

PUNCHLINE

Dandenong Ranges Orienteering Club Inc

www.drocorienteering.com.au

Incorporated Association Registered Number A0003225B

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Issue 198

October 2021

IT'S 2020 ALL OVER AGAIN ...

Who would have thought we'd be back into a long lockdown - right now it feels like groundhog day, and this time around there is a noticeable absence of window teddies and footpath rainbows. But good things are going to happen - and the wait is not too long.

While many events have been pushed back into 2022, there will be plenty of opportunities to orienteer in the last part of 2021, as more of us get vaccinated, and restrictions ease accordingly. We've already reached the 80% single dose milestone, which allows us to travel up to 15 km from home, and meet up in small groups. People have been using MapLink and MapRun to stay fit and ready for summer.

At the next milestone of 70% of eligible adults fully vaccinated (towards the end of October), sport can resume training, for groups of 10 vaccinated people. At that stage, we'll hold some informal training sessions. Once we reach the 80% milestone, competitive sport can resume, and the Park Street Summer Series will get under way properly.

While we wait for those targets, the SUMMER ANYTIME SERIES (SAS) is a great way to get outside with a map - or several! Each Monday during October, four new Summer maps will be published online. You'll have until the following Sunday to complete a course on as many maps as you choose; or on the same map as many times as you like. It's up to you! Your best score will appear in the weekly results.

The Week 1 maps are already available and being very well used, with over 90 people completing a course in just the first three days! Here is the full list of maps, week by week:

Oct 4-10	Academy Hill	Maidstone	Gardiners Bend	BoulderDash
Oct 11-17	Koolamara	Travancore	Highbury Hill	Woodridge
Oct 18-24	Glen Eira East	Footscray Central	Tunstall Junction	Darebin Parklands
Oct 25-31	Bayswater	Ascot Vale	Deepdene	Eltham Parklands

To participate, simply complete a course before the cutoff time, and upload your result to MapRun. Runners have a choice of four Scatter courses, and Power Walkers have a 65 min Score course.

[Click here to find SAS maps, results and guidelines](#)

NAVIGATE THROUGH NOVEMBER

Although we've had to postpone our planned November events - the Mt Robertson MTBO and the RMIT Sprint Double will now be featured in 2022 - DROC will provide some substitute events on two November Sundays (restrictions permitting).

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 7 (if restrictions allow) - NORTONS PARK TRAINING SESSION

Remind yourself how to read a map, and de-rust your navigation skills, at a free training session at Nortons Park. Choose any of three line courses - Long, Medium, and Short/Easy. Online entry will be required due to tight restrictions on gatherings; entries will open as soon as we have confirmation that sport training can resume. Alternative date: November 21.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21 (if restrictions allow) - KOOMBA KAOS

This one will require all your concentration! Koomba Park is a wetland area with multiple tracks, some sports fields, a small forested area, and parkland. Kaos by name and chaotic by nature; our course planner has been let loose from lockdown and pulled out all the stops. Choose one of these courses: Konvoluted (5 km, 30 controls); Komplex (3.5 km, 21 controls); or Kruiisy (2 km, 17 controls). SI Air will be used. Online entry will open as soon as we have confirmation that competitions can resume. Alternative date: November 28.

PRE-CHRISTMAS MAPRUN PARKS CHALLENGE

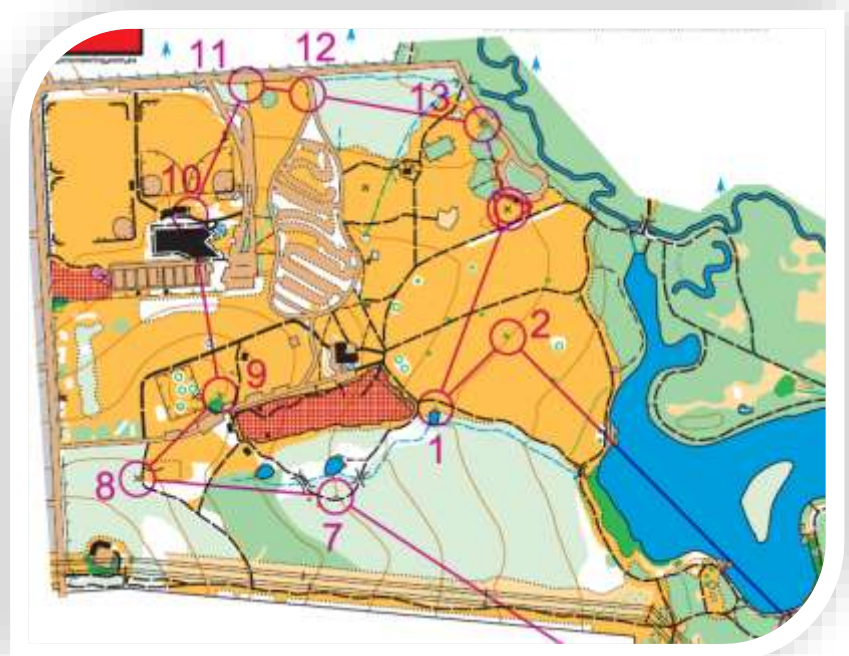
We invite everyone to enjoy orienteering in parks between October and December, using permanent courses and MapRun. Each park has a choice of line courses - Hard, Moderate, and Easy. Some parks have permanent course markers, ie wooden posts; others have virtual controls. Simply print a map, and head out to enjoy the challenge any time!

ANYTIME PARK MAPS

- Brimbank Park (permanent posts, MapRun to come)
- Cardinia Reservoir Park (permanent posts, MapRun to come)
- Darebin Parklands (permanent posts and MapRun)
- Jells Park (virtual controls and MapRun)
- Newport Lakes (to come)
- Nortons Park (to come)
- Police Paddocks (virtual controls and MapRun)
- Royal Park (to come)
- Ruffey Lake Park (virtual controls and MapRun)
- Westerfolds Park (permanent posts and MapRun)
- Westgate Park (to come)
- Woodlands Historic Park (virtual controls and MapRun)

[Download and print a map from here:](#)

Head to the start location. If using MapRun, go to Events Near Me. Select the course which matches your map. Press Go To Start. Complete the course by visiting the controls in numerical order, before returning to the Finish.



JOEL WINS SPECIAL AWARD IN JUNIOR LORD MAYOR COMPETITION

Joel Crothers achieved an outstanding result in the 2021 Junior Lord Mayor of Melbourne Competition. In a first for the contest, Joel was announced as both Runner-Up, and Special Emissary for Net Zero Emissions. Joel has won an array of prizes, and will take part in the 2022 Moomba Parade. He takes up the story:



“It is my ambition to be Lord Mayor of Melbourne when I am older as I want to be the voice for my community. When I was 9 years old, I asked mum to take me on a tour of Melbourne Town Hall. During that tour, I was lucky enough to meet Lord Mayor Sally Capp and she told me about the Junior Lord Mayor of Melbourne Competition.

The Melbourne Day Committee have run the Junior Lord Mayor of Melbourne competition for nine years now. They aim to educate people on the history of Melbourne. To enter the competition, I had to answer some questions about Melbourne, as well as say why I love Melbourne and what I would do if I was Lord Mayor.

I said I love Melbourne’s diversity in its people, culture and things to do and its resilience that continues to shine despite the effects of Covid 19.

I said that if I was Lord Mayor, I would work towards net zero emissions in our rebuild from Covid 19 because as David Attenborough said, "Protecting our natural resources is fundamental to our very survival."

On the Monday before the final judging, mum received a phone call from Sue Stanley, the executive officer of Melbourne Day, to say that I was one of five finalists selected. I was so excited, as this has been a dream of mine since I found out about the competition.

On Monday 30th August, I had to face a judging panel to answer questions about my submission. The judging panel was made up of Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Peter Hitchener, Denis Walter, Campbell Walker and Simon Purssey from 13cabs, Jo Clyne from the History Teachers Association of Victoria, and David Tournier from the Boon Wurundjeri Foundation. I was very nervous because I wasn't sure what they were going to ask me.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp asked me the first question about what I would do to work towards net zero emissions. I spoke about using electric vehicles for all council operations as well as providing more electric vehicle charging stations and reducing car parking fees for people using electric vehicles. I also talked about keeping as many green spaces as possible by building up, rather than out, as well as ensuring all buildings were built to the same standard as Council House 2 which is Australia's most sustainable, purpose-built office building.

My other idea was to plant as many plants as possible in laneways and on rooftops, as well as grow vertical gardens on appropriate buildings, as trees and plants capture carbon dioxide, helping reduce carbon emissions.

Jo Clyne asked me about my favourite building in Melbourne. I said that I love both the historical buildings like Flinders Street Station, Town Hall and the State Library, as well as some of the newer buildings like Eureka Tower and Australia 108, and I can't wait for the Green Spire to be constructed.

I had a few more questions from the other judges, and once all the other finalists had finished their questions, the judges went away to discuss who they thought should be the Junior Lord Mayor of Melbourne.

They explained that it had been a really difficult decision because it was very close, so they had for the first time come up with another position as well. Daniel Lan was announced as the winner and I was announced as the runner up and given the role of Special Emissary on net zero emissions. I was very excited and am very proud of myself.

As a finalist, I get to be involved in the Moomba Parade as well as other activities. I am still waiting to hear what my role involves. I also received a prize pack from 13cabs with a framed certificate congratulating me on being a finalist, \$70 cab charge, a 13cabs cap and apron, as well as a model 13 cab and a squishy one. I also got a pen, notebook, cookbook, tattoos and jelly beans.

It has been an amazing experience so far and I can't wait to see what else I get to do.”

DIARY DATES - 2022

Add these DROC event dates to your calendar (or crystal ball ...)

Sunday March 27 - RMIT Bundoora Sprint Double/Victorian Sprint Champs 2021

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.

Sunday May 8 - Vic MTBO Series, Mt Robertson

Get your wheels ready for some mountain bike action as we return to the hills and pine forest of Mt Robertson. Course planner: Graham Wallis.

Sunday June 12 - MelbushO, Wellington Chase/Birdsland Reserve

After a great day here in 2021, we plan a return to beautiful Birdsland. Course planner: VACANT

Sunday July 17 - MelbushO, Jells Park

A new venue for MelBushO, this is sure to be popular! Course planner: VACANT

Sunday August 14 - Vic Spring Series, Eppalock

Enjoy fast, open spur gully terrain in everyone's favourite forest. Course planner: Ian Davies.

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

DROC will be the host club for the biggest Sprint race on the calendar, as part of the AusChamps Carnival.

Friday October 7 to Sunday October 9 - Melbourne City Race Weekend

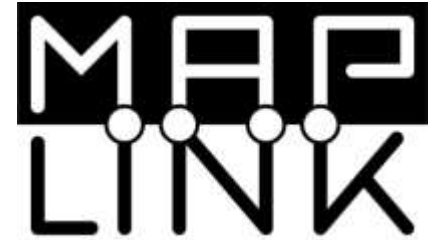
The MCRW returns in 2022, with a Twilight Sprint, a Saturday Prologue, and another incredible Melbourne City Race on Sunday. Course planners: VACANT

DROC SHOP

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

MAPLINK

The VicSport Award winners for 2020 were announced at a live-streamed ceremony on October 6 - delayed several times by covid. Unfortunately MapLink did not win, but the awards highlighted many fantastic initiatives across a wide range of sports, and it was an honour to be among Finalists of such high calibre.



I was also invited to talk about MapLink at two separate online forums on “Sport in the Digital Age”, which was a great opportunity to highlight orienteering as a sport that has successfully adopted technology solutions to enable us to continue.

JUNIOR SQUADS FUNDING SUPPORT

Normally, DROC would provide funds to each of our junior members selected to the Victorian Schools Team, to assist with travel expenses as they head interstate to represent their State at the Australian Schools Orienteering Championships. Three DROC juniors were selected - Amber Louw, James Love, and Sammy Love.

When the Championships were cancelled, the DROC Committee decided to put the earmarked funding to use, by providing it to the Victorian Junior Squad, and the new Victorian “mini” squad. Our club has already contributed \$750 towards the cost of squad uniforms, and will contribute further funds towards a Welcome Kit for the younger juniors.

In further support, DROC will implement a “Kids Run Free” policy at our events, to make it easier for squad members to attend as many events as they can, and to encourage other families along. This was inspired by hearing about the Southern Metropolitan Junior Football League, which runs all its activities, including competitions, training, and coaching, completely free of charge.

MEMBER NEWS

Say hello to our youngest member, Lola Maddock. Born in mid July, Lola is already well versed in lockdown life, but she has managed her first course, at Burnley. Dad Nick is looking forward to lots more orienteering adventures with his new daughter!

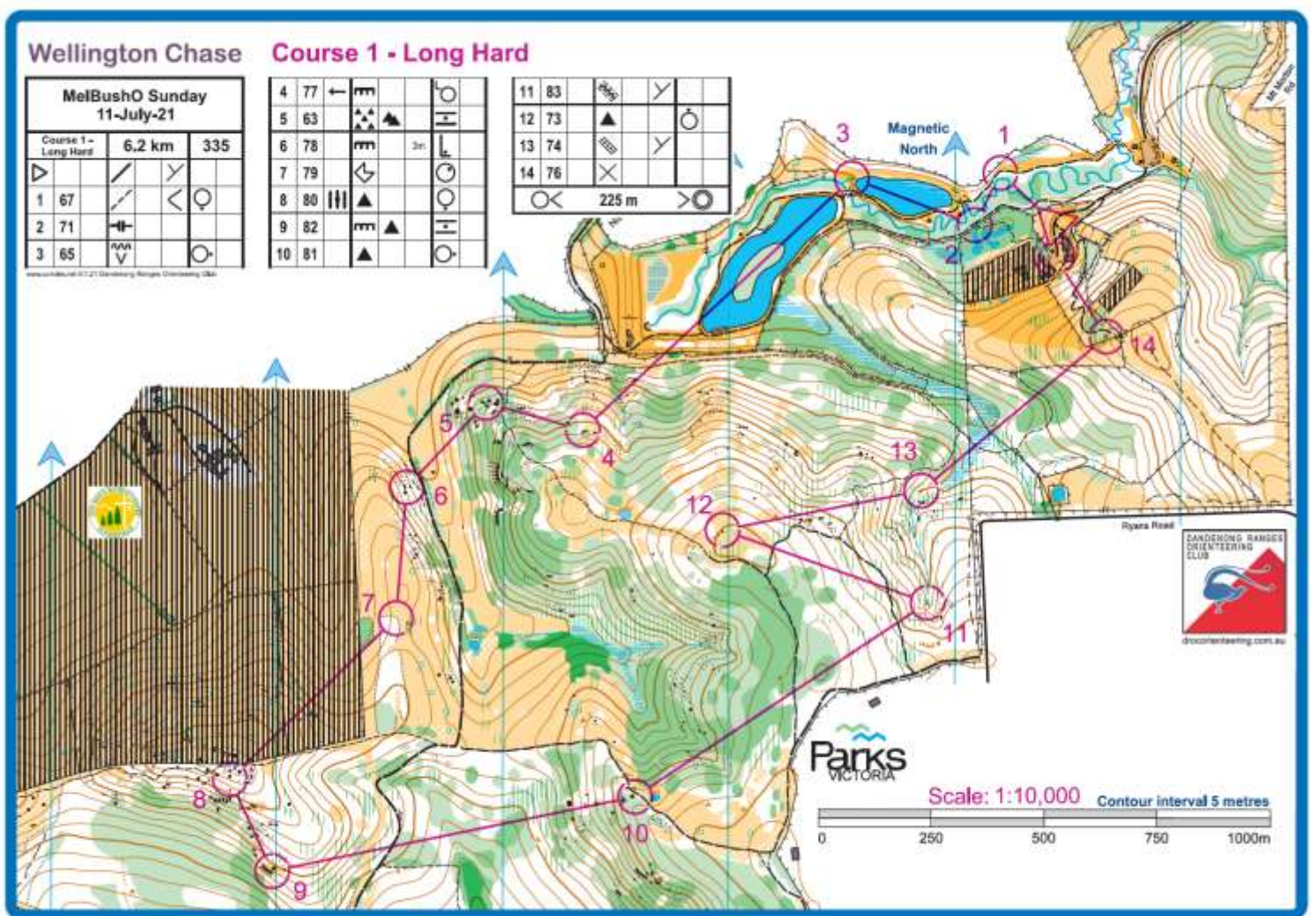


WELLINGTON CHASE MELBUSHO

What a great day - unlike many winter Sundays, the weather for this one was perfect. Our new arena at the Environment Centre was ideal, with a large verandah to set up under. Peter's courses began on the very gentle, flat terrain around the Birdland Reserve wetlands. Then they took a decidedly upwards direction, as we climbed many (*many*) contours into the northern part of Lysterfield Park. Controls in this portion were mostly on granite features, with route choices to be made - straight line through the vegetation and rely on the compass, or climb up and down via the tracks? The finish chute was exactly that - a stock chute, which the kids had fun scrambling through, before punching the last control.

Huge thanks to Peter Dalwood and Pam King, for planning courses and placing controls in physically tough, steep terrain; and to club members who were on hand to assist with Registration, Start, Parking, and Finish.

Our first 2022 MelBushO will be at the same venue, so if you'd like to try your hand at setting bush courses, let me know. Meanwhile, enjoy some maps and photos from the day.



Above: Course 1, set by Peter Dalwood

Next page:

- Karen Strachan, Stuart McWilliam (top)
- Joel Crothers, Sarah Love and Denise Pike (middle)
- Eric Louw, Frankie Shin (bottom)



PARK STREET ORIENTEERING - SUMMER SERIES

We don't have a confirmed start date for Summer Series, but we hope to be able to resume competition some time in early to mid November. The Summer Anytime Series will operate during October, which will at least give us some much-needed practice (see front page).

DROC will be setting courses for the Monday and Wednesday Summer Series, and it's great that we already have course setters lined up for all of our events.

Lauren Jackson has offered to take on the important job of MapRun setup for DROC events. Lauren will liaise with each course setter, to create the kml file from Google Earth, which is then loaded into the MapRun app. Thanks Lauren - great to have this role filled!

Also note that there will no longer be an "E" course on Wednesdays, except during the Schools Competition. Recommended course lengths will be aligned with the other Melbourne series.

We have a brand new printed fixture, which looks fantastic! Be aware that changes to some dates have already occurred for a handful of events in November; we will get back on track by December. We're looking forward to holding some delayed DROC events - Three Ways (Noble Park) and Lillydale Lake were originally prepared for Winter Series. Other postponed events including Tarralla, Oakleigh, and Tattersson (on an amazing new colour map) will be scheduled during Winter 2022.

If you bought a Winter TopUp Series Pass in July, you'll be able to exchange it for a Summer Series Pass. MultiPasses will also be back; these have no expiry date so if you have a partially used one, you'll be able to pick up where you left off.

MEFTY AWARD FOR 2020-21 SEASON

(Drum Roll...) The 2020-21 MEFTY (Most Events for the Year) is a tie between our own Stuart McWilliam, and Steven O'Connell from Bayside Kangaroos, both having completed 129 events in another curtailed season - a magnificent achievement, and a very appropriate result given how intensely competitive these two are! This result makes Stuart the most frequent MEFTY trophy holder with 3.5 wins! Peter Yeates clocked in as third placegetter, with a remarkable 95 events. The MEFTY count will resume in November, along with The Millennium Club tally.

THE MILLENNIUM CLUB



During July, Mark Besley (pictured) reached the 2000 event milestone, becoming only the 8th person to do so, and earning Vintage status (and a vintage red). Mark achieved this feat on July 14 2021, on the Notting Hill map.

In the StreetO Grand Tour, as calculated by statistician Ray Howe, Mark has notionally completed 17,196 km during his 2000 events. This equates to a circuit of Australia, a circuit of NZ's South Island, and most of a lap of the North Island.

Mark's Vintage label reads: "Just like Mark this delightful red wine is mellow, robust and maturing gracefully with age. In harmony with Mark's other attributes, this wine displays the characteristics of a seamless energy of a ripe and subtle personality with a smooth and engaging flavour".

At the same time, the Newbury Navigators achieved Legend status as they completed their 1000th event. These guys, along with their carers, truly epitomise the spirit of The Millennium Club, and we are so proud to have them as club members. We look forward to presenting awards to Mark, and to the Newburys, as soon as we can.

PREZ SEZ - PETER HOBBS

Hello from New Zealand! Our fifth month here in NZ has ticked past and we have been given the title “Covid refugees” because the Australia / NZ bubble has popped and we are stuck here for the time being. In the meantime, baby Mabel has turned one, calving season on the farm has just ended, the country has been into and out of a hard lockdown (except for Auckland....) and I have been coerced into learning the rules of rugby!

Rewind to June. We decided to take a little holiday to Christchurch in the South Island to catch up with some of Kristy’s relatives and, of course, compete in the Queen’s Birthday O carnival. Truth be known, the highlight was that Mabel slept for 10-12 hours for 14 consecutive nights!

The QB carnival is similar to our Easter 3-day with sprint, middle and long events. The long and middle were in complex sand dune / pine forest terrain, similar to several of the 2017 Masters events. I was happy with my sprint run and was also content with the middle and long because I handled the terrain much better than in 2017.

Next, we hired a self-contained campervan for eight nights and had a wonderful trip around the northern part of the South Island, stopping at a surprisingly stunning but isolated place called Gore Bay, followed by Kaikoura, Blenheim (Marlborough wine region), Lewis Pass and Hamner Springs. The campervan experience was made all the better by there being very few tourists, meaning that overnight stopping places were easy to access and the roads were not clogged with thousands of “road lice”, as Kristy calls them.

A couple of weeks later in early July, we celebrated my and Mabel’s birthdays with three nights on Waihiki Island. I had not heard of the island before; it had been described to me in a couple of ways: “Phillip Island on steroids, only accessible via a punt” and “Where all the rich people from Auckland have their beach baches”. After spending three sunny days there in one of the villages called Oneroa, we found it to be one of the most stunning and beautiful places we’d ever been! There are 20-something wineries on the island, beaches galore, villages with character (and strong town planning regulations), good coffee and food.

My continued efforts at convincing the local orienteering club to allow me to organise a local sprint double-header paid off when it was agreed that I could use an old map called Narrows Camp - a school camp with a variety of open space, buildings and a couple of small forest areas. The deal was also that I had to update the map and install a permanent course for The Camp in return for them discounting the grounds hire fee for the club to hold my event. September 5th was the date. Everything was going well; I updated the map using Open Mapper, set two cracking courses using Purple Pen (rather like a practice run for the postponed RMIT double-header. Traditional sprint followed by a head-to-head race), prepared a full bulletin and had the event put onto the Orienteering NZ website. I sensed that the club was quite excited as this event seemed to be a new concept to them, also at a time of the year when for some reason there are no local events at all. Quite a bit of intrigue had built up with reports of club members already pairing themselves up with arch-rivals for the head-to-head event.

I’d previously commented that the only Covid related news we get in NZ is actually news of Covid in Australia, as it is a long-forgotten thing here. Well ... that all turned on its head in mid-August when an outbreak occurred in Auckland; next thing the whole country was plunged into lockdown for four weeks. Did the Covid-gods not understand that I’d organised an orienteering event!! Unfortunately the event



needed to be postponed. At the time of writing a new date has yet to be confirmed. I may be the only person to have two fully organised orienteering events postponed simultaneously (Narrows Camp and RMIT Bundoora West). At least I will get a minor orienteering fix, by virtue of sticking to the promise of installing the permanent course.



So for the time being we will continue in our routine here on the dairy farm. Baby wakes at 5:30am, breakfast 7am, remote work in Melbourne 10:30am, try to fit in a run or walk possibly on the farm or on roads around the farm, baby bath 7pm, baby milk, story and bed 7:30pm, parents' bed 9:30pm. With lockdowns easing everywhere except for Auckland, it seems that orienteering events are resuming and things are gradually returning to normal. I'm hopeful of competing in the North Island Champs near Rotoroua in late October, and any other orienteering events vaguely within striking distance of the farm.

Personally I can't wait until the day that Covid goes back to wherever it came from and is consigned to the text of future history books; and of course we can return to proper orienteering!!



PHOTO QUIZ

Send your guesses to the Editor - most correct wins a prize!! No points for guessing your own photo ... Email debbiedodd@iinet.net.au, before October 31, to be in the running. Hint: everyone is a current member of DROC.



Photo Quiz 1



Photo Quiz 2



Photo Quiz 3



Photo Quiz 4



Photo Quiz 5



Photo Quiz 6



Photo Quiz 7



Photo Quiz 8



Photo Quiz 9



Photo Quiz 10

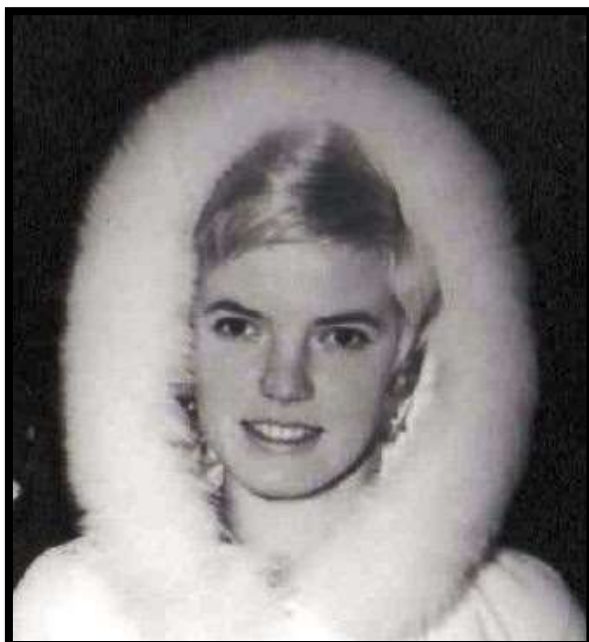


Photo Quiz 11



Photo Quiz 12