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Victorian Champs Sunday 27th September

The President, Ron Frederick, would like to pay special thanks to organisers Sue Healy, Joyce Rowlands, course setter Rex Niven, Controller Tim Dent, and all other club members who helped put on a very successful Victoria Long Distance Championships in extremely difficult weather conditions. Despite the wintry, wet, soggy and boggy Nillumbik Emus put a great event. Special thanks must also go to Don Fell for setting up the carnival event file and making sure the results system worked smoothly. It was great to see several newer members taking on various roles. Callum Moore, assisted by Janet Johnson, was doing a very capable job on the SI download station. The results for the weekend's events were up on the VOA website by Monday night

There was a big turn out to Saffs for dinner. We were very pleased to have set up most of the gear before dark on Saturday. Barry and Jenny were right about Rob and Helen's tent. At about 9:30 Rob and Helen came back from Saff's to find their tent sodden and broken and adjourned to the club's army tent with Ron Frederick. It was great forethought from the organisers to ensure the entry to the paddock had large crushed rock laid down to allow vehicle access. However, the local road gang were behind in the road work and the unmade dirt road in from Fryerstown was a slippery and boggy mess even before the buses came in to make it nigh impassable. Luckily, we were able to show competitors an alternative route through the Fryers Ranges back to Taradale to avoid most of the mess. The local landowner tried to light a camp fire, but it was too miserable to even think about enjoying it.

Most people found the new map, Choke'em Gully a pretty and pleasant area to run on. Some wildflowers were out and our international visitors from America and Europe were delighted with the wildlife. There were two rescues for injured runners, but everyone returned safely. It was a great relief to see the last tent packed up and to see Ron Frederick towing the trailer back to Melbourne. The only concern was what had happened to Jim Taylor who was last back from collecting controls. But, thankfully Jim was back as the last of the cars was leaving the paddock.

The carnival concludes with the Australian Champs and Relays next weekend in the Warby Ranges near Wangaratta.

Lauris Stirling was second and Marion Johnson first in both events, and our only placegetters in the Australian Middle Distance Champs and the Victorian Champs.

Now that we have our event out of the way, we are looking to improved performances from a number of our more competitive runners. We are all hoping David Mallen does well in the Australian Schools' Champs. David is looking very fit and he has performed well in several recent events.

Victorian Teachers Games Monday 21st September

The VTG Orienteering was a very successful event held at Bullumwaal, north of Bairnsdale with 49 entries, including many newcomers. Beautiful weather with a 24° C day. Wish we had that on Sunday. Rob and Helen together with Pam King were flat out with coaching. Helen won the Gold medal and Pam King Silver in the female section. Helen followed up with Silver in the mountain bike Enduro next day. Next year the games go to Bendigo.

Maxi Sunday 13th September

Another great event and a top day for orienteering on Creswick Diggings. We eventually reached about 100 entries. Ian and Lauris's courses were well received and provided a great challenge for those trying to complete the whole course and route selection. Peter Mallen and Phil Giddings showed great stamina to complete the course. As usual, the event format suited all standards of

orienteering ability and the soup kitchen was a hive of activity. There were a good number of newcomers. Once again Schon, Joyce, Gordon were making sure everyone was well fed. What a great value event!

The Victorian Night Champs and Score Event will now be run on our Bunjil map near Ballan on Sat Nov 7 and Sun Nov 8. The Course Setter will be Ron Wescott and Joyce will be making sure the event is a fitting finale.