

Bush Orienteering Committee Report to OV Board September 2013 – by Mark Hennessy

Decisions required:

- 1 2014 Bush Orienteering Program – the Board is asked to approve a further publication comprising a comprehensive (single sheet, two sided) calendar of bush events in Victoria in 2014, including club events organised by Bendigo, Eureka and Albury Wodonga.
- 2 2014 Orienteer of the Year - the Board is asked to approve the allocation of points per course and gender, but not for age groups for 2014.
- 3 The Board is asked to approve development work on a handicap/age scoring system for the 2014 season.
- 4 2015 Australian Championships Carnival – note progress is satisfactory.

Bush O program for 2014

A brochure promoting the 2014 Bush O State Series program was designed and distributed with Australian Orienteer. This is the first time that printed information about the bush orienteering season has been published by OV for several years. The document did not include any reference to club level bush O events conducted by Bendigo, Eureka or Albury Wodonga. This drew responses from some Bendigo members ranging from surprise to deeply felt disappointment. It is planned to develop a follow-up flyer for distribution early in 2014, to include as many bush events as possible. Margi Freemantle has offered to assist with advice on the graphic design of this flyer. The Bush O committee approved that registration should remain open to 12.30 pm, starts from 10 am to 1 pm, and courses may close from 2.30 pm. Clubs may extend these times for competitors, but not reduce them. Kathy Liley is coordinating training sessions for course setters in 2014.

State Series Results and Orienteer of the Year in 2014

A proposal was put to the October meeting of OV Council. Council approved in principle the change to offering State Series courses without age classes attached for the 2014 Bush Orienteering season, subject to members being invited to comment, through the weekly ONews. Responses were summarised by the convenor, Bush Orienteering Sub-committee, and forwarded to the Bush O committee prior to its recent meeting on Thursday 12 December.

The committee agreed to the change. Victorian Championships will continue to be awarded for each age class, as at present, but State Series events will have results according to course and gender only. This can be done from within Eventor. The Board might also like to add a mixed gender Power Walker category to one course.

The committee recommended reducing the number of different courses to 8.

Laurie Niven will submit a proposed course – distance table for 2014 to the December Board meeting.

The feedback indicated a desire from some respondents for recognition of age in relation to performance.

To accommodate this, Blair Trewin is preparing a version of the handicapping system that operates in the ACT, which could generate one overall Orienteer of the Year winner (or possibly two if we retain a gender split).

Blair is to consult further with Don Fell about this, as Don operates a handicap system for NE's annual club competition. Once the system is designed, we will need to find a statistician to implement it.

2014 NOL Event – Victoria, March 2014

Laurie Niven, with advice from Kathy Liley (OV Specialist Technical Advisor) is overseeing the appointment of course setters and controllers for this, and ensuring World Ranking Events requirements are met. The first bulletin is on track to be sent out this week, being 3 months before the events.

2015 Australian Championships Carnival

- Note the separate report by Mark Valentine on behalf of the organising committee following a recent meeting in Ballarat.
- Laurie Niven and Mark Hennessy have been progressing towards bedding down maps, mappers, organisers, advisers and course setters for all events (see table separate page). Once these are in place, responsibility for the carnival will be the responsibility of the organising committee.
- Blair Trewin kindly conducted a Survey Monkey regarding preferred format. Opinions were divided. Blair recommended that OA not provide direction, but delegate each state body to determine the format each year. A decision on the schedule needs to be made at the February 2014 OV strategic planning meeting. See attached details of events (separate page).
- A draft set of objectives for the carnival has been drawn up (see below) – this should be reviewed by Council in February, so that it can guide decisions about which events to include, scheduling of events, etc. Mark Hennessy is preparing an Event Plan, including draft schedule of events, for consideration by the February planning meeting. Neither the Carnival nor the Bush O committees will meet again before February.

Vision – 2015 Australian Championships Carnival – DRAFT ONLY, 17 December 2013

To offer an enjoyable and satisfying integrated 9 day carnival which attracts a large number of participants of a wide range of ages and abilities from Victoria and interstate, and sends them home happy and enthused about urban and bush orienteering.

Objectives

1. Conduct successful Australian Championships in Sprint, Middle, Long and Relay in accordance with OA rules and requirements.
2. Conduct successful Australian Schools Championships in Individual and Relay, and if practicable in Sprint; in accordance with OA and ASSOA rules and requirements.
3. Offer a fun social program for Schools team members.
4. Maximise overall participation and enjoyment of high standard orienteering courses and terrain, in both forest and urban environments.
5. Provide a program which allows adequate recovery, with the option of rest days especially for junior and elite competitors.
6. Work within the available organisational capacity of Victorian Orienteering and of the Carnival, without placing unwanted demands on any individual or club.
7. Generate a legacy for Victorian Orienteering in the form of documented expertise, new accessible maps, and financial dividends to clubs and to OV considering both the organisational effort expended and the preparedness of participants to pay for the experience.
8. Engage urban orienteers, and particularly regular street orienteers from Melbourne, into the national orienteering carnival.

2015 Australian Championships Carnival - Proposed event details **DRAFT ONLY 17 December 2013**

Required championships	Organiser	Event adviser	Course planner	Probable map	Map owner	Travel km ex Ballarat	Travel time to assembly	Mapper	New / existing / remap
Aust Long Championship	EU	Chris Norwood	Vacant	Chappell Flat	EU	20 NE	20 mins	Roch Prendergast	New map of old area
Aust Relays	NE	Kathy Liley	Vacant	Borhoney Ghurk	NE	35 SE	30 mins	Alex Tarr	Remap
Aust Middle	BK	Ted van Geldermalsen	Vacant	Petticoat Gully	EU	20 NE	20 mins	Eureka	Minor update
Aust Sprint	DR	Blair Trewin	Ian Dodd	SMB / SPC / BG	EU	1 km	5 mins	Roch Prendergast	New
Schools individual	Vacant	Mandy Hennessy	Aislinn Prendergast	Deep Creek	NE	50 km SE or NE	40 mins	Alex Tarr	Existing
Schools individual	Vacant	Mandy Hennessy	Aislinn Prendergast	Deep Creek	NE	50 km SE or NE	40 mins	Alex Tarr	Existing
Schools sprint	MFR	Mandy Hennessy	MFR	Mt Helen Campus	EU	1 - 3 km	5 - 10 mins	EU	Existing
Other optional events – yet to be determined which will be offered									
Midweek public race #1	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Deep Creek	NE	50 km	40 mins	Alex Tarr	Existing
Midweek public race # 2	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Deep Creek	NE	50 km	40 mins	Alex Tarr	Existing
Street O challenge	DROC	Urban committee	DROC	Ballarat streets	TBA	1 km	10 min	TBA	New
First weekend middle distance	YV?	Vacant	Geoff Adams?	Creswick Diggings?	YV	20 NE	20 mins	Alex Tarr	Remap