

Emu Thoughts

1999

The newsletter year started with a two-page article by Paul on the perils of Nepal --- why do we keep doing these things? He, Dorothy, Gill, and a few NZ friends indeed had an arduous time – at 2.00am three of us left the tent. For some years we'd had helper teams 1 & 2 but they were renamed Green Team led by Joyce, and Blue Team led by Janet – a calendar of events and teams, with exceptions (Cheryl for instance, not to be available on May 16.) was provided.

There was also a detailed page on Controller Accreditation, and Rob's list of events. A new member was Leyshon Betts of Laverton. However, Erica did not renew. She'd scarcely missed an event, either bush or street, or schools, for 8 years, was VOA minute secretary most of that time, a Level 1 coach, event organiser, the keystone of the Maldon Gold entry system, and until very recently did the newsletter production. Her bush interest ceased in mid-1997 (after a shocking wet day at Tabletop) but she comes out of retirement from time to time to assist at major events. We continue to use her double garage for our equipment (she declines to accept rent) and she will carry on producing our address labels.

The year started with a mounting bike event at Korweinguboorra organised by the Jacksons and it was pleasing that 50 turned up in what appears to be a growing sport. Marion was money taker and scribe starter – Start, Finish, Registration and hired toilet towed from Bacchus Marsh were virtually the same spot. The street series were as usual, course setters including Randall, Peter H and David Baker. The Fells and also Ron & Cheryl had been to the High O near Falls Ck. Another bike event was held around the Little Bendigo School and Arthur wrote an article about his 14.5km course --- steep descents --- blocked by blackberries ---“It was great; very exhilarating and a tremendous workout.” There had been 70 riders with 3 Jacksons and Helen E being first in their classes, Peter J, Joyce & Rachel E were second, Arthur, Janet & Alice third. Janet & Arthur were planning the next such event when Arthur suffered a stroke. He says he will be back as soon as he can. Judy Frederick had trouble too, pain gave way to agony and she had surgery on her knee.

The first bush foot event was at Kimbolton North with 22 NEs present --- this is spider country, ugly big, long legged yellowish green ones with big stretched out sticky webs – yuk. Then came Mt Tarrengower ---thunder and lightning but little rain – nearly every control was a rock of some kind. Then White Swan (near Nerrina) with a good attendance of 298. Warren was on course 3 but had copied course 4 in error -- the first 4 controls were the same, so he was sorely perplexed at number 5! We had hoped that the Dowlings from NZ who had assisted us at several events last year would join us but they've opted to join Eureka in view of having a house in Daylesford. At the Camelot Rise street event there was a rarity in that 235 went out

and 235 came back. A controllers' course was conducted by Kathy Liley at the Greensborough RSL; 14 NEs participated, Glenlyon Roses was the next bush event – rain trickling down one's neck. Scribe could not find 6 but after a while worked out how to relocate from 7 – got there after 135 double paces, but it was not 7, was 6! We had a mobile mechanic check the trailer, replaced the bearings. Times were listed for the three OY events above, but placings were not shown.

Js did not go to the Tasmanian 3 Days, but the Hudsons did, and Geoff reported results with times for all runners. The first day was at Bothwell in chest high bracken – a snake was being harassed by course 4 competitors – older folk had major difficulty crossing fences --- they ran out of food, both main course and dessert, and had no drinks on sale. Day 2 was at the same place – most were pleased just to finish. Third day was at Pittwater Dunes. Over the 3 days Paul was second in M75A, Melinda third in W12A, Helen E first in W40A, Dorothy second in W60A. Back in Victoria the Blodslitet was at One Tree Hill, Derek was third on the 13.5km course, Paul and Dorothy first on 7.0km & 5.0km, Kevin & Max also present. There was a good NE attendance at Two Kangaroos (James, Melinda & Rachel E best on course, Helen E, Colin (back after heart by-pass), Dorothy and Joyce won their classes. Boundary Ck was on Mother's Day and mothers and grandmothers (one 99) received a gift of perfumes or chutney. NE had the Vic Relays at Little Forest – there was an equipment working bee the week before and a control card writing and bagging night at Js where 12 participated Rex, Laurie & Michael set the courses, Marion and scribe packed the trailer, Russell collected it, Rex took the controls and flags, Sue made a rush trip to Little Forest to show the toilet providers where to set up. There was snow the day before – Js had booked at a rather antiquated motel, a case of shivering under blankets and rugs. We had three stiles, our own constructed by Rex, one from YV and another from BK that had to be transported by truck. The adult entry of \$9 was not in hindsight enough in these days of higher expenses --- receipts were \$1697 but \$772 went in levies leaving \$925 to meet toilets, badges, stile material, and member subsidy – we'll probably come out square.

Alan Watts was organiser for Smiths Reef and he and Randall stayed the night at Js cottage. Attendance was quite good at 222, open spur/gully terrain, little rain. In addition to the usual street series on weeknights, a Saturday series had started up and we had 63 at Wattle Park where for some years an orienteering ban had been enforced. Without Arthur, and with Caroline, Michael, Judy, Janet & Judith injured there were exhortations for others to step up and help us retain Rockhopper Trophy.

“What is greater than God, more evil than the Devil, the poor have it, the rich need it, and if you eat it you die?” The answer “nothing”.

There were 49 m' ship units at this time. The Winter Classic at Daylesford was VERY WET – some people did not turn up, others took one look and then returned home – frozen fingers and fallen logs. Day 2 was better weather-wises though fallen logs were

super slippery. Scribe had an awful time and saw nobody for 2 or 3 hours (other than brief sighting of Ron W), could scarcely find anything and all had been packed up when scribe got back – presentations were over but lo and behold scribe was first in M70A – the only one; the others had given up in disgust. The Hudsons and Stirlings missed all this as they were on the annual radio finding vehicular course at Mt Gambier.

Christmas in June was again at the Frederick residence and including children 40 attended, also including YV Cadmans and Dave Lottie from NSW. Lewis did not renew this year due to illness and we were shocked to learn of his death, at 72 – Helen said he loved the mental challenge and variety of beautiful bush settings, as well as the company of such friendly people. Wally Cavill requested permission to use our Quambee map as part of an amalgamation of 4 maps, a large colored one, with 85 ‘controls’ in the form of clue questions. It was a 6 hour cycle or foot effort, a good attendance of about 200; Geoff and Ian covered 41km. Our Blowmine badge event went off well though late rain meant that we were drying tents for days afterwards; takings were \$1200 but it is difficult to make a profit these days. Stuart & Kevin were best on courses, other usual class winners. The next event was at Kangaroo Gully where James & Alice were best on course, others as usual.

Then came a weekend near Chiltern the Regional Park is a remnant of Box Ironbark made up of Gray Box, White Box, Red Box, Mugga Ironbark, Red Stringybark, and Hill Red Gum. We had perfect weather for the Chiltern weekend in the Regional Park. Also, Wattles, Heath, Hibbertias, Parrot Peas, Cat’s Claws, and various native orchids and lilies. Rob F & Alice were best on course on the 2nd day with the usual class winners and placegetters. Wattle Gully was next in sight of the Js cottage. Arthur left the rehabilitation centre two days before; he and Janet are now resident in Castlemaine as their upper level property in Rosanna, with steps, is no longer practical. It was the day of finalisation of secondary school teams; Adrian (best on course) made the team, with Stuart and James as reserves. The trailer lights, whole unit, both sides, have been replaced with a new socket and protective leads – should solve recent problems.

There were VOA and NE meetings, planning for Blowmine event and for a film night. Sue had been (56th out of 80) at the Masters Games in Denmark, Ron & Judy had holiday on Lizard Island not in the \$1000 a night 4-star hotel but in the \$3.50 camping ground. The Adrians went to the ACT Champs & SA Champs (winning their classes). There were a few social events such as a film night, a ferry cruise, and musical evenings via the Downtown club but these did not really catch on; only a few members interested. Ctte meetings covered various things such as updating our CAD computer program, having a combined Studley Park/Yarra Bend map on disk --- Michael listed our controllers 1 in level 1, 10 level 2 and 2 level 3 (Peter & Carolyn). Sue showed us her maps from Finland, Denmark, and Scotland; one was aptly named Plodda – one had a start 4km from assembly, tales of ticks and leeches too. The Vic

Champs were on a new map, Blowhole, North of Jim Crow & Breakneck Gorge – fairly steep gullies, snaking dry ditches, somewhat wet and slippery. There were 196 Vics and 81 Interstaters; NE topped the clubs with 36 entrants. Janet J got the results by computer (a new innovation) which showed Derek, Carolyn, Helen E & Dorothy, Sue, Paul, Rob F, Melinda & Alice as firsts; Warren Halliday, Colin, Gill & Kate as seconds; Peter J, Adrian, Laurie & James as thirds.

NEV 1 set off northwards to Wangaratta, exactly 250km, then another 250km in nonstop rain to Gundagai where Marion & scribe acted out of character in dining at a motel restaurant. The country was lovely and green --- some big areas were bright purple – according to whether you like it or loathe it is either Salvation Jane or Paterson's Curse. The big day dawned with clear blue sky and it was a quick trip on excellent roads to about 50km NW of Goulburn --- Marion and scribe had early starts and didn't see most other NEs, and after the courses were too spiffled to do much anyway. Termite mounds, shown on the map as brown crosses, were useful. Towards the end, Kevin came into view and called out "Know where you are? – the cheek! – but he then sped off to he left when surely the control was straight ahead. We got there at the same time, but he had covered a lot of extra territory, there! Rob F was NE's only winner, but we scored a number of 2nds to unexpectedly claim the trophy. Marion had another marathon of 239 minutes and should get an award for perseverance.

NE won the Qantas National club trophy. It is only the second time that a Victorian club has won --- the other occasion was in 1995 when YV won as home club. We have gone one better in winning in foreign territory. Points are awarded for the first 5 placegetters on A courses (5/4/3/2/1) and three placegetters on B courses (3/2/1/) – our good sprinkling of 2nds gave us the unexpected win.

It rained for our Maxi Score at Creswick (numbers down to 110), Jacksons the course setters, Ron S the organiser, Michael controller. It was good to see Janet & Arthur who came along later and were roped in on the Finish. Arthur, after extensive therapy is now more mobile with the aid of a stick aims at doing Novice next year. We had hired Stan Gurman's hot water unit and our soup kitchen was a big success, soupers were Marion, Sue, Joyce & Schon. About this time, DNFs were no longer shown in newsletter results as apparently some members did not like it. This has not been mentioned in these pages for about 2 years for scribe felt (a) as though nagging, and (b) flogging a dead horse, for very few members display our tracksuits, O-suits or T-shirts, repeated incitement falls on deaf ears. Joyce & Gordon (Clarke) climbed the Harbour Bridge – first there is climbing through the pylons and then the particularly scary bit of climbing on vertical ladders to reach the arch. This is easier going, right across the bridge and down the other side. A gardening tip said, time to plant your tubas!

The year wound down with a good NE attendance for South Boundary Ck, Kevin & Alice being best on course, Dunga Mt --- a 12km gravel road drive-in along a pleasant valley with rocky outcrops) --- with 25 NEs present (Ron F came all the way from Inverloch) we probably confirmed retention of the Rockhopper trophy. There were the usual schools' ones at which the usual NEs helped (one, at Hanging Rock, had 790 kids), and the street ones. There were 161 starters at Quambee but as on a previous occasion there two controls were stolen. At Eltham 94 went out and 94 were recorded as back but apparently there was a 95th who did not return until 9.00pm. There was a bike event at Korweinguboorra set by Derek with the Edmonds, Jackson families participating plus Kevin & Joyce. Due to levies, toilet costs and extra insurance there was no profit on this. Our Night O was at Kimbolton. The pre-entry was scribe's idea on the basis that if few responded we could cancel the event, but it had the reverse and more desired effect, 48. Joyce arranged the accommodation and soup aspects, we had our usual helpers plus also from BK and YV.

The VOA and NE AGM were on the same day as the Runners World Relay, at Chewton Diggings. There were 4 person teams with each person running twice, one map with 2 courses on it. A low-key low maintenance event, no need for detailed timing, merely the overall time when the 4th leg ran home the second time. Laurie under her presidential hat conducted the (VOA) meeting very well and a number of speakers put their views on the various motions. The OY awards for the year were to James, Kevin, Colin, Paul in the men, and to Alice, Melinda, Helen E, Laurie, Dorothy (then in hospital) & Joyce in the women. Yes, we retained the Rockhopper Trophy and had our name inscribed on the Qantas Trophy for the club winning the highest points in the Aust Champs. After this, the NEs remaining retreated to a shadier spot for our AGM. The Vin Maloney award went to James Fell. Ron S again produced revised handicaps, the most improved male was also James, the most improved female was Alice Edmonds. Marion and scribe were presented with an inscribed glass each in recognition of continued service to the club and a gift of a glass dragon was made to Erica for the use of her garage. Marion's double page extremely detailed and audited financial statement showed a deficit for the year of \$3084 with \$35,546 in the bank. Offsetting the deficit was \$3425 payment toward a map at Whroo. Finally, though most had returned home while the Johnsons, Adrians, Sue, Joyce & Gordon repaired to Janet and Arthur's at Castlemaine

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