

# PUNCHLINE

## Dandenong Ranges Orienteering Club Inc

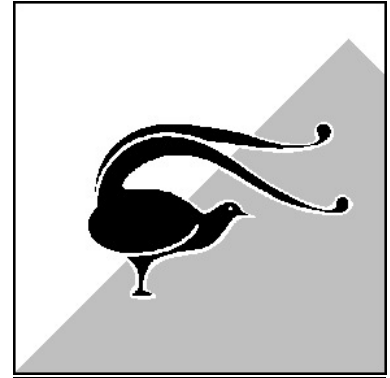
www.droc.orienteering.com.au

Incorporated Association Registered Number A0003225B ABN 76 002 329 218

### NEWSLETTER

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## Issue Number 145

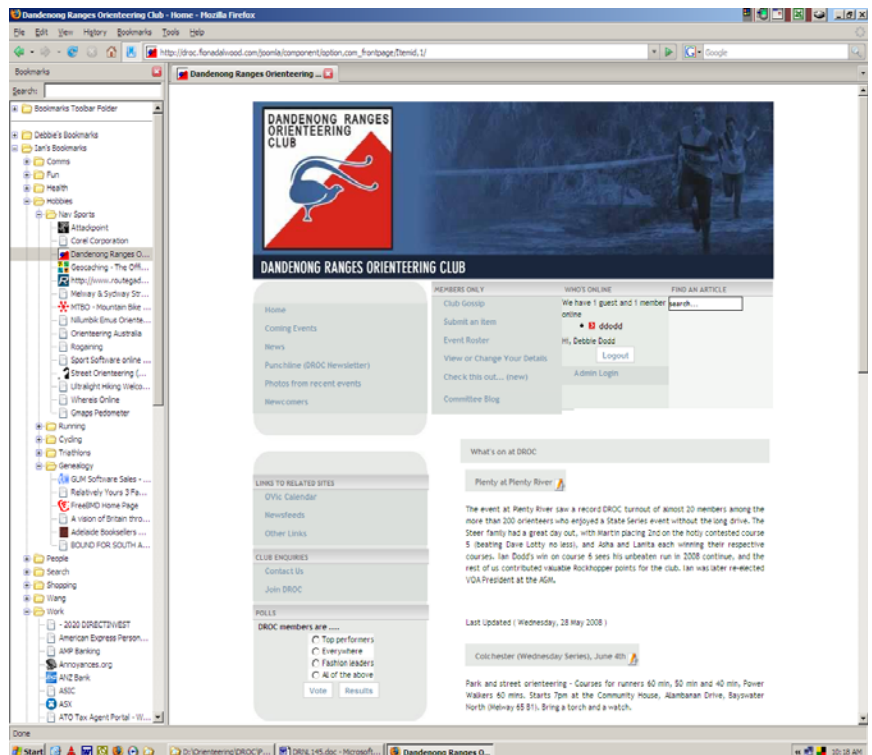
June 2008

### DROC WEBSITE RELAUNCHED - [www.droc.orienteering.com.au](http://www.droc.orienteering.com.au)

Have you signed up at our new website yet? Peter Dalwood has given the site a completely new look and feel. There's plenty of information for newcomers, and a special section for Members (ie YOU!) Email [debiandodd@inet.net.au](mailto:debiandodd@inet.net.au) to register for your password.

The site features Coming Events, Photos, an online version of Punchline, Latest News, and much more. In the Members section you can check out the latest club doings, submit a news item or post to a forum, and check to see who's course setting.

Please give us any suggestions for additions to the site, and remember you can submit your own news items, club gossip etc. The site is designed to be a forum for YOU, so start publishing!



### TRAILWALKERS

Congratulations to our highly successful Trailwalkers! Karen Pate and Greg Robinson put in a fantastic performance to finish in 9<sup>th</sup> place, overtaking a number of teams in the final stages. The DROC Delirium team beat their target time of 24 hours and finished in the top 100 - read their story inside.

### DIARY DATES

August 31 - our next major event is Koomba Park. Choice of three mass start times, 3 scatter/line and PW score courses, all with map changeovers. Start from Abbey Walk, Vermont South. Details on our website!

June 18 - next Club meeting, after the Wednesday event, 8.30pm at the Dodds residence, 4/65 Blackburn Rd, Blackburn (please park in Wellington Ave nearby).

*PREZ SEZ - Peter Hobbs*

Those that attended the DROC Christmas-O dinner after the Camberwell event on December 19th would recall that Ian Greenwood was awarded a DROC life membership just prior to dessert time. It was fortuitous that Ian attended as he was not aware he was receiving the award, had been unwell during the day and did not compete in the event; coming along to only to enjoy the dinner and fine summer evening, including staging a hoax sprint to the finish to heckle rival Ray Howe. For those of you who did not attend or who do not know Ian very well, it recently occurred to me that you would not know the background to his nomination for life membership. Allow me to elaborate.

Through a combination of DROC members' stories, material from DROC archives and my own personal anecdotes, a citation accompanying Ian's life membership might read:

"A Ray Martin look-alike, Ian Greenwood attended his first street orienteering event in c1988. Competing regularly through the remainder of the 80s and into the early 90s, Ian became a regular face competing in C grade along with other wily regulars such as Randall Boyce, Michael Wonder, Mal Shield, Euan Ramsay, and Nikki Blanchfield, as well as current participants, Martin Steer, Phil Torode, Vic Sedunary, Graham Wallis, Peter Dalwood, Mark and Belinda Phillips, Mark Besley, Stan Gurman, Rachel and Janet Johnson and yours truly, to name a few.

During this time DROC's prospects were heading southward. In 1990 a motion to amalgamate with Red Kangaroos Orienteering Club was narrowly defeated. A caretaker committee was appointed and records suggest the club had no elected president or vice-president between 1991 and 1993. Membership was down, fewer events were being organised and the club was seemingly treading water whilst longing for a new direction. Ian joined the club in 1993. A survey handed out to orienteers towards the end of, what was thought to be the 1994/95 summer series, yielded a one and a half page response from Ian, featuring a myriad of advice as to how street-O could be improved. Wally Cavill took the presidency in 1994 before Ian put his hand up for the position in 1995. Through Ian's presidency the club was guided out of the wilderness to register a growing membership base, a resurgence in the production of high quality street orienteering maps - several of which were drawn by Ian - and a rise in the number of DROC events being held. Needless to say, the club saw out the 1990s in a much healthier position than what it had begun them with. Ian held the presidency until handing it over to another equally capable Ian - Ian Dodd - in 2003.

From a more personal view point, I recall the committee meeting during mid-2007 when the concept of Ian being awarded life membership was tabled. The motion was unanimously passed with members recounting numerous stories and examples of Ian's valuable contribution to the club and orienteering generally. Beginning orienteering when I was 12 and, of course, not being able to drive, I was usually chauffeured to events by Phil Torode who lived around the corner from me in Mitcham. On many occasions however, when Phil was not going to an event, Ian, who lived in Park Orchards, would go out of his way to pick me up and drop me home again. On one occasion prior to an event in the Greensborough direction, Ian had been held up at work and called to advise of a modified pickup plan. Speaking to my mum, a plan was devised for her to drop me at the Wantirna Road shops, near the top of the hill, ready for a swift 6pm drive-by pickup. The plan worked like clockwork and we made it to the event. On another occasion, 20th March 1999, Ian organised a 'Birthday-O' to celebrate his 40th birthday. The course consisted of a score event (interestingly, including 5 mystery controls whose location could be found only through correct interpretation of cryptic clues) using the Park Orchards map followed by a barbeque and drinks evening.

No matter which way you look at it Ian's contributions to the club over a long period of time make his inclusion as a DROC life member highly deserved and fitting".

The citation was not supposed to be so long, however it is difficult to fit 20 years into half a page!

Happy orienteering,

Peter Hobbs.

**SmokeFree**



Fifteen enthusiastic members got together to practice the basics of mapping in OCAD, and the nuts and bolts of converting maps from Corel. This will be a great boost to our map conversion program, as a wider base of people become proficient with OCAD. The attendees were all assigned a map to work on, so the next few months should see this project well on the way to completion. The next stage will be to run some basic level sessions on using OCAD for course setting. In the meantime, if you would like some tutoring with mapping, contact Pam King and she'll set you up with one of our resident experts.

A huge thanks to Wally Cavill, Peter Dalwood and Pam King for all their hard work in preparing and organising this valuable workshop, which will produce a great outcome for the club's mapping program

### *WHO'S DOING WHAT - MEMBER NEWS*

Membership fees for 2008 were due on January 1. If you haven't paid yet, please complete your membership form and forward it together with your fee, to Debbie Dodd. If you've lost your form, you can download one from our website - [www.droc.orienteering.com.au](http://www.droc.orienteering.com.au)

*AGE BUSTERS* - Dale and Ray Howe were Age Busters at the Nail Can Hill run in Albury (ie completed the run in a time lower than their age - no mean feat over 11 km of hill running!)

*RUN FOR THE KIDS* - Judy Hopkins, Reg Saunders, Louise Hall (and possibly others?) completed the Run for the Kids in April.

*HORSING AROUND* - Ian and Debbie Dodd tackled the inaugural Horsing Around - Whitehorse Sustainable Transport Challenge. In an event perfect for orienteers, they took out first place. Using a map and solving cryptic clues to get to checkpoints scattered around the municipality, they travelled by foot, train, tram and bus. They clocked up 30 kms in 4 hours, 15 km of them walking. The frequency of the trams and buses was a pleasant surprise (or was it just their superior planning skills??)

### *LETTER TO THE EDITOR -*

Dear Punchline Newsletter Editor,

I read the material on the misadventures of Ian James in the March 2008 Newsletter with great interest. One thing that caught my eye was the comment "heading eastward, towards Croydon Hills" in the Prez Sez piece. Ian should take solace in the fact that he has surpassed the club record for late penalty score....something he set back in August 2001 at the Croydon Hills event !

On another matter, if you are looking for material to include in the newsletter, perhaps you could run a segment on 'Lost & Found' or "Where are they now ?"

cheers,

Mark Korvin, retired street-O competitor

ps if the club is considering awards, can I please nominate Ian for "most consistent performer" :-)

## *MT ROBERTSON DUO*

Graham Wallis had the competitors well and truly bamboozled as they looked at their maps at the start of the Duo (Run-Ride-Run) at Mt Robertson, but they eventually took off in all directions. A scatter course on foot was followed by a line course on the bike, then a short run through the last few controls to finish. For once the sun shone on a DROC mountain bike event, and the perfect conditions were enjoyed by all. We were able to award some great prizes (if you haven't yet taken

advantage of the bargains on outdoor gear at the Gasmate Factory, Lionel Rd, Mt Waverly, you are missing out!) Huge thanks to Graham for course setting and organising, and for mapping assistants Phil Torode and Peter Dalwood. We appreciated Yarra Valley's generosity in making the map available, and the efforts of the volunteers on the day, who have a tough task keeping track of everyone's split times as they come through the transition and map change.

### CLUB CONTACTS

For information about, or assistance with EVENTS (first event vouchers, transport, equipment loan, newcomer information kits, informal coaching etc) contact:

Ian Dodd      tel: 9878 9168      email: [debiandodd@inet.net.au](mailto:debiandodd@inet.net.au), or  
Peter Yeates   tel: 9725 4612      email: [yeatespi@aol.com](mailto:yeatespi@aol.com)

For CLUB CLOTHING (running and bike tops, and fleece jackets and vests) contact:

Peter Yeates   tel: 9725 4612      email: [yeatespi@aol.com](mailto:yeatespi@aol.com)

For MAPS AND COURSE SETTING enquiries, contact:

Pam King      tel: 5968 3076   email: [pamela.king@haileybury.vic.edu.au](mailto:pamela.king@haileybury.vic.edu.au)

For MEMBERSHIP and NEWSLETTER enquiries, contact:

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## *HACKSAWS, BOLTCUTTERS, HAMMERS, CHISELS and CONTROL #19 - by Ray Howe*

It's Thursday 21st February, 2008 and The Howes have set the Mount Eagle course for the Northern Street-O Series. The event is nearing completion and volunteers have collected keys and embarked on the collection of the controls. At about 8:30pm when all competitors have returned and most controls are collected, Martin, a volunteer control collector, sprints in and announces that his key would not open the lock on control #19. This is unusual and is promptly dismissed as a lack of familiarity with DROC equipment. Ray and Dale (R&D) release Martin from his commitment and arrange to collect controls #11 and #19 on their way home.

R&D depart the Yarra Flats car park and proceed to the southern part of the map. Control #11 is situated in the park near the Yarra River and requires a jog across open ground in the dark for its collection. On arrival, Ray inserts the key into the lock and as expected, it unlocks. The control plates and chains are wrapped up and quickly conveyed back to the car. No problems. What was Martin on about? Control #19 will be the same.

Control #19 was placed on a lamp post at the end of a small court of six houses. On arrival Dale jumps out and places the key into the lock but is surprised to find that the lock does not open. Two or three additional wriggles and twists coupled with a mandatory shake prove unproductive resulting in the following scintillating dialogue between husband and wife of thirty-eight years:

Dale calls to Ray: "The key doesn't open this lock." Ray replies with considered wisdom: "Wriggle the key about a bit." Dale responds diplomatically: "You don't think I've tried that." Ray changes the tone by offering a new but subtle strategy: "Try another key, dear." Dale systematically tries ten keys without success and then confidently announces that: "No key opens this lock." Ray intolerantly replies: "Don't be silly dear, one key must work. Let me have a go."

Ray expertly tries all the keys again and is embarrassed to find that no key opens the lock. This operation has taken at least 15 minutes and has generated some interest from a male occupant who has been observing the activities from the front window of the house adjacent to the lamp post. Understandably he must be wondering why two people would jump out of a car at night and take a serious interest in the base of a lamp post outside his residence.

Meanwhile, R&D conclude that this is a rogue lock and can only be opened by keys from a second set that used to be included with the key sets. They

drive home to ring Ian Dodd. He will have such keys and Ray will come back tomorrow evening to collect Control #19. It's about 9:30pm when Ray rings Ian and is delighted that Ian agrees with the proposed resolution of the Control #19 crisis and is more delighted when Ian confirms that he has these other keys in his garage. Ray suggests that as Ian only lives 5 minutes away, he will immediately drive over, collect the key and as it will only take another 20 minutes to drive back to Control #19, he will complete the task tonight rather than return tomorrow.

After spending 10 minutes ringing the front door bell of the equivalent unit to the Dodds in the neighbouring property, Ray realizes the error of his ways when the occupants of the property do not answer the door and he is forced to return to his car only to notice that the adjacent property looks familiar. Ray proceeds to Unit 4 in this adjacent property and is greeted by Ian who presents him with the important new key. However Ray is a little bemused by the additional advice tendered by the VOA President that Ray should also take Ian's hacksaw as a backup tactic. Ray politely accepts this offer but is skeptical of the need to use such a crude implement to release Control #19.

Ray drives back to the crisis scene arriving at about 10:15pm and finds that the curious occupant of the property adjacent to Control #19 has now set up a telescope on the front balcony overlooking Control #19 and is busily studying the grandeur of the night sky.

Undeterred, Ray parks the car, jumps out with the key in hand and inserts it into the rogue lock. Ray is expecting a quick collection of the lock, chain and control plates followed by an equally quick escape and so avoiding any further embarrassment associated with the presence of the local resident. Alas, shock and horror, the key does not open the lock, even with additional wriggles, twists and a shake.

Ray is now faced with a prolonged effort of using Ian's backup strategy: "Use the hacksaw Ray". This will undoubtedly stir the curiosity of the local astronomer. However it has to be done, so Ray starts hacking at a link in the chain and after 5 minutes an inspection of progress reveals that Ray has attacked a link outside the loop of chain around the post. Further embarrassment for Ray but he is calmed by the fact that no-one will ever know! (till now, anyway - ed) A further 10 minutes of hacking at a more appropriate link produces an effect that by the most optimistic estimates suggests that this procedure could be completed by about 4 am. There must be a better method and besides, the

astronomer will have alerted the local constabulary long before then. Ray returns home at about 11:30pm and contemplates other solutions while finally devouring dinner which had been scheduled for 8:30pm.

Ray is up early the next morning, a quick breakfast, fills the car boot with hammers, chisels, pliers, axes etc and that old rock in the corner of garage might be handy. Ray arrives at his workplace for the day, Moonee Valley Racecourse where supervision of the Firemans' Exam is the task. Ray greets fellow supervisors, checks the furniture, checks the clocks, counts exam booklets etc., but is still wondering how will Control #19 be set free?

Morning session finishes and the supervisors gather in the backroom for lunch. Ray reveals last night's unresolved crisis and longtime mate Bruce says problem over: "Use my bolt-cutters". Ray's hopes are raised again. So at the agreed 7:30pm Ray arrives at Bruce's place in Montmorency but must endure a humorous perspective on the Control #19 saga before being presented with a medium size set of bolt-cutters.

Ray arrives back Control #19 at 8:30pm, 28 hours after initially locking the control plates in position. Fortunately the astronomer is not on duty tonight and the property appears to be in complete darkness. Ray feels relieved that he should not have to explain why he has bolt-cutters in his presence given his loitering in the court on two different occasions the previous night.

Ray parks the car and expects to execute a swift and successful assault on the lock or chain of Control #19 without the interference of a local or being reported to the police by the residents of the court. However just as Ray lifts the bolt-cutters from the car boot a 4WD swings around the corner and shines its lights directly on Ray. After an uncomfortable ten seconds in the spotlight, the 4WD disappears into a driveway and the question arises - Will they ring the police?

### *MICROCHIPS - by Ian Davies*

I have great admiration for Geoff's RFID timing system though I hear that he still has a few issues - the cost of the tags and problems with a few of our older members having a senior moment, & school kids through neglect losing their tags.

I was doing a quick internet search the other day and turned up some interesting ideas which Geoff might like to take further. You can get these RFID tags IMPLANTED. Just imagine that, impossible to lose. In fact I understand that Geoff has already taken the lead in this area, he recently had one of the members of his family fitted with an RFID chip. Apparently there was barely a whimper during the procedure & all indignity was forgiven after Geoff passed over a dog biscuit (I suppose dog biscuits are a medium of exchange in the Hudson household. I see a similar effect with my kids when I give them the weekly \$2 pocket money, choose the right moment & all is forgiven). *Memo: Check all food proffered by members of Hudson clan before placing in mouth.*

Ray hastily locates a suitable link in the chain and positions the bolt-cutters for the breakthrough cut only to find that the link is too thick to accommodate the bolt-cutters. Damn! Try the lock - also too thick. Damn again! The bolt-cutters are useless. Ray's hopes are dashed again and added to his woes is a second vehicle has arrived in the court and is putting Ray in the unwanted spotlight again. Will these residents report this suspicious behavior to the police?

Bolt-cutters, hacksaws, and various keys have failed to recover Control #19. In desperation to resolve what has now become a farcical situation Ray resorts to a primitive technique. He grabs the hammer and places the chisel in the minuscule groove of the link created by Ian Dodd's hacksaw and pulls the items to the kerb side expecting to provide a solid foundation for the desperate blows with the hammer that will end the saga. Incredibly the chain won't reach and Ray is thwarted again. But wait, there is a rock in the car.

The rock is placed under the link and three adrenaline powered blows are administered to the chisel and an overwhelming feeling of jubilation engulfs Ray - THE LINK IS BROKEN and Control #19 is FREE! Ray quickly bundles the chain, control plates and other equipment into the boot of the car and exits the court at 9pm. It has taken over 24 hours to regain Control #19.

The moral of this story is: when collecting controls expect the unexpected and always have a LARGE set of bolt-cutters handy.

An intriguing adjunct to this story is that the court in which Control #19 was placed is one of only a very few streets which are unnamed in the Melways Street Directory (see Mel 32 A10, Edition 35). Could this suggest that there are mysteries and unknown forces at work in this location that rival the Bermuda Triangle and Ray never had a chance?

Some councils have an annual Microchipping day, we could make use of this in conjunction with, say, a Cake-O. Other councils offer pensioner discounts, even a discount if you've been fixed, (at least that's what my mum used to call it). I'm sure if the VOA was to subsidize half the residual cost and possibly throw in a biscuit, we'd be overrun with orienteers keen to endorse this new technology. We should be thoroughly grateful that we live in Australia, in the USA this would be illegal. (\*1)

I do really feel for David and Marta having to decide who gets to take Fitz and who gets the chip. Poor Fitz, if they go to the vet and the wrong tag gets scanned, he could end up copping a big backlog of shots.

Those of us for whom a dog is not really suitable, there are many other possibilities. A gerbil or ferret for example would be much more portable, though neither would suit me as I'm not in the habit of wearing long trousers.

For those who have trouble with their sense of direction, perhaps a homing pigeon. For those who have a poor sense of direction, but want to maintain the true Aussie orienteer image we have a number of native ducks that know where North is. Now I think about it you would probably need one for summer and a different one for winter... This would lead to a whole new range of excuses for getting lost too; wrong birdseed, I didn't know it was diurnal (Rogainers), I fell over and it got away, & I think it kept turning into the wind.

Of course if your sense of direction is so bad that you'd just be happy knowing which way is up, a cat perhaps; when you drop them they always land on their feet. (\*2)

Taking a different tack completely, you could always have your hay burner chipped. I'm sure Mr Dodd would quickly come up with some nice definitions to distinguish a walk from a canter. Frankly, I don't care for lanD(o)'s definitions, I just want to beat Bryan for once.

That's all for now, I've an appointment at the tattoo studio. I've got this really neat design, it hardly looks like a barcode at all. The only problem is where to put it ...

Notes:

\*1 You may think that everything I've written is entirely made up. This is not so, in California it is illegal to microchip your aging grandmother who suffers from alzheimers & wanders.

\*2 There is a well known procedure for flying an aircraft at night or in cloud using a duck, cat and dog. Duck : Direction, Cat : Up & Down, Dog : keeps cat awake.

### ***EASTER THREE DAYS, DUBBO NSW***

Peter Yeates made full use of the opportunity to demonstrate some novel ways to stuff up, at Australia's biggest orienteering event. On day 1, Pete was climbing through a fence when his sportident stick decided to leap off his finger. Arching gracefully, it soared over the fence and landed in a paddock of thigh high grass. Luckily the red and blue colours stood out and the stick was duly retrieved.

Day 2, and Pete had everything tied down and secured - or so he thought. A steady drizzle saw many competitors don rain jackets, especially those with early starts. Everyone soon stripped off and tied their jackets round their waists. Pete didn't reckon on his drawstring getting caught - in a narrow rock crevasse behind him. Brought up short was an understatement! It's difficult to navigate with tears in your eyes and certain nether regions, well, you can guess ...

Luckily day 3 was incident free for Pete (much to the disgust of the rest of us who were looking forward to being entertained in novel fashion again).

## *A DELIRIOUS VIEW OF THE OXFAM TRAILWALKER - by Ray Howe*

Oxfam's Trailwalker is an annual fund raising event to support programs to reduce poverty and social injustice around the world. The event is 100 kilometers from Jell's Park to Wesburn Reserve for teams of 4 to be completed in 48 hours. This year Peter Grover assembled a Dandenong Ranges Orienteering Club team of Ian Davies, Dale and Ray Howe and himself and aptly registered the team as DROC Delirium.

On Friday 11th April, after three months of preparation involving regular training walks from 20 to 50 kilometers, the team met at the home of Peter Dalwood in Glen Waverley. Peter had completed the Trailwalker in 2007 and we were fortunate to have the services and experience of Peter as our support co-ordinator for the event. After loading our boxes of perceived essentials into Pat and Allan Miller's car, who had graciously volunteered for the first support session, we proceeded to the start at Jell's Park. Registration proceeded quickly with each member being identified with a colored wristband. We assembled in the starting shute and received some final words of wisdom from our pre-event motivational experts Mr Peter Yeates and Mr Ian Greenwood.

The event started promptly at 8:30am and we were away on the first of nine stages to Churchill National Park, 12.5 km to the south east. This was one of three starting waves and the 850 closely packed competitors meant that our starting rate was dictated by the pace of the surrounding groups. Eventually we found our own space and tempo as we meandered along the Dandenong Creek Trail across Wellington Rd across Stud Rd and into Churchill National Park. One team that caught our eye was team 585 later identified as a group of young female osteopaths known as the Loco Kids. Dressed in fairy outfits and supporting red and white feathered boas they flittered between competitors making better headway than most other teams.

The first checkpoint (CP1) was a brief encounter with the check in/out routine and an opportunity to taste the fruit, energy bars and drinks that were to be available throughout the event. We were pleased with our progress but quickly reminded ourselves that we had only covered one eighth of the journey.

The second stage was a leisurely 9 km to Lysterfield Lake (CP2) and took us through some excellent parts of the National Park and Lysterfield Hills including the site of the 2006 Commonwealth Games Mountain Bike events. The Loco Kids skipped past. They had enjoyed an extended break at CP1. However the incline ahead was not to their liking and the Deliriums strode confidently past them and with continued steady progress we arrived at Lysterfield Lake on schedule. We located the DROC flag, the symbol of our support crew and checkpoint base, where Pat and Allan had arranged sandwiches, drinks and seating in a good position close to the Trail. Water packs and nibbles restocked we were away on schedule (12:20pm) for the third stage to Grant's Picnic Ground (CP3) in Sherbrooke.

This stage included the first real challenge of the trek. After emerging from the tranquil and reasonably flat sections of Lysterfield Park and Bird's Land Reserve, where the Locos trotted past again, we encountered the first major uphill section through the streets of Belgrave, past Puffing Billy Station and into Sherbrooke Forest. We checked in and out of Grant's PG quickly and still on schedule. Support crews had no access to this checkpoint but Pat, Allan and Lauris Stirling were waiting at O'Donohue's Picnic Ground about half an hour down the track where they had arranged an oasis of food, drinks and medical supplies. Some blisters were emerging but physically and mentally the Deliriums were travelling well.

At 3:40pm, as scheduled, we headed off to Olinda Reserve (CP4) with one kilometer of the dreaded Hackett's Road awaiting us at the start of another challenging uphill section just before this checkpoint. Initially we made excellent progress through some classical pristine Sherbrooke Forest before attacking Hackett's in varied ways from slow and steady to fast and fading. Not surprisingly we were passed by the MICA ambulance twice. As we completed the stage along the Monbulk-Olinda Road ahead of schedule and looking forward to a rest we noticed some red and white feathers on the trail, perhaps a sign that the Loco Kids were not travelling well. It could be said that we were moving at a blistering pace. Yes, blisters were forming. Some members of the team chose not to look, others chose to attempt running repairs. Lauris dashed around performing medical miracles, dispensing her special coffee brew and attending to any dietary requests. Pam King arrived laden with goodies and refreshingly wet towels (oh, for a shower!).

Darkness was approaching so with headlights in place we checked out as planned and off to Silvan Reservoir (CP5) through typical Dandenong Ranges terrain but mostly downhill. Easy, you say. No! No! Torture on the thighs, calves and feet - all that pulling up and trying to dodge exposed tree roots hidden by the dark. We past the 50km marker in 10 hours and 10 minutes, still ahead of schedule and going well. We pushed on steadily to Silvan and arrived on cue at 7:40pm to a celebrity welcome from Peter and Ilze Yeates, Lauris and

Pam. After checking in we were escorted to the Royal Tent which protected a table setting for four, a gas cooker warming pasta and a tomato sauce, fruit salad, plunger coffee and scented wet towels. The service was impeccable and the question was asked as to why would we want to leave? In the meantime inspection of the growing blister problem suggested that professional podiatry was required and Dale was escorted to the medical tent where a young volunteer podiatrist spent 45 minutes treating several blisters on both feet.

At 9:10pm we were away again, albeit treading a little more gingerly but better for the extended break. On and up through Kalorama, past Mt Evelyn Reserve and onto the Warburton Trail and the Graham Colling Equestrian Centre (CP6) where we were welcomed by the Assistant Supervisor of the checkpoint, Tina Smith and our support crew Ilze, Peter and Pam as well as the Presidency of the VOA, Ian and Debbie Dodd. It was refreshing to see so many familiar faces after 63 kilometers of foot slogging.

Plenty to eat and drink including the fruit salad from the royal meal at Silvan and a chance to give the feet some relief required an extended stoppage time before setting out on the 12.5km stage to Woori Yallock Primary School (CP7). The Locos merrily danced past again. They had been delayed at the checkpoint by a visit to the podiatry tent. Tiredness was now limiting our conversations, trivia was inappropriate and the footy scores had not enthused the Bomber supporters amongst us but the arrival of Denise Pike on the Trail and the appearance of Tina Smith and Vic Sedunary out of the dark was most welcomed and boosted our morale for the final 4km to the checkpoint. Check in at the school hall took us past classrooms containing parents selling hot food and drinks, through school grounds packed with cars and tents providing several competitors with a few hours sleep together with many support vehicles awaiting their weary travelers. Amongst this buzz of activity were Denise and Peter Dalwood preparing pasta based hot soup, bread rolls, coffee, etc and a place for the Deliriums to rest their feet and contemplate the wonderful news that Street-O guru Bryan Ackerly was part of the winning team. After another extended stay we set out on the second last and longest stage of 14.5km along the Warburton Trail to Millwarra Primary School (CP8). This stage was expected to take 3 hours and our ETA was 4:45am. Peter D. joined us just before the stage end providing us with a revival for the final kilometers to the checkpoint. No sign of the Loco Kids. Had the tortoise worn down the hare?

Soup, bread and rolls, coffee, lots of encouragement and plenty of rest readied us for the final challenge, a 9.5km stage which presented two substantial inclines before the final downhill to the finish line. We departed Millwarra PS at 5:10am amongst two other teams who were obviously suffering heavily from blistered feet but showing the determination that is characteristic of this event - complete the 100km despite the high level of discomfort and pain. It symbolized the motto of the event COMMIT, ENDURE and ACHIEVE.

We climbed the Backstairs Track with other teams in a congo line formation and as daylight approached we reached the wide fire trail and were joined again by Denise and Peter who took the opportunity to record the final kilometers with their cameras. Closer to the finish Pam and Andrew Howe also joined the party for the final downhill push to the finish.

Surprised by the carnival atmosphere and the numerous cars and people at the finish we began to experience that satisfying feeling of "we've done it" as the course commentator describe our impending completion of the course. Moments later we were presented with Oxfam Trailwalker certificates documenting our time of 23 hours and 5 minutes.

668 teams started, 432 complete teams finished with DROC Deliriums placed 96th, a pleasing result for a team with an average age of 60. More pleasing was the \$2400 contributed by our generous donors. We thank them for supporting a most worthy aid organization in its endeavors to make a difference in countries of need. Oh and by the way the tortoise did wear down the hare. Team 585 completed the course in 23 hours and 25 minutes. Well done Loco Kids.

## *GOING BUSH*

It's obvious the tyranny of distance (and high fuel prices) is a big factor in attendance at bush events. This was proved by the record turnout to a recent State Series event at Plenty River, just a short drive north of the Ring Road. There were almost 20 DROC members competing - a far cry from the handful that usually make the trek to Bendigo or Castlemaine. Great weather and the attraction of a new map were also drawcards. The organizers kept everything very user-friendly, with registration, start, finish and catering all in close proximity. Ian Dodd continued his unbeaten run in State Series this year. Martin Steer had a great run to place 2<sup>nd</sup> on hotly contested course 5 (beating Dave Lotty in the process), while daughters Asha and Lanita were winners on their courses.

*ARDF* are to be commended for their car pooling website, which is hopefully making transport to events easier, cheaper and greener. Check it out at [www.ardf.org.au](http://www.ardf.org.au) - you don't have to be an ARDF member to register.

The *Newbury Navigators* have been regulars at park and street events for the last few years, and they wouldn't miss their orienteering. They've decided to branch out into the bush, and recently took part in a Bendigo club event. They managed the course extremely well, and absolutely loved it. Plans are afoot to tackle more bush events. Meanwhile Lawrence has taken up mountain bike O, after demonstrating his bike skills on the two social bike rides organized by DROC over summer.

This year has seen a number of other members rediscovering the spikes and getting back into the forest for the first time in years - and doing really well. The club is always happy to help out newcomers to bush orienteering with transport, equipment, and coaching, so if you would like to give it a go, just contact one of the Committee members. Try some of the Club events listed in the Sunday Specials section of the Melbourne winter fixture, or check out the VOA calendar (linked from the new DROC website) for some of the new Adventure Series events. These are aimed at adventure racers, rogainers, and those who prefer longer distance events with less technical navigation.

Don't be put off by the "State Series" label for our major events. Although they are the most technically difficult, every event has courses that cater for all levels including novices and families. They are often put together as "double headers" (like the three day package held over the recent Queens Birthday weekend), that minimize travel, emphasise the social side, and give you a mini-break away to some fantastic parts of Victoria.

If you're looking for a real holiday, think about going to one of the national Carnivals. In September, Victorian orienteers will head north to Hervey Bay in droves, for the week-long Australian Championships. Again, you can enter courses at a level that suits your navigational ability, take the family along, and have plenty of free time to go whale watching, visit Fraser Island, or just watch the sun set over the bay. The atmosphere at these carnivals is a real buzz, I can thoroughly recommend it. If you're interested, go to [www.oq.asn.au](http://www.oq.asn.au) and follow the links to the 2008 Aust Champs. Or think about Tassie at Easter 2009, the World Masters in the Blue Mountains in October 2009, and of course the 2009 Aus Champs is in our own back yard.

Of course if you do decide to Go Bush, you'll need the appropriate clothing! We have headbands and sweatbands with the Lyrebird logo, perfect for any conditions. They come in navy blue with white logo, or white with navy blue logo.

For those crisp winter mornings, you'll need a toasty warm fleece jacket. And for your trip to Queensland, or any other time when the weather is warm, you'll want a running t-shirt. New stocks in our famous design are due any minute!

For club clothing, see Peter Yeates. For assistance with Going Bush, talk to the Dodds or the Yeates - contact details in the box on the front page. What are you waiting for??