

## Bush Orienteering Subcommittee Report – November 2012

### Orienteering Victoria Board Meeting

#### Decisions Required –

1 Direction from the Board is required clarify relationships between and responsibility for the Victorian Sprint Championships, the new Sprint Series, and the proposed Park and Street Championships.

2 The Board should consider, at a suitable time, establishing a formal sub-committee to undertake preliminary planning and feasibility investigations in relation to the 2015 Australian Championships carnival, currently expected to be held near to or west of Ballarat.

#### OVERALL STATUS

The committee has not met since 16 September 2012

#### ACTIVITIES & PLANS

##### 1. Bush Orienteering Calendar for 2013

The most recent copy of the draft program will be emailed to Board members as an Excel spreadsheet prior to the meeting. Stephen Peacock's work in pulling together the program has been most valuable.

The draft calendar is well stocked with high quality events up until June, including the National Easter 3 Days plus 6 State Series events (two on one weekend in May). Consideration is being given to rescheduling one of these to a Sunday later in the year, and asking Bendigo to put on a Saturday event near Castlemaine. This is aimed at spreading SS events more evenly throughout the year.

The second half of the year is sparse for SS events and above.

BK have undertaken to organise the Victorian Middle Distance Championships. MFR have offered to conduct the Victorian Sprint Distance Championships. Yarra Valley have been invited to conduct the Victorian Relay Championships on Hawkstowe Park, and/or an SS event at a bush location. We do not yet have a volunteer to run the Victorian Long Distance Championships.

Club level events, including MelBushO, will be fitted in once the SS and championships are scheduled.

Board members are asked to encourage clubs to offer to conduct bush events at various levels.

##### 2. Victorian Sprint Orienteering Championships/Park and Street Championships 2013

In the past two years, the Victorian Sprint Orienteering Championships have been conducted on education campuses, and have taken the form of urban orienteering. This seems to be converging with the concept of the new Sprint Series proposed by

the Park and Street O Sub-Committee. The Bush-O committee is not opposed to this event being managed by the Park and Street O Sub-Committee.

There needs to be clarification of the difference between the Victorian Sprint Orienteering Championship, the Victorian Sprint Orienteering Series, and the Victorian Park and Street Championship(s). Clearly sprint orienteering (common-sequence control sites) is different to park and street orienteering (scatter and score) as it is currently practised in Victoria.

### **Potential parkland orienteering series**

Consideration should be given to developing a new series of parkland events, in vegetated, traffic-free park environments in or near Melbourne, to be held after the bush orienteering season has wound up, or at the start of the year. The aim would be to provide an orienteering experience that requires more challenging navigational skills compared to simply following linear features, and which offers the aesthetics of a bush or park environment, free of vehicular traffic and of a built-up environment. This could be dubbed "GreenO", and could be held on weekends, to avoid clashing with weeknight Park and Street O. It would provide an orienteering experience somewhere between MelBushO and Park and Street O. Likely venues could include Brimbank Park, Woodlands Park, Hawkstowe Park, Westerfolds Park, and the like. It could be held at the start of the year, as a "come and try it" series, and a transition step for street orienteers.

### **3. Australian Championships Carnival 2015**

I have invited a few key people to work on securing an area for the 2015 Australian Long Distance Championship in 2015. A loose-knit group includes Geoff and Jenny Lawford, who have taken on the challenge of investigating the use of an area of public and private land comprising excellent granite terrain near Ararat, east of the Grampians. A meeting is scheduled on 4 December at Ararat Rural City Council between Geoff and Jenny Lawford, and Don Fell representing the OV Board, with representatives from Ararat Rural City Council, Northern Grampians Shire Council and Parks Victoria. There is a quite a bit of work to be done to obtain permission to use the area. Use of any or all of the area is far from guaranteed.

It is recommended that OV Council consider establishing a formal sub-committee to undertake early planning for the technical aspects of the event and the carnival. According to Neil Barr, if we are to use the preferred area, then work on mapping will need to start in 2013. Others who have been working on preliminary planning are Bruce Arthur, Blair Trewin and Mark Hennessy. Nigel McGuckian has a brother who runs two school camps in the area.

Should the preferred area not become available in the next few months, we will need to consider alternate areas for the carnival.

## **ISSUES, CONCERNS AND RISKS**

1. Some clubs are yet to finally commit to organising SS or championship events for 2013. The Victorian Long Distance Championships do not yet have an organising club allocated.
2. An area for the 2015 Australian Championships Carnival is being sought, but access is not guaranteed. A working group has been established.

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