

PUNCHLINE

Dandenong Ranges Orienteering Club Inc

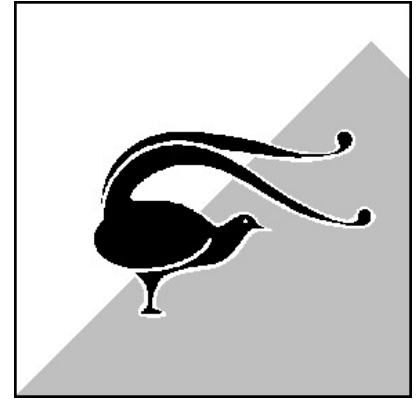
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Incorporated Association Registered Number A0003225B

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Issue Number 151

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DIARY DATES

SUNDAY DECEMBER 13 - THE FAMOUS DROC BIKE RIDE - WARBY WANDER

Join us on a meander along the Warburton Rail Trail, led by Allan and Pat Miller. We'll meet at 10am in Wandin North, at the shops on Warburton Highway/Union Rd (Melway 119 B11), where there are toilets and car parking. There'll be a morning tea stop at Woori Yallock, and lunch in Warburton, then return by the same route - total distance approx 45 kms, and a leisurely pace will be maintained. The trail has a good gravel surface suitable for all types of bikes, and NO contours! Warburton has a variety of eating options. There will also be a walking option for the non-cyclists. Family and friends welcome.



WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16 - THE FAMOUS DROC CHRISTMAS PICNIC

Come along to the famous DROC Christmas Picnic!



Sant-O-Claus Is Coming To Town!

Enjoy a festive club celebration before Christmas, at Ferntree Gully Community Centre, after the Wednesday event on 16 December
BYO drinks, and a salad or dessert to share. Everything else provided, incl. vegetarian.
Catch up with friends - bring the family

SmokeFree

SUNSMART®

MEMBERSHIP

Your 2010 memberships are now due for payment. Please complete the enclosed membership form (which allows us to keep your contact details up to date) and send it with your fee to:

Debbie Dodd, PO Box 5020, Laburnum 3130

Or hand them to me at any park and street event.

NEW YEAR ACTIVITIES

TRIPLE PETES BIKE RIDE - SUNDAY JAN 24 2010

Join us for an afternoon bike ride from Peter Dalwood's to Peter Yeates' and back, followed by a swim and bbq tea. After that, enjoy an armchair journey to Europe with Pete and Pete. Details by E-News.

SILVAN RE-RODE SUMMER MTB - SATURDAY JAN 30 2010

Weather permitting! We will be running the event that was postponed (twice) last year, first due to high winds, then extreme bushfire danger. This year we hope for better conditions. It's a 75 minute score course, and a great introduction to mountain bike orienteering, suitable for all ages and abilities. There will be a bbq afterwards. Register from 5pm for a 6pm start. Follow orienteering signs along Stonyford Rd, from Monbulk Rd, Olinda, Melway 122 E2.

** Helpers needed - if you can assist with registration, finish, or control collection afterwards, let me know. **

BEACH-O AT SAN REMO - FEBRUARY 6 AND 7 2010

Saturday will feature a hike on Phillip Island, followed by fish and chip tea by the sea. On Sunday morning there will be a social orienteering event. San Remo and Phillip Island have a range of accommodation options. Details by E-News.

COMMITTEE CORNER

AGM - All office bearers and committee members were re-elected for 2010. The President's Report was tabled (see Prez Sez), and the club remains in a healthy financial position.

OCAD WORKSHOP - 13 club members attended the Workshop and learned about course setting using Ocad. Thanks to Pam and Wally for presenting this very useful session - even the "experts" picked up some new tips!

2010 EVENTS - our big event next year will be the WOC 25th anniversary, to be held at Kooyoora on September 8. There will be a Bendigo event also at Kooyoora the day before, making this a great double header. DROC member Steve Key drew the original map and we were heavily involved in staging the World Champs in 1985, the only time this competition has been held in Australia. So it is appropriate that we organise this silver anniversary.

We propose to hold a field work weekend sometime earlier in the year, to check the control sites and plan the courses (they will be closely based on the WOC courses but will not replicate them exactly), and this will double as a granite training weekend.

We need a catchy name for the event - any suggestions??

Other Sunday winter events in the pipeline include a welcome return to Yarran Dheran, with the Eastlink extension, and Lillydale Lake, which has a great new section added in the north. Dates and formats have yet to be decided - if you have any ideas or would like to be a course setter, please let me know.

BUSHRANGERS TO BLUE MOUNTAINS - CARNIVALS REPORT

September and October meant only one thing in the Dodd household - a three week orienteering holiday! Ok, I have to admit that the Bushrangers Carnival was nothing remotely like a holiday, but it was 3 weeks away from work, commuting and household chores. Being host state of the Australian Championships always means a busy time for the State President, who has to practice his speechmaking and handshaking. On top of that there are computer networks to run, results boards to erect and disassemble, trucks to be loaded and unloaded, a championship event to organise, and somewhere in all of that we have to compete 6 times!

Cunningly we arrange to share accommodation with Pete and Ilze, which ensures that we are well fed and watered. How they put up with our frantic comings and goings I'll never know, but we're very grateful.

Day 1 - pick up 3 tonne truck, load gear at Pete's, load more gear at Dodds, drive to Woodend for still more gear, drive to Chewton event site and unload. Why do we need all this stuff?? Bucketing rain sees assembly area under flood. Deb and Ilze arrive to help with registration. Cold. Wet. Muddy. Yuk.

Day 2 - Australian Middle Distance Champs, Chewton - still wet and cold. Arrive mid morning and help MFR set up computers and results. Great pancakes! Rumours abound that the creek at the finish is rising. Forget to allow enough time to get to start. Flooded creek means an extra 500m to get there, run all the way, arrive at start late and exhausted. Rain persists, but Warren's course setting is brilliant and the area is fantastic, with so much detailed gold mining. Creek is thigh high when I get there but am already soaked so a bit more water doesn't matter. Photographers loving it as runners do spectacular face plants. Ilze (right) stays upright no thanks to helpful instructions from Pete.

Nillumbik are desperate to get the truck to their event site and take off without some of the gear. Call for emergency help, pile some into our already laden car and head to cabin for showers and food.

Day 3 - Victorian Long Distance Champs, Chewton - still raining and now blowing a gale. Helpful local council has graded access road, which is now a quagmire. Can't get vehicles in close to assembly, have to ferry everything by 4WD. Wind plays havoc with results board. Arena is spectacular but everyone is huddled in cars or tents. Straightforward spur gully courses favour fast runners. A long day by the time we sort out missing runners, pack up the truck and cars, and head to Bendigo.

Day 4 - Bendigo - rest day - but not for us! It's set-up day for our event. Arrive at paddock mid morning to discover farmer has helpfully ploughed in chook poo. Paddock now a stinky bog. I try not to cry. Rain has cleared at last. Spend day with DR, CH, TK and EU volunteers getting everything set up, and it looks great despite the chopped up paddock. More pancakes - thanks Lou! At 6pm we are still putting up the signs before dashing to Maldon for the Start Draw for the Schools Champs. Ian dead on his feet trying to read out 130 kids' names and say encouraging presidential things without falling asleep. Arrive back at luxury Bendigo apartment in the middle of the night. Starting to doubt sanity.

Day 5 - Bendigo - Australian Schools Individual Champs - hot! sunny! hooray! Arrive early to chaos as Eureka's SI guy has not arrived and he has the event file and start lists. Panic all round. Spend morning checking out how it's all working and making notes for tomorrow. Partner up with Pam for the public race, she thrashes me after I make stupid mistake. Head not in it really. Go home and spend evening entering relay teams and triple checking maps, lists, event files etc. Sean, Julie and Jas Sunley do a great job and we finish at a reasonable hour. Hope I can sleep.

Day 6 - The Big Day - Australian Schools Relays - hotter! sunnier! thank goodness. Hope wind has dried out stinky paddock some more. Arrive super early and start bossing everyone around. Ian, Sean and Jasmine have finish tent under control. Pam and Peter Grover look after the graveyard. Louise, Janine, Martin and Asha are in charge of results, and we have marshals everywhere. We've even erected Ted, our "bushranger" scarecrow at the final control. Ian Davies, the boys from CHOC, and Peter Yeates are everywhere doing everything. At 9.30 exactly, all the kids with their faces painted and hair dyed, surge into the forest accompanied by excited cheers from their teammates and families. Peace reigns briefly.

I spend the rest of the day roaming around, 2 way radio in hand. My call sign is "Tranquillity Base". Ian is "Ground Control" and Pete is of course "Major Tom". There are a few little problems to iron out (a blown generator and long toilet queues being the worst headaches). The finish is running like clockwork and results are displayed almost instantly thanks to our wireless network. The public race gets under way a bit late but nobody minds. They all seem to enjoy it. We hold presentations and pack up cheerfully. Our team has all been

fantastic and I couldn't be happier. I can finally relax - months of work are over and we didn't mess it up. Off to the Schools presentation dinner and more prizegiving and hand shaking for Ian.

Day 7 - Benalla - rest day - hand over truck and SI equipment. Relax!

Day 8 - Australian Sprint Champs, Benalla - more rain - arrive in time to help YV set up Finish and Results. Weather is really crap again and I contemplate running in my rain jacket. Luckily we have a large undercover area to huddle under. I have an ordinary run, not enjoying the long wet grass and rough going. Asha wins her third event for the week and Peter Hobbs wins as well so a good day for DROC. No presentations so Ian is happy.

Day 9 - Australian Long Distance Champs, Warby Ranges - cold and wet (again). The ranges are a "drizzle magnet" (in Blair's words). Wow, Bendigo have hired the most impressive toilets I've ever seen at an orienteering event. They will win Event of the Year just based on those toilets. Wonderful granite area, terrific course setting. My best day, with a 5th place (would have been third if I hadn't stuffed around on no 7 ...) Ian has to present an endless array of awards. The end is near ...

Day 10 - Australian Relay Champs - you guessed it, more rain. Ian heads to finish tent to help and is not seen again for many hours. I am first leg runner and feel confident after yesterday. Manage to stuff up controls 2 and 3, almost run off map, and take an hour instead of 40 minutes. Have to hide from my team mates, who take it pretty well. Chaos in Finish Tent so I stay away. Finally we have completed the presentations, packing up and post mortems, and we can drive ourselves and the truck home to Melbourne.

Days 11-13 - what a week! Despite all the hard work, there was plenty of fun, excellent competition and great camaraderie. But for now it's home sweet home - 3 days of SLEEP. Then we set off again, this time for WMOC in NSW.

Day 14 - on the road

Day 15 - arrive in Sydney. Queues to register for the Games are 5 hours long. Don't they know we are highly tuned Athletes who need our rest? Come back a few hours later - takes 20 minutes. We have our accreditation passes and official backpacks full of goodies. We feel like Olympians - the Cauldron at Homebush has even been lit in our honour. There are 30,000 people here for these Games.

Day 16 - Sprint Qualification, Macquarie University. International flags everywhere and a multitude of languages gives a great atmosphere. We cheer our fellow Aussies. Ian has an ok run and scrapes into the A final. I have a big blowout on control 2. All the buildings look the same. Another mistake on control 8 seals my fate and I am at the bottom of the results.

Day 17 - Sprint Final, Sydney Olympic Park. Whoever negotiated this venue deserves huge congratulations, it is fantastic! Highly complex course setting using a multi level stadium, and a terrific arena finish. Run around grinning for sheer fun. Improve my position a few places and beat competitors from Finland and Russia to maintain very minor bragging rights. Ian runs really well and finishes 18th in a field of 90-plus runners, after qualifying 38th. Victorian Gold medals to Warren and Tash Key, and Bronze to Bruce Arthur, have the crowd cheering.

Day 18 - rest day and Opening Ceremony, Lithgow. We are nestled in a cosy little studio in Katoomba with a wonderful view of the Blue Mountains escarpment. Head to Lithgow to march in the colourful street parade, headed by a Scots pipe band.

Day 19 - Model event, near Lithgow. Scrambling around sandstone rock towers ("pagodas") atop a steep escarpment with thick green vegetation. Can it be this bad tomorrow?

Day 20 - Long Distance Qualifier, near Lithgow. Scrambling around sandstone rock towers atop a steep escarpment with thick green vegetation. Yes it can be this bad! First half of course features tons of rock and horrible veg, on a precipitous slope. Very slow going. After a long difficult descent we cross a dry swamp and onto very open, easy spur/gully. Completely different terrain! I navigate well but move very slowly in the steep stuff. Ian does better to finish mid field.

Day 21 - rest day in Mudgee

Day 22 - Long Distance Qualifier, Clandulla. Much nicer terrain, still steep with lots of rock, but more open. Make silly mistakes that cost time and energy and I am knackered at the end. There is a big mixup with the M50 maps and Ian's course is cancelled! He cannot make the A final as only qualifier 1 is counted.

Day 23 - Long Distance Final, Clandulla. Great terrain and good courses though the emphasis is again on physical rather than navigational challenge and I get round cleanly and this is my best run of the week and I manage not to come last. Ian has his first mental meltdown and runs off the map. Redeems himself in minor fashion by winning final leg. I enjoy hearing "Allez! Allez!" "Schnell! Schnell!" or "Vite! Vite!" as the internationals cheer their friends in. Wonder what Swedish for "go faster!" is?

Time to go home ...

WINNERS CIRCLE

Asha Steer won first place in the Australian Middle, Sprint and Long Distance, and the Victorian Long Distance Championships - a clean sweep! Big sister Lanita competed in her first Victorian Schools team and was the highest placed Victorian junior girl in both the Individual and Relays, with Justin Sargent also chosen to represent Victoria in the Junior Boys team. Peter Hobbs was the winner of M21A at the Australian Sprint Champs. Martin Steer took second place in the Australian Middle Distance Champs, and Pat Miller was second in the Victorian Long Champs. Congratulations all!

Asha followed up her great week with a very convincing win at the Victorian Primary Schools Championships at Jells Park.

End of Year Awards

DROC winners for 2009 were Asha Steer (W12), Lanita Steer (W14), Louise Hall (W35), Janine Steer (W45) and Ilze Yeates (W55AS).

DROC was 7th in the Rockhopper Trophy, unable to overcome a late charge by MFR. We were runners up in Event of the Year for the Australian Schools Relays (beaten by Bendigo's superior toilets!)

SUBJECT: SPELLING CHEQUER

I halve a spelling chequer, it came with my pea see.
It plainly marks four my revue mistakes I dew knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word, and weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write - it shows me strait aweigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid, it nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the era rite - its rarely ever wrong.
I've scent this massage threw it, and I'm shore your pleased too no
Its letter prefect in every weigh; my chequer tolled me sew.

PREZ SEZ - Peter Hobbs

Pete with his Winner's badge from the Australian Sprint Distance Championships

It is with pleasure that I table the President's Report for the 31st year of operation of the Dandenong Ranges Orienteering Club. This year (18th October 2009 to 21st November 2009) the club has organised 43 orienteering events, covering a wide range of formats comprised of:

- 22 summer series street-o events
- 11 night street-o events
- 5 Saturday afternoon events
- 3 Sunday events of varied formats
- 1 mountain bike event
- 1 public event at the Australian Orienteering Championships
- Providing assistance at the Victorian Sprint Championships and the Australian Schools Relay Championships

Whilst street orienteering remains clearly the club's most prominent area in terms of organisation and participation, our club retains a notable presence in the areas of bush orienteering, mountain bike orienteering and rogaining.

Club members continue to hold positions on the Victorian Orienteering Association Committee (Ian Dodd - President) and Victorian Rogaining Association Committee (Karen Pate and Greg Robinson - Committee Members; Peter Grover - Competition Manager; and Ainslie Cummins - Volunteer Recruitment Officer).

For possibly the first time, DROC was represented at the World Orienteering Championships and associated Hungaria Cup in Miskolc, Hungary, in August 2009. The President attended the middle distance, sprint and relay WOC events and competed in the middle distance and sprint events at the Hungaria Cup. DROC was also represented at the Oceania Championships in New Zealand in January 2009.

I would also like to acknowledge the absolutely outstanding performances of club members who have competed in various State and National level events during 2008-09. I estimate that DROC members have taken out first place in at least 15 State or National level events. Special mention must be made of the achievements of some of the club's up and coming junior members. Asha Steer took out first place in the W12A sprint, middle and long distance events at the Australian Championships whilst Lanita Steer and Justin Sargent were selected to represent Victoria in the Australian Schools Championships, held in Bendigo in September 2008. The President and Committee applaud these achievements and will continue supporting the club's junior members.

The club continued to attract new members during 2009 with the addition of 3 new members / families, making a total of 78 households. Financially, the club has continued to produce a positive cash flow and has preserved a strong asset position, with investment values rising slightly. The club's visual presence at events, in terms of DROC clothing, has continued to increase, albeit modestly compared to last year.

2008-9 also saw the continued conversion of the club's street orienteering maps from Corel format to the standardised OCAD format and the Park and Street Course Setter of the Year Award being awarded to Rebecca Lalor. DROC made some significant donations in the wake of the February bushfires to the Red Cross, Yea High School and Wild Life Victoria.

On a sad note, 2009 saw DROC lose two of its club members; Susan Cavill and Judy Hopkins. They will be missed and the President and Committee has extended their condolences to all affected.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members who have volunteered in one or more capacities this year. I can't possibly list the efforts of all volunteers however the following list gives an indication of efforts that members have put into the club and the sport in general:

- Debbie Dodd - Punchline and e-news editor, membership secretary and general organiser of many things. Debbie plays a huge role in the day to day operation of the club particularly through her efficient co-ordination of the major events DROC organises or assists in organising throughout the year.
- Peter Dalwood - compiling the financial report for the AGM.
- Ray Howe, Mark Besley and Ian Davies - scoring and control cards.

- Peter Yeates - assisting with treasury duties, coordinating uniform sales and always coming up with ideas.
- Pam King - mapping.
- Wally Cavill and Ian Dodd - Always a helping hand.
- Committee members - assisting run the club.

A strong core of dedicated members have continued devoting their efforts to the operation of the club, steering it in a 'northerly' direction. I encourage all members to become involved in the club and its activities whether it be in a small or more substantial capacity. New faces are ALWAYS welcome on the committee or in other areas such as course setting, participation in club relays or simply offering to pick up a few controls after a club event.

The year ahead is shaping up to be a busy one with the usual allocation of park / street, Sunday Special and mountain bike events.

I would like to thank all club members and the Committee who have contributed to the operation of the club this year and I wish the President and Committee well for the upcoming year.

TED THE BUSHRANGER

We needed a Man Made object for the final control at both Relays - and being the Bushrangers Carnival, what better object than an actual bushranger? So Ted (Ned's brother) was born. Ted travelled to the events in his own "Ted Tub". Whenever he made an appearance he was the focus of numerous admirers and photographers. When Lanita donned Ted's outfit at the Presentations, she had a captive junior audience who couldn't get enough of Ted. Debbie was very disconcerted one windy day to see Ted's head slowly spinning in circles, Exorcist style! After his week of fame and glory, Ted has now sadly retired and will live out his days quietly as a pot plant.

HUNGARIA CUP AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - Peter Hobbs

Can you Imagine 5000 parochial and patriotic spectators at an orienteering event? Seven hundred elite international competitors. Upwards of 1500 public competitors. Imagine raucousness, fun, live commentary and GPS competitor tracking, mixed with vibrant colours, perfect weather and sun-baking. Add some dramatic race finishes and personal orienteering achievements and you have a snapshot of the brilliant experience I had being part of the World Orienteering Championships carnival held in Miskolc, north eastern Hungary in August 2009.

I'd already booked a two month holiday to explore Eastern Europe. I could not believe my luck when I stumbled upon the WOC website and learnt that the carnival would be held during precisely the week that I intended to visit Hungary. I immediately entered two public, Hungaria Cup (HC) events - one middle distance and one sprint - and booked accommodation and meals at the official WOC Village, located at the University of Miskolc.

Each day of the carnival was arranged so that, for instance, the public HC sprint event was held during the morning and the official WOC sprint event was held in the afternoon at a nearby location. This allowed non-elites to compete in their event then be a part of the raucousness and fun of the official WOC event later in the day. The middle distance HC event was staged in a forested area called Bukkszentkereszt, some 45 minutes from Miskolc. Upon arriving, I was absolutely amazed at the scene before me; spectators, competitors, women sun-baking in bikinis, young and old people, not to mention the hundreds that were already competing in the forest. There were flags, tents, promotion caravans and vibrant colour everywhere. The spectator area was on a large oval including the finish chute spanning the entire length of the western boundary. I had simply never seen anything like it at an orienteering event before.

Armed with my northern hemisphere compass and SI-stick, I made my way to the start area. There were so many people milling about that I was barely able to find a patch of grass to perform my last minute quad and calf stretches. Competitors were lined up according to start time in groups of about 25 and starts were at one minute intervals. After five or so minutes it was my group's turn to start, and with a growing sense of anticipation, I was off. Interestingly, the course began with a 200m sprint to the 'graveyard', where I located

the '21C' map pile amidst a plethora of 25 other courses. I grabbed my map, took a few seconds to orientate myself, then sped off down a track which provided the perfect 'handrail' into control 1.

One of my orienteering rules is 'sure start' which basically means I place great importance on cleanly (and slowly, if necessary) navigating between the start triangle and the first control. Having located the first control easily and quickly, my confidence was up, my radar was on and I headed confidently to the second control. To cut a long story short, I completed the 3.8 km course in a time of 30:26, earning second place. I was ecstatic as it was probably my cleanest and fastest bush-o performance. My only real error was traversing a hillside at too high an elevation then having to descend slightly in order to reach control 6.

Contrary to expectations, I actually found the forest terrain for the middle distance event to be quite easy. The map featured classical spur-gully topography including a number of steep hills and a smattering of tracks. Due to a lack of undergrowth and boulders, visibility was excellent allowing identification of controls from afar. The ground was covered with dry leaves and apart from the odd fallen tree branch, I found it easy to run through the forest which allowed additional time for map contact and route planning. Despite many other competitors gazing at my Asics runners with disbelief accompanied by comments that these would fail to provide adequate grip in the forest, I had no such trouble. Luckily for me the weather was fine!

The next day, which featured both the HC and WOC sprint events, was definitely the highlight of the carnival for me. The HC sprint event was held during the morning on a superb 1:4000 scale map covering a 800m by 400m section of central Miskolc, including the town square which had been transformed into a vibrant scene similar to that for the middle distance event, described earlier. Typical of many European cities, the map featured an astounding number of narrow alleyways and intricate courtyards which had been opened specially for the event. Cars were barred from entering the competition area and you would have been forgiven for thinking that the city had been taken over by orienteers!

Temperatures soared to what seemed like 35 degrees. Starts were at 1 minute intervals in groups of 20 - hectic, to say the least. I navigated cleanly and quickly to the first control and apart from a near-miss encounter with a tram and a 10 second error whilst approaching control eight, I had an excellent run. It reminded me of a hectic foot chase in a James Bond movie; you would dart down an alleyway, then burst onto a main pedestrian thoroughfare, then run past bemused customers at an outdoor café, then cross a bridge, sprint across a park, then dart into a small courtyard in pursuit of a well hidden control. And so it went.

I again finished second in my division, only 20 seconds behind the winner. I was absolutely rapt with my performance. But the excitement of 'sprint day' had only just begun as the WOC sprint finals were held at the Miskolc zoo that evening. Course setters had designed the course to maximize spectators' vision of the event. Spectators passed under a ramped section of the course into a large amphitheatre around which the start chute, finish chute and a 300m section in the middle of the course were located. The excitable commentator combined with on-course footage, GPS tracking and live times gave spectators a virtual arm chair view of the event. The event was being broadcast live into six countries and I estimate that there must have been at least 5000 spectators in attendance. The atmosphere was nothing short of electric.

The women's course began with a number of controls amidst bushland and animal enclosures within the zoo grounds, before passing via the spectator area, into another bush area and then onto the finish. The bush must have been either thick or prickly as numerous competitors emerged with blood covering their legs. As finishers began to arrive and official times were appearing on the results board, I managed to snap a brilliant action shot of Australian Kathryn Ewels as she sprinted purposefully past the spectator amphitheatre and disappeared into the final section of the course. Seemingly not two minutes later, Kath emerged from the bush so quickly that even the commentator had been caught by surprise, announcing with a shock that she had moved into provisional first place. With an Australian flag already draped around my neck, I felt quite patriotic! To anyone who has considered traveling to Europe and being a part of the WOC carnival; just do it. It's a truly brilliant experience.

PROPOSED NAME CHANGE - by Anonymous

After struggling for more than 30 years to attract new members I think it is time to admit that Orienteering is at best a "fringe" sport, and it does not suit the "fabric" of modern living. I propose to put to the committee at the AGM that we endorse a change of name to that of the DANDENONG RANGES ORIENTEERING AND QUILTING CLUB, herein referred to as DROQ.

Having survived almost 10 years married to a Quilter I think it is time to "stitch up" some sort of formal recognition of the patterns and harmony that the many Quilters bring to DROQ. How I survived the previous 50 years believing that a "jelly roll" was the sort of cake used to make trifle or that a 'fat quarter' was an incomplete reference to a large American football player, is difficult to understand.

We will "of course" have to make some adjustments. The storing of one's compass in the same bag as your "rotary selvedge cutter and thimble" could cause some interesting magnetic anomalies, however the skills required to use a 'quarter inch graph template' are not dissimilar to those needed to change a 1 to 10000 map to that of 1 to 15000, The addition of a 7/8 inch larger

selvedge when laying the template on to the fabric will ensure that, with the use of even stitches, there will be sufficient room to add the clue sheet to the front of your O top with the use of only two or three back stitches.

See, it's not hard at all and to anyone who has mastered Windows Vista the changes will seem minor and instinctive, although I still have trouble with my English paper piercing which I find time consuming, and I much prefer the pre marked system which is less prone to error in complex gold mining or granite areas such as Mt Kooyora.

The use of tiny gathering stitches to add mitred borders to all our maps will certainly make it easier to bag them in wet weather particularly if the bags are then sealed with a 'short running' stitch. I have been unable to find a middle distance or long distance running stitch but since DROQ has been concentrating its efforts on Sprint Orienteering this may not prove to be a difficulty.

Does any one have any ideas about how to get all the UFOs (Unfinished Objects) out of my office?

MEMBER NEWS - WHO'S DOING WHAT

From Jared and Leonie:

"Unfortunately we haven't been able to attend any events in the last couple of months. We are pleased to say though, that we had a beautiful baby girl Abbie Evelyn (sister to Alicia) 5 weeks ago, so we have our hands full for a while longer too! We certainly do aim to get back into the swing of things as soon as we feel we can manage it!"

From Pete and Jenny:

"Quite a few orienteers from DROC were at the Bright 4 Peaks over Cup weekend including Denise Pike, Peter Grover, Louise Hall, Peter & Jenny Mitchell & several from other Melbourne based clubs. Champion orienteer Hanny Allston won 2 of the 4 peaks outright beating all comers. The following weekend Peter & I tackled the Triple Top Run near Sheffield in Tasmania. This is a gruelling 19.7k traverse of Mts Roland, Claude and Van Dyke with about 1000m climb and descent. Not many Victorians seem to know about this run, but it would really appeal to orienteers used to tough terrain and worth putting on the calendar for runners and walkers (they have separate events). Amazingly this event was won outright by Hanny Allston, again, beating a field of 170 in an amazing time of 2 hrs over rocky terrain including a scree dropoff! Wow."

From Peter and Chris (whilst travelling in Europe in October):

"This will probably be the final email before we get home. I'm afraid I haven't had a lot to say in the previous ones - the days have been full and by the time I get to sit down with the computer I'm too tired to type more than a few sentences. Or else the internet access is slow/expensive/both and I can't do much. It's now Sunday afternoon in Paris and I have the time, energy and bandwidth, so no more excuses!

We stopped for a few days in Singapore on our way over. Breaking the trip was a good idea and neither of us had spent any time there before, except for the airport transit lounges. Unfortunately we don't have the shopping gene, so we didn't do much of that but did enjoy the sightseeing and food.

We planned this trip with some friends, Cathy and Daryl Wayland (Cathy taught at Avila with Chris for

many years). We met up with them at Heathrow airport in London and travelled together to Munich, where we spent a few pleasant days together before starting our coach tour of central Europe. We chose this tour, called "Bohemian Rhapsody", because it had a relatively leisurely pace, with 3 nights each in Prague, Budapest and Vienna, one night in Salzburg and including a boat section on the Danube. We very glad of this choice - would not like to be on a 'pajama tour' where you are constantly on the move. Even so, it got a bit hectic trying to fit in the optional local tours, shopping, laundry days, etc.

We got back to Munich after the start of Oktoberfest, which was based in a huge park full of temporary pavilions just around the corner from our hotel. Fortunately, we did not stay in Munich that night but jumped on an overnight train to Florence to start our Italian phase. We had a couple of nights in Florence, then picked up a car and drove to a farm just

near Volterra for a week, in the Tuscan countryside. After the previous few go-go weeks this was a nice change of pace. We drove to Pisa one day, to Assisi on another and spent a few hours each in Volterra and San Gimignano (both quite close). Other than that we shopped in the local supermarkets, cooked and ate lots of nice Italian food, soaked up the sun, read, splashed around in the pool and generally chilled out.

NEWBURY NAVIGATORS

Newbury Navigators made the pages of the Knox Leader recently, after they competed at the Bushrangers Carnival. Their next challenge was the Cancer Council Relay for Life. *Sally writes:* "The Relay for Life was on last weekend and we would like to thank Ian James who came and walked with us for over 4 hours, until after 2am - it was great support. Miles walked for 14 of the 18 hours, Dan and Chris for about 12, and Lawrence and Steve for 9 each which was a great effort, they have raised over \$1500 on line and a bit more off line."

What a FANTASTIC effort!! How many of us could walk for that period of time I wonder? - Ed

Paris has been wonderful. We've visited lots of museums and art galleries and also toured to Monet's house at Giverny yesterday. Then we went to see his water lily paintings at l'Orangerie this morning. Wow! They are simply mind-blowingly large and beautiful. I'm glad we did the trips in that order, as going to Giverny first gave a context and perspective to the paintings that allowed one to appreciate them much more.

I've been trying to get a run in every few days and brought some orienteering gear in case there might be an opportunity to fit in an event. It hasn't happened, but that's OK. The most likely candidate was the first weekend on the farm while we had the car, but I was too disorganized and didn't look up where and when the local events were beforehand. By the time we got there on Saturday I couldn't be bothered unpacking the PC and doing the research, so that was the end of that. But I have run in some great locations, including along the Seine and around the Tuilleries today.

All good things come to an end. We start heading back home tomorrow. First stage is Paris - London - Bangkok. One day there, then on to Melbourne via Sydney. We will be back home on Thursday. Then I go hunting for work. I think I've forgotten how to do that, but I'll have to relearn as there is a growing pile of bills to pay! "