course, and stock yards. Sarah Davies took on course planning duties, and did a fine job indeed, receiving many compliments. The courses required a mix of skill and stamina, with a mind bending loop in the campus, followed by the big hill climb, and a fast circuit back to the finish. Helen Walpole was second on the Mo Women hill climb leg. Ian Dodd made amends for last week's mispunch by placing third, while Amber Louw did even better, with a win! Sarah L and Amber tied on the sprint leg, while Wayne blasted his way up the hill for second on the Climb. Young Sammy Love got in on the act, winning the sprint leg on the Usain course; while newcomer Annie Gruby was second overall.

Race 3 took us to VU St Albans, which was familiar territory for some of us. It began with a really complicated loop of the small portables, before some straightforward run legs brought us to the southern section. This part had some tough route choices which proved decisive. Helen went one better, winning the climb and moving into jersey contention, as well as placing second on the sprint. Ian Dodd had a great run to win Sally Men, while Sarah L and Amber took second and third on Sally Women. Eric Louw and Wayne earned 9 and 8 points respectively on the sprint leg, moving Wayne up to third overall. Meanwhile Sarah and Amber tied the sprint again! Sarah now led the green jersey standings with Amber second. Not only that, but Wayne and Sarah were both now in the top three in the Polkadot comp. Not to be outdone, Sammy won the climb and came second on the Usain sprint, putting her in the overall lead for both jerseys.

At RMIT Bundoora, we were thrown straight into a highly complex first few legs, hardly having time to draw breath before the sprint leg, and setting the tone for the whole race. Helen's 9 points on the hill climb put her into the polkadot jersey - could she hold it for the final 3 races? Amber won the sprint and the green jersey lead, while James's second on the climb, behind Eric, put him into the top three. Sarah edged out Amber on the climb, and moved into top spot overall. Sammy held onto the green jersey, but slipped to second in the polkadot comp.

Penola College in Broadmeadows was another new, and very picturesque venue. Excitement was high as we tried to guess where the sprint and climb legs would be, and anticipate what tricks would be in store. We weren't disappointed; it was a brilliant race that had everyone buzzing. Helen continued



her great form, tying the climb with Aislinn Prendergast. Sarah D raced hard and fast to take third on Sally Women. Eric won the sprint, edging out Wayne, while Amber and Sarah L tied the sprint for the third time! Wayne's victory on the climb saw him on top of the overall standings, just ahead of James. Sarah had her third win on the Climb and was now well and truly in the lead overall. New DROC member Andrew Gruby won the Usain course, while Sammy had her best result with second. She held the lead in the green jersey comp, and also gained 10 points on the climb.

The final weekend was held in Ballarat, with the last two Sprint Into Spring races both held at Federation University's campus at Mt Helen. The morning race focused on the main campus, while the afternoon event was on a newly mapped section

with fewer buildings, more open space, and some pockets of bush. It was going to test navigation and stamina over a variety of terrain. The morning hill climb was particularly memorable, crossing the width of the campus, and involving some complicated route choices along the way. Helen was delighted with her two climb wins, giving her the Mo Womens Polkadot jersey with a great score of 57. DROC won four of the six Sally jerseys - Wayne and Amber claimed the Green, while James and Sarah L took the Polkadot. Completing the family's new wardrobe was Sammy, winning the Usain Women's Green.

The Victorian Sprint Champs, on the School of Mines map, was on a whole new level, or should I say levels. Ian and I earmarked this venue for the 2015 Australian Champs, but were told it was too hard to map, and too dangerous to put 800 people on to (they were probably correct on both fronts). The map was fantastic, and so were the courses. From the compact arena, we had no idea what was in store out on the course - from bottom to top, the climb is equivalent to about four storeys, achieved through torturous twisted stairs and ramps, that lead to little alcoves and balconies, or closed in courtyards. There was a lot of standing still and muttering, furrowing of brows, and intense map scrutiny. It was absolutely wonderful - if you get the chance, do not miss an opportunity to compete here!

Congratulations to our DROC champions and podium placegetters:

1st place: Amber Louw, Sarah Davies, Sarah Love

2nd place: Helen Walpole, Pam King

3rd place: Sammy Love, James Love, Debbie Dodd, Peter Dalwood, Ilze Yeates, Ian Davies, Damian Spencer

Thanks to everyone who came along and enjoyed the races. There were many great individual performances and personal triumphs - everyone finds their own level of competition, which is one of the great joys of orienteering. Sprint orienteering once again left its mark on Spring.



The photos tell the story - the School of Mines map required more reading and less running!

Top: Amber Louw

Centre: Sammy Love, Eric Louw

Bottom: Stuart McWilliam, Peter Dalwood

Next page -

Top: Sarah Love, Ian Dodd

Centre: Pam King, Helen Walpole

Bottom: Sarah Davies, Ian Davies





PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2018 - Peter Hobbs

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

This year (30 October 2017 to 21 October 2018) the club has organised approximately 35 orienteering events, covering a wide range of formats comprising of:

- summer series street-o events
- night street-o events
- Saturday afternoon events including an Enduro
- A Mel-bush-o event
- 2 sprint events, including the Victorian Sprint Championships
- A mountain bike-o event
- Assistance to MFR and CHOC over Queens Birthday weekend



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 continue to set technical events including State level events, Mel Bush-o events and a sprint training session for juniors. Peter Dalwood's efforts in updating the Monash University map and Peter Grover's mapping of new areas is noted.

DROC continues to retain a notable presence in mountain bike orienteering and rogaining. We continue the use of SportIdent and event registration technology with Ian Dodd taking a leading role in coordination. Our SportIdent system is still used frequently and 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 2017-18. Unheard of in past years but now commonplace, DROC has had seven members competing at either State or National level, including Australian representation! Asha Steer again represented Australia in the Junior World Orienteering Championships and Lanita also represented Australia at the World University Orienteering Championships. Sarah Davies competed alongside Amber Louw and James Love for Victoria in the Australian Schools Championships, among other events. Sarah Davies won the Course Setter of the Year for the Yarra Valley Grammar State Series event in 2017. The President and Committee applaud these achievements and will continue supporting the club's junior members.

The club's membership has been generally stable this year with 102 individual members (75 adult, 19 junior, 8 life members) compared to 110 last year. It is notable that the club has a record 19 juniors. DROC's website continues to present the club positively and the on-line version of Punchline continues to be well received and reduces administration effort.

Financially, the club has continued to preserve a strong asset position and will make a small loss this year. The traditional Christmas dinner was again a popular festivity with approximately 50 people in attendance after a summer series event at Highbury Hill. During the evening, a record 20 Orienteering Australia Merit badges were awarded and Ian and Debbie Dodd were awarded DROC life memberships for their long term service to DROC and orienteering generally. Wally Cavill was also remembered with kind words from Peter Grover and the re-naming of the Cathies Corner map to "Cavill's Corner".

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

- Debbie Dodd - Punchline and e-news editor, website curator, membership secretary and general organiser of many things. Debbie plays a huge role in the day to day operation of the club particularly through her efficient coordination of the events DROC organises. Co-chair of Urban Orienteering Committee, Wednesday street-o Coordinator, main OV liason and takes a leading role in managing the OV website. Also awarded DROC life membership for outstanding service to the club.
- Ian Dodd - Treasurer, equipment management, SportIdent and SI-stick expert and always a helping hand. Also awarded DROC life membership for outstanding service to the club, and received the OA Services Award for roles as Park Street Wednesday series coordinator, and his technical support of timing systems at many events. On behalf of the Committee I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution Debbie and Ian make to DROC and orienteering generally.
- Mark Besley and Ian Davies - scoring and control cards.
- Peter Yeates - Saturday street-o coordinator, coordinating uniform sales, duties as Vice President, equipment management and always coming up with ideas.
- Vic Sedunary - management of the park and street-o accounting.
- Pam King and Peter Grover - mapping and secretary duties.
- Committee members - assisting run the club.
- Members - making the club.

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

The year ahead is shaping up to be a busy one, with the usual allocation of park-street, Mel-bush-o and sprint events, plus we are likely to be coordinating a Queens Birthday 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.

BUSH ORIENTEERING IN 2019

You'll see some changes to bush orienteering in 2019. While MelbushO and Bendigo bush series continue to flourish, our larger events (previously known as State Series) have seen falling attendances, particularly as many orienteers head overseas to escape the colder months, and others are increasingly reluctant to drive across town.

This year there will be a six-event series, called the Vic Autumn Bush Series, which will take place from February to June, followed by a shorter period of standalone events during July-September. These events will have five courses (Long/Medium/Short Hard Navigation, Moderate Navigation, and Easy Navigation), instead of the former 9 courses. To keep things consistent, an extra course (Short Hard) will be added to MelbushO. The Vic Autumn series will have series points and awards. Other ideas have been suggested to liven up the arena, such as music, commentary, a coffee cart, and spectator legs.

Please read these [draft guidelines](#), and send feedback to bushfeedback@vicorienteering.asn.au.

Click here to download the [2019 Bush Calendar](#). Click here for the 2019 [MelBushO](#) program.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PARK STREET ORIENTEERING

As I write, we're at the half way mark of Summer Series, and the past couple of holiday weeks have featured some fantastic events that have made great use of parks and creeklands, and tested our map reading skills at places like Yarran Dheran, Abbey Walk, Royal Park, and Deakin Burwood.

Some loosening of the former geographic boundaries for the four series has seen some maps given a different audience - for instance, competitors on Wednesdays have enjoyed maps like Middle Mullum and Ruffey Lake, for the first time. The Thursday series has been reinvigorated by a hardworking team. Regional series in Geelong and the Macedon Ranges have been well attended. The Tuesday series has been trialling the "Maprun" phone app, which has created a lot of discussion; we look forward to a final report. As we move towards February, the focus shifts towards the all important Champs qualifying events, and the Final at St Helena on February 28.

The Fixtures group will meet very soon to start planning the Winter series. This year, the Monday and Wednesday night events will consist of two 13-week series, from early April until early October, to align with daylight savings. Mondays will continue to offer the Target and Score formats - Target caters for those who like a different format, while Score is more traditional.

The Course Setter's Checklist, Competitor Safety Rules, and Emergency Response Plan, have all received an overhaul - please read these important guidelines [here](#). We've also written a financial procedure, and tightened up our monetary processes.



The Saturday Series is looking really exciting! After the success of the Saturday Park events, we're expanding the program. You can look forward to 9 or 10 colour maps, with courses set predominantly in parkland. There'll be some EndurOs, and the remainder will be the usual park-street events, a great balance making up the 21 or 22 event series. We'll continue to use social media as a low cost but extremely effective way to promote this series.

All in all, there's a lot to look forward to!

PARK STREET CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2019 Champs will be held on Thursday February 28, at St Helena. This is one of our hillier maps, with a lovely mix of quiet narrow streets, linear parks and cut-throughs; a good all round test of park street skills, and the winners will be deserving of their titles. Once again there will be a series of qualifying races during the leadup; to nominate for a position in the Final, simply use a special blue control card, and make sure you enter the course that corresponds to the age group you wish to compete in (reminder - you can compete in a younger age group, but not an older one). You must also have completed at least 6 events during the summer - these can be across different series, and on different running courses, but



Monday -

B1 - Jay Kerley 2nd

C2 - Dale Howe 3rd

PW4 - Allan Miller 2nd, Pat Miller 3rd

A3 - Vic Sedunary 1st

B3 - Stuart McWilliam 1st

C2 - Ray Howe 2nd, Graham Wallis 3rd

D2 - Debbie Dodd 1st, Pam King 2nd

PW3 - Christine Palmer 2nd

4 5 6 7 8 9

Course C	Club	Event Results													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Division 1															
	DODD, IAN	DR	99	100	100	100	100	100	99	99	100	100	97	100	100
	STEER, MARTIN	DR	100	.	99	97	.	.	100	100	99	.	100	.	.
	SPENCER, DAMIAN	DR	.	.	97	98	97	99	.	.	95	.	98	.	99
	STEER, JANINE	DR	98	.	98	90	.	.	98	97	97	.	94	.	.
	PERKINS, ANDREW	DR	97	97	95	.	89	.	.	.	.	94	90	.	96
	WILSON, GORDON	BK	96	.	.	94	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	98	.
Division 2															

MASTERING THE ALICE - Peter and Ilze Yeates

Back in October, Peter and Ilze flew to central Australia to take part in the Alice Springs Masters Games. They came home with a swag of medals, which threatened to tip their baggage allowance over the limit! The program comprised a Sprint, a Score, and a Night event.

The orienteering events were enthusiastically received, which has since led to the formation of the Red Centre Orienteering Club.

Over to Pete ...

In the planning stages, a guided bus tour from the Alice to Uluru with a sunset dinner, sounded like a good thing. No need to take two days from our schedule (you cant drive yourself there and back in one day, outback night driving in a rental car is not permitted.) We didn't read the very, very, very fine print - this is the world's longest one day guided bus tour (1106 kms).

With breakfast provided, we avoided the cheap hotel coffee and departed at 6am. "Only 265 kms to our breakfast stop" the drivers told us. Still it was worth the weight (no pun) - sausages, bacon, fried eggs and hash browns, no skim milk for the non-existent muesli. Gotta love the outback road houses. With several pit stops and photo opps we arrived in the National Park just after 12.00, then off to Kata Tjuta. No sightings of Princess Olga, back via the compulsory stop at the Cultural Centre for a culturally significant Vanilla Magnum, then off to the Big Rock. Two guided walks with rock paintings, a full history was only just a bit tedious because by now it was 38C and there was a storm brewing. A storm had come through the previous night, bringing the first measurable rain in 168 days. This had made for terrific photos at the rock pool; one of our driver/guides had been working there for three years and he had never seen water in it.

We were the first bus into the sunset viewing area, and set ourselves up in the shade watching with growing trepidation as our guides set up the BBQ and the clouds gathered. Actually the first fears were assuaged when after cooking a mound of sausages and steak, they produced the world's largest esky with wonderful salads, and even more wonderful icy cold champagne with real glasses. Even the cold lamingtons for dessert were not disappointing; however the clouds also did not disappoint us and hovered threateningly until it was time to go.

The trip out was filled with wonderful scenery. The trip back in the dark was only lightened by watching the contortions of German tourists as they tried to sleep in a bus seat or counting moths strikes on the windscreen (I gave up at 607400).



Not getting back to Alice and in bed until 12.35am on the morning of the Masters Orienteering Sprints did not seem to be ideal preparation, however so it was to be. A second place medal for me in M70 in a hot field (in more ways than one - 32C). Only beaten by the swift Ewen T from ARDF and getting revenge on a few who had beaten me in the Aus Champs last week. Ilze went out later and got beaten by the heat. Off to buy her a bigger sunhat and to remember her camelbak for Wednesday's double header -

a bush Score with a 7.30am mass start on the Telegraph Station map, then backing up at 7.30pm for a night event on the golf course. Course setter's notes include the hazard warning to avoid treading on snakes or golf balls. Don't you just love this sport.

Ilze and I had a quiet day today, just a lazy 360 kms out to Glen Helen Homestead for their world famous chips. (and trust me, they are a superior chip). It's just as well, as they are the only food and petrol for an eyewatering amount of kilometres.

On the way, via the Larapinta Highway we visited Simpsons Gap, originally named Simsons Gap by the surveyor who laid out the overland telegraph, and no one knows who he is (or was, it was 18something or other). Then a further 30 kms on to Standley Chasm, (yes that is the correct spelling) before turning on to the Namatjira Highway to Ormiston Gorge and then lunch.

Everywhere the colours come straight off a Namatjira canvas and when you see the ochre pits where colours were ground from the earth, you can see it and feel it. This was his country and he saw it with the same eyes as a Renaissance Master. Michelangelo would have understood it in an instant, and yet there are still Australians today who doubt his great gift. It was a privilege to stand at the wall of the ochre pit and gaze at his palette.

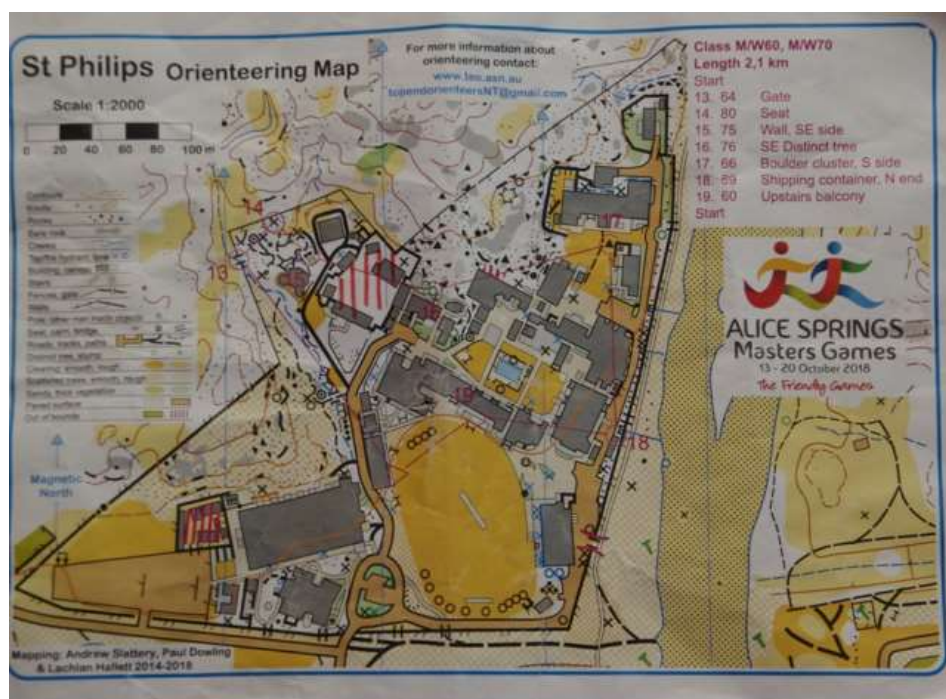
Enough with the colourful landscape, back to business. Orienteering.

Today we have a double header. First event was a 60 minute Score course on the Telegraph Station map. Great map and the early start made it fabulous and cool. Strange scoring format, all controls 10 points but then only a two point per minute penalty. Ewen was three minutes late back but still took the silver, tipping me back to a Bronze by four points. The gold medallist was too good today.

For Ilze, her preparations proved the difference and got her a well earned Bronze. Today she had water, a neck scarf, a better hat, a plan and a determination to finish. So the Yeates family medal rush continues.

Both my wife Ilze and I are LEGEND members of the Melbourne Millennium Club. To achieve this status a member must have competed in at least 1000 Park and Street Orienteering events since the year 2000. Ilze is close approaching her 1500 and I am nearly 2000, and about half of those events have been conducted at night. So when we looked at the fixture for the 2018 Alice Springs Masters Games Orienteering, the night event at the Alice Springs Golf Club was the one we pencilled in. Even the 45 minute score format was perfect for me, although Ilze prefers it to be longer.

As we gathered in the cool of a Central Australian evening and watched the surrounding ranges glowing in the sunset, we were all a little nervous. Night orienteering on a golf course, who had thought of such a thing? (*Ed: the Launcestonians did one in 2017*). There were bemused looks from the players on the adjacent bowling green as we gathered at the start, particularly when we took off in all directions into the night.



I have done hundreds of these, but in a few strides the hairs rose up, this was simply glorious. Under a clear sky with a half moon, soft grass under foot (“keep off those greens, Pete”). Sand traps to avoid but great navigational aids. Controls near bunkers and then lost out in the wilds of open fairways, running, always running, avoiding the rough and watching the fairy light dance of others as you converged on a “bridge over water trap”.

It was the best run of my life. Gold was my reward but I would have given it back in a flash to be able to go round again. Ilze even raised a sprint at the finish and was rewarded with Bronze.

My favourite night orienteering event has and probably always will be Venice. My greatest disappointment was in 2012 when we went to the Istanbul 5 day and they changed the night event away from the Grand Bazaar. Was this event as good as either of them? Probably not. But my goodness it was bloody wonderful.



ORIENTEERING AUSTRALIA MERIT BADGES

It was another record year, with no less than 22 DROC members receiving OA badges! These are awarded for performance at National and State Championships. Our 2018 recipients are:

GOLD - Peter Dalwood, Ian Davies, Sarah Davies, Peter Hobbs, Pam King, Amber Louw, Simon Rouse, Asha Steer, Janine Steer, Lanita Steer, Martin Steer, Helen Walpole

SILVER - Andras Bogdanovits, Debbie Dodd, James Love, Sammy Love, Stuart McWilliam, Peter Yeates

BRONZE - Mark Besley, Eric Louw, Sarah Love, Wayne Love

Blind Creek

Monday 10 Dec 2018

Course Setter: Merv & Bev Trease

Start Location: Lewis Park, Wantirna South

EMERGENCY PH: 0439726470

Scale 1:10000
Contour interval 5 metres



CONTROL DESCRIPTIONS

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1 Tree | 16 Tree (#12) |
| 2 Barrier (E end) | 17 Trap (NE) |
| 3 Sign Post | 18 Bridge (NW) |
| 4 Seat (Western) | 19 Tree (#8) |
| 5 Long (S end) | 20 Seat |
| 6 Light Pole | |
| 7 Fence Post | |
| 8 Log Fence (W end) | |
| 9 Sign (No golf) | |
| 10 Bird (Eastern) | |
| 11 Tree | |
| 12 Swing (SW leg) | |
| 13 Lookout (Top) | |
| 14 Log Fence (N end) | |



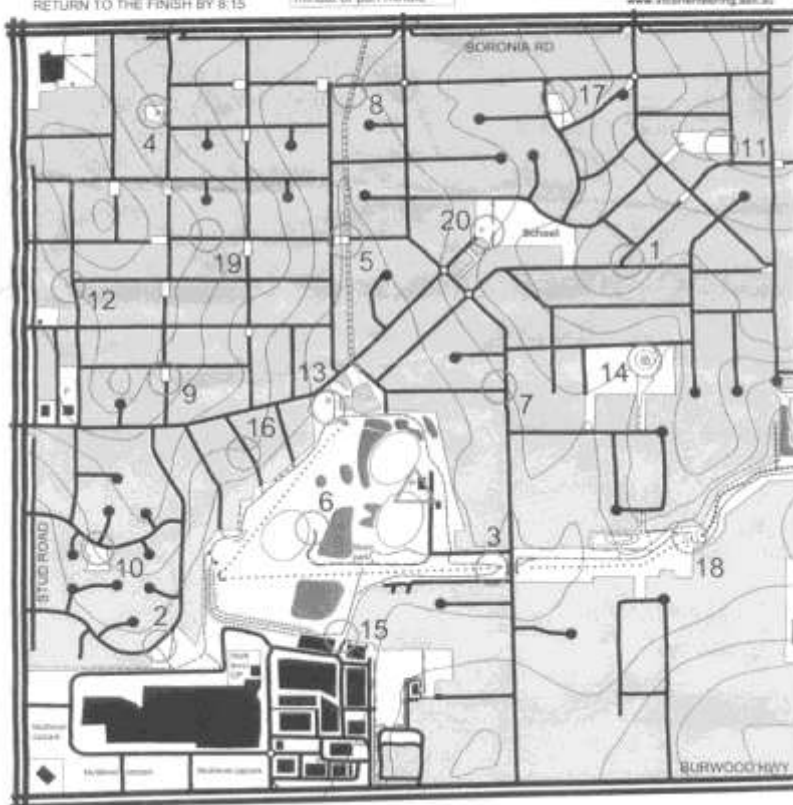
Want to know more about ORIENTEERING?
ph 0428 318 988
www.victorianorienting.club.au

SCATTER COURSE		
Course	No. of Controls	Distance
A	19	9.5 km
B	15	7.2 km
C	11	6.0 km
D	8	3.8 km

POWER WALKERS SCORE EVENT	
Controls	Value
1-5	2
6-10	3
11-15	4
16-20	5

Late penalty 3 points per minute or part minute

ALL COMPETITORS MUST RETURN TO THE FINISH BY 8:15



We've had some terrific courses this summer, focusing less on streets and more on parks; most recently Blind Creek (left) by Merv Trease (below); Yarran Dheran by Andrew Hester; Abbey Walk by Phil Torode.



Don't forget to nominate your favourite for Course Setter of the Year!

Below - it was a bit hot at Quambee Quandary - but Denise kept her cool ...

