PUNCHLINE

Dandenong Ranges Orienteering Club Inc www.drocorienteering.com.au Incorporated Association Registered Number A0003225B ABN 76 002 329 218

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drocorienteering.com.au

Issue 202 October 2022

DROC FRONT AND CENTRE AT AUS CHAMPS CARNIVAL

DROC took a major role at the 2022 Australian Championships Carnival (AOC2022), assuming responsibility for most of the central services essential to running multiple events over 9 days, as well as mapping for Day 1, and organizing Day 7. It was an incredible team effort by many club members:



Stuart McWilliam - graphic design, website, bulletins, certificates and signage Sarah and Wayne Love - equipment managers Debbie Dodd - entry manager; organizer Day 7 (Australian Sprint Champs, Salesian Sunbury) Ian Dodd - finish tent manager Ilze Yeates - registration manager Simon Rouse - start draw manager Pam King - bibs and printing coordinator; prizes coordinator Peter Hobbs - Victorian schools team coach Peter Dalwood - mapper Day 1 (Lake Daylesford) Peter Yeates - builder of cricket stumps, maker of map weights, and moral support

A large DROC crew came along to assist at Salesian; the photo, taken outside the magnificent Rupertswood Mansion, shows just some of the team. It was a lot of hard work, but enormously successful, with the largest attendance for an Aus Champs in many years. Read about how it all came together, inside.

DIARY DATES - 2022

Sunday October 23 - Victorian Club Relays, Heathcote

After a long hiatus, the Club Relays are finally back on the calendar! If you would like to be in one of DROC's relay teams, you can nominate by entering on <u>Eventor</u>, by Sunday October 16.

Sunday November 13 - RMIT Bundoora Sprint Double

Two events in one! This campus is large and varied enough to hold two different sprint races in one action-packed day. Course planner: Peter Hobbs. <u>Information and online entry</u>.

Wednesday December 21 - The Famous DROC Christmas Party, Yarran Dheran

All members and their families are invited to join a festive celebration - bring a picnic or BBQ food, drinks, chairs or rugs, and enjoy a get-together after the Park Street event at Yarran Dheran.

DANDENONG RANGES ORIENTEERING CLUB NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday November 20, 2.30pm At 36 South Avenue, Mt Evelyn

All members are encouraged to attend. A short formal meeting to elect 2023 Office Bearers will be followed by a social afternoon.

NEW PRESIDENT NEEDED

After 16 years as President, Peter Hobbs is stepping down from the role, as he and his young family will be spending an extended period of time in New Zealand. There will be more to say about Pete's incredible contribution to the club after he hands over the reins, but in the meantime, we'll be looking for someone to take over this important role. As Pete explains in his "Prez Sez", it is not onerous in terms of time commitment; there are several committee meetings each year, and a committee which is experienced, innovative, and good at making decisions and actioning them. But it is a crucial position to fill. You do not need to be a current committee member.

If you are interested and would like to know more, please let me know.

DROC SHOP

The DROC Shop is open for business, and ready to get you kitted out for 2022 and beyond! We sell Sportident sticks, including SI Air sticks for those who want to speed up their race. <u>Prices can be found here</u>. Order by sending an email to <u>droc@iinet.net.au</u>. We also have a range of running tops and jackets, in various designs and sizes. Contact <u>Peter Yeates</u> to find out what's in stock. The DROC shop also has a bunch of free stickers!

PREZ SEZ - PETER HOBBS

Hats off to all the DROC helpers who made the Australian Sprint Championship run like clockwork. What a great event! Special thanks must also go to a number of DROC members for performing key roles during the Australian Orienteering Championships carnival, including: Debbie Dodd (Entries Manager), Ilze Yeates (Registration Manager), Ian Dodd (IT Manager), Sarah and Wayne Love (Equipment), Simon Rouse (Start Draws) and Peter Hobbs (Victorian Junior Team Coach).

I put my hand up again to travel with the Victorian Schools Team as Coach, which was a fun, rewarding and diverse experience. DROC member James Love was selected in the team and had strong runs in the Schools Sprint and Long Distance events. Approximately half of the team were first-timers, perhaps reflective of the three-year gap between carnivals, and it is good to see some new juniors coming into the sport. There was a strong and positive spirit in the Victorian Schools Team and collectively the team had a ball experiencing all that comes with the 10-day carnival, including the inevitable emotional ups and downs that come with running so many races and spending so much time together. The carnival featured an excellent range of terrains and event types which would have pleased even the most discerning orienteer.

As many of you know, my family and I will be spending some time in New Zealand and I have decided it is the right time to step down from being DROC President. The Committee would love to see a new face take up this position. The role sounds "difficult and scary" but it isn't! The role includes chairing committee meetings, being involved in shared decision making and writing Punchline articles, amongst other things. The position is supported strongly by the rest of the DROC committee and it has been my experience that the committee is progressive, open to new ideas and makes shared decisions. The time commitment required is not massive and the new President does not need to be an expert orienteer; rather the President ideally would be actively involved in orienteering and the club generally, and be able to devote lots of smaller chunks of time plus a couple of larger chunks of time (but nothing too demanding) throughout the year, as required, to the position.

Feel free to reach out to me or other Committee Members if you might be interested or have questions.

Happy Orienteering - Peter Hobbs

PARK STREET SUMMER SERIES - DROC EVENTS

While we wait impatiently for a hint of summer weather, we are already well into the first few weeks of Summer Series, and enjoying some daylight at last. We are looking forward to some more top courses set by DROC members over the next 6 months. Here is the list of DROC events and setters.

We are looking for course setters for three more events -

- Waterford Valley, Mon Nov 14
- Cathies Creek, Mon Dec 5
- Yarraman, Mon Dec 26

All are great maps to set courses on, with interesting street layouts and lots of parks.

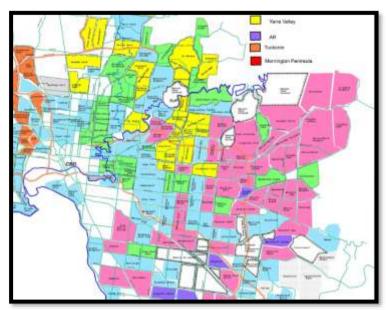
DROC SUMMER EVENTS 2022-23		
MONDAYS		
3 October 2022	Cavills Corner	Ilze Yeates
24 October 2022	Notting Hill	lan Davies
14 November 2022	Waterford	vacant
5 December 2022	Cathies Creek	vacant
26 December 2022	Yarraman	vacant
9 January 2023	High Hampton	Debbie Dodd
23 January 2023	Whos Dale	lan Davies
13 February 2023	Kingsclere	Joel Crothers
13/03/2022	Wheelers Hill	Rhys Eddy
WEDNESDAYS		
19/10/2022	Mitcham	Henk de Jong
9/11/2022	Loughnans Hill	Mark Besley
30/11/2022	Tarralla	Peter Dalwood
21/12/2022	Yarran Dheran	Phil Torode
11/01/2023	Croydon Hills	Love family
1/02/2023	Mullum Mullum	Peter Grover
22/02/2023	Bellbird Dell	Mike Whitton

STIRLING HILL

It was with great sadness that we learned about the loss of Ian Stirling. "Stirls", as he was known to everyone, passed away peacefully at Knox Private Hospital. Ian was a longstanding member of OV and Nillumbik Emus, and the 6th Vintage Member of The Millennium Club (2190 events at 31 August). He made an enormous contribution both to his club, and to Park Street orienteering - producing many maps

and keeping them updated; serving a stint as the Park Street Committee Chair; creating and maintaining the master map which we still use to produce our two fixtures each year; and coordinating the popular Saturday Morning training runs, where the post-run coffee, cake and chat was the main attraction.

Ian also supported and assisted Lauris with establishing MapRun, and over the years was the setter of many memorable courses. Ian was always ready to support NE and OV at events large and small. He has just always "been there", and we will miss him greatly. Our condolences to Lauris and the family, from all your orienteering friends.



A gathering will be held on Sunday October

23, 2pm-4pm, at Natalie's Restaurant, 669 Maroondah Highway in Mitcham, to celebrate Ian's life and share memories.

DROC would like to recognise Stirls in an ongoing way, by renaming the Mitcham map, which will henceforth be known as Stirling Hill. The first event under the new name will be on Wednesday March 19, starting at Heatherdale Reserve, Purches Street, on a course set by Henk de Jong.



VIC AUTUMN-SPRING SERIES - DROC SERIES WINNERS

The 2022 Vic Autumn-Spring Series winners were decided, and announced, at the Mt Tarrengower double header weekend in September. Congratulations! Check the FINAL standings at https://eventor.orienteering.asn.au/Standings/View/Series/174

First place:	Damian Spencer (Mens 3); Elijah Spencer (Mens 5)
Second place:	Asha Steer (Womens 1); Frankie Shin (Mens 4)
Third place:	Simon Rouse (Mens 1)

WINTER SERIES RESULTS

Monday Autumn Series: Run45 - Peter Dalwood 3rd

Monday Spring Series: Run60 - Ian Davies 1st Run45 - Peter Dalwood 3rd PW65 - Tony Bird 2nd

Saturday Series: PW65 - Ros King 3rd

THE MILLENNIUM CLUB

Wednesday Autumn Classic Series: Run60, Div 1 - Ian Davies 3rd Run45, Div 1 - Matthew Grover 1st Run45, Div 2 - Debbie Dodd 1st

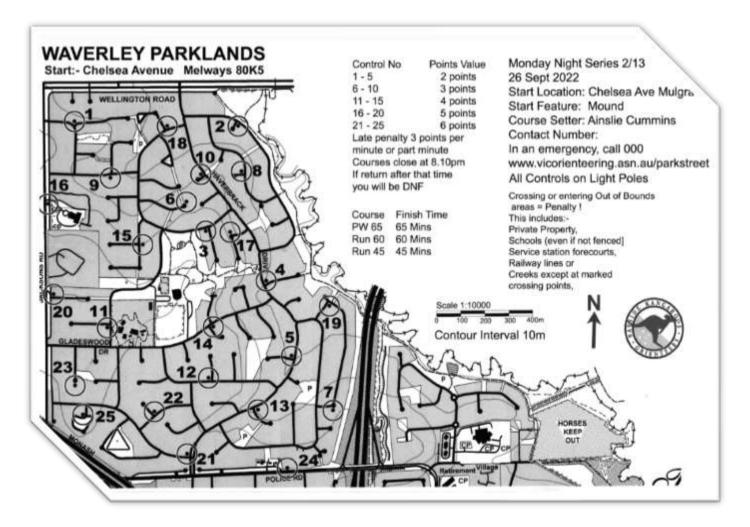
Wednesday Spring Carnival Series: Run60 Div 1 - Ian Davies 2nd Run60 Div 2 - Mark Besley 2nd Run45 Div 2 - Peter Yeates 3rd

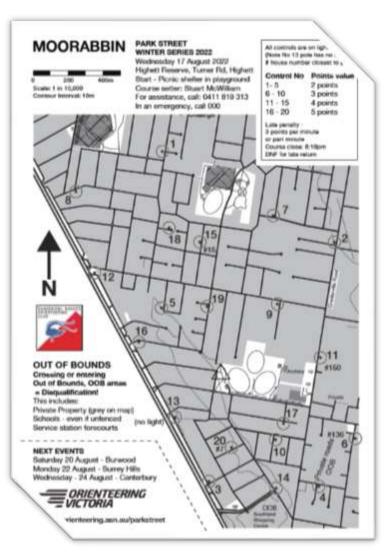
Pam King has become a Touring Legend, having achieved 1500 Park Street events since 1/1/2000. Pam has notionally travelled 8341 kms around Australia, which puts her 400 km outside Darwin, heading towards Mt Isa. Congratulations!

TOP COURSES

Here's a selection of courses by DROC members from July to September. Winter Series maps are available online to use any time, with MapRun6. <u>Download them from here</u>.

Another brain-bending puzzle from the devious mind of Ainslie Cummins, to finish off the Monday Spring Series:



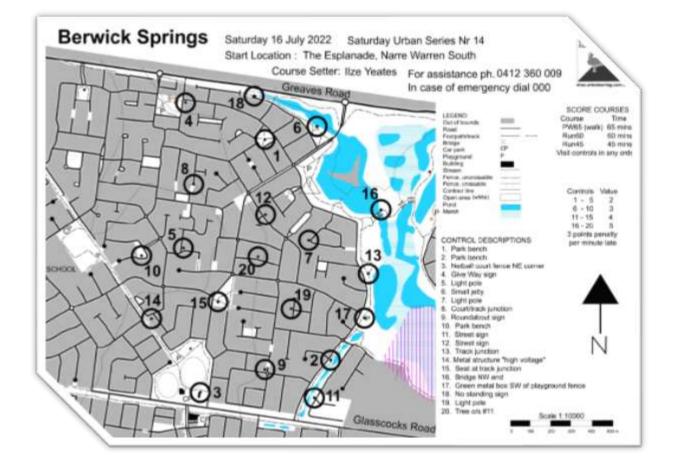


Left:

In between working non stop for the Aus Champs carnival, Stuart McWilliam found time to set another great course on one of our newer maps, Moorabbin, for the Wednesday Spring Classic Series.

Below:

A welcome return to the wonderful Berwick Springs map, and a very enjoyable Saturday course set by Ilze Yeates.



JELLS PARK PROVIDES A SNEAK PEEK AT DROC'S NEWEST VENTURE

Our second MelbushO for 2022 was at Jells Park, using the colour map. Recognising that Jells is not really a bush map, and too small to set courses that fit the MelBushO criteria, course planners Peter and Ilze Yeates instead decided to show what could be done in a small area using lots of short legs and multiple changes of direction.

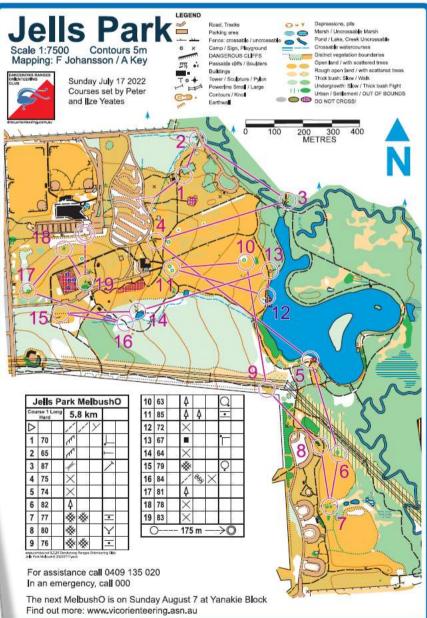
Short distance courses have largely been overtaken by sprints in recent years, but they are different. Shorter than a middle distance but longer than a sprint, with a winning time of approx. 25 minutes, "Shorts" are well suited to smaller parks or bush areas. Our Koomba Kaos event last January was another great example of the format.

Get Your Shorts On!

DROC has amassed quite a collection of "Shorts" colour maps recently - these include Jells Park, Nortons Park, Police Paddocks, Tatterson Park and Lillydale Lake. These are great areas for newcomers, kids and families to learn how to navigate, in a safe environment; but until now we've been unable to use them to their full potential. Other possible areas include the Hundred Acres and Croydon Town.

However, apart from Wellington Chase, we have no bush maps, and each year have needed to borrow maps from other clubs in order to run MelBushO events. So rather than trying to shoehorn MelBushO courses onto our smaller maps, or use maps belonging to other clubs, DROC will run a November series of "Summer Shorts", in 2023. This series will use a mix of colour park maps, and our sprint maps such as Oxley College, to provide a fun, familyfriendly navigational challenge in the later part of the season. Sportident timing will be used, and the series will provide fantastic opportunities for club members to learn how to plan courses and organise events. Look out for more in 2023.





AUSTRALIAN CHAMPS CARNIVAL

DROC members had some great results over the 9 days of AOC2022. Here is the Honour Roll. All prizewinners received an individual certificate designed by Stuart, depicting the particular map where they won or placed.

Victorian Middle Distance Championship - Peter Grover 3rd M80A Australian Middle Distance Championship - Martin Steer 3rd M55A Australian Sprint Distance Championship - Asha Steer 3rd W21E (pictured on the podium) Australian Long Distance Championship - Peter Hobbs 3rd M40A; Simon Rouse 3rd M45A Australian Relay Championship - Asha Steer 1st W21E; Simon Rouse 2nd M45A



Pent up demand after covid saw huge turnouts for all the events - way above expectations, with over 1000 entries, and close to 900 competitors at the Championship events, and getting up to 600 at the non Championship events and Relays - numbers not seen in Victoria for many years.

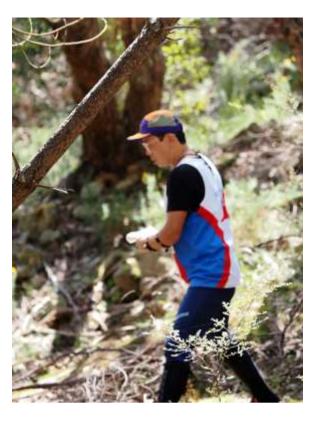
Day 1 at Daylesford featured the Victorian Middle Distance Championships at Lake Jubilee. After weeks of worry about rising river levels, the day was glorious, and competitors found the courses highly enjoyable. In the afternoon, the focus shifted to the Orienteering Grand Prix, a fast paced short race at Lake Daylesford, largely on the side of a steep hill, and combining parkland, forest, and a small campus. The format for elites featured "Le Mans" style map pickup, penalty loops, midrace interviews, and a spectacular downhill plummet on the spectator leg. At times a bit perplexing, but definitely fun to be part of.

The course planners for the Australian Middle Distance Champs at Blackwood had prepared a "wet" and "dry" version of their courses, fearing that the bridge crossing required to access the final controls would be under water. The afternoon before, "dry" was declared the choice. Everyone was crammed into a very small but very pretty arena at the Mineral Springs reserve. Reports from the course were that the walk to the start was brutal, the going was very rough and slow, and there was a lot of standing still and head scratching as people puzzled over the intricacies of the mining terrain.

The weather was forecast to turn for the Goldfields races, but apart from some drizzle, things stayed relatively dry. Goldfields 1 was a sprint at Kyneton, starting in the Botanic Gardens, then into the Sacred Heart College campus. In the leadup there were many changes of plans due to the boggy condition of the oval, but the final courses worked out well and were lots of fun, with a pivot control and a map flip.

Goldfields Day 2 also suffered lots of weather related headaches, as it became clear that the parking paddock was going to be unusable. Quick thinking by the organisers saw shuttle buses convey





Thinking time at Blackwood - Peter Dalwood, Frankie Shin. Below - Joel Crothers at the Sprint.

competitors to within walking distance of the arena - and what an arena! Set in a bowl at the bottom of Mt Alexander, we had a fantastic view as competitors made their way down the open granite slopes and into the finish. We sat and watched the BOM radar in amazement, as a huge blue blob circled around us and dumped tons of rain seemingly everywhere other than where we were. Incredible.

Schools Relay day is always a highlight, and seeing the kids so excited after 3 years of being denied the chance to represent their State, was a joy to behold. They were decked out in their face paint, and eager to race. The Goldfields 3 Day participants also finished their competition in the mining terrain of Wattle Gully, on a sparkling day that saw the last of the rain clear out. It was sunshine all the way for the rest of the Carnival.

After a rest day (for most), it was on to Salesian College Sunbury, a stunning and historic venue as the Birthplace of the Ashes. Starting on the Ashes Oval, courses wound all over the complex, multilevel campus, and finished spectacularly in front of Rupertswood Mansion, with a giant set of cricket stumps as the final control. Everyone enjoyed lounging on the lawns while the BBQ sizzled - a great day out!

Then it was onto the final weekend, starting with the premier event of the Carnival - the Australian Long Distance Champs at Nuggety Range near Maldon. Another new map with quite a mix of complex granite and open forest, the blocks of private land necessitated a different style of course setting to the usual long legs. It was the warmest day of the week, and a true test of physical and mental stamina.

The finale was the Australian Relay Championships. The arena was

certainly interesting, with spectators perched on the cliffs overlooking the run-through. This caused a lot of confusion for people trying to scramble down to tag their team mates. There was great excitement when Victoria came in first in both the Mens and Womens 21E classes.

All in all, it was a massively successful week, and one that people will remember for a long time to come, for all the right reasons.

MAKING THE MAGIC HAPPEN

It would take too many words to describe all the incredible effort that went into making this Carnival happen. So we'll try to explain it in pictures ...

The work began many months ago. I signed on as Entry Manager, and we opened entries at the end of 2021. Stuart came on board as graphic designer, created the logo and theme, and set up the website. This flowed through to the information bulletins, bibs, signage, t-shirts, and certificates.



I also offered to be the day organiser of the Australian Sprint Champs. With a venue like Salesian, and a dream team of course planners - Clare Brownridge and Dion Keech, and event advisor Kathy Liley - how could I refuse??

Sarah and Wayne took on the gargantuan task of coordinating the equipment and hiring The Truck. It was always first vehicle in and last vehicle out. See "Truck Adventures" for the full story.

The neatest truck packing I've ever seen.



We raided the OV store at Westerfolds. Some items didn't make the cut.



Pete made the map weights - a big hit at the Starts.

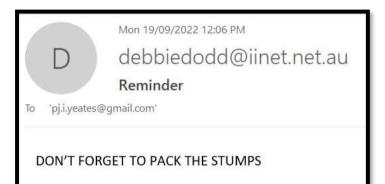


Meanwhile, a simulated Finish Tent appeared in the Dodds all-purpose room. This was the Nerve Centre for the 3 week period between entries closing and Day -1; the event files were built and rebuilt numerous times as nervous course planners designed "wet" and "dry" versions of their courses; umpteen Sportident stick numbers were changed; and Relay entries were wrangled into shape in the midst of an untimely Eventor glitch. Start lists flew back and forth between Simon and I every evening. At last, it was all ready to roll.



Then came The Big Pack.

Mysteriously cryptic emails were sent. He remembered.





Cars were filled to the brim - but with room for the Finish Tent Lollies.





Registration on Day 1 - hectic but happy. How many safety pins do we need?

Rego certainly went above and beyond. Ilze had everything organized down to a T; Pam made sure the bibs and signs were printed and sorted, and we kept on smiling right through the week as we doled out bibs and pins, replacement bibs and pins, schools bibs and pins, relays bibs and pins, and EOD bibs and pins. We filled in innumerable SI change forms (we estimate 5% of competitors changed their stick number during the week), accepted lost property, spare maps, unclaimed certificates, and On The Day entries; sold Tshirts, and answered countless questions. There was even time for a photo opp with the Wallys relay team.



lan supervised the Finish tent every single day. Plugging things in, switching things on, making things work, solving problems on the fly, training a different team each time, and publishing results before everything was packed up.

How many times can the Key family swap their SI sticks around??? Answer - there is no limit.



We spent the "Rest Day" setting up approximately 1 km of Out of Bounds tape, and building our beautiful Finish Chute, at Salesian. It was all worth it! We were even allowed inside the mansion.











Finally - it was "our" day! With just under 800 competitors, the biggest event DROC has run since WOC85. The sun shone magnificently. The competitors were happy. Everything happened as it should. Our M98 competitor, Herman Wehner, got the Rock Star treatment as he made his way down the finish chute on his walker and with the support of his daughter, to the cheers and tears of the crowd. He promised to compete in M99 next year.

I even had time to go for my run. Great job team - take a bow!!!













AUSTRALASIAN ROGAINING CHAMPS, AVOCA

Whilst all this was going on, another equally dedicated group of DROC members were heavily involved in the 2022 Australasian Rogaining Champs in Avoca, central Victoria - another massive event with some 400 entries. ARC was plagued by the same weather issues as AOC, with threats of cancellation, and last minute changes to parking and hash house - but like AOC, it all came together at the right time. The wrap-up facebook post by organizer Greg Robinson makes a great read.

Also like AOC, there were many local, interstate and international competitors, happy and excited to be competing in a national championship after a covid-enforced hiatus.

Vic Sedunary and Merv Trease were the course planners, spending many hours locating, placing, checking, and retrieving controls over a huge area within the Pyrenees State Forest. Support was provided by Tina Smith, Bev Trease, Ainslie Cummins and Peter Chen.

DROC's Lesa Muir was part of the first placed Womens Veteran team. Other DROC participants were Peter Chen, Alicia Dymowski (with Simon and Finley), and Stephen Denness.

Merv was on hand to make the presentations to the winners, including Lesa and her teammate Deanna.



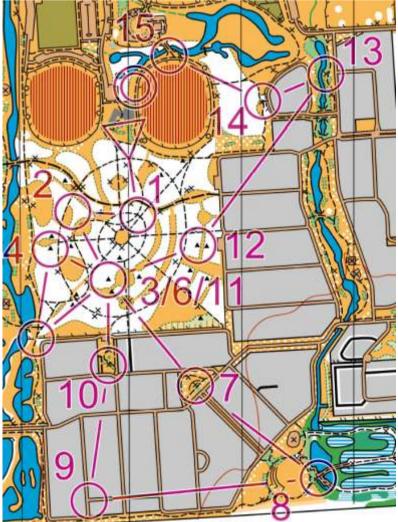
MELBOURNE CITY RACE WEEKEND

What a brilliant two days of urban racing! From the complicated geometry of the new map of Waverley Stadium, to the intricacies of the Tatterson woodlands, and finishing with a Grand Tour of Williamstown, the three races were very different but all equally fun.

WAVERLEY STADIUM

For the opening event, Damian Spencer produced a beautiful map his first go at colour mapping - and which set courses took full advantage of the concentric circle layout, featuring the historic oval and grandstand as the centrepiece. Competitors were thrown straight into the residential estate with its narrow streets and parks, with interesting route choices on almost every leg, before finishing with a control high up in the stands - a familiar location to many who, like me, remember the days of driving out to "Arctic Park" to watch footy or cricket matches in the 70s. Down the grandstand steps, past the watchful eve of John Landy, and round behind the goal posts for an iconic finish.



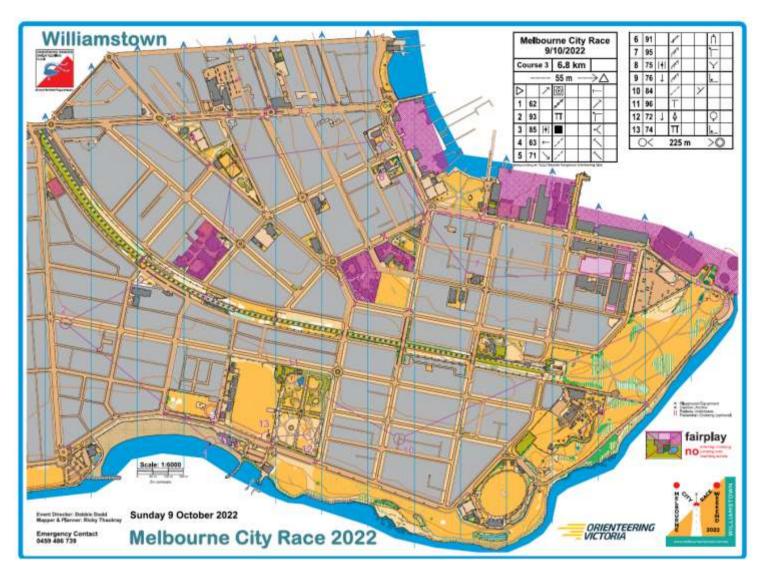


TATTERSON PARK

At Tatterson we were confronted with an unexpected family day, fair, footy matches, and full car park; but we managed to get things up and running, and send runners out into the woodland in head to head match races, using butterfly loops on courses planned by Toby Cooper. Some of the wetland areas seem to have expanded recently and a few people commented on the "unmapped lakes"! The Tree Maze lived up to its promise, with a myriad of tracks in all directions, and the 1:6000 scale, creating confusion right from the get go. It was great fun and the two areas were completely different.

WILLIAMSTOWN

The finale was an epic, with mapper and planner Ricky Thackray setting true urban long distance courses - a mixture of long legs with multiple route choices, and fine navigation in the small but complex pockets of parkland and Botanic Gardens. Everyone had a chance to experience the Williamstown foreshore and the city views from Point Gellibrand. The random prize draw was a highlight of the weekend! Results and splits can be viewed via Eventor for all three races. MCRW will be back in 2023, hopefully back on the Docklands map where it all began.

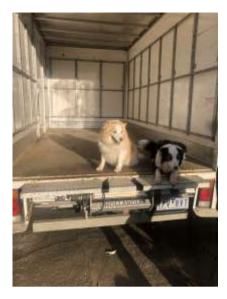


More Maps and Photos



TRUCK ADVENTURES - Wayne and Sarah Love

Get a truck they said... It'll be easy they said.... All you need to do is to hire a truck and get it to site... they said... and thus, OV Removals Crew was born. Oh how (not so) young and naive we were!



This will be easy we thought, first up let's get the van sorted. We hired a van thinking that this would be perfect.





We might as well have hired a Tonka truck, we would have had just as much chance fitting all the equipment in!

Once we started compiling a list of what was required, we feared we would need something bigger.

This quickly led to the creation of "The List". The List was the single source of truth for what was required at each event and needed to be transported from site to site. Grover (aka Wayne Love) quickly became fixated on the list and was found on several occasions tossing and turning in his sleep mumbling "no, no... but it's not on the list". In fact, when he passes, at his OV memorial, Grover has asked everyone to be greeted at the door with the question "Are you on The List?"



In the end we ended up with Sven.

Sven was big and box like, it had a top speed just slow enough to annoy all other traffic on the road. The windage of a super tanker, liable to skip across 3 lanes at the hint of a cross breeze, and rattled and shook like a rock and roll band.





Now a 4.2 tonne truck is not normally associated with adventure stories but, this is orienteering after all.

Packing the truck was like a game of

Tetris - it brought out a pedantic personality trait in Grover that many people probably were not aware of - every tent (all 34 of them) had to be very neatly tied down in the right order and heaven help Sarah if she dared to try and load something into the truck at the wrong time.

Sarah's fetish for tape and permanent markers quickly became obvious as everything quickly sprouted a label and every box had to have a list so that the right stuff went in it. A recipe for arguments? Actually No, instead much good-natured bickering, laughs, and a few silly photos. (The slow sign seemed to be predicting something) Day 1 we were happy just to get everything into the truck.

Day 2 we realised that this was a giant game of Tetris. To the point that we had so much space left, we had to ask what did we forget?

Day 4 - Grover's decision to take the truck off-road led to the infamous email from him stating that "all future requests by organisers to take the truck off road would be met in return with a request for an explanation of their recovery options. With the understanding that the answer would contain the words 'lots of people', 'shovels', '4wd with winch' and 'recovery ramps'".



We did a poll. The most hated item = the podium; in fact we believe the use of the podium is oppression of those who are challenged (not sure what by, but we are definitely challenged) by those that are not challenged and therefore should be banned from all future carnivals (we're sore losers as neither Sarah or Grover got to stand on it, though Grover was caught napping on it at one point).





Day 6 - The DROC team at Salesian showed everyone how packing is done - having a 10 min deadline to pack up - the team did it in 9 mins! Mastering all the sandbags like they had been training for weeks.



The most dangerous item = toilet paper - as in avalanche of toilet paper that buried Wayne. Clearly, we learnt nothing during lockdowns. If only it was 2019 again! We would have been rich!

Most mysterious item = tape - it seemed to multiply on a daily basis.

The "word of the event" - hoick as in hoicking, hoick it in, etc. Used by Grover when packing all those oddly shaped fiddly items that went into the truck last. A fancy word for "close your eyes, face in the general direction of the back of the truck, and throw".

The truck brought the impression of high school popularity of driving a sports car, People were almost always happy to see us, well not us, the gear, but we'll take it by association.

And of course, like any orienteering course gone wrong, you forget all the bad bits and say wasn't that fun. I am sure in 5 years' time when asked will we do the truck driving again we will say.....



INDOOR TRAINING?

