

Emu Thoughts

2004

Another Lorne to Surf run –most of us found that we were 5 minutes slower than last year. This was followed by 8 NEs and two honorary members tackling the 8km down from the Erksine Falls to the Erskine River which Stuart graphically detailed – time was 35 minutes; the signpost says 3 hours each way! Lauris Stirling was nominated for a Citizen of the Year award -- has worked tirelessly for cub/scout groups in the Eastern suburbs for more than 20 years. NE ran the second day of the Eureka Challenge, at Glenluce North; 34 attended including new members Rhonda Dibase and Bruce & Emma Johnson venturing into the bush for the first time. With some away at Easter and some on the Oxfam run there were only 17 at Kooyoorra, all old hands plus the rarely seen Janet J. 23 attended Glenlyon where an errant first control (placed too far down a gully) caused concern.

Easter had been in Southern Qld – long grass, hot conditions, and lantana made the courses more difficult than they otherwise might have been. The first event was the Galaxy Elite event, a sprint through the university campus adjacent to the (Ipswich) showgrounds which was interesting for a while --- but! The family relays some 50km distant were not well patronised (no NEs). The 3 Days themselves, unusually, were on the same map, basic spur gully. Day 1 was a scorcher – little water on the courses caused distress to some. Geoff had a nightmare leg through lantana infested gullies, taking more than 40 minutes to cut his way through and find the next control – Don wisely accepted an extra climb and detoured to a road taking 22 minutes. Day 2 was a little cooler and most of us took Don's lead and carried our own water. Day 3 was from the top of a nearby hill – everybody hoped to do well to make up for transgressions on the previous days. There were 17 NEs, our only Easter winner being Dorothy Adrian, with Helen Edmonds second and Paul Adrian third. One elite orienteer was hit on the side by a quickly moving kangaroo and was hospitalised with broken ribs.

New member Robert Plant started off as a power walker but then switched to running B. The Oxfam 100km walk (which was established in 1981 and is now annual in Britain, Hong Kong & Australia) saw the legendary Ghurka team beaten for the first time. Starting from Jells Park the 1300 participants aimed to complete the endurance event within 48 hours, 1140 finished. The winning teams (11 hours 59 minutes) were 4 orienteers. Geoff twisted an ankle and pulled out at the 75km mark. The club sponsored travel expenses for members of the Victorian Junior school team to the tune of \$200. Rob Fell, Hugh Mallen, Rachel & Alice Edmonds, and Jessica Niven helped the Victorian team to a memorable victory. NE received a grant of \$4000 to remap the You Yangs --- climbed by Matthew Flinders on May 1st, 1802. It names Flinders and his companions the earliest known people to have orienteered on one of our maps!

