

PUNCHLINE

Dandenong Ranges Orienteering Club Inc

www.drocorienteering.com.au

Incorporated Association Registered Number A0003225B

ABN 76 002 329 218

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Issue 199

January 2022

KICKSTART 2022 WITH KOOMBA KAOS

Sunday January 16, from 10am (*alternative date if the weather is too hot - Sunday January 30*)
Wantirna Reserve, off Mountain Highway

You'll be Konfused and Konfounded by this Krazy race - the first for 2022. Sprint style course setting, over longer distances. Maps are full colour, 1:4000 scale, but will not be on Pretex paper.

There are four courses to choose from:

- Kaotic - long distance, hard navigation, 28 controls - approx. 5.0-5.5 km
- Konvoluted - shorter distance, hard navigation, 27 controls - approx. 4.0-4.5 km
- Komplex - shorter distance, moderate navigation, 24 controls - approx 3.0-3.5 km
- Kruiy - shortest distance, easiest navigation, 16 controls - approx. 2.0-2.5 km

The terrain includes sealed paths and small narrow tracks; sporting fields; open parkland with scattered trees (high visibility fast running); small pockets of forest; and grassland/wetland, with tall thick vegetation and rough going underfoot. We recommend full leg cover.

Sportident timing will be used, and controls will be in AIR (contactless mode), so you can use a SIAC stick - yep, finally time to dust them off!

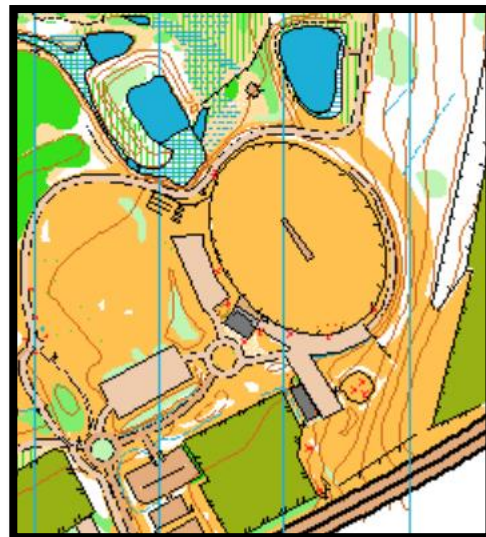
Many controls are in full view of the arena, so spectating will be almost as much fun as competing!

ENTRIES

Please use Eventor to enter and pay online (entry on the day will be very limited). [Enter here](#). Entries close on THURSDAY 13 JANUARY.

Start any time between 10am-11am; courses close at 12.30pm.

Entry is \$10 for adults. KIDS RUN FREE AT THIS EVENT.



Can you help? We'll need a few people to assist with the usual event-day tasks - registration, starts, finish, and collecting controls. Please let me know if you're available.

DIARY DATES - 2022

Add these DROC event dates to your calendar.

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 (if NZ ever opens its borders).

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 Saturday double header, and another incredible Melbourne City Race on Sunday. Course planners: **VACANT**

Some of these events are good to go, with courses planned as far back as 2020. But we're looking for some additional course setters, for our two MelBushO events, and the Melbourne City Race Weekend. These are great opportunities to try your hand at line courses, in either a bush, park or urban setting, all within the Melbourne area. If you enjoy setting park street courses, why not have a go at one of these?

MEMBER NEWS

We welcome several new members to DROC - David Coysh and Dominic Murphy, along with new juniors Finlay Ryan and Ivy Yeates. Great to have you all on board!

Memberships for 2022 were due on January 1. For those who haven't renewed yet, you'll receive reminders, along with a link for renewal and payment in Eventor. You can also pay by bank transfer, or cash.

PARK STREET SUMMER SERIES

The start of Summer Series was delayed by 5 weeks, thanks to Melbourne's most recent, and hopefully final, lockdown. Things finally got underway on November 8 at Mulgrave, and from then on, our four metro midweek series have continued uninterrupted. We've also had events at Geelong, the Surf Coast, and Mornington Peninsula.

Pictured: Nick and Lola at Burnley Maze.

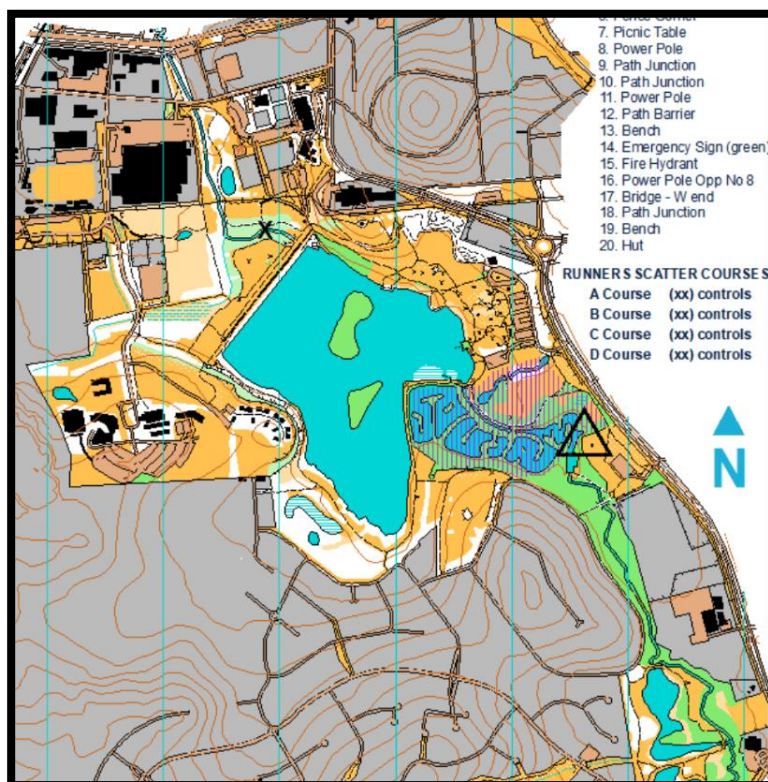
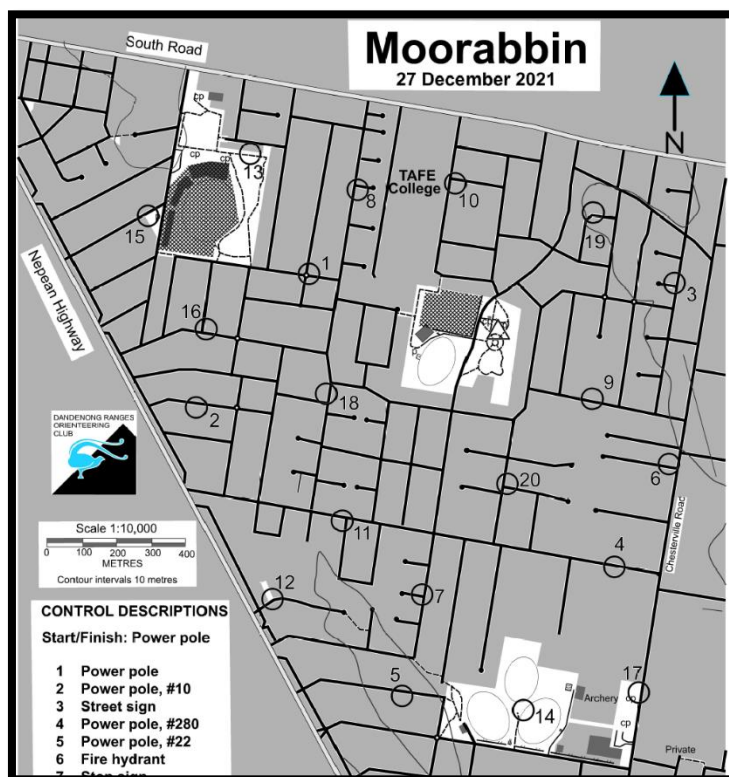
The Monday Series has featured four fantastic new maps - Three Ways (Noble Park North, which was surprisingly hilly); Seaford, Moorabbin (below left), and Carrum Downs South. Thanks to



mappers Peter Grover and Andrew Johnstone (NE), we have some great additions to our streetO map library.

The Wednesday Series has offered a huge variety, from the complex street networks of Mullum Mullum and Westgarth, and the equally complex track network of Park Orchards, to the huge open spaces of Westerfolds Park. I'm looking forward to the new colour map of Lillydale Lake on January 12 (below right).

In February, things will get hectic with the return of Schools competition, then the excitement of the Park Street Championships, this time in Ascot Vale on the challenging Jack's Magazine map. Once again, finalists will be able to self nominate. Look out for details in the next few weeks.



SUMMER ANYTIME SERIES

It was only a few short months ago when we were still faced with 5 km travel limits, while we watched the vaccination stats climb ever upward, finally signalling our freedom. When the limit became 10 km, it was feasible to offer a virtual MapRun competition, as most people could get to at least one or two maps each week. We hastily threw together a 5 week program, using four maps per week with a wide geographic spread. The competition was pretty informal - you could compete on any map within your travel bubble, as many times as you liked, before the cutoff time. Unofficial results were published, but it was all in the name of “training”.

Within a couple of days, we knew we had a hit on our hands. Day by day, week by week, the numbers grew, and once the travel restrictions were removed entirely, we had well over 200 participations per week. Even the record spring rainfall didn't dampen enthusiasm - though on a rare sunny day, you'd be sure to spot fellow orienteers either at the start, or out on the streets. A wave, a quick chat, and the knowledge that there were other navigators out there, buoyed our spirits and got us back into the streeto mindset.

People eagerly awaited the Monday morning release of maps, and it was amazing to see how quickly some hit the streets! A lot of people took the opportunity to visit, and revisit, their courses, making several attempts to fine tune their route and improve their time, or their distance. Or they would try a different course - maybe running one day, and power walking another. Before too long, people were travelling all over the suburbs, to test out as many maps each week as they could.

Results were compiled and published soon after the Sunday evening cutoff - thanks to Mark Besley, who did an incredible job putting them together.

Although it was a lot of fun and incredibly successful, we very much hope it was a one-off!

THE BIG QUESTIONS

- Why is *abbreviated* such a long word?
- Why does *monosyllabic* have five syllables?
- Why isn't *phonetic* spelled the way it sounds?
- Why are they called *apartments*, when they're all stuck together?
- Why do scientists call it *research*, when they're looking for something new?
- Why do they call it a *building* - once it's finished, shouldn't it be a *built*?
- Why is it that when you transport something by car, it's called a *shipment*, but when you transport something by ship, it's called *cargo*?
- Is there another word for *synonym*?
- Why do people sit in stands?

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!

PYTHAG-O-RAS COMES TO STREET ORIENTEERING - Peter Yeates

Like most of you I am sick to death of lockdown but I find that in place of “cabin fever” I have developed “straight line fever”.

Out at last, to do the Summer Anytime events, I have found that my energy levels have not yet recovered from six weeks of radiation therapy and my times, on the courses, have been dreadful.

In search of a motivating incentive, I have found a new game. I try to do each event in the shortest possible distance, and at Highbury Hill was quite pleased with my D course in 3.06km, never mind the slow 31:32. But then came Geoff. He did a variety of different controls but also in 3.06Kms.

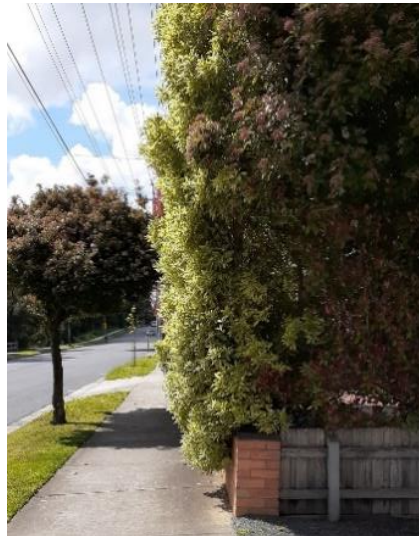
Not to be outdone I returned the next day and did my same controls, in reverse order for variety, but taking particular care with the distance.

Firstly, I moved away from the start along my intended route before turning on MapRun, then backed up slowly towards the start to get my beep followed by a rush of glee when it went off a good 6 metres on to the course. Off towards 20 and taking Pythagorean theorem into account, angled assiduously across the road towards the control - an estimated saving of 8 metres.

And so on I went around the course, sidling around corners, holding my angles across roads, cursing clumps of foliage impinging onto the foot path (another .08m lost) until I got to the end.



Roads to employ geometry on



Impinging foliage



Thoughtless parking

The result was a mis-punch. I had forgotten one as I became enraged by the thoughtless motorist who parked across my line on the approach to No 8.

Oh well. Third time lucky.

Back the next day after a restless night of planning. Pythagoras predicted triangulations had convinced me that the best savings were to be made on the long legs, west from 10 to 1 and again east from 16 to 4. I had predicted a healthy 16 to 18 metres could be saved by holding the line.

This did not prove to be as simple in practice, as several carelessly placed trees impeded my direct departure and half way across I was forced to side step by some selfish motorist who was too impatient to wait for me to cross, however I estimated a saving of a good 6 metres.

I then had a dream “run” from 16 to 4, no traffic interruptions, and a good clear line of sight meant I was able to get close to the maximum saving, although perhaps to the consternation of the local pedestrians who must have wondered why the foolish man was wandering down the middle of the road muttering to himself.

I then proceeded on to the finish, only to be confronted by a large puddle formed by overnight night rain. “Steel yourself, Pete’ “its only water” and it’s a good 2 metres off the line to go round the tree.



Careless tree planting

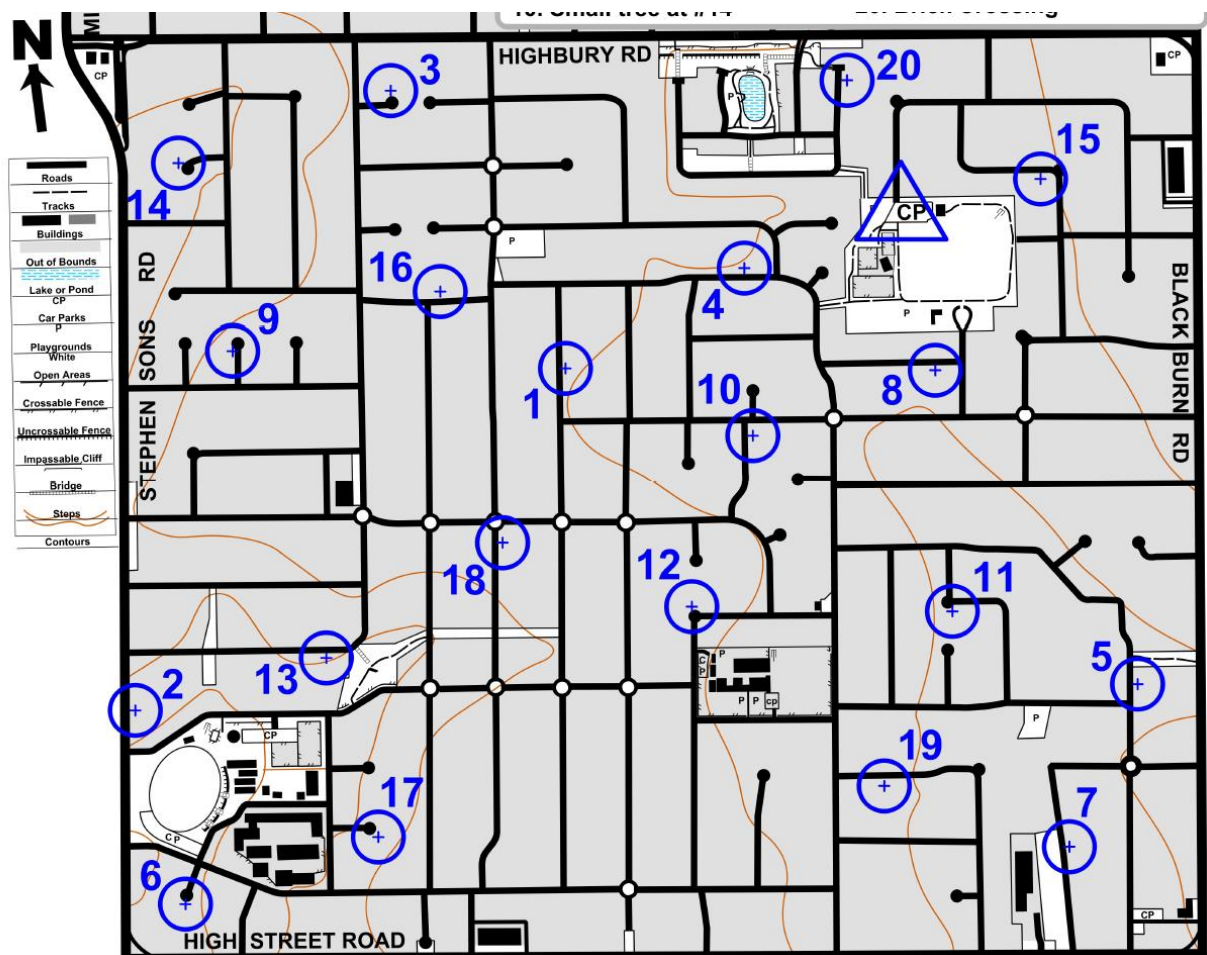


Straight through, or around??

Squelching up to the finish punch I slowed my approach and inched cautiously forward, anxious not to over stride into the control circle.

BEEP.
DELIGHT!
3.04KMS.

As the Jewish tailor said to his price conscious customer “Never mind the quality, feel the width”



VIC SHORTS, GRANITE HILLS

Although there was virtually no orienteering in Melbourne in the second half of 2022, there was one event in November. The organisers, Yarra Valley Orienteering Club, held their nerve as first covid restrictions, then a dire weather forecast threatened to derail their plans.

The event was billed as the (unofficial) Victorian Short Champs, a double header short distance race on the highly technical Granite Hills map, previously used for the 2020 Melbourne Sprint Weekend. With course planner Ted van Geldermalsen unable to visit Melbourne until all travel restrictions were lifted, he was delighted with an offer of assistance from DR's Damian Spencer, who was able to do most of the checking on Ted's behalf. Damian also volunteered to help on the day, and was there right to the end, despite the early afternoon hailstorm which drenched many of us!

Competitors could choose any course. In the morning, we completed a line course; this was followed in the afternoon by a second, shorter course with a chasing start, based on your finish time from the first course. This format was quite common in the past but is rarely used now; it sets up an exciting scenario for the finish - which was certainly the case at this event!

It soon became evident that we were all very rusty when it came to technical orienteering. I was one of several people who went off at the wrong angle out of the start triangle, finding myself on the wrong side of a long fence, and faced with terrain that didn't match my map. Mentally rotate 90 degrees, and it all made sense! However, there were all sorts of other errors to be made, under the pressure of our first competition in months.

I counted myself lucky to scrape into the chasing start list rather than being in the mass start for those that missed the cut; however I found myself only just ahead of a charging bunch who were eager to atone for their morning errors, and willing to mow down anyone who stood in their way!

The challenge was to better your morning time; made tougher by the aforementioned hail, which unceremoniously dumped what seemed like litres of freezing water all over us. Intestinal fortitude was called for in order to stick it out and cross the finish line, and the "dnf" list was quite long.

Meanwhile at the other end of the results, a nailbiting finish was unfolding. The top three Course 1 competitors, Brodie, Pat and Aston, raced most of the course in sight of each other and arrived at the last control together. The race was on down the finish chute with Brodie getting in front for the win (38:24) over Aston (38:25) and Patrick (38:26).



How did DROC fare?

In race 1, Asha Steer (left) was right up with the leaders on 1W, less than 2 minutes behind and sitting nicely in 3rd, with an almost 7 minute margin on 4th. On 2M, Ian Dodd had a great morning run to finish 4th, just over a minute down, and the top 6 were all within 3 minutes of each other. Pam King and Peter Dalwood, on course 3W and 3M respectively, also did well with midfield finishes, while Frankie Shin had a strong run on 4M to finish second, with less than 30 seconds to make up on the leader.

On to the afternoon - Asha kept in touch with the leaders, doing enough to hold onto third overall; meanwhile Amber Louw had a great second run to move up into fifth overall. Simon Rouse also improved in race 2, moving himself into the top 10 overall on 1M. Despite some errors, Ian Dodd maintained his overall 4th place on 2M, while James Love, Wayne Love and Stuart McWilliam all finished in the top half of a large field.

The high attrition rate on course 3 meant that those who finished - me, Peter Dalwood (left) and Peter Yeates - ended up midfield by getting ourselves over the line. But the star of the day was Frankie (right), who won race 2, and snatched overall victory by 5 seconds!



THE FAMOUS DROC CHRISTMAS PARTY, PARK ORCHARDS

Unable to cater as we have in the past, we asked people to BYO picnic dinners as we celebrated 2021 at Park Orchards. Phil Torode set the course, sending us into the Hundred Acres with its myriad of tracks, requiring careful navigation - see map excerpt below. Did anyone else end up at 14 instead of 3, like I did??

After we all recovered, club members gathered under the flag. We presented the Orienteering Australia merit badges - largely based on performances at Easter and various interstate NOL weekends in the first half of the year.

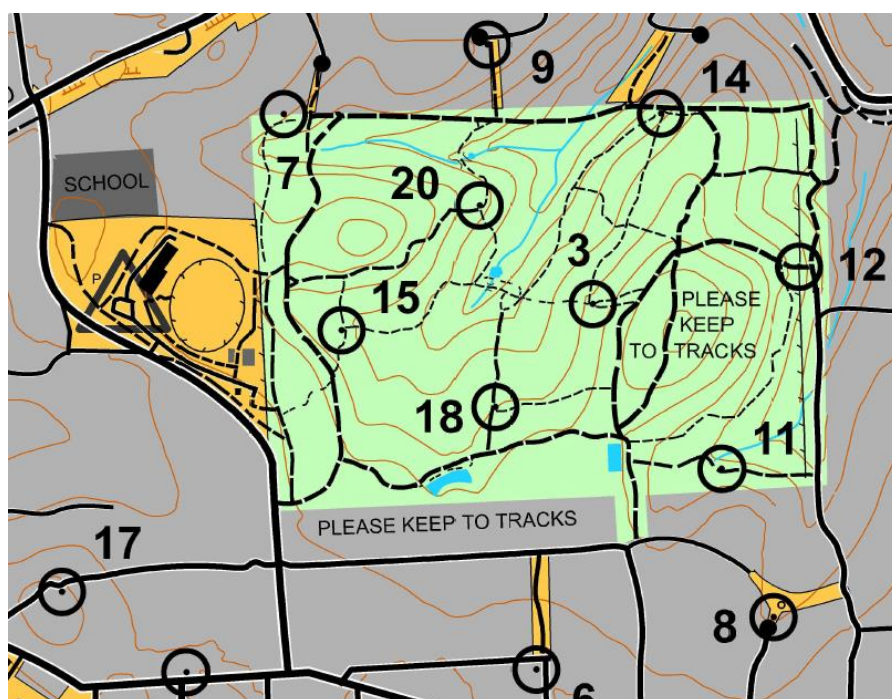
A special presentation was made to Mark Besley, who completed his 2000th Park Street event just before the lockdown. I'd been carefully looking after his bottle of vintage red, for months! It was lovely to finally be able to celebrate the occasion with a group of more than 5 or 10 people. Congratulations Mark, well deserved.

Phil provided the photos -
First page:

- The gang; Pat Miller
- Sammy Love; Allan Miller
- Jacqui White and Rhys Eddy

Second page:

- Mark and Debbie; Sarah Love
- Mark finally receives his vintage
- More of the gang







It is with pleasure that I table the President's Report for the 43rd year of operation of the Dandenong Ranges Orienteering Club (DROC).

Last year's President's Report included a lengthy summary of Covid-19, its impacts on the orienteering year and concluding comments that we eagerly await the day Covid-19 disappears and normal orienteering resumes. Unfortunately this did not happen and significant parts of 2021 were a write-off.....again! Rather than write anymore about Covid-19, the remainder of this report will focus on the positives and what DROC achieved this year.

This year (22 October 2020 to 12 November 2021) we organised a decent number of events including park-street events and numerous feature events including the Melbourne City Race, two Mel-Bush-Os, Park-Street Champs and an Enduro.

Other notable occurrences and member achievements include:

- Peter Dalwood, Peter Yeates, Peter Grover (and their respective helpers) producing new maps and refining existing maps.
- Debbie Dodd continuing taking on a lead role setting up procedures and rules to allow orienteering to occur safely in a Covid climate and also being a key part of MapLink's nomination as a finalist at the Victorian Sport Awards.
- Making a donation to the Victorian Junior Squad in lieu of funds being used to support junior members travelling to and competing in the Australian Schools Championships.
- Committee meetings being conducted electronically via ZOOM and twice in person.

Although there have been a reduced number of events this year, I would like to acknowledge the performances of club members who have competed in various local, state and national level events during 2020-21. Unheard of in past years but now commonplace, DROC has eight members who competed or were selected at State or National level including Amber Louw, James Love and Sammy Love who were selected in the Victorian Schools Team. The club applauds these achievements and will continue to support the club's juniors.

Membership has been stable this year with 96, up from 95 last year, which is an achievement given the lack of orienteering this year. 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. The electronic payment Square purchased last year has come in handy during these times of contactless payments.

Financially, the club has continued to preserve a strong asset position and will make a small loss this year. The traditional Christmas dinner was smaller in format this year, following a summer series event at Yarran Dheran. Last year DROC members were awarded a record 25 Orienteering Australia Merit Badges; this year it was 11 which is not bad considering the disrupted year. For the 2022 Christmas dinner, we keenly await the return of the chocolate ripple cake and the berry-fest, plus the addition of the much hyped and photographed orienteering themed cakes that were seen on computer screens during the year.

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 liaison and takes a leading role in managing the OV website. As previously mentioned, Debbie has taken on a leading role in coordinating OVs response to Covid-19 including devising (and forever updating!) return to sport plans and DIY orienteering. Debbie has also been guest speaker at two VicSport forums helping raise the profile and awareness of orienteering.

- Ian Dodd - Treasurer, equipment management, SportIdent and SI-stick expert and always a helping hand. Ian regularly provides technical support for timing and SI systems at events including non-DROC 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 - scoring, including taking on a large workload due to continual changes in scoring requirements due to Covid-19.
- Peter Yeates - Saturday street-o coordinator, coordinating uniform sales, duties as Vice President, equipment management and always coming up with ideas.
- Peter Hobbs - Co-coach of the Victorian Junior Squad.
- Vic Sedunary - assisting with park and street-o accounting.
- Lauren Jackson / Wayne Love - MapRun set-up for DROC events.
- Pam King/Peter Dalwood and Sarah Love - mapping and secretary duties.
- Ordinary 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. There are some new faces on the committee this year which is great; and we would always welcome more including Junior members who may nominate as Ordinary Committee Members. 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 and Mel-Bush-O events, plus the Melbourne City Race and Australian Sprint Championships. Some events such as Eppalock and the Victorian Sprint Championships have been postponed multiple times but are shelf-ready for 2022.

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.

Peter Hobbs - 12 November 2021

ORIENTEERING, IN ONE SIMPLE PICTURE

