

Victorian MTBO Report – March 2017

Prepared by Peter Cusworth

Summer 75 Series

This year we ran 4 events with attendances all around the mid 50s. There seemed to be lots of new faces and a number of young riders heading around with a parent. Great to see.

As in previous years, events were run on Saturday evenings starting at 6pm, basically every 2 weeks from late January to late February.

Events were run at Lysterfield (BK), Westerfolds (YV), Woodlands (NE/TK), and a new map at Mt Evelyn (BK). Thanks to Geoff Hudson and Greg Tamblyn who set up a new computer system using OE Score software enabling us to run SportIdent timing for the first time.

Thanks to all of the organisers and course setters: Carolyn Jackson, Peter Cusworth, Rob Edmonds, Keith Wade, Peta Whitford and Alex Randall and the many club members who lent a hand on the day with the events. Thanks also to Carolyn Cusworth for overseeing the barbecue management and to all of those people who helped with it at the events. Thanks to Ralph and Sandy Koch who brought along the Loan Mapboards to each event, with Ralph even sacrificing his ride so he could manage that task.

2017 Victorian MTBO Championships

The weekend of 18-19 March saw the running of the 2017 Victorian MTBO Champs at Ballarat and nearby Barkstead. The weather was fine and a bit hot with dry and fast riding conditions.

Saturday saw the Sprint and Middle races held at Woovookarung (formerly Canadian Forest), and the long at Barkstead on Sunday morning.

Congratulations and many thanks to the Eureka Orienteers who organised and ran all three races – a big undertaking for a small MTBO club. A big thanks to key organisers Blake Gordon and Mark Valentine; course setters: Toby Cooper (Sprint), Mark Valentine (Middle) and Ken & Anitra Dowling (Long) – Controllers: Jon Sutcliffe and Blake Gordon – SportIdent: Ian Chennell, and all of the extra people that helped out over the weekend.

Australian Team selections

The Victorian Champs were also selection races for this year's Australian MTBO team.

Congratulations to those selected for the World Champs in Lithuania in August:

Elite Men: Ricky Thackray (WA), **Angus Robinson (Vic)**, **Glen Charlton (NSW but residing in Vic)**

Junior Women: Lucy Mackie (NSW)

Junior Men: Fergus Mackie (NSW)

Coach is Kay Haarsma (SA). Manager: Hamish Mackie (NSW).

Marina Iskhakova (NSW) was also selected to race the World Cup in France in July.

Next event

The next Victorian MTBO event is the first of the Vic MTBO Series at Anglesea on Sunday 28 May run by BK.

Parks Vic permits

I'd like the board to acknowledge the fantastic work done by Laurie Niven in preparing event permit applications for Parks Vic areas and liaising and negotiating with their new central permit team. It has certainly made the job of event organisers easier. The new central systems seems to have cut down on duplication.