

## Bush Orienteering - June 2017

### 2018 Victorian Fixture:

A gang of three (or four) has been working on some proposals. There are now three documents for the orienteering community to consider:

- A situation analysis; (NB LN)
- A list of potential formats for events or series; and (NB)
- A set of five hypothetical fixtures. (NB, LN, TvG)

A pdf of each has been included with this report. The next step is finding a degree of consensus as guidance for the forming of the fixture. Three processes have been suggested:

- Another Strategy Day;
- Using an on-line collaborative tool (Martin Cozma has set up three and I have decided HipChat is the most likely tool after some playing in each space); or
- Asking clubs (and potentially like-minded cross-club groups) to respond to the papers within a deadline.

Of the three, I favour the last. The Strategy Day in Bendigo didn't produce much clarity and I fear a repeat would produce the same degree of clarity. The use of an on-line collaborative space runs the same risks of noise overwhelming clarity. Asking for a response from clubs will provide the clearest guidance for Laurie in the coming fixturing. This Council meeting is the start of that process. I suggest that rather than discuss in detail at the Council, clubs take the papers to their own meetings to discuss and then report back to Laurie and myself.

The key question in the fixturing is not the demand for events, but the willingness to supply events. The discussion papers are a means of stimulating thinking about alternative events that might be supplied. I have indicated space for others to provide a supply response partly outside the club framework. I am aware of two concepts that have been discussed privately. Nothing may come of these ideas, but we should leave space such proposals.

### Oceania 2019 - terrain

Victoria has been allocated responsibility for two events in the 2019 National fixture- the Oceania Middle and Long. These need to be located in North East Victoria, preferably close to Wangaratta who have been brought in as an event sponsor prior to my involvement in this process.

The Victorian events are now on the first weekend of the carnival due to a large country music festival in Wagga the same weekend. It was felt inadvisable to have events in Wagga that weekend. Orienteers would be competing with music fans for limited accommodation, and also risking exposure to country music.

I have been visiting and assessing terrain options. The key issue is not terrain but rather assembly and parking options.

- **Kangaroo Crossing**. The only sure option in the mix at the moment. YV has gained access to adjoining private land in the past and it is reasonable to expect this will be available in the

future. The main risk is wet weather. There would need to be a fall back parking option. I have identified the Eldorado Recreation Reserve. This has been used in the past for rogaines and I have been told by a local resident there is some enthusiasm for it to be used for other events. Presumably a parking fee would boost the coffers of the reserve committee. A bus service would be required. In very wet weather the Rec Reserve may also be boggy, but parking would be possible along the streets of Eldorado, though some local liaison would be required beforehand. Given the suitability of this terrain for a long, the remaining question is a venue for a middle event.

- Barambogie. Advice from Greg Tamblyn is that there is no wet-weather secure parking around the map. The obvious solution would be to bus inform Eldorado. I have identified a suitable assembly area on the south west corner of the map. It has bus turning and a good site for an assembly. The assembly is on DELWP land and is used for army and school camps, so there could be no concern about our impact on the area. The use of this map would transform the Eldorado Rec Reserve Parking option from a fall back to a first option.
- Eldorado South. There is an area of private land adjacent to Kangaroo Crossing that hosts some granite terrain. I have not investigated this.
- Eldorado. If we decide to use the Eldorado Recreation Reserve, the obvious question is whether a middle distance could be based there. There is suitable terrain. The hills to the north have quality granite and the area is runnable, though steep in parts. There is moderate mining terrain on either side of the creek. The main issue is the feasibility of course setting if there is high water in Reedy Creek. This leaves only one crossing of the river, a suspension bridge at the other end of the town from the rec reserve. This needs further investigation.
- Beechworth Correctional Centre land. Leigh Privett has suggested this would be suitable terrain with a good chance of a permit. Leigh is a friend of someone in management there.
- Beechworth Gorge. This has been suggested. I am wary of the area due to its steepness. However it has the potential attraction of better parking. This proposition needs to be tested.
- **Rowdy Flat**. Advice from Alex is that it is not mappable using the new ISOM 2017 specification.
- **Warby Spurs**. There are no feasible parking areas on the map. I had discussions with the owner of an adjoining property. Beautiful setting. But an issue with wet weather again. She described "losing" a tractor on the paddock that looks like a parking area. Orienteers would need to be bussed in (perhaps from Wang) if there is any chance of wet weather. Further problems with phytophthora. I have had a long discussion with the ranger for the area. The known area of the fungal infection has spread since the last Oceania Champs on this map in 2011. He could not give a clear go-ahead about an event on the map but would have to confer with biodiversity expertise. Even if we could use the area outside the known infections, my judgement is that course setting would be compromised.
- **Jubilee**. South of Warby Spurs. Not mapped since 1980s. The fungus is even more rampant here. Not feasible.
- **Clear Creek** is a large area of big granite across Reedy Creek from Kangaroo Crossing. Big spurs suited to long rather than middle. As Kangaroo Crossing is suited for a long event, I see no reason to consider this area.

**In summary, I see four potential options for Oceania weekend:**

- **Kangaroo Crossing-Barambogie**

- **Kangaroo Crossing-something new at Eldorado**
- **Kangaroo Crossing-something new at Beechworth**
- **Kangaroo Crossing-Beechworth Gorge**

I will be making my third trip to the area this Friday. I will be meeting Leigh to be given a tour of the Beechworth options and will also make some more exploration of Eldorado. I also plan to visit City of Wangaratta offices to check on competing events on the latest choice for the Oceania weekend. Needless to say, I will probably be able to attend the Council meeting.

### Oceania – mapping

We may need to fund a new map. I am going to propose that **any new map be funded by OV**, as I doubt there will be club interest in such an investment. As of 2018 all IOF events will require maps in the new ISOM 2017 specification. This means any existing map will need to be redrafted to the new specifications. As a first position I suggest that any upgrade to an existing map would be funded by the club that owns the map.

I need to discuss availability with Alex.

The other issue is the availability of lidar data for mapping. This may decide which areas are actually feasible for new mapping. I have been informed that the area around Beechworth has just been flown. I do not know how long it would be until this data becomes available. I will have to investigate availability for Eldorado.

### Oceania 2019 Event Organiser

This initial preparatory work **should not be taken as an indication that I am volunteering for the role of Event Organiser**. I will volunteer for a day controller if that is needed. I probably need the task to maintain my accreditation.

I recommend the following process for securing an organiser(s).

- Call for expressions of interest with a relatively short deadline.
- When there is no response call for expressions of interest to tender for the position of organiser for one or both days.

**In other words – we pay to obtain an organiser** as was the case in NZ this year. I have not discussed this with our ACT colleagues. I do not know if their organiser is remunerated. This may create some discomfort if he is not.