

Emu Thoughts

2005

Recognising that we are gaining strong representation in the Western and Northern suburbs, we removed the geographic prefix Nillumbik from our newsletter title. Don suggested the new title – and in the spirit of never taking ourselves too seriously, we all thought it was a great idea. Welcome to the first official edition of Emu Droppings.

The Lorne and Erskine runs began our year. To avoid congestion the Lorne field was broken into 3 groups starting 15 minutes apart: much better. NEs were Hudsons; Geoff & Glenn, Don & Fiona Fell, Trevor & Romana Holmes, new was David Brownridge who was a comfortable first on the Erskine 8km in 34 minutes. New members were Paul Vidovich, Joanne Pugh, Greg Williams (president of the radio group), and Robyn Sunderland who prepares the VOA calendar among other tasks such as drawing maps and setting street courses. Stuart Fell is studying for a year in Stockholm. Ron Frederick wrote an article about his Mt Kilimanjaro Climb --- the highest freestanding mountain in the world, as it rises out of the plains of Africa, 6000 metres, 19,000 ft. The climb does not require any technical mountaineering skills or the use of ropes, crampons etc --- the most significant hazard is altitude sickness. Over a period of 4 days you pass through rain forest, alpine heath land, alpine desert (gravel & boulders), and a scree slope up the side of volcanic crater rim to a snow-capped peak with permanent ice cap. There was an article from New Scientist about marathon runners, fatigue, placebos, and the like. We purchased two new club banners, those vertical ones, held by Stirlings for the Melway series and Fells for the Silva series. A new m'ship list included 61 m'ship units, a new Elizabeth Fuller and three apparent social members truly belonging to other clubs.

Congratulations to all involved in the remapping and subsequent State Series event on Little Forest map – most enjoyable, and interesting. A MTBO State event at St George's Lake also went well. A foot event also at St George's Lake where Jeff Hughes was bush course setter for the first time. Our new running tops, sweat bands, hats and warm fleecy Winter tops were proving popular. Rob Edmonds and the Fells completed work on our new You Yangs map and the associated permanent course. The street series thrived much as usual with the NE regulars doing well.

The 9-day Victorian Bike ride, 570km from Murray to Yarra saw several NE riders. Ian & Lauris (again), Mary Omodei and daughter Lisa, and Joyce Rowlands who wrote that the organisation was fantastic for the 4500 riders plus 500+ volunteers – food was excellent and plentiful. There were people from all walks of life, and everybody was very friend and helpful

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