

# Blueprint

## Occasional

### Newsletter

Published: 25 July 2020

OPB, WO  
km 120 m

[www.bennelongnorthside.com.au](http://www.bennelongnorthside.com.au)

Bare rock  
Boulders  
Boulder field, Boulder cluster  
Stony ground, rocky outcrops  
Crossable watercourses  
Marsh  
Open land  
Open land, scattered trees  
Runnable forest (White)  
Slow run, good visibility  
Slow run, poor visibility  
Walk/fight, good visibility  
Walk/fight, poor visibility



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### In this issue .....

#### **Blueprint** goes "*Occasional*"!

With so many sources of event information available to the modern orienteer, **Blueprint** can serve a higher purpose. So as Bennelong, Australia's oldest orienteering club, approaches its 50th year, **Blueprint** will focus on our history. And for more than one reason, now be published .... occasionally.

Originally called Bennelong Occasional Orienteers (BOO) when formed at the end of 1971, the club amalgamated with Northside Orienteers and Social Harriers (NOSH) to form Bennelong Northside Orienteers (BNO) in 1988.

Much has happened since then, so I hope you enjoy this first retrospective edition and look forward to the next Bennelong Northside Orienteers' **Blueprint Occasional** newsletter!

Peter Hopper

**Blueprint** is published occasionally ... documenting Bennelong Northside Orienteers' history, and the people & events creating it.

Back Issues: [bennelongnorthside.com.au](http://bennelongnorthside.com.au)

President  
Terry Bluett

Secretary  
Alitia Dougall

Treasurer & Public Officer  
Sharon Lambert

Vice President  
Gordon Wilson

ONSW Delegates (3)  
Terry Bluett, Rodney Parkin, Darren Slattery

Club Captain  
Brett Sewell

Equipment Officer  
Wayne Pepper

Newsletter Editor  
Peter Hopper

Publicity/Website  
Darren Slattery

Mapping Co-ordinator  
Melvyn Cox

Results Co-ordinator  
Terry Bluett



# President's Report

If not for coronavirus, Bennelong's role in helping organise a successful Easter 2020 would be complete. Instead, we can prepare for and look forward to Easter 2021.

The club has made a big commitment, along with Central Coast Orienteers and Goldseekers, to organise Easter 2021 in Central West NSW near Molong and Orange. Club members, Gordon Wilson, Terry Bluett, Steve Flick, Sharon Lambert, Eric Morris, and Rod Parkin hold key positions in the event organisation. And other members have been co-opted to help. But we will require more volunteers as the event nears. Easter 2021 will attract 800-1000 competitors. It will be the biggest thing the club has done since 1996 when Bennelong, with Garingal, organised Easter 1996.

Before coronavirus restrictions were imposed Bennelong was going from strength to strength - fielding 5 strong teams in the Metro League bush orienteering competition on the back of many fine performances in the (almost completed) Sydney Summer Series. The Metro League competition is set to resume for a few rounds, but the Sydney Summer Series was terminated with just a couple of rounds remaining. Club member standings at the time are listed later in the newsletter.

At our recent AGM, held in sunshine after Castle Hill Metro League 1, I was pleased to announce Rodney Parkin as the recipient of the 2020 Bennelong President's Award. Rod has spent a lot of time and many visits recently to Noahs Ark Ridge (near Molong) as course setter for Day 1 of Easter 2021 - the middle distance event of the carnival - and was organiser and controller for last year's Metro League event at Aquatic Reserve (Frenchs Forest).

Rod, possibly Bennelong's longest standing member, is an experienced and accomplished orienteer, having been Australian Junior Champion during the early days of orienteering in 1973. More recently Rod has had

some good results in the very competitive M60A class and is a regular competitor in Summer Series and State League events.

Congratulations Rod, and thank you for your contribution to Bennelong being a successful and happy club. Good luck as well in your new role on the Orienteering NSW Board.

I hope you are all fit and ready to go now that orienteering is allowed again.

Terry Bluett



Terry



*Be it by speed, stealth, or camouflage, like the Penrith Panther, Rod Parkin has gained a reputation for being photographically elusive. But these rare glimpses of "Rod In The Wild" may encourage Bennelong's Action Man to pose for the camera a little more often.*



# Results - Summer 2019/2020

Last Summer's competition almost escaped CoViD-19 restrictions with the Saturday Orienteering Series, Xmas 5-Days, and Sydney Sprint Series all being completed. But after 24 of the 26 rounds of Sydney Summer Series the Federal Government called an early end to proceedings, including postponement of the presentations, until after the pandemic has eased.

## Sydney Summer Series

47 Bennelong members competed in the 29th Sydney Summer Series season. And after 24 rounds claimed 9 podium positions in 7 categories. The full list of Bennelong place-getters is a *Who's Who* of Bennelong Summer Series participants (see opposite).

## Sydney Sprint Series

Find results via the ONSW website [here](#).



Rachel, Gwen, & Sharon - Sydney Sprint 1 at Manly

## Xmas 5-Days

Five days of bush orienteering around the Armidale area. Find results on Eventor [here](#).

## Saturday Orienteering Series

Find results on the Bold Horizons website [here](#).



## Season 29 - Bennelong Results

### Walking Women

Michelle Povah	2nd
Katherine Cameron	3rd

### Junior Women

Tshintia Hopper	3rd
Abi McGhee	4th

### Junior Men

Clyde McGhee	6th
Curtis Pepper	12th
Vincent Morris	14th
Jannie Nel	38th*

### Open Women

Melissa Thomas	1st
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### Open Men

Richard Morris	2nd
Austen Pepper	11th

### Masters Women

Alitia Dougall	18th
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### Masters Men

Richard Pattison	6th
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### Walking Men

Joel Putnam	8th
Brett Sewell	12th
Darren Slattery	20th
Brian Black	24th
Andy Povah	32nd

### Veteran Women

Sharon Lambert	2nd
Lara D'Abreo	5th
Rachael Povah	11th

### Veteran Men

Robert Hayen	8th
Simon Nash	17th
David McGhee	24th
Phillip Smyth	25th
Stefan Kuehn	31st*
Wayne Pepper	34th
Samuel Tsang	36th
Stuart Butler	38th
Keith Povah	43rd
Rob Wildig	76th
Louis Nel	89th

### Super Veteran Women

Caroline Wilson	8th
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### Super Veteran Men

Brian Brannigan	1st
Peter Hopper	2nd
Melvyn Cox	4th
Bob Morgan	6th
Digby Pritchard	10th
Rod Parkin	18th
Julian Ledger	19th
Dom Pitot	21st
Peter Thomason	23rd

### Legends Women

Cheryl Bluett	9th
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### Legends Men

Steve Flick	3rd
Gordon Wilson	6th
Terry Bluett	19th

### Immortal Women

Gwen Sewell	4th
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\* corrected



# Member Interview

## Rodney Parkin

*0. Profile: Name, age (or running class if you'd prefer!), place of origin*



Rodney Parkin, age 65. Curiously I was born in Hong Kong (my father was on a job posting, I spent the first 3 months of my life there). Other than that, I have lived in Sydney all my life except for a couple of short periods on job postings in the USA.

*1. When did you join the club? What was a main motivation to join? Tell us a few words about your family, & 2. When did you first hear about orienteering?*

I joined Bennelong Occasional Orienteers (BOO) in 1972. I think it was the only club in Sydney then. At the time I was in high school and heavily into rock climbing and bush walking. One of my teachers had heard about orienteering and suggested I give it a go.

A few years later the Uringa club was formed and I (traitorously) joined them - mostly because their base was closer to where I was living at the time. I subsequently dropped out of orienteering for a few years. When I came back, BOO had merged with Northside Orienteers and Social Harriers (NOSH) to form what is now Bennelong Northside Orienteers (BNO). They seemed like a nice bunch so I joined them.

For those of you who have met my wife Donna, she has many strengths, but navigation is not one of them. Although she is happy to go bushwalking, and occasionally things like canyoning, and is extremely gym-fit, and we share a joy of adventure travel, orienteering is definitely not a goer for her. I met her 35 years ago in the USA when I was there on a job posting (she grew up in Boston). We have 2 cats but no children.

*3. Tell us about your first orienteering event? Where and when was it?*

My first orienteering event was at "Camp Coutts" just south of Waterfall, south of Sydney. It used a hand-drawn black-and-white map, essentially copied from a military topo map, with almost no field work. I've attached a copy [next page] I got from the organiser (someone named Dave Lotty) relatively recently - it doesn't specifically show my course, I think it was probably some sort of master map.

I turned up and it was recommended that I did what is probably, today, called the Easy course. When I got back they hadn't yet set up the finish. So I did another course, probably what would today be a Moderate course. I really enjoyed it and was hooked.

*4. What do you do when you're not orienteering?*

Formally, my professional background is in Software and Electrical Engineering. Practically, I have spent a good part of my career designing medical devices - primarily implantable heart assist devices. Later this evolved into a more clinical role, and I have managed Clinical Engineering teams conducting clinical trials in Australia, the USA, and Europe. My wife and I own and run a software testing company, although we are largely extracting ourselves from that now. I'm an SES Volunteer, and so occasionally get called out to pump water out of people's basements, or to clear trees after storms. And I still like to go bushwalking, and very occasionally go canyoning, and all those good things. And if you have a few spare moments, ask me about ikki (hint: see [ikkiworks.com](http://ikkiworks.com)).

*5. What type of orienteering do you prefer (eg. urban vs bush orienteering, type of terrain/landscape etc)?*

I've never been much of a runner - navigation is where I do best. As a natural consequence of that I much prefer bush orienteering to street orienteering, although in recent times I've come to quite enjoy sprint events. I particularly like complex terrain features like we get in some of our granite and gold mining areas. I get annoyed by gratuitous hills as I usually end up too tired to think clearly.

In recent years I've started doing MTBO which I do like, although again I'm not very fast.

*6. What are your dreams and goals in orienteering?*

Perhaps surprisingly to many in the club, I have almost no experience with "big" European orienteering events. (My European orienteering experience has never really been more than opportunistic events when I have been there on business.) As I move into semi-retirement I'm looking forward to lots of opportunities to change that.

As many of you will know, I've just been appointed to the NSW Board, and I hope to help the sport move from where it relies on the individual "heroic" contributions of individual volunteers to where most of the background logistics "just happen".

More personally, although I've long since given up expectations of being a "champion", I absolutely savour those events where it all just clicks: you run well, you are in control, you make the right decisions, and you finish in the upper bunch. To me that is what keeps me in the sport. (Oh yes, and the odd occasions when I beat Mel or Gordon!)

*7. How would you like to contribute to BN club?*

BN has done well for me, and over the years I hope I have returned that. I've been Treasurer for quite a few years, and helped organise quite a few events. I'm a level 2 controller and oversee events from time to time. But at the end of the day, Bennelong has been a good bunch of friends. To the newer members who read this, sure it is good to make "practical" contributions, but it is even better to help build Bennelong as a social team. I hope I can contribute to doing that.

*8. What do you like in orienteering the most?*

Sometimes it all just clicks ... I run well, I make good route choices, I stay in contact with the map, I make no mistakes ... it is extremely satisfying when that happens.

*9. Your wishes to BN members?*

Just go out and enjoy orienteering and the outdoors!










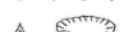




# WATERFALL HEATHCOTE STATE PARK

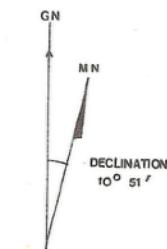
Scale 1:25,000



Contour Interval 10 metres

## Legend

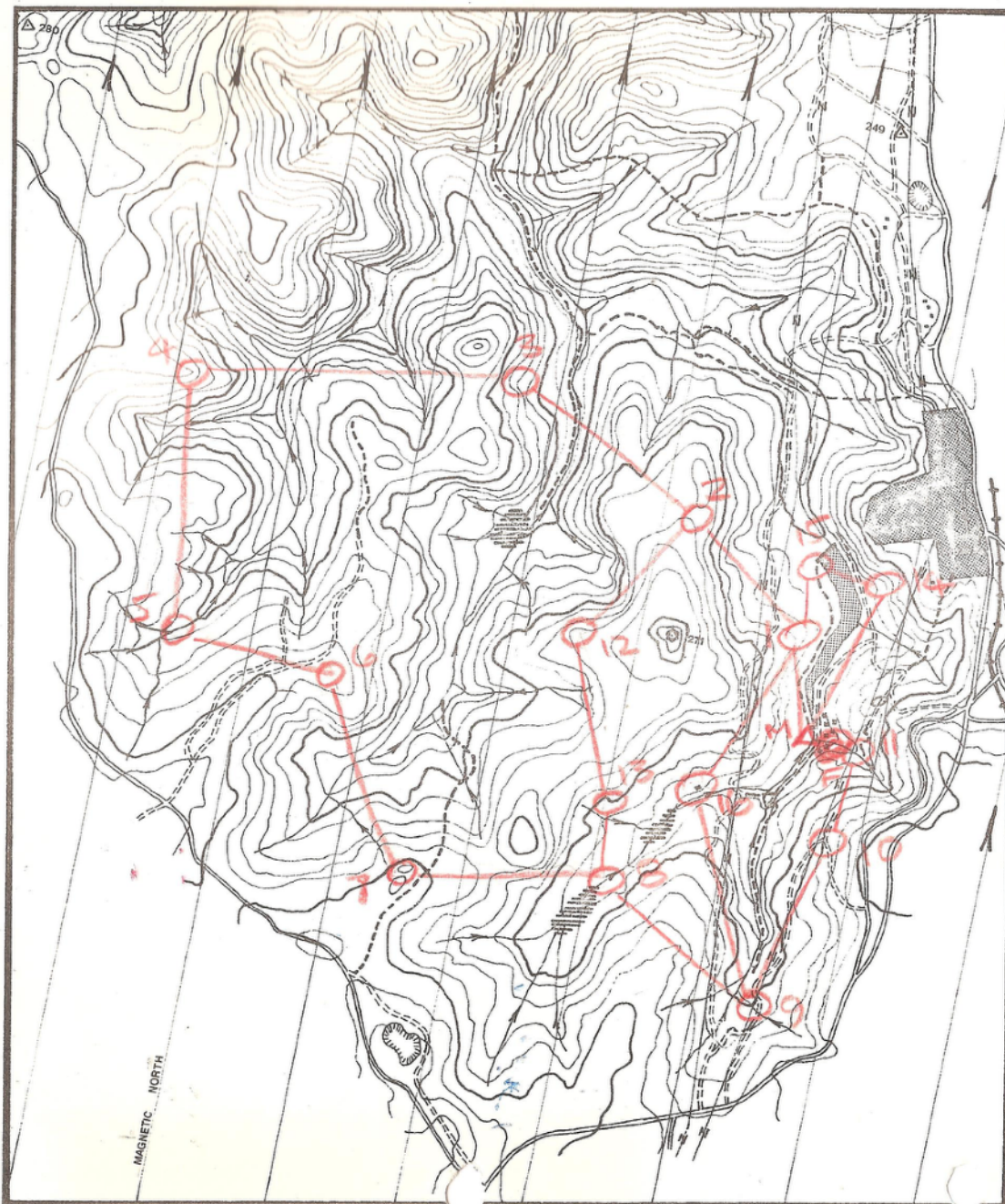
-  contours
-  creek
-  reservoir
-  marsh
-  road
-  track
-  path
-  transmission line
-  railway line
-  trig station ; quarry
-  buildings
-  built up area



PREPARED FROM 1:25000 ARMY MAPS  
WITH FIELD OBSERVATIONS



DAVE LOTTY  
JUNE, 1972



## Something Old

← Is this Bennelong's first ever map?

And first club logo?

As the first orienteering club in NSW/Australia many of our competitors began their orienteering adventures as 'Bennelong' members. Dave Lotty, for example, organised this early event.

## Something New

What is this?



If you haven't already followed Rod's link from the previous page, have a guess before clicking [here](#) .....



# A Brief History of NOSH

Have you ever wondered what all the fuss is about for The Great NOSH Footrace? And why Bennelong has such interest in a trail run with no orienteering component whatsoever?

Our club's history was entwined with The Great NOSH Footrace - Australia's oldest continuous trail-running footrace - long before Bennelong Occasional Orienteers (BOO) amalgamated with Northside Orienteers and Social Harriers (NOSH) to form "Bennelong Northside Orienteers" in 1988.

Terry Bluett recalled part of that history in his Vale to Frank Assenza in *The Australian Orienteer*, September 2016 (page 38):

*"Frank started Orienteering in 1974 as a member of BOO (Bennelong Occasional Orienteers) ... Frank was instrumental in getting BOO and NOSH (Northside Orienteers and Social Harriers) to amalgamate ... Frank was president of BOO at the time ..."*



Frank Assenza



Terry starting the 2008 NOSH

*"There are two lasting legacies of Frank's Orienteering career - the NOSH footrace and the Sydney Metro League."*

*"The NOSH footrace was in danger of folding before Frank [and his nephew Bill McCarthy] took it on."*

*"When I first met Frank ... I was co-opted into helping clear the track and marshalling for the Great NOSH".*

Rodney Parkin also recalls a part of the NOSH history:

*"I ran it in 2001. Before that was Graham Galbraith. And Frank Assenza before that. After me was Terry and then Robert Spry."*



By Margaret Jones, from July 2011 Newsletter of Orienteering NSW.

## New boys to the rescue



Had it not been for Joel Putnam and Darren Slattery the 36th NOSH race of 2010 would have been doomed to be the last. New joiners to Bennelong Northside Orienteers they teamed up to organise the race at short notice when it was announced that the classic trail run would have to be cancelled due to lack of volunteers for the job.

Darren is an old hand at trail running and adventure racing. Although he came to sport later, having no interest in team sports at school, he has made up for lost time since. With a group of like-minded friends who call themselves 'The Trihards' he has raced in the AROC series, Maximum Adventure and Kathmandu races. He has even raced in previous editions of the NOSH. Despite living near Roseberg State Forest as a youngster growing up in Canowindra he first tried orienteering through the Summer Series only four years ago. He was happy to stay an independent runner on the city courses until he attempted a State League race at Belanglo.

'It felt really good to do a full length course,' he enthuses, 'but I realised that to make the step up to bush races I probably needed the support of a club'. Having friends in a number of different orienteering clubs made the choice of which to join more difficult than for the average newcomer who chooses based on their postcode. The decision eventually came down to the size of the club. 'I wanted to get really involved and felt that a smaller club like Bennelong would suit me better'.

He met Joel at the club and as both of them were interested in setting courses and organising races they decided to team up and put on the 37th NOSH race as a joint effort. Splitting the job up between them, Darren took on the website and merchandising work with Joel concentrating on working with the National Park and local council authorities. It was a lot more work than either of them had envisaged but Darren was impressed by the way the other Sydney orienteering clubs pitched in to help. 'With very little more than being asked to help, they just came along, did the job and it all went incredibly smoothly'.

'The NOSH was definitely more work that I thought it would be' agrees Joel who described himself at the junior partner in the challenge of putting on the NOSH at short

notice. But Joel is no stranger to big challenges; his career to date has encompassed an Arts & Commerce degree and a Chartered Accountancy qualification, and he currently working on an MBA whilst employed by Qantas in their Corporate Business Advisory department. He is a long time athlete, having competed at State level at school in both Athletics and Tennis but was encouraged to try orienteering by a work colleague who did not himself orienteer but thought it was a good idea for Joel. 'I ran in the Summer Series periodically for about two to three year before I joined the club' he says before explaining that it was the kindness and generosity of the Bennelong club members which encouraged him to join them. 'I liked the fact that the club was the oldest orienteering club in Australia. That, and it had a great website.'

It seems that Bennelong have scored themselves two great new members, and that the whole orienteering community will be better for it. It certainly looks like organising the 37th NOSH is no one-hit wonder for these two. Darren admits that whilst he thinks it does take a team to organise the NOSH he has lots of ideas for next year, and Joel is already out and planning the Metro League #5 at Pennant Hills, and a Chowder Bay Summer Series event.



*Rather than see it abolished in 2011, Darren Slattery & Joel Putnam performed a balancing act to keep the race going.*

With Barbara Hill's **Bold Horizons** taking on its organisation from 2017, The Great NOSH Footrace now has a dedicated website. So the search is on for NOSH's early history, pictures, documents, & pre-2000 results.

## NOSH 2021

For those who missed their NOSH in 2020 due to coronavirus, you can look forward to NOSH 2021 on Sunday 6 June. Enter via the NOSH website [here](#).



**Orienteering NSW**

Newsletter of Orienteering NSW



# Recommended Viewing: The Fall - SBS On Demand (until 14 August 2020)

A captivating retrospective. Compelling for running enthusiasts, with relevance to the current Black Lives Matter movement.

## The Fall

SBS ON DEMAND

“... the real story of Mary Decker and Zola Budd ...”

[www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/1451322947748/the-fall](http://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/1451322947748/the-fall)



## Club History

Have you ever wanted to explore the past but didn't have a *Wayback Machine* ?



Now you have.

Like the biggest orienteering event in history .....

*“Come with us now on a journey through time and space”* - The Mighty Boosh

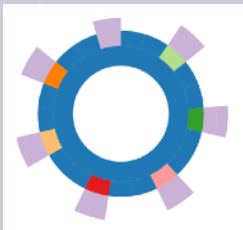
Have you ever wondered, for example, “*What on earth happened to the “Bennelong Northside Club Championships”*” ?

**Warning:** The past can be a disturbing place to visit.

With the *Wayback Machine* you can find out!

Click [here](#) (if you're game) for an answer to that prickly question!

Not coronavirus.  
This little fella should be familiar to Waybackers.



## Going Way Back

The Wayback Machine can certainly reveal a lot of useful information that is no longer on the internet's World Wide Web. But to obtain information that has never appeared on the web requires people power.

This newsletter has begun to explore and document the (post-1988-amalgamation) history of Bennelong Northside Orienteers. However, the pre-amalgamation history of both Bennelong Occasional Orienteers (BOO) and Northside Orienteers and Social Harriers (NOSH) is still a mystery. Any pre-1988 BOO and NOSH information that does exist is not on the web. In fact, nothing about our club appears on the web before about 1998.

So all long-standing member-archivists, please rummage through your hoards for anything that might help fully document the history of our club, and The Great NOSH Footrace.

## 50 Years of Bennelong

There was a moment of enthusiasm in May 2003 (*BluePrint* extract follows):

*“I was wondering whether anyone has put together any of the history of BN .... I seem to remember a whole lot of photos and other stuff at the 25th anniversary dinner we had a while back”*. - Debbie Cox

But since then nothing has been done.

So with Bennelong soon to be celebrating its 50th year, it is timely that the club's full history be compiled.

As the first NSW orienteering club and the first formally constituted club in Australia, Bennelong paved the way for other clubs in NSW and around Australia.

So if you have any pictures, documents, stories, memorabilia etc from Bennelong's early days (ie. as BOO, NOSH, or BNO) please *let me know*.

- Peter Hopper  
*BluePrint Occasional Editor*

### BENNELONG'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Bennelong Northside Orienteers will be holding a dinner at North Sydney Leagues Club on Friday 6 December 1996 at 7.00 pm, to celebrate the Club's 25th Anniversary. All current and former members of BNO and BOO are invited to attend.

For further information and RSVP please phone Janet Dawkins by 1 November 1996,

*The Australian Orienteer, September 1996*

