

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

Decisions required:

- 1 2014 Bush Orienteering Program – Council to consider approving the program as tabled by the Bush O Operations Coordinator.
- 2 2014 Orienteer of the Year - Council to consider approving the allocation of points per course and gender, but not for age groups for 2014 (see proposal below).
- 3 2015 Australian Championships Carnival – note developments so far. Progress is good.

Bush O program for 2014

Laurie Niven in her capacity as Operations Coordinator, Bush Orienteering has now completed version 6 of the calendar (to be sent separately), and will lead discussion on it at the Council meeting. This is a final version for approval by Council the October meeting.

Laurie Niven is working with Dennis Mews to develop a publication to promote the 2014 Bush O program.

Orienteer of the year in 2014 – proposal to award points per course and gender, but not per age class

There has been some discussion about awarding orienteer of the year points for men and for women for each course, but not for age classes at SS events next year, in an effort to improve participation and enjoyment, especially among young adult orienteers.

Six main benefits:

1. Many age classes have very few competitors (and some have none), except for the 50 to 70 age classes which are reasonably well populated (see graph of participants at Macedon 2013, at the end of this report).
2. Non-elite young adults do not have a welcoming class to compete in, and may not feel that there is a place in the sport for them.
3. Other popular forms of orienteering competition in Victoria do not have them and are thriving: street orienteering, MelBushO and Bendigo Saturday events.
4. People will be encouraged to compete at their own chosen level, rather than being corralled into a course based on their age. Many people already compete in a more difficult or easier age class than the recommended class.
5. This will obviate the need for minor classes, such as A Short, B Long etc.
6. This will simplify entry and results processing, and will not introduce any difficulties.

Other considerations

1. Competitors aged 50 to 69 may prefer to compete against their age group – however, the greater good should prevail.
2. Controllers need to nominate for which course their OY points will be allocated.
3. People who run in a course that is well below their ability level may need to be “graded”, so that they do not score points against competitors who are well below their ability level.
4. Points may need to be awarded from 100 downwards, instead of from 10 downwards as a present (ie use the street O scoring system). This rewards participation and completion of courses.

Proposal

It is proposed that:

1. Council approve in principle the change to awarding Orienteer of the Year points for each course and gender, but not for age classes, for the 2014 Bush Orienteering season, subject to the following conditions.
2. Members be invited to comment, through a brief (two or three questions) survey, to be distributed with the weekly ONews in the next two weeks.
3. Responses to be summarised by the convenor, Bush Orienteering Sub-committee, and forwarded to the Board by mid November
4. The Board to make a decision, either by email vote or at its next meeting, as to whether to proceed for 2014.
5. Course/class lists will be used as a guide to participants as to which course is considered appropriate for A grade orienteers of each age and gender. This will be the only use to which the course/class lists will be used, in addition to being a guide to course setters.
6. Victorian Championships will continue to be awarded for each age class, as at present.
7. The system to be reviewed and evaluated by the Bush O Sub-Committee at the end of the 2014 Bush O season.

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.

2015 Australian Championships Carnival

- The organising committee has met twice, most recently between rain showers at Vic Relays. Both were joint meetings the Bush O Sub-Committee.
- Laurie Niven and Mark Hennessy have been working to appoint course setters and controllers for each event (see table separate page). Once these are in place, responsibility for the carnival will be the responsibility of the organising committee. Key people have been heavily committed up to end of September, so the organising committee has not been able to take up the reins fully thus far. The committee is expected to have its next meeting in Ballarat on the Sprint Championships weekend.
- Aislinn Prendergast has volunteered to be OV's organiser of the Australian Secondary Schools Championships Carnival. Steve Bird and Nicky Stevens have agreed to act as advisors to Aislinn during the coming months.

Note:

- 1 There are divergent views about which events should be offered, and when. It is recommended that some simple but quantitative market research be undertaken, by OV and/or OA, to ascertain potential competitor preferences and to try to attract the greatest numbers to come to Ballarat and compete, subject to OA and ASSOA requirements. A decision on the schedule needs to be finalised in the first half of 2014. See attached details of events (separate page)
- 2 The Australian Long Championships will be held in Creswick Forest and the Australian Relays are likely to be at Borhoney Ghurk, subject to advice of the technical controllers. Eureka and Nillumbik Emus are likely to organise these two events.
- 3 Creswick forest has been embargoed from Brown Hill in the south to the Creswick Dean Road in the north. Borhoney Ghurk has been embargoed. Embargoes will be refined subject to requirements.
- 4 The Australian Sprint Championships will be held on a new urban map subject to the advice of the technical controller, and mapped by Eureka.
- 5 Areas for the schools championships and the Australian Distance Middle Championships will be determined later, noting that there is plenty of suitable forest terrain near Ballarat for Schools individual and relays, and for Australian Middle.
- 6 Accommodation for states' schools teams has been booked at Welcome Stranger Caravan Park (Scotts Parade, Ballarat East), based on a recommendation from Mandy Hennessy. Mandy suggests we would book out the whole park.
- 7 A draft set of objectives for the carnival has been drawn up – this should be reviewed by Council in February, so that it can guide decisions about which events to include, scheduling of events, and financial decisions including entry fees.

Dates

Friday 25 September	Schools arrive
Saturday 26 September 2015	Event
Sunday 27 September	Event
Monday 28 September	Rest / cultural / recreational activities
Tuesday 15 September	Schools event + public race
Wednesday 16 September	Schools event + public race
Thursday	Schools rest or sprint / public street O
Friday 2 October	Event
Saturday 3 October	Event
Sunday 4 October	Event

Vision – 2015 Australian Championships Carnival – DRAFT ONLY, October 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 Champs 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 commensurate with the 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 October 2013**

Required championships	Organiser	Controller	Course planner	Probable map	Map owner	Travel km ex Ballarat	Travel time to assembly	Mapper	New / existing / remap
Aust Long Champ'ship	Eureka	Chris Norwood	Vacant	CF	EU	20 NE	20 mins	Roch Prendergast	New map of old area
Aust Relays	Nillumbik Emus	Kathy Liley	Vacant	BG	NE	35 SE	30 mins	Alex Tarr	Remap
Aust Middle	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	SC	EU	20 NE	20 mins	Eureka	Minor update
Aust Sprint	EU + DR	Blair Trewin	Vacant	SMB or BG	EU	1 km	5 mins	Eureka	New
Schools individual	Vacant	Mandy Hennessy	Vacant	BA or DC	NE	50 km SE or NE	40 mins	Alex Tarr	New or existing
Schools individual	Vacant	Mandy Hennessy	Vacant	BA or DC	NE	50 km SE or NE	40 mins	Alex Tarr	New or existing
Other optional events – yet to be determined which will be offered									
Midweek public race #1	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	BA or DC	NE	50 km	40 mins	Alex Tarr	New or existing
Midweek public race # 2	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	BA or DC	NE	50 km	40 mins	Alex Tarr	New or existing
Schools sprint	MFR	Mandy Hennessy	SH or combined with Aust Sprint			1 - 3 km	5 - 10 mins	TBA	TBA
Street O challenge	DROC	Urban committee	DROC	TBA	TBA	1 km	10 min	TBA	New
First weekend middle distance	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	CD	YV	20 NE	20 mins	Alex Tarr	Remap