

MTBO August Report to VOA Board Meeting.

1. Since previous reports no Vic Series events have been held due to winter (wet) conditions of forest tracks.
2. **Secondary Schools Championships** were held at Lysterfield on 12th August.
 - a. 173 number of students entered. 63 Girls and 110 Boys.
 - b. Compared to 2015 this is an additional 33 riders.
 - c. New schools participating included : St Leonard's College, St Paul's AGS, Girton Grammar, Creek Street CC, Melbourne HS
 - d. Existing schools increasing their participation numbers are: Koo Wee Rup SC and Woodleigh College.
3. **Concerns**
 - a. There are big concerns regarding the upcoming event at Daylesford run by Bayside Kangaroos due to costs of permits required. We need to organise permits with both Parks Vic and Hancocks Plantations. In previous years we have not had to pay Hancocks. Now they are asking for \$150.00. That cost with Park Vic's payment of \$123.00, levies and the need to hire a toilet will mean it will be virtually impossible to cover costs without a LARGE increase in fees for participants.
 - b. **This Concern affects not just the Daylesford map but also other maps in the area as well. The MTBO Committee and its Clubs formally request the Board of Orienteering Victoria to obtain advice from Warwick Williams (HVP) as to minimizing the permit payments required for Hancocks Plantations. This will apply to both MTBO and Foot Orienteering. HVP charge both a permit fee plus a per head competitor fee. WW had indicated he could advise on reducing one of these.**

Action required
4. **Use of funding for Women and girls promotion.**
 - a. Kay Haarsma (OA participation grant) obtained funding for the promotion of girls and women in MTBO for a two year period. Brochures were given to all girls at the 2016 Schools Champs with information about upcoming events and coaching sessions to be organized in conjunction with the Summer Series in 2017. (Finding people able to run sessions later in this year has been problematic.)
 - b. Plans are progressing to support a women's training day, in November, in the Ballarat area using Canadian Forest and promoted through 'dirt girls club' based in Ballarat and Geelong as well as via social media.
5. The Australian MTBO team of 3 did extremely well under the coaching of Carolyn Jackson. While there were no Victorians this year, Lucy Mackie (NSW) had a 5th place podium finish, Fergus Mackie (NSW) achieved two top twenty finishes – a wonderful result for a 16 year old, and Ricky Thackray (WA) had his best result so far.