

Bush Orienteering Committee Report to OV Council October 2012 – by Mark Hennessy

Committee reconvened

The bush O committee met at Kangaroo Crossing on Sunday 16 September, the first meeting for more than a year. A second meeting has not yet been scheduled.

The meeting was chaired by Blair Trewin. Mark Hennessy has now taken over from Blair as convenor of the Committee. Blair expects to continue to be involved in the background but Mark is the central point of contact from now on.

Discussion at the meeting centred around planning for scheduled major events over the next few years. Refer to the document Major Events Roster, among the October Council meeting papers.

The following is based on Blair's notes:

1. It is expected that each of the larger Victorian clubs (BK, BG, DR, MF, NE, EU, YV, TK) will take on one of the four state championship events every second year, either on their own or in conjunction with another club. No firm commitments were made at the meeting but if you are a club representative you should think about your preferences soon. (BG expressed a preference for a 2014 event given their Easter commitments; they are willing to make an Easter 2013 map available to another club for a 2013 championship event, but noted that only the Monday map may be available due to access constraints on the other areas)
2. It is also expected that if a club on the list above is not doing a championship in any given year that they will do a State Series level event (assuming we keep the present structure, which we will for 2013). Offers for additional events will also be welcomed.
3. There was in principle support for the concepts of the **2015 Aus Champs carnival being in Ballarat and possibly Ararat/Stawell**, and **Easter 2018 in the Albury-Wodonga** region. One thing which needs to be clarified soon is whether we can access the Black Range area (our preferred Aus Long Champs area for 2015, but needs private land to be viable). Offers to do the legwork here will be welcomed.
4. It was agreed that a shorter hard navigation course than the current course 6, with a specific mandate to avoid areas which older orienteers have physical difficulty with (e.g. deep erosion), is needed as a matter of urgency. The two options are to introduce a new course or to shorten the existing course 6 (with some current course 6 classes moving to course 5). Debbie Dodd will follow up the feasibility of the latter.
5. There was discussion of harmonising A classes at the long, middle and sprint championships, although it was felt that possibly the older sprint classes would not be viable with 5-year age groups. It was also agreed to abolish M/W21E at the Long Championships.
6. There was some discussion of re-establishing a map register and/or setting up an online map repository (as is apparently done in SA)
7. **A controllers course and an SI course are expected to be run towards the end of this year or early next year.** More people qualified in both areas are needed. It was also suggested that a course-setters course was needed.
8. The idea was floated of moving to a Tasmanian-type structure for bush events, with only a few age class events and the remaining bush events run on a course/divisional basis (similar to street O). At present this is only a concept but may be worth discussing further for 2014.

Bush orienteering program for 2013

Refer to the October Council meeting paper draft schedule, kindly drawn up by Stephen Peacock. There remain substantial gaps in the program.

There has been discussion of a mini-series of a few low key Sunday bush events in March and early April, under the banner **Autumn in the Highlands**. Any clubs interested in offering to organise, course set or provide a map for an event in the higher country between Ballarat and Kilmore are most welcome. The aim is to offer orienteering at the start of the year, in cooler elevated areas, in preparation for Easter and the main season.

Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Mark Hennessy

PO Box 2098 Greenvale 3059

markhennessy@bigpond.com

Mobile 0419 559 129