

Emu Thoughts

2006

Another new title --- now Emus Online.

The Eastern (Melway) street series has our regulars who very rarely miss. Rachel Johnson continues to be the leading female on the A course, our only representative. On B course, there's Peter Kempster, Ian & Lauris Stirling, Peter Mallen and Geoff Hudson. Rick on C – Kevin Maloney, Bill & Marion Johnson are always there on the E course. In the Western (Silva) series the Fells are always in strength, the boys run A, Don & Fiona B, along with Geoff and Alex Shepherd (“runs well for an old bloke!”). Phil Giddings (a recycled member from years before) heads C --- other regulars are Sue Healy, Helen Schofield, Ron Wescott, Schon Hudson, Lenore Shepherd, & Rhonda. The Northern series was created to provide NE and YV, the clubs that service this area, with the opportunity to create new members. It is unfortunate that voracious Bayside continues to solicit everybody from anywhere – at 380 members they are now the biggest club in Vic, if not Australia. Our regular Northerners include the Horn family, Pamela Copley, Ron Frederick, Jeff & Anne Hughes. Thanks to all the course setters including Bruce Johnson for Westgarth recently. Rachel J set a demanding course at Bennettswood that tested the 140 who attended; a park beside Gardiners Ck, a perfect spot. Greensborough, however, only saw 67, probably because of 41C heat.

Congratulations to James Fell for the Melb Uni Micro map – James has done a superb job of mapping and field working in 3 dimensions – with the map showing underpasses, elevated walkways, and ramps/stairs. Brendan Whyte previously based at Melb Uni (often ran as a partner with Ian Stirling) now resides in Israel and asks for a copy. Ron Frederick, Daniel, Tom, Chris, Rob & Helen Edmonds, and Derek Morris rode both ways on The Great Southern Bike Ride, 67km to Toora; Helen Schofield and Robyn Sunderland were support crew. The various club and VOA meetings canvassed a wide range of issues such as computer printer maps, a possible handicap system for street events, co-operation with DROC about to return to BushO after years of being only street, women's coaching, health issues such as warming up and cooling down.

New members street series members: the Munoz Family (son Paul runs in B), Rico Privado, Tim & Alister Ling. Peter K's daughter Melissa is seen these days too (as years ago). James Fell is an exchange student, in Japan. 29 NEs received OFA merit badges. Rob E is involved with the Teachers' Games. A mid-week You Yangs event is planned. The Easter 3 Days differed from usual in that instead of the 3 clubs each doing everything on their day there was a combined effort with Start, Finish & Results allotted to a club for all three days. NEs day at Blowmine went well. The Winter Night series is growing – it is always surprising to see that even in the

coldest/wettest conditions we still get 80-100 participants. The Saturday afternoon "Cake O" series is growing too; particularly sociable. Geoff gave a three page detailed report of the Oxfam 100km Walk --- left Jells Park at 8.30 -- walked briskly -- to Churchill -- then Lysterfield where Sue & Stan Gurman had hot soup waiting -- 3.5 hours for 23km. Up Logan track to Wellington -- steep climb to Belgrave -- downhill to Ferntree Gully---averaging 6kmh. Glenn Hudson and I up front, David & Ella (girlfriend) at rear. Then to One Tree Hill -- down tortuous muddy goat tracks to Sassafras. Glenn's girlfriend Emma phoned to say that HEAVY rain is approaching. Starts to rain by Olinda, 48km. Change into wet gear. -- Mt Evelyn -- absolutely pouring. With reports of snow on Donna Buang the route was to terminate at checkpoint 7 but many teams had pulled out by this -- including the Hudsons. All in all, we raised a little over \$1500 for Oxfam.

Joyce wrote of the Whroo MTBO event course set by Bernie Shuttleworth assisted by Phil Giddings -- with fine weather there was no need for tents, saved time and energy. 52 cyclists including 12 newcomers rode the 4 courses (nobody did course 5). From Japan James sent us an article about the Kyoto Orienteering Championship at "Shuugakuin". The map was entirely green, and extremely steep. The ground was soft, so soft that when I was falling down a cliff-like slope I grasped a tree which promptly removed itself from the ground. On the way to the first control I was surprised to see a Shinto shrine in the middle of the forest. There were about 70 people at the event, juniors making up a third. Ian gave us an article re Around the Bay in 2 Days, 230km, leaving Docklands hence via Yarraville, Newport, Sanctuary Lakes, Point Cook, You Yangs, Lara, Eastern Beach by 2.30. After recuperating it was the 35km to Queenscliffe. Day 2 was up early to catch the 8.00am ferry to Sorrento; the bay was like a mill pond. We had a welcome rest at Mornington and assisted by a tail wind then made good time to Mordialloc. I am sure glad Lauris and I took a few 40-60km rides in preceding weeks. Geoff raised the possibility of having minor bush events without controls --- no putting out and collecting --- using biodegradable tapes instead --- also re automatic assessment via wrist-mounted GPS devices.

Emus and friends have now started running training activities on Monday evenings -- in reality just an excuse to get out for another run. No charge. No liability issues: each participant to sign a waiver. No controls -- the last digit on light poles provides an excellent way of recording transit past a control site. First person back puts his card in the box and then takes charge of monitoring the time for others. Start locations -- somewhere we can access a toilet and cover, and tea/coffee after the run, Ian Stirling extended our Westgarth map further to the North. The club sponsored \$300 each to Dave Hudson, Alice & Kate Edmonds, and Jessica Niven who made the junior squad for the Aust Champs in WA. The World Masters Orienteering Champs were held recently and a number of Emus and Melb orienteers took part. Congratulations to Sue Healy for second place in her age-category. Don Fell slipped tripped and performed a swallow dive onto the rocks when descending Mt Fuji along its southern access track.

As well as bodily battering and cuts, grazes and bruises to all limbs, torso and head, I sustained a fracture of my left radius at the wrist requiring insertion of plate and screws. Our Maxi Score event at Whroo was good --- the weather was perfect, 17C, and recent rains meant that the area was greener than usual. The start/finish location was in a tree covered knoll just South of the Balaclava Mine site – good views of runners coming home along the road. Laurie and Helen S win Veteran Female. Course setter was Ron Wescott. A recent Camelot Rise event saw newcomers in Dianne & partner Paul, with a super fit 11-year-old Jarrah, and Jade a cute 4-year-old. Also, new members David & Khayen Prentice set a course on BK's Bulleen up & down map – they take it in turns to go to street O and to look after young daughter Lauren. Another new street runner is Jim Taylor – he is the cheerful, tall guy wearing his new NE running top. The Victorian Teachers' Games at Eastern Park and the You Yangs was organised and run by Rob Edmonds, for the 3rd year. Robyn Sunderland, Helen Edmonds and Helen Schofield assisted.

James Fell sent another report from Japan. He had been down South to Okinawa and all the way up North to the semi arctic island of Hokkaido – the train was the bumpiest and nosiest I have ever been on – scheduled to go for 16 hours. I noticed that all the buildings had two sets of doors in their entrance, so it obviously gets very cold. The street signs are tri-lingual, Japanese, Russian and English. From New Scientist there was an article “The Antioxidant Myth” purporting that half the adults in US take antioxidant pills daily in the belief that they promote good health and stave off disease. It went on to cast doubt on this, even to the extent that they could be harmful.

NE won the Rockhopper trophy again with a score of 1522, BG 1295, EU 1266, and BK 1236

2007

Phil Giddings took a tumble at StreetO and split his lip. Schon recovering after bunion operations broke a bone in a recently repaired foot. New members are Kylee Woods & partner Geoff from St Andrews, the Power-Tsoucalas family Lucy & John with kids Lily & Ruby; the Moore family, Barry & Jennifer with Liana, Tegan & Callum. They are from a clan of NSW orienteers and have been sent South to try and raise the Victorian standard. I think they have joined us because they feel this where they can do the most good. Also, the Barratt-McCurrach family with Sally, Julie, Riley, Lawson, Daniel & Megan. President Ron F has been to South America for a 3-day walking event carrying packs in Chile and has written an article about it. Rob Fell wrote about recent activities in Canberra – the concept is that teams get dropped at 4.30am at some unknown spot in the bush. They then have to work out where they are and navigate to the finish which is given to them as a map grid reference. They provide their own maps 1:100,000 or whatever 1:25,000 maps they can get their

hands on. "We had finished the race and had many stories to tell, have crossed two rivers, climbed through a gorge, crossed a mountain range, and lived to tell the tale.

Easter was at Burra in SA; the NE banners were noticeable. Gordon Clarke and Joyce Rowlands – Married at Last!! Ian Stirling advised us of the Sport Leadership Grants for Women project – re coaching and officiating, undertaking management skills and the like. Geoff & Schon had a week in Fiji and Geoff wrote about it. Bernie Shuttleworth had two months exploring the coastline between Broome and Perth. The Maxi Score was at Hepburn Springs -- the terrain chosen for the course was steeper than in previous years. Route choice was critical. The assembly location was one of the prettiest start locations that we have come across in years, having access to clean toilets, running water, barbecues, and tables. We were incredibly lucky with the weather, beautiful sunny weather during the event that gradually deteriorated as we collected the controls and packed the trailer --- drove home in pouring rain. New members are The Bushmaster family, Louise, Tom & Alice; Bernard and Carla Daly, Paul Archibald & Desiree Pettit, the Thurlin family, Anders & Mia experienced orienteers from Sweden, young daughters Tilde & Agnes. With so many new members cmte recently approved the purchase of more than \$4000 of additional NE running tops etc. Rob Edmonds got an article in the local press extolling among other things that NE had won the Rockhopper trophy again, 10 times in 12 years.

Mention was made of Wally Cavill's Tuesday morning walking group for retirees within the City of Monash, Bill & Marion Johnson are regulars; never miss. Controls are fire hydrants (surprising how many variants there are, new ones are a flat circle grid on the ground) – maps are given out and walkers write the number of the nearest house to the particular hydrant on their card – there are 25 hydrants with graduated values according to distance totalling 100 points. Very rarely does anybody score 100, usually in the 70-80s with the Js 40-50s. The Monday night events are growing with 35 or so attending. NE had 20 runners in 7 teams in the Club Relays; our best was the team made up of Ron Frederick, Alan Watts and Rob Edmonds, who came a close second on course 3. The Oceania Carnival was in ACT with a number of NEs were represented in the Australian JWOC team. Rob Fell did well in being second in M20E long distance, fourth in Middle Distance and third in the sprint champs. Joyce Rowlands was first in W75A, Kevin Maloney 4th in M55AS. Dave Mallen wrote of his team experiences (4th in Middle Distance and 3rd in Schools' Relay) – I feel that I have achieved a lot to do so well at international level, and I will try to get into the team again in the future. Thanks to NE for supporting me.

Geoff outlined the features of OCAD 9 the Orienteer computer Aided Design program --- cmte is considering updating from OCAD 8 for which we have had two licences for some years; a lot of technical detail given! Ron Frederick was a helper at the Melbourne Marathon and was pleased to see Hanny Allston (orienteer who won gold in Europe) win the women's section by a big margin in 2hrs 40mins. Geoff Hudson

had an article about Solar Power in Melbourne; solar arrays for heating water and grid-connected solar systems.

Rachel Johnson took part in the national Athletics Club Championship in Hobart recently and brought the women's trophy home to Box Hill – first time in 75 years of competition.

2008

For several months Geoff had been asking for a new editor to come forward, especially as he no longer regularly went to Bush events and thus was losing touch with the bush scene. However, nobody was forthcoming. So, the Feb 2008 Emus Online was the last: full stop.

Bushfire has destroyed portion of our Borhoney Ghurk map South of Mt Doran – Rex & Laurie Niven reported on the damage – 40% not burnt -- all the complex mining is in the burnt areas.

The street series were frequent and varied --- a new one was in Carlton Gardens. Darebin Ck was in flood on their night --- crossing the creek was dangerous and could prove fatal.

Parks Victoria has decided that there will be no more MTBO events at the You Yangs, as the Western Sandy Creek area is now to be set aside for horse riding. 84 took part in the last event, Rob & Helen Edmonds, Kevin Maloney, Joyce Rowlands and other NEs participating or helping.

Lynette Giddings wrote about the Kokoda Track ---an awesome experience – it was tough, bloody tough, rough, steep and at times even treacherous --- I have never encountered so much mud and sweat. Each morning I would be up around 4.30 --- we would begin each day with a hearty breakfast of porridge and a malaria tablet --- our 3 longest days were 9.5 hours. This was a long and detailed article—it took 8 days for the 96km --- raging torrents, log bridges washed away. I feel great pride in my achievement, not bad for a woman (wife and mum) who celebrated her 53rd birthday on the Track.

Websites ---- the fastest way to find anything is to Google Orienteering Victoria and take it from there!

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