

# PUNCHLINE

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

President	Damian Spencer <a href="mailto:damianmspencer@hotmail.com">damianmspencer@hotmail.com</a>
Vice President	Peter Yeates <a href="mailto:pj.i.yeates@gmail.com">pj.i.yeates@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Sarah Love <a href="mailto:sarah@gsjs.org">sarah@gsjs.org</a>
Treasurer	Ian Dodd <a href="mailto:idodd@inet.net.au">idodd@inet.net.au</a>
Memberships	Debbie Dodd <a href="mailto:debbiedodd@inet.net.au">debbiedodd@inet.net.au</a>
Maps	Rhys Eddy <a href="mailto:rhyseddy@gmail.com">rhyseddy@gmail.com</a>
Clothing	Peter Yeates
Punchline Editor	Debbie Dodd
Committee	Sally Barlow, Peter Dalwood, Pam King, Wayne Love, James Love, Peter Hobbs, Tina Smith, Bev Trease, Ilze Yeates



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

Issue 205

July 2023

## DROC IS LOOKIN' GOOD!

If you've been to an event recently, you've probably seen our fantastic new running tops and jackets. And if you're lucky enough to own one, no doubt you've received compliments from other envious orienteers. Everyone agrees that they really stand out, for all the right reasons. Not only that, but they feel amazing - lightweight and extremely comfortable. We will place a second order for running tops either towards the end of this year, or early next year, so make sure you don't miss out! We are just waiting for some better weather so we can get out there with the camera, and take some fresh photos for the website, like this great shot of Janine Steer at Granite Hills in June.



Meanwhile, we've also updated our flag - the old one served us very well, but has become very faded. Our new flag incorporates the new design, and you can look forward to seeing it flying high at upcoming events. We've also ordered a matching tent wall, so that anyone registering or downloading will have no doubt about which club is running the event! That's art designer Peter Dalwood hiding behind the new flag.

## DIARY DATES - 2023

### **Saturday July 22 - EndurO, Bellbird Dell, Vermont. Course planner - Debbie Dodd**

We have our first EndurO for 2023 coming up on Saturday July 22, at Bellbird Dell in Vermont. It's a 40 control Score course, with a 120 minute option for Runners and Power Walkers, or a shorter 90 minute Run option. Start between 1.30pm and 2.00pm. Double the map; double the points; double the time; double the fun - but the price remains just \$5! Start location is the Vermont South Community Centre, Livingstone Road.

### **Sunday October 22 - Summer Shorts 1, Jells Park. Course planner - Sally Barlow**

Short distance fun at one of our favourite parks; ideal for families and newcomers.

### **Sunday October 29 - Summer Shorts 2, Mt Lilydale College (tbc). Course planner - James Love**

A campus sprint on a great new map.

### **Sunday November 5 - Summer Shorts 3, Tatterson Park. Course planner - Ricky Thackray**

Scramble your brain at this amazing park with its bamboozling tree maze!

### **Sunday November 12 - Summer Shorts 3, Waverley Stadium. Course planner Milla Key**

This complex map with the famous oval as its centrepiece will test your sprint navigation skills, as we get closer to the 2023 Victorian Sprint Champs.

### **Sunday November 20 - Melbourne City Race, Docklands. Course planners - Peter and Ilze Yeates**

Brought to you by veterans of several Venice City Races, the 2023 Melbourne City Race will revisit Docklands - the highlight of the urban orienteering calendar! [www.melbournecityrace.com.au](http://www.melbournecityrace.com.au)

## MEMBERSHIP

Please give a big DROC welcome to our newest member, Luca Topley Vlahos. Luca is keen on both Park Street and Bush orienteering, and has been to several MelbushO and Vic Series event, including Yellow Gum Park, where he won Course 5, Gellibrand Hill where he placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Granite Hills where he placed 3<sup>rd</sup> - great results!



Please also welcome our youngest member, Amelia Eddy, who after keeping us all on tenterhooks, arrived safely in early May. From Rhys -

Letting you know that our little baby girl Amelia Kate Eddy navigated her way into the world on Wednesday evening (6.26pm, just before the start time!) She was 2.9 kg, has a head full of hair and is doing well. Jacqui is doing well too and we are trying to get used to being up all night. Looking forward to bringing her to her first event.

Amelia made her orienteering debut at Westerfolds Park last month, along with mum Jacqui, dad Rhys, and uncle Nick.

## DROC SHOP

The DROC Shop is open for business, and ready to get you kitted out for 2023 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](mailto:droc@iinet.net.au). We also old stock of running tops, vests and jackets, in various designs and sizes, at bargain prices, and free to junior members. Contact [Peter Yeates](#) to find out what's in stock.



## TOP RESULTS

At the top of the list of great results is this one - our own Simon Rouse is on an orienteering holiday in Europe. Simon competed in the Italian Dolomites 3 Day, at Primiero. The three forest stages featured stunning mountain scenery, and if that wasn't enough, were preceded by two sprints in gorgeous villages. Jealous anyone???

Simon placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Stage 1, 6<sup>th</sup> in Stage 2, and second in Stage 3, for an incredible overall third place! Looks like he scored a pretty nice medallion and goody bag as well. Congratulations Simon!

Next up for Simon is Swiss O Week, running in conjunction with the World Orienteering Champs in Flims Laax, 16-22 July 2023. Check the results at <https://www.swiss-o-week.ch/en/>



Meanwhile back here in Melbourne, DROC members have been going bush and doing great things. In chronological order:

- ✚ MelbushO Brimbank Park - Joel Crothers 4<sup>th</sup>
  - ✚ NOL Forest Relay, Wattle Gully - Lanita Steer 3<sup>rd</sup> (representing Vic Vikings in Womens 21E)
  - ✚ Vic Series Wattle Gully - Elijah Spencer 2<sup>nd</sup>, Simon Rouse 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - ✚ Vic Series Glenluce - Elijah Spencer 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lanita Steer 2<sup>nd</sup>, Martin Steer 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - ✚ MelbushO Eaglemont Flats - Amber Louw 1<sup>st</sup>, Damian Spencer 3<sup>rd</sup>,
  - ✚ Vic Series Granite Hills - Asha Steer 2<sup>nd</sup>, Helen Walpole 2<sup>nd</sup>, Martin Steer 3<sup>rd</sup>, Lanita Steer 3<sup>rd</sup>, Luca Topley Vlahos 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - ✚ Vic Series Gellibrand Hill - Simon Rouse 2<sup>nd</sup>, Amber Louw 2<sup>nd</sup>, Luca Topley Vlahos 2<sup>nd</sup>, Elijah Spencer 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - ✚ MelbushO Yellow Gum - Luca Topley Vlahos 1<sup>st</sup>, Chris Klep 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - ✚ Ballarat Winter Series Nerrina - Simon Rouse 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - ✚ MelbushO Westerfolds Park - Eric Louw 1<sup>st</sup>, Amber Louw 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - ✚ Ballarat Winter Series Fed Uni - Ian Davies 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ilze Yeates 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Vic Series standings after 5 events: Simon Rouse 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lanita Steer 2<sup>nd</sup>, Elijah Spencer 1<sup>st</sup>, Luca Topley Vlahos 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## PARK STREET WINTER SERIES - RESULTS

Monday Night Series 1 - Ian Davies 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rosalind King 3<sup>rd</sup>

Wednesday Autumn Classic Series - Matthew Grover 3<sup>rd</sup>, Debbie Dodd 1<sup>st</sup>, Peter Dalwood 2<sup>nd</sup>, Peter Yeates 3<sup>rd</sup>, Phil Torode 2<sup>nd</sup>



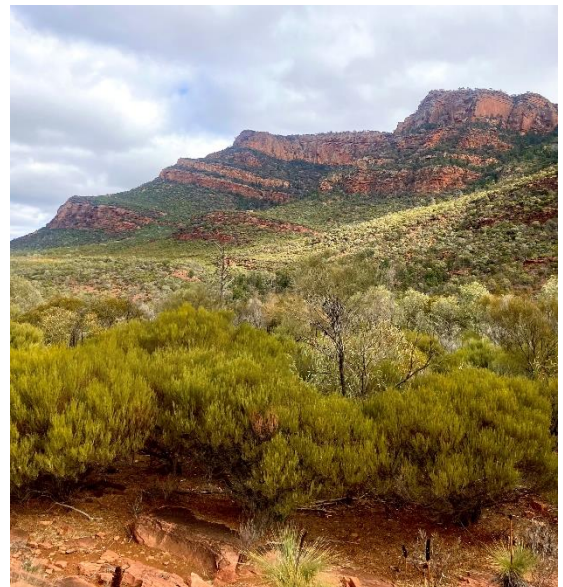
## PREZ SEZ - Damian Spencer

I have just returned from an impromptu trip to the Top End for the school holidays. It's been an incredible experience, driving from Melbourne to Darwin over three weeks and stopping for dozens of hikes along the way, not least Uluru and the spectacular Valley of the Winds at Kata Tjuta. As an orienteer, spending time outdoors in the vast scrub is my tonic, and the Red Centre has plenty. Unfortunately the most orienteering we did was to download a map of the permanent orienteering course at the Darwin Botanic Gardens, but upon arriving and experiencing the 'mild' winter temperatures of 35°C, decided against it! Instead it was all about enjoying the JWOC and WOC action from the laptop (and seeing our own Simon Rouse kicking goals in various European orienteering events). More locally, it was great to see lots of DROC members participating in the MelbushO and Bendigo Bush Series events over the last quarter.

In April-May, I had the enjoyment of helping Helen Walpole set the courses for the fifth Vic Series event, at Gellibrand Hill. If you haven't set courses before, I would highly recommend it. I'll write up a larger piece later in the year on the benefits of course setting, but in brief, the experience forces you to consider what makes a good course, how the landscape can affect route choice, and most importantly, how an event map is created using a mix of art and science, thanks to amazing yet complex CAD software. We decided to spice up a somewhat restrictive metro bush map with a map-flip and change of scale halfway through each course. I hope it went down well! Thanks to all the DROC members who turned up and helped put on a great event.

The Vic Series is now on its mid-season break. Simon Rouse is currently heading up the points table in Division 1 while Ian Davies, Peter Dalwood and the Steers are all in the mix with 3 events left. Elijah is also leading in Division 5, which makes me a proud dad. His navigation and map reading is finally coming together! As a club though, we are really lacking juniors at the moment and are keen to have more involved. If you have kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, bring them along!

Until next time, happy navigating.

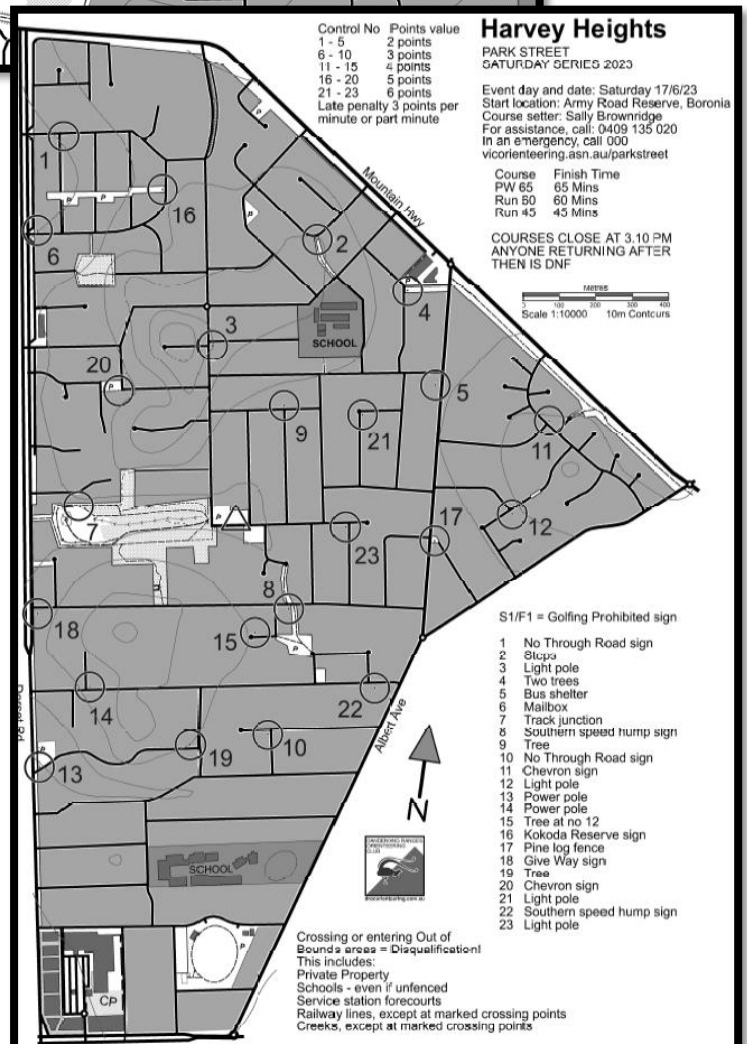
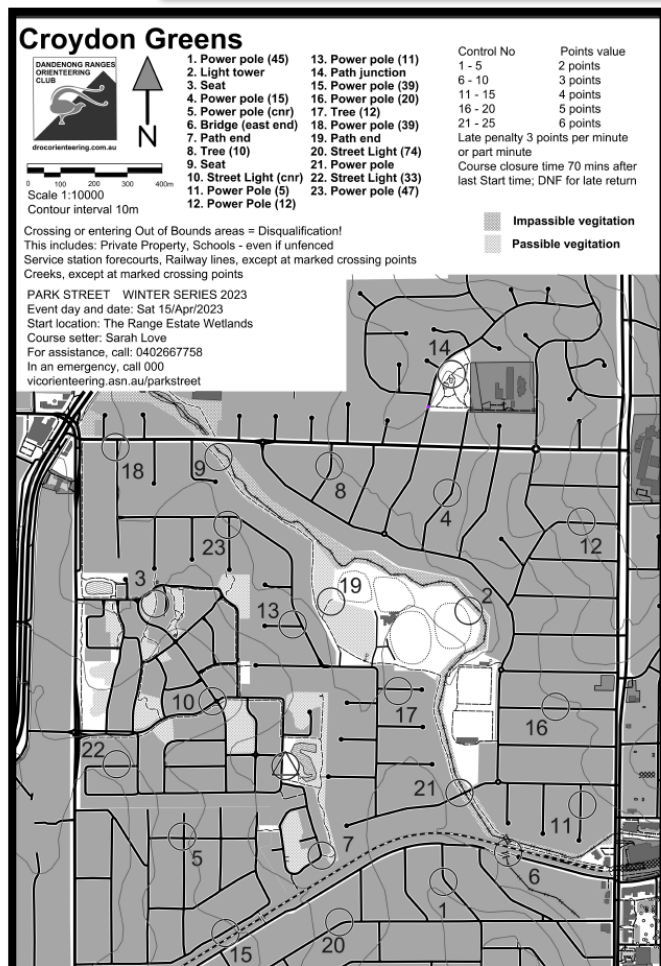
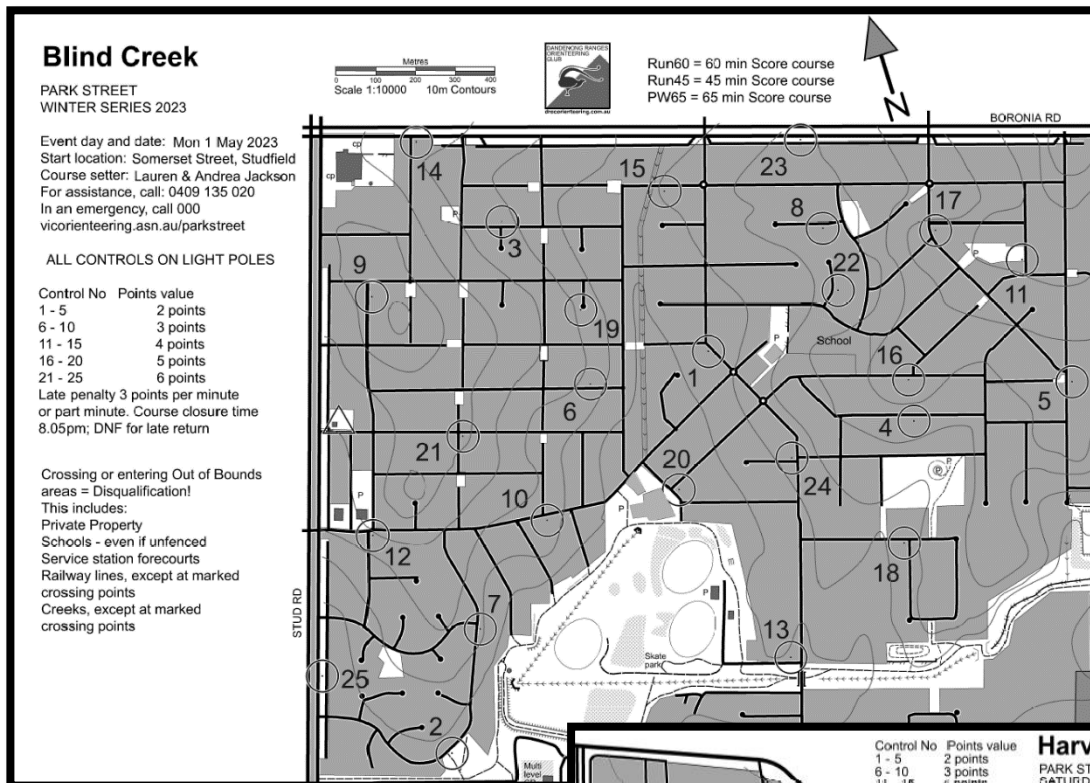




## TOP COURSES

Here's a selection of courses set by DROC members between April and June. These are available online to use any time, with MapRun. [Download them from here.](#)

Blind Creek - Lauren/Andrea Jackson; Croydon Greens - Sarah Love; Harvey Heights - Newburys; Boronia Bay - Ilze Yeates; Forest Chase - Matthew/John Grover; Shepherds Bushed - Mark Besley



## Boronia Bay

Crossing or entering Out of Bounds areas = Disqualification!  
This includes:  
Private Property  
Schools - even if unfenced  
Service station forecourts  
Railway lines, except at marked crossing points  
Creeks, except at marked crossing points



Scale 1:10000 10m Contours



**PARK STREET WINTER SERIES 2023**  
Event day and date: 12th June  
Start location: Tormore Res. Boronia  
Course setter: Ilze Yeates  
For assistance, call: 0412360000  
In an emergency, call 000  
www.vicorienteering.asn.au/parkstreet

START at gate opp. Laurel Ave.

### ALL CONTROLS ON LIGHT POLES

Control No	Points value
1 - 5	2 points
6 - 10	3 points
11 - 15	4 points
16 - 20	5 points
21 - 25	6 points

Late penalty 3 points per minute or part minute  
Course closure time 70 mins after last Start time; DNF for late return

## Forest Chase

**PARK STREET WINTER SERIES 2023**  
Event day and date: Wednesday 17th May 2023  
Start location: Light pole near fence corner, SW of pavilion  
Course setter: Matthew Grover  
For assistance, call: 0437 276 302  
In an emergency, call 000  
www.vicorienteering.asn.au/parkstreet

Crossing or entering Out of Bounds areas = Disqualification!  
This includes:  
Private Property  
Schools - even if unfenced  
Service station forecourts  
Railway lines, except at marked crossing points  
Creeks, except at marked crossing points

### ALL CONTROLS ON LIGHT POLES

Control No	Points value
1 - 5	2 points
6 - 10	3 points
11 - 15	4 points
16 - 20	5 points

Late penalty 3 points per minute or part minute

Course	Finish Time
PW 65	65 Mins
Run 60	60 Mins
Run 45	45 Mins

COURSE CLOSURES 8:05PM  
ANYONE RETURNING  
AFTER THEN IS DNF

Scale 1:10000 5m Contours



Scale 1:10000 5m Contours

## Shepherds Bushed

**PARK STREET WINTER SERIES 2023**  
Event day and date: Wednesday 7 June 2023  
Start location: Gate, East end of Shepherd Rd  
Course setter: Mark Besley  
For assistance, call: 0408175944  
In an emergency, call 000  
www.vicorienteering.asn.au/parkstreet

### ALL CONTROLS ON LIGHT POLES

Control No	Points value
1 - 5	2 points
6 - 10	3 points
11 - 15	4 points
16 - 20	5 points

Late penalty 3 points per minute or part minute

Course	Finish Time
PW 65	65 Mins
Run 60	60 Mins
Run 45	45 Mins

COURSES CLOSE AT 8:05PM  
ANYONE RETURNING  
AFTER THEN IS DNF

Crossing or entering Out of Bounds areas = Disqualification!  
This includes:  
Private Property  
Schools - even if unfenced  
Service station forecourts  
Railway lines, except at marked crossing points  
Creeks, except at marked crossing points

You must go to the mapped location, not just to the MapRun beep.

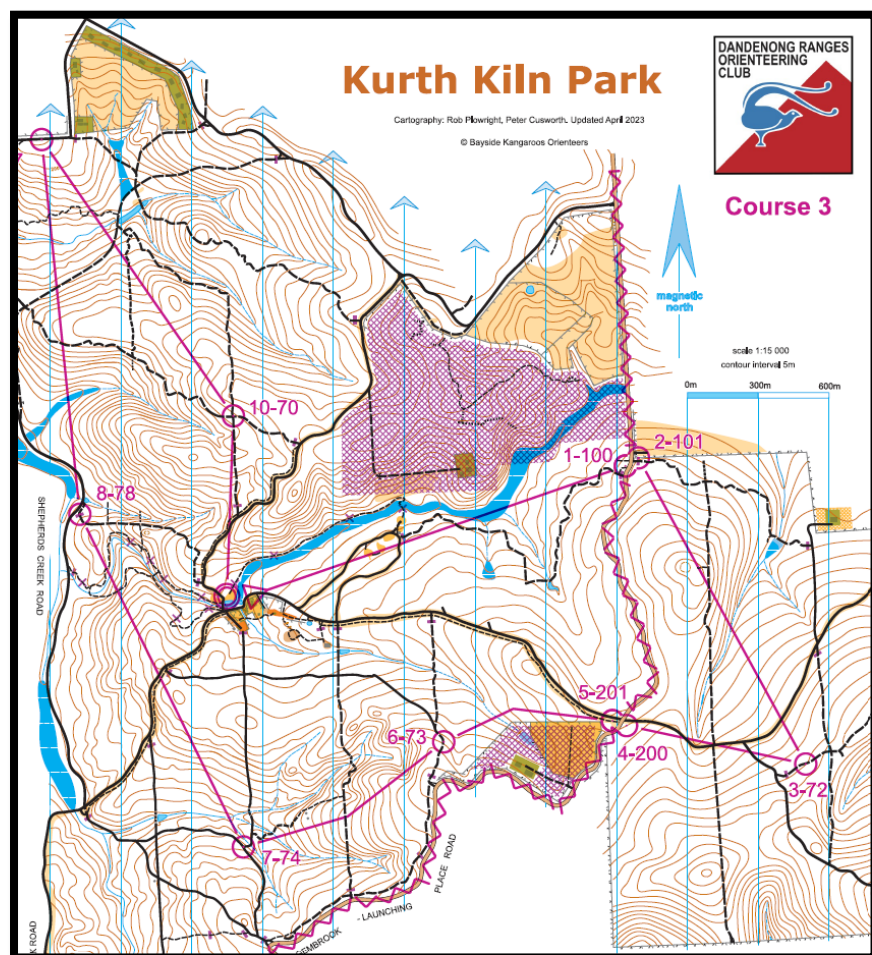
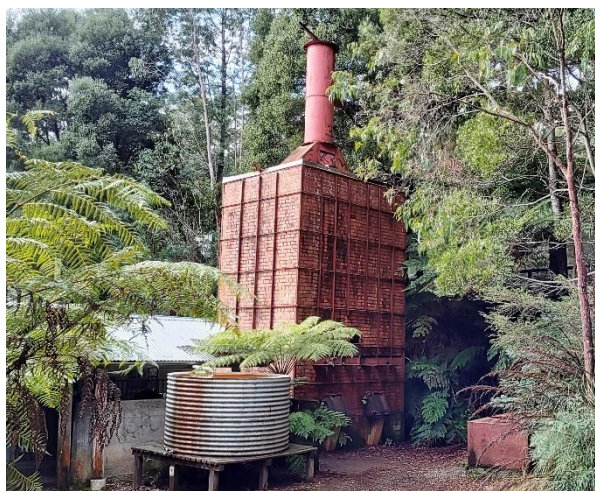


## KURTH KILN - VIC MTBO SERIES - THE DROC MUD CURSE STRIKES AGAIN

Kurth Kiln, near Gembrook, was the first map that Ian and I ever orienteered on, back in the early 1980s. The map was/is owned by Bayside. We were both at university at the time, taken along by a family friend who was a keen orienteer and bushwalker. We both enjoyed the day, but it took us more than 20 years to go to our next event!

It's been some time since the map was used for foot orienteering; like most maps east of Melbourne, the vegetation is too thick and the terrain too steep. However, the many tracks make it suitable for mountain bike orienteering. Graham Wallis offered to set courses, with assistance from Peter Cusworth.

Melbourne's unseasonably wet Autumn meant that conditions were again very muddy. DROC has established a tradition of rain and mud for our MTBO events - even the ones we hold in Summer! We've held unforgettably wet events at Silvan (at least twice), Mt Evelyn, Mt Robertson, and now Kurth Kiln joins the list.



We had a picturesque picnic spot for the arena, beside the overflowing creek. Riders were able to start under cover at the historic kiln, waterwheel and homestead, before setting off on one of the four courses.

It was a small but competitive field, especially on Course 3 Mens (see map), where the top four were only 4 minutes apart! We also welcomed quite a few newcomers.

Our thanks to Graham for once again providing a well thought out and challenging course with lots of route choice, and Peter Cusworth and Bayside Kangaroos, for making the map available, and putting the finishing touches onto the courses. And of course to the volunteers, particularly the ones who went well out of their way to collect controls afterwards.



## GELLIBRAND HILL - KINGS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

The first Kings Birthday weekend double header featured two events not far from Melbourne, both in the north/northwestern suburbs. They were quite contrasting - Granite Hills on Saturday afternoon is a very small map with complex granite features strewn over the steep slopes. Gellibrand Hill is a much larger area, with some small granite areas but a wide variety of terrain, and very fast. DROC was the organizing club for the second day, using the Gellibrand Hill map at 1:4000, and the Back Paddock map at 1:10000 or 1:7500. Both are part of Woodlands Historic Park, but the eastern portion of the park has only been used for orienteering two or three times in the past. Tuckonie Orienteering club very kindly provided the maps, and Warwick Davis spent considerable time doing updates, especially as a number of new fences had appeared since our last use.

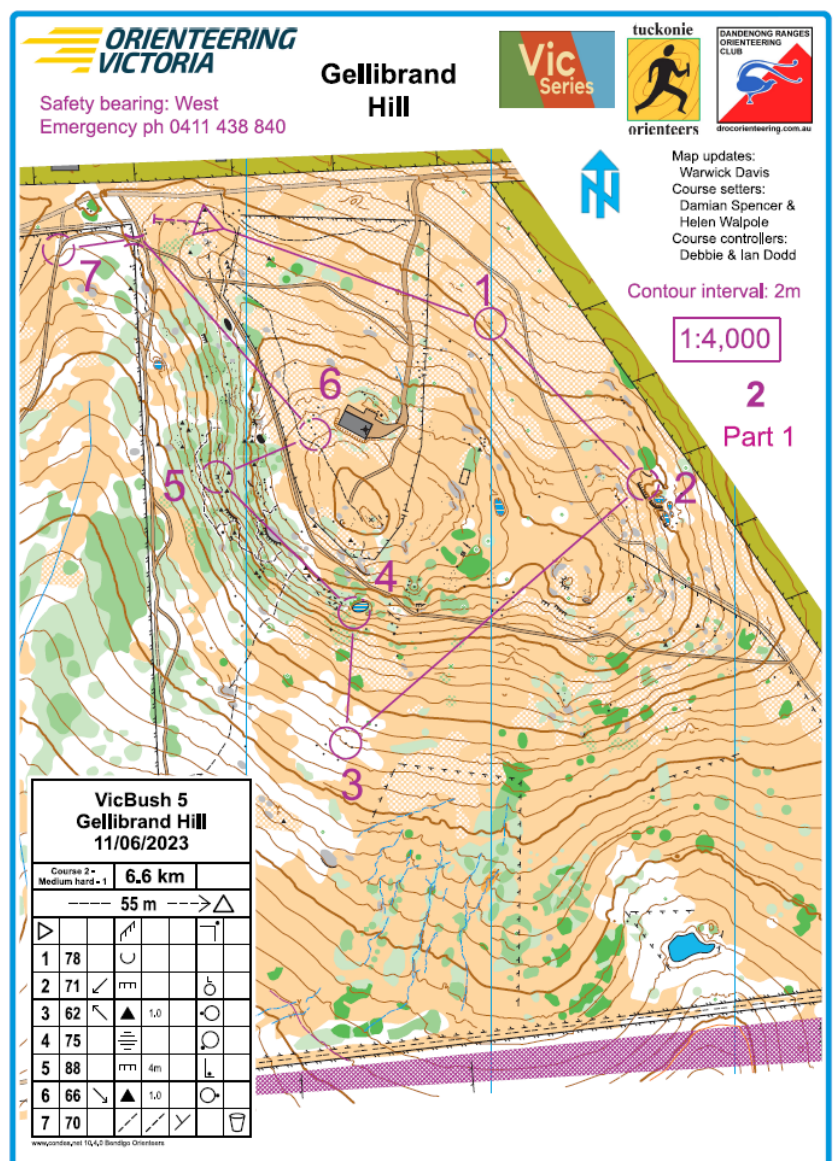
Helen Walpole offered to set courses, with assistance from Damian Spencer. It was Helen's first foray into course planning. They divided the task up, with Damian working on the Gellibrand Hill map, and Helen taking on the Back Paddock section. All courses would visit both sections, with a map flip and change of scale to make things interesting.

Ian and I took on the job of vetters/checkers, and we visited Woodlands several times to look at each control site, as well as to establish the arena setup, and scope out the usual logistics of parking, toilets etc. It was the first time we'd taken on this role, and we really enjoyed it. All of us worked closely together, along with Warwick, to ensure everything would run smoothly on the day. We were lucky that we picked great weather for our meanderings around Woodlands, and it was such a lovely place to spend time. Things were delayed when the Back Paddock was locked to enable fox baiting, but some wheeling and dealing by Warwick meant we were able to get in and complete our planning and checking in time.

Helen was really well organized and thorough, documenting everything clearly, and ensuring we were all working from up to date information - essential when you have six people all working on the same map via Dropbox!

We chose a new arena, next to the Weeroona indigenous cemetery. It was a longish uphill walk to the start from there. All courses began with a loop around/over Gellibrand Hill. First mapped at 1:4000 for the 2022 Melbourne Sprint Weekend, everything comes up very fast, and you need to have a good eye for small details. Damian's courses included varied leg lengths and directional changes, with quite a bit of ascent and descent to tire the legs. At the gate/water drop, competitors turned their maps over and adjusted to the new scale. The Back Paddock terrain is generally flat to gently sloping, with open grass or lightly treed areas. It is bisected by a main watercourse, and there are numerous tracks and fences.

This whole section is bounded by a very high fence with only a few gates in and out. Helen used this fact to great advantage by planning a "mega leg" on Courses 1 and 2; competitors had to realise in plenty of time that their route choice was limited by the two exit points, either of which required a very





wide route. It pays to look ahead - some didn't, only to find themselves confronted with a very uncrossable fence, and a very long way to detour to the nearest gate.

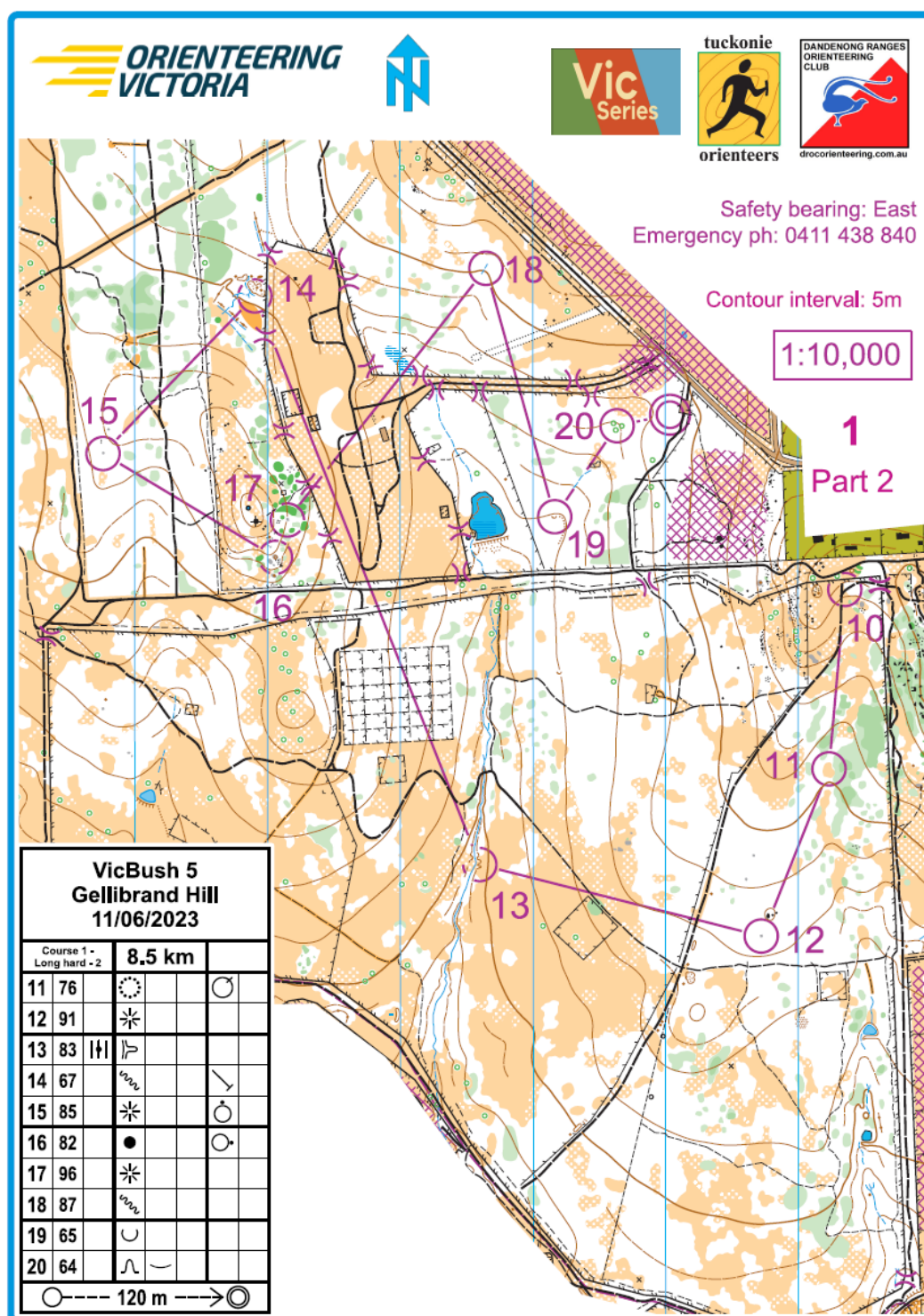
The final section was my favourite. It included the old hospital site, as well as the unmissable water tower, a lovely dam, and gorgeous forest. There were some nice rock features, and some interesting erosion features as well - in fact a bit of everything to conclude with.

We held our breath all week, watching the weather forecast, but we needn't have worried; it was a glorious day and being out in the forest was sheer joy. All the controls were correctly placed; everything worked as it should; Jim brought along his results screens, and the junior squad cooked up toasties and sold cakes to the hungry masses. All in all it was a great day.

Helen's Mega Leg:

Course 1 Part 2 - how would you have tackled Leg 13-14, noting the two marked exit points? You can check out numerous routes on Livelox, where you can certainly see some indecision!

<https://www.livelox.com/Events/Show/97830/Vic-Series-Bush-5-Gellibrand-Hill-Greenvale>



## SNIPPETS

### LYREBIRD AWARD

DROC was delighted to present the first Lyrebird Award for the best Junior Girl, to Sophie Taverna. Sophie was chosen by the Rockhopper selection committee, following her strong performances over the past 12 months, resulting in her selection as first reserve for the Australian JWOC team. Sophie has been an integral part of the Victorian Junior Squad and Schools Teams. She is also a keen and extremely talented mapper and course setter, and a huge contributor to her club, Central Highlands. Sophie's award of \$500 will assist with her trip to Europe to compete during the northern summer. We wish her all the best.

### NEWBURY NAVIGATORS

I was recently asked by the new editor of the Australian Orienteer magazine, Hania Lada, about how the Newbury Navigators came to be part of DROC. This made me look back over how it all happened. It's hard to imagine a time when the Newbury guys weren't club members - we absolutely love that they have been so involved over such a long time now. Here is what I wrote for Hania to publish:

The 'Newbury Navigators' are a group of several men with varying intellectual disabilities, who live together in a share house, which is administered by Yooralla. Their main carer at the time they started coming to street orienteering, Sally Brownridge, is related to Charles Brownridge, so she was familiar with orienteering, and thought it would be a good activity for the group to get them outdoors on a regular basis. Sally is incredibly proactive and has been responsible for the Newburys taking part in all sorts of activities, which often meant jumping through hoops to get permission. This included things like camping trips, bike rides, hikes, and the Relay for Life, which the boys have completed many times, raising thousands of dollars for the Cancer Council.

I remember Sally telling me that of everything they'd tried, street O is the one that has 'stuck' - they really enjoy it, and so do the carers who accompany them. They also love being part of their club, Dandenong Ranges. They regularly set courses, have been on the club committee, and always enter a team in the Club Relays, winning their division on more than one occasion! They really like the fact that they can just come along and join in on the same basis as everyone else. Everyone has been very welcoming and accepting, there is no fuss or special rules, and they just fit in. The only allowance we've made is for membership of The Millennium Club (normally groups are not eligible) and they have completed over 1000 events, achieving Legend status.

The carers do an amazing job, but as organisers we are mindful of being ready with extra support if needed. If one of the guys happens to wander off, we have to think a bit differently to understand where they might have headed. For instance, one of the group loves water; when he disappeared at one event, we were looking for him near the river, while all the time he was in the nearby tennis club building, happily taking a shower!

DROC did not have any special programs in place to prompt the Newburys to join; it just seemed a natural fit. We've seen many carers come and go over the years, and we all agree that every single one of them is absolutely incredible - so patient, cheerful, and inspirational. We absolutely love having Newburys in the club, and DROC would not be the same without them.

### WARNING TO ALL ORIENTEERS - courtesy Peter Yeates

A recent court ruling in the US Supreme Court, in relation to a law suit brought by the mother of a seven year old who suffered a burn to her leg after she dropped a chicken nugget on it, has raised alarm bells.

OV, clubs and course setters should now be prepared to educate all entrants as to the consequences of participating in an event. These should include:

1. That strange feeling when you leave home and go outdoors is due a change in the temperature; if appropriate clothing is to hand it may not have lasting harmful effects.



2. The surface under your feet is called “the ground” and in some circumstances will feel firm; this is called hard. It could be painful if you fall on it.
3. Pertaining to warning 2, some of the ground may leave marks on skin and clothing. This is called “dirt” and is easily removed by an application of soap and cautiously warmed water.
4. Competitors may notice that “the ground” is not always even and may rise up in front of you. Proceeding up this ground, also known as a “hill”, may cause an increase in your heart rate. You may also experience an increase in the amount of air being expelled from your mouth, known as “heavy breathing.” Neither experience is harmful and the effects are transitory.
5. As you approach a control marker, you may have a strange feeling in your abdomen. This is known as “anticipation.” Again this is transitory and will soon pass, particularly if the flag is not found.
6. When some competitors find the flag, they may experience further strange and sometimes overwhelming experiences known as “elation”. This is to be enjoyed as it will soon pass.
7. Final warning. If, when you find the flag, the number on it is not that which you anticipated, you will experience a condition known as “disappointment”. This is a more severe condition and may need to be treated. Certain readily available homeopathic substances such as chocolate may ameliorate this condition.

#### MAP MEN

The Map Men are two British guys with a natural curiosity about maps and geography, a quirky way with words, and a Youtube channel, all about (you guessed it), maps. Their latest offering is entitled “Why is North up?” A question of particular relevance to we who live Down Under, for no good reason. Other noteworthy episodes include:

- The mystery of the squarest country
- How to read a map with a clock
- How many continents are there? (the answer is not what you might think)
- Can you spot a map trap
- The world’s silliest time zones
- Maps with gaps
- How do you start a new country?

Find them here: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfxy4\\_sBQdxy3A2lvt-y3qWTeJEbC\\_QCp](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfxy4_sBQdxy3A2lvt-y3qWTeJEbC_QCp)



Did you know - the word Orient, and its derivations, eg Orientation, and Orienteering, come from the Latin word meaning East, and during the Middle Ages, maps had East at the top rather than North.

## SUMMER SHORTS AND MELBOURNE CITY RACE, OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2023

Summer is coming - and it's bringing some sizzle to Melbourne's city streets, at least for those of us who, map in hand, love to set out on a quest for the quirky, with a backdrop of colourful history. The 4th Melbourne City Race takes us back to where it all began, at Docklands. We have a new start location in the north of the map, which means everyone will tackle the multi-level mayhem of The District, as well as New Quay, Waterfront City, Marvel Stadium and Victoria Harbour. Peter Dalwood has been out and about updating the map; as expected, there have been quite a few changes since 2019.

Course planners Peter and Ilze Yeates are veterans of several Venice City Races, so they know what makes a great urban event with a waterfront theme. While they haven't been able to rustle up any gondolas (yet), they have been busy scouting out some quirky control locations - although "man made object" seems an inadequate description for a patchwork cow upended in a tree, or an elephant's trunk emerging out of concrete!

This year's MCR takes place on Sunday November 19. As in previous editions, you can choose any one of five line courses ranging from 3 to 10 km, with multiple changes in direction, and some route choices that might be vertical. Sportident controls will be in Air mode for rapid racing. We strongly recommend using public transport - which is very handy to the arena - as parking is limited. You should to enter online on Eventor, with entries opening in late October. As always, we have some fantastic prizes for the winners and placegetters, and a random prize draw for everyone who pre-enters.

There is no Saturday warmup race this year, but we've got something much better - look out for the DROC Summer Shorts! A brand new series of four short distance races in parks and campuses on Sunday mornings, the Summer Shorts are the perfect way to get prepped; not only for the City Race, but for the Primary Schools Champs, and the Victorian Sprint Champs and Knockout Sprint on November 26. There will be a different Summer Short each week from October 22 to November 12. Venues are still being finalized, but expect a great selection of full colour maps, action-packed fun courses, and a big social atmosphere. The three courses at each Short will cater for all levels, from juniors and newcomers, to top sprinters, and everyone in between. Find out more: [www.melbournecityrace.com.au](http://www.melbournecityrace.com.au)

**NEW!!**  
**SUMMER SHORTS**  
Sunday Mornings

Oct 22 – Jells Park  
Oct 29 – Mt Lilydale  
Nov 5 – Tattersson Park  
Nov 12 – Waverley Stadium



Docklands 19 November

**2023**  
**MELBOURNE CITY RACE**

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

**MELBOURNE CITY RACE 2023**

Nov 19 - Docklands



## *COURSE SETTER'S NOTES - Peter Yeates*

The 2023 Melbourne City Race will take you through the heart of Melbourne's Docklands. Its historical setting will not be lost on many, but I first visited there as a 10 year old boy in 1956. One day I had to go to work with my father as my mother was ill. He was a serving Customs Officer stationed at No 2 Gate Victoria Dock. It is long gone, but the goods train track is still clearly visible. I was allowed to roam at will, and you cannot imagine the delight of those sights and smells as bales of jute, sacks of coffee and other wonderful things were carried off ships that were little more than piles of rusting junk from all four corners of the globe.



In the strange circle of fate that often bemuses not just orienteers, it was in 1975, almost 20 years later, that I again spent long periods at Victoria Dock. Having followed my father into a career in Law Enforcement, I was often sitting in freezing cold unheated cars conducting night shift surveillance along the road past No 14 Shed, searching for sailors smuggling opium and heroin. The shed is one of the few things still there.



Now, more than 45 years later, the cargo ships and smugglers are long gone, replaced by luxury yachts and apartments, but I am still searching through the docks. This time for those little nooks and hidey holes in which to place a little red and white flag for you to find.

If you wonder why the idiot course setter put a control in "that stupid place", try looking at it through the eyes of that 10 year old boy who, long before colour television, first saw it almost three quarters of a century earlier.

I hope you are successful in your search. I was very often not.  
Pete.

Senior Narcotics Investigator, Department of Customs (Ret)