

# Nillumbik Emus Online Newsletter – February, 2012

To contribute, subscribe or unsubscribe to **Nillumbik EMUS ONLINE** e-mail  
[rob.edmonds@bigpond.com](mailto:rob.edmonds@bigpond.com)

Club Website <http://www.vicorienteing.asn.au/clubs/nillumbik/>



## Congratulations to Melanie and Glenn Mummery a baby boy, brother to Jade

Ronan was born around 11.45am this morning (12/02/2012) at 8 pound 6oz. All good, everyone is doing great. Glenn is proud to let everyone know that he has just made another Richmond supporter! And a future star of orienteering.

Congratulations to Melanie, Glenn and Jade.



Glenn and Jade

## Northern You Yangs Mapping Update

Rob Fell

Mapping continues in the previously unmapped northern section of the You Yangs Regional Park.

As with the existing map, this new area is made up of (smaller) volcanic hills, with much granite detail and a variety of vegetation types. Boneseed is present in the northern section, but is not as dominant as within the remainder of the park. There are some small patches of prickly acacia and fire regrowth; counterbalanced by some beautiful runnable areas that can only be described as 'dotted yellow'.

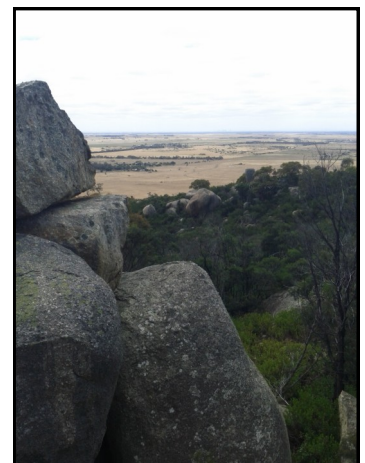
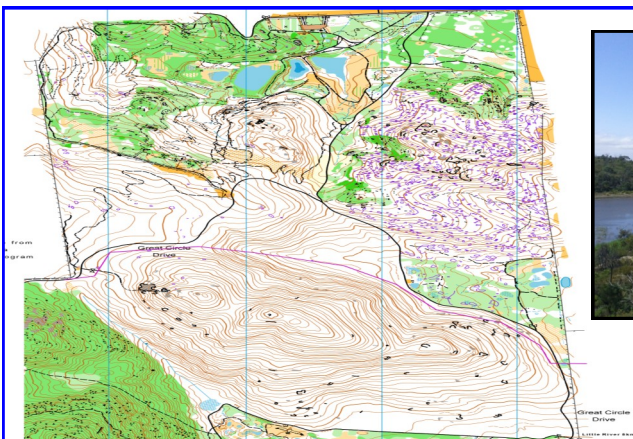
The northern half of the map was once heavily mined for sand and gravel. As a result many unique earth features are present as well as 4 large lakes in the old quarry sites.

Another significant feature of the map is the extensive mountain-bike facilities set up by Parks Victoria and the local mountain bike clubs. This means there are toilets and high quality car parks scattered around the map. The mountain bike tracks also provide useful thoroughfares through many of the thicker areas, meaning that this section is more orienteer friendly than the existing map.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS *Schon Hudson*

**New members:** Welcome to new members Sue and Bill Henley and Ian Talbett, all three of whom are senior members in Eastern Suburbs scouting. Bill is the District Commissioner for Whitehorse District and has been the primary liaison between Schon and Geoff and local scout groups. In November this year, Bill celebrates a 50 year association with scouting and now a keen organiser and participant in our new Eastern Suburbs Adventure series.

**Renewals:** Thanks to everybody that renewed their membership at the AGM or via the post or street-O events. If you haven't sent in your renewal yet, I'd be grateful if you could do so in the near future - as this makes my job a lot easier (and it means that I have fewer people to chase up). Our postal address is NE Membership,







## New Zealand 2012 by Rob Edmonds

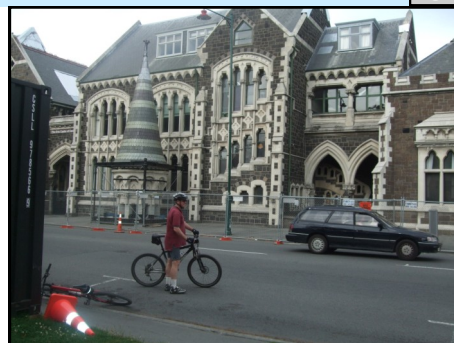
Club members, Anthony Lynch, Helen and Robert Edmonds were part of a large contingent of Aussie mountain bike orienteers who took on the challenge against the Kiwis in the Central Otago region of the New Zealand's south island. The tour began in Christchurch and then moved down to Wanaka. Helen and I last visited NZ in 1975, and we were really looking forward to this adventure.

The team gathered in quake torn Christchurch with the unpacking and reassembling of bikes. We took part in two practice events at nearby McLean's Island and Bottle Lake over the first two days. McLeans Island is a unique natural recreational area of flat land bordering the Waimakariri River and owned by Environment Canterbury. The area is a mix of over 15kms of purpose-built single tracks that wind through pine and exotic forest, stop-banks and 4WD shingle tracks, with some open land where forests have been cleared and some pasture. Bottle Lake is an area of flat plantation forest with intricate MTB track network on the northern coastal outskirts of Christchurch.

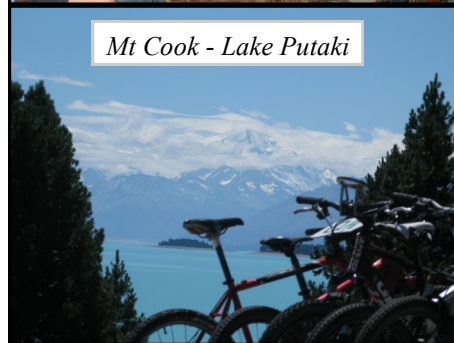
Most members, about 30 of the touring party, travelled in 3 mini buses with bikes atop the luggage trailers. Another dozen members travelled independently. We had time to explore Christchurch on the second day when Helen and I rode into the CBD from the North-South Tourist Park. The gardens were beautiful but the city centre was closed down while restoration work continues. Church spires nestle on footpaths and cranes adorn city streets. Most parts of Christchurch remain untouched, with areas on sand belts and marshlands most affected. The locals are suffering the ongoing trauma of coping with the disaster and the constant threat of further shocks. There were a number of shakes on the days before we arrived. Over 5000 homes will be levelled and many others are putting up with burst water and gas mains, and ripples and upwelling on roads from the after shocks.

Wanaka became our base for the next 4 events. We travelled across the Canterbury Plains for morning tea at Geraldine. They fish from quad bikes there. Then lunch at beautiful Lake Tekapo. Past Lake Putaki with views of Mt Cook and then onto the Backpackers Base at Wanaka. Andrew Campbell, Blake Gordon and Tim Hackney shared the driving while Peta Whitford, Kathy Liley, Helen Edmonds, Graham Wallis, Carolyn Matthews and Malcolm Roberts kept the conversation flowing. Yes, we were the older crew, first to get away and get back due to the stringent timelines set by Kathy and Peta.

The Sprint event was held at Roxburgh. This delightful little area is an alluvial terrace adjacent to the Clutha River which has been extensively mined for gold by sluicing. Some of the original land surface remains as flat-topped hills with steep scarps like American mesas; the remainder has been shifted and sifted, though the contours are mostly fairly smooth. There are one or two areas of intense contour detail. There are a few 4WD tracks, but local mountain bikers and a gold-panning tourism operator have created a network of single-track; but as it is little known many tracks are hard to see.



*Team Hats' Presentation*



*Mt Cook - Lake Putaki*





The long distance event was held at Alexandra. The name of the map *Linger and Die* says it all. The sun was out and it was very hot, so we slapped on the sun-screen and took on plenty of water.

This area had never been used for orienteering before and included a section of the Otago Central Rail Trail. We were told to be prepared for open terrain with significant contour detail, the organiser's euphemism for STEEP. Height range 380m. The men's open course had a climb of over 800m but that was probably more given the mapping left out a lot of dips and rises. The map has a variety of 4WD tracks, motor bike trails, old water-races and single tracks. Many trails have been formed by motorbikes which go up and down steeper hills than we could manage. Most of the area is very rocky, and we were advised to go with high tyre pressures to avoid pinch flats. However, all the advice didn't stop the ensuing carnage on machines and bodies. Broken chains, and cables, flat tyres and exhaustion led to many DNFs. Helen had a good ride finishing 6<sup>th</sup>; I managed a couple of costly errors but managed to finish mid-field. Anthony Lynch also completed the men's open course. Anthony was out for over 4 hours but showed great fitness in finishing midfield.

It was a very tired bunch that headed back to Wanaka. We stopped off for delicious cherries and homemade ice creams near Cromwell; and a swim in Lake Wanaka. We all appreciated the rest day. Some went to Queenstown to ride the downhill trails or tour this thrill seekers Mecca. Others visited the Rob Roy Glacier or enjoyed a day at Puzzle Land. Helen and I had a leisurely 2 hour ride and picnic on the Clutha River trail. I managed to distinguish myself by swerving off the track and ended up head down in a sewerage ditch. This earned me another swim in the lake.

Next day, it rained throughout the Sprint event at *Sticky-Hikuwai* near Wanaka. We were tested by several different terrain types, and the efforts of many local MTB track builders. There's a series of flat river terraces covered with a small native tree called manuka. There are flat and rolling paddocks. There are steeper manuka slopes near the river with single tracks. And covering the highest point is a plantation forest with a very dense single track network. These range from beginner rides to crazy downhills including jumps. This would have been a great area in dry conditions.

The final day was held at Snow Farm, near Cardrona, a tussock-covered plateau at 1500m on the Pisa Range. We had to be prepared for any of the extreme weather conditions that can present themselves in a mountain environment. It turned out to be very brisk but sunny. We feared that we would be riding in the snow but we had plenty of that later on in the trip. The landowners have established a cross-country skiing area and a motor vehicle winter proving ground with large skid pans. The mostly benched skiing trails fan out from a natural amphitheatre below a lodge. Riders formed teams of 2 and rode two legs each. I managed to DNF on leg 1 by visiting a control out of order. I only had to finish to take out the mixed short course with Helen; a bit disappointing. Anthony had two fast rides.



*Shaky Bridge - Alexandra*



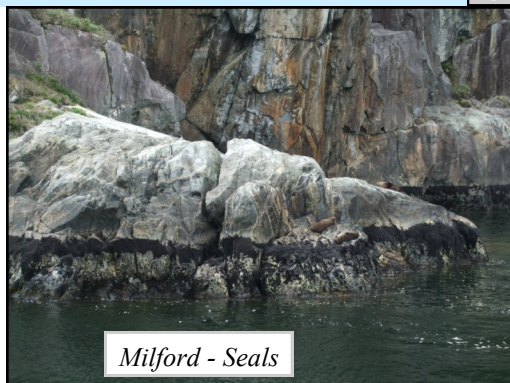
*Kingston Flyer near Queenstown*



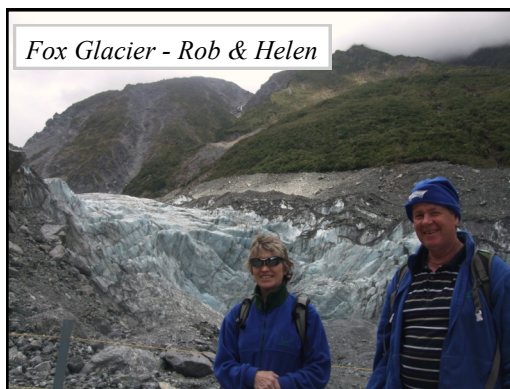
*Mitre Peak*



Helen and I then took off to Queenstown in the Mazda Impreza that I had picked up that morning. We spent a day at Arrowtown, visiting the historic gold rush town where Mary MacKillop set up a school with her 'brown Joeys' of the Josephite order of nuns. There are well preserved Chinese huts and lots of tourists infiltrating the main street shops. We enjoyed a 3 hour walk into the hills and gorges above Arrowtown. Next day, we set off for Te Anau, our starting base for the Kepler Track, Milford Sound cruise, and several walks in the mountain passes near Milford. What fantastic scenery! It doesn't get dark till about 10 pm this time of the year, so there is plenty of time to take in the outdoors. The higher mountains were covered in fresh snow and the weather was balmy and sunny. When we headed back to Alexandra, we rode the Otago Central Rail Trail from Ranfurly to Alexandra. We had ridden the section to Clyde and along the Clutha River trail the evening before. We then set off to the West Coast and stayed at Franz Josef after visiting the Fox and Franz Josef glaciers. Okarito and Ross were great stopovers on our journey to Greymouth. Ross has a terrific museum and walk, featuring its gold mining past. While visiting the cemetery we received the bad news that Helen's brother-in-law had died. We drove up to the Lewis Pass in pouring rain and down the other side in the dry before reaching our destination, Hanmer Springs, in the evening. Helen rebooked her flight to attend the funeral, but we managed, to ride Hanmer's excellent MTB trails, next day, before heading back to Christchurch. Helen caught a dawn flight and I drove down to Akaroa on the Banks Peninsula to explore, an interesting and delightful seaside village steeped in Maori and French history. L'Escargot Rouge, Rue Jolie, Rue Balguerre and Rue Lavaud are just a few of the French place names. Interesting also to note three cemeteries, one for Anglicans, another called the Old French Cemetery and a third for Catholics and Dissenters. That evening I went back to Bottle Lake to ride the popular MTB trail. The flight next day was magical as I looked down on the snow clad crocodilian spine of New Zealand from my porthole seat.



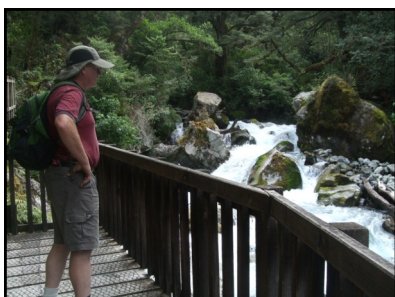
Milford - Seals



Fox Glacier - Rob &amp; Helen



Lake Haywood - Routeburn Track





## Orienteering Social Evening

Nillumbik Emus hosted a successful evening at the 1st Bennettswood Scout Hall in Station St, Burwood on Friday, Feb 10th. An invitation was extended to all orienteers and 40 attended on the night, mostly NE but a smattering from the other clubs and the Boy Scouts. The impetus and organisation came from Geoff and Schon Hudson.

There were two presentations:

1. Get Fit for Orienteering - by Steve Bird. If you missed out or want to revisit the messages Steve gave us go to the last Summer issue of the Orienteering Australia magazine.

2. Winter Escapes - by Geoff Hudson.

Geoff presented an entertaining and informative account of his 2011 sojourn through Europe by bike. Geoff gave us some valuable tips and presented some interesting possibilities. Geoff and Schon manage to join in together on these trips and take part in top level orienteering events at the same time.



*Geoff captivates audience*



*Ron Frederick, Steve Bird & Sue Healy*

*Supper time*



**Goulburn Valley Rail Trail:** Ron Frederick and a mate enjoyed riding the new trail. The hot weather may have deterred some. The trail is still not ready with 4 or 5 bridges not yet ready. A highlight is the side section to Alexandra and its railway museum.

### ***Club Committee Meeting***

*Friday, 17th February at 8pm*

*Laurie and Rex Nivens' residence,*

*15 Rockcliffe St Eltham Melways: 22 A8*

*RSVP Rex or Laurie 9431 3803*

*All members are welcome to join the committee*

### ***VOA Strategy Day***

*Sunday, 19th February*

*Macedon Primary School*

*If you have topics or proposals that you would like to discuss, please submit these to Don Fell, Orienteering Victoria Secretary, 9749 4941 as soon as possible.*



*Geoff Hudson in full swing*



*Steve Bird presentation*