

Urban Orienteering Subcommittee Report – March 2014

Orienteering Victoria Board Meeting

OVERALL STATUS	Business as usual
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ACTIVITIES & PLANS

1. PAS Summer Series 2013/14

The summer series is into its final week. Overall attendances averaged 360 (20 lower than previous year)

- Monday – 72 (78 last year)
- Tuesday – 87 (98 last year)
- Wednesday – 135 (155 last year)
- Thursday – 63 (49 last year)

No doubt the unseasonably cold wet start to summer, followed by the extreme heat of January, had an effect. The Subcommittee has asked Ray Howe to undertake some analysis for discussion at the May UOC meeting, which will provide focus for targeted marketing efforts next year.

Various scout groups have also been attending events in February. Because they are counted as groups (eg 40 scouts may be represented as 8 attendees), participation numbers at these events have actually been higher than results indicate. Volunteers have done a great job getting them briefed and organised, in particular Ian Dodd and Peter Yeates.

The Park and Street Championships were again very successful. The map and course at Kensington were high quality and suitably challenging. Congratulations to the medallists, and the Subcommittee would like to record its particular thanks to Bryan Ackerley, John and Jenny Sheahan, Vic Sedunary, Ray Howe and the organising team. Geelong and Macedon series each produced finalists this year. Initial planning is underway for 2015.

The Casey-Kingston series ran for 9 weeks with 5 new maps included. Sixty five newcomers took part in the series, and regular orienteers enjoyed the new areas and did not appear to mind the extra travel. Project officer Greg Andrews produced flyers for local distribution, and advertised in local papers and on social media. Greg also produced a weekly report and results for the series website, and hosted the events and liaised with newcomers.

Geelong series – average attendance was 36, down from 44 last year. There will be no winter Geelong series this year, and the coordinators have flagged the possibility of discontinuing the summer series unless new volunteers can be found. The Saturday Surf Coast series was popular with attendance again averaging 44.

Macedon series – one event was cancelled due to high fire risk. Attendance averaged 15, which was slightly down on last year.

The main Awards Night on March 19 will see presentations for Monday and Wednesday series placegetters, announcement of Course Setter of the Year, awarding of Championship medallions, and induction of four new Legends amongst the Millennium Club awards. MEFTY winner Noel McVey was asked to judge CSOTY.

2. Schools Competition

The Schools competition in February was very successful and well attended, with Trinity Grammar joining Scotch College and Camberwell Boys Grammar. Scotch and Camberwell each organised an event, and Scotch again won the overall trophy. The competition was coordinated by Jon Gordon, and we would like to thank him and all the teachers and students involved.

3. Winter Series

The winter fixture has been published, and the Subcommittee thanks Marta Salek and the fixtures team for another great job. Katherine Dent once again designed the very eye-catching cover. Websites are currently being updated. Maps were selected using a structured approach that focused on under-utilised areas. Sunday events comprise four EndurOs and a RadiO. A point of interest – ACT is using the Melbourne EndurO format this year.

4. Sprint Into Spring series

Map selection is well underway with permission currently being sought from landowners before finalising choices. Mapping will be carried out by Aaron Dodd, Fredrick Johansson, Geoff Adams and Ted van Geldermalsen. Greg Tamblyn is mapping Deakin at Geelong for the Championships.

The organising team attended New Zealand's Sprint the Bay series, and learned a lot about maximising use of small areas. Jim Russell has offered to supply and coordinate O-Lynx and radio controls, and DR has purchased O-Lynx Touch, to allow “dip and run” registration via SI stick.

ISSUES, CONCERNS AND RISKS

Nil.

Margi Freemantle & Debbie Dodd
Co-Chairs of Urban Orienteering Committee