



# Blueprint

Issue 2/2015 - May, 25<sup>th</sup> 2015

Boulders  
Boulder field, Boulder c  
Stony ground, rocky ou  
Crossable watercourse  
Marsh  
Open land  
Open land, scattered tr  
Runnable forest (White  
Slow run, good visibility  
Slow run, poor visibility  
Walk/fight, good visibi  
Walk/fight, poor visibl  
Impenetrable

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Bennelong has had its most successful Easter in my memory. 4 club members were winners in the Australian 3 Days carnival in South Australia. The Easter carnival pulls in the orienteering people from all over Australia and there is always a strong field in all the top grades. 11 Bennelong members made the trek to Jamestown in the mid north of South Australia for the carnival. Our winners were Marina in W35A, Fedor in M35A, Eric in M45A and Steve in M65A. Congratulations. The orienteering was in dry mallee forest with erosion gullies running off dry river beds being the main control features.



Eric M45A



Steve M65A



Our Easter Winners - Fedor M35A

As for myself, this was the first bush orienteering I'd done since last Easter and I loved it, it was great getting back into the bush again. I found that my navigation was still good but my fitness was poor and not good enough to last 3 consecutive days. On the last day I had to walk the last half of the course on a bitterly cold and wet day. That day was in complete contrast to the previous 2 days where the dust on the way in and out of the event was so bad that visibility was reduced to zero in many spots.



Marina and Tracy W35A

After Easter Cheryl and I made an outback trip which I'll say more about in the rest of Blueprint.

Coming up on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May Bennelong is organising the NSW Long Championships at Gumble. Steve Flick is setting the courses and Rod Parkin is organising the event. I highly recommend this to all club members, it is orienteering at the highest level and one of the best maps in Australia. If you haven't orienteered out of Sydney before and wish to have a weekend away this is the one to go for. Give me a call if you are considering going but don't know how to enter or which grade to go in and I'll help you out. Goldseekers are holding a middle distance event on the Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> which will also be worth going to.

By the time this comes out we will have completed the first Metro League, I'd also recommend this to our members as it is a transition between the Summer series type of event and the traditional bush orienteering.

And for the runners, don't forget the NOSH footrace on 31<sup>st</sup> May, we will be asking for helpers for those not running in the race.

Wishing you all, the best, and I hope to see you at an event soon.

**Terry Bluett**

## Terry and Cheryl's Outback Trip Easter 2015

After Easter Cheryl and I made our way home the long way, via the Birdsville Track. It was great experience to parts of Australia I'd never been before and also to areas I visited in my job but where Cheryl had never been but had been wishing to go.

After leaving Easter and a cold and wet day we headed north as far as Hawker in the foothills of the Flinders Ranges, then the next day to Marree and the start of the real outback. The next day we headed up the Birdsville Track, the going was much easier than I expected with a good dirt road all the way. There is only one sign of habitation on the way at Mungaranie Pub. The landscape is desert all the way but parts are stony, parts are sandhills and parts just unlimited plains.

Birdsville is a town of 150 people but it swells to 7000 when the races are on in September. It is on the Diamantina River which had plenty of water in it when we were there. The next day was our most challenging but also very interesting from Birdsville to Innaminka. On the way we passed Cordillo Downs which has the largest woolshed in Australia, there are no sheep on the property now only cattle as the dingos devastated the flocks. We also travelled over 300 km before we saw another vehicle. We also visited the Burke and Wills Dig Tree on this day and the 150 inscription on the tree can still just be made out.

The Cooper Creek at Innaminka also had water in it but yesterday's crossing of the Cooper on the Birdsville Track was dry. We next headed back towards NSW and crossed the border at Cameron Corner and on into Tibooburra. I was now on familiar territory and met up with the lady who did the weather obs when I worked with the Bureau of Meteorology. Tibooburra would be a great place for orienteering, with the town being surrounded by granite boulders.

Next day we visited Milparinka and Depot Glen where Sturt was holed up for 6 months when looking for the inland sea. Then on to White Cliffs where Cheryl had a particular interest with her

500 750 1000

father being an opal dealer. On the next day we called at Mount Grenfell, I'd seen the sign on the Barrier Highway many times but this was the first time I'd called in and it was well worth it, there was aboriginal rock art, they were fenced off to protect them from the many goats in the area. We visited an old friend who worked in the Met office at Cobar and caught up on all the news about people in the Met that I'd known when still working.

Our final duty on the way home was to call in at Orange and do some controlling for the Saturday event before our State Champs at Gumble in May.



Tibooburra granite (good orienteering country?)  
Milparinka



Cordillo Downs woolshed



Cheryl in 3 states at Cameron Corner

## Club's New Member Interview:

### Alitia, 32



#### **1. When did you join the club? What was a main motivation to join? Tell a few words about your family.**

I joined the club in December 2014. Darren introduced me to a number of club members at the club's Christmas BBQ. Everyone was very friendly and welcoming. That got me motivated to join before the Christmas Five Days.

#### **2. Do you remember when have you heard about Orienteering at the first time?**

My father was an orienteer and I don't remember a time not knowing about orienteering. I just remember going orienteering every Sunday. I was previously a member of the Toohey Forest Orienteers in QLD. A lot of my family are still members of that club.

#### **3. Where and when have you done orienteering at the first time?**

I have no idea where and when, but it would have been near Brisbane, where I grew up, and I'm told I would have been carried on my father's back.

#### **4. What is your most favourable terrain/landscape?**

I like spur / gully terrain, even though I do seem to make silly mistakes in that terrain.

#### **5. What are your dreams and goals in Orienteering?**

At the moment, I'm just getting back into orienteering after a 10 years break so my focus is on dusting off the cobwebs and trying to restore some basic fitness.

#### **6. How would you like to contribute to BN club?**

I am happy to be a helping hand at events.

#### **7. What are countries you are dreaming to do orienteering in?**

I feel like I should answer with Sweden... but is it wrong to say Italy because of the pizza and the pasta?

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

The close knit community.

#### **9. Your wishes to BN members:)**

I hope all BN members enjoy this winter's orienteering calendar and have dream Metro League runs free of silly errors (unlike me at the West Sydney Parklands event 😊)



## Steve Flick answers questions on Gumble Course setting for NSW Championships.



- **The discovery of Gumble Pinnacles?**

When Bennelong was allocated the 1996 Easter 3 Day, to be shared with the Garingal and Goldseekers a mapping group from the three Clubs set about finding some new orienteering areas west of the Blue Mountains.

Around 1993-4 I managed to locate a promising area west of Molong and upon inspection found a fantastic area comprising some of the best granite country I had ever seen.

After the mapping group inspected the area there was high expectation the area may be mapped, however another really good granite area was also identified close to Bathurst and was selected as the granite area for Easter 1996.

Our Club was allocated the 2001 State Championships and Gumble was mapped by Eric Andrews for this event.

Having found the area I have never set any courses at Gumble and I thought the 2015 State Long Distance Championships would be the perfect opportunity for me experience course setting on the Gumble map.

- **Challenges faced by as course setter?**

Access was a problem and I spent two weekends trying to secure a reliable route into the southern section of the map, an area not used for an event for many years. The previous route was difficult with many gates and ploughed fields and the disappearance of the track made this route impossible.

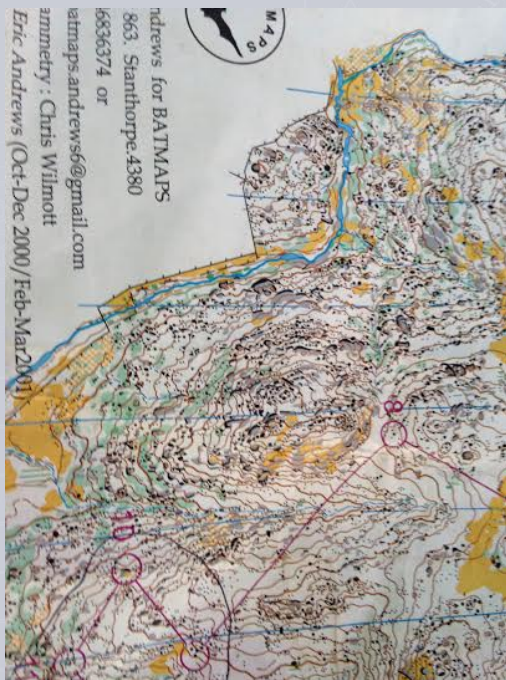
I was able to negotiate with another landowner which allowed a much better access route and thus the problem of getting to the assembly area was solved.

The other major problem with the Gumble map is that there are no roads or tracks, although we did find one cleared trail since the map was produced. However we did not use this track with any vehicles due to roughness and regrowth of vegetation.

- **Course setting at Gumble?**

The event was the Long distance championships and with the M21 Hard 1 course being 12.5Km, this meant all courses were going to be longer than usual for a state league event.

I travelled to Gumble and field worked for 14 days, and also spent another 2 days talking to landowners about access and getting approvals. I covered 5000km, driving out and back to Gumble from Sydney and Orange.



Some days were long, up to 10 hours, others a bit shorter due to the extreme heat during the summer afternoons.

I would have walked about 80 Km during all the field work activities, including about 12 km picking up some of the controls after the event. (volunteers also picked up controls after the event). On one day Basil Baldwin, the event controller, and I checked all the hard course control sites covering about 14km.

The complexity of the area was a real challenge, all the hard controls required checking and rechecking to ensure they were correctly located.

- **Is Course setting harder than running over a course?**

You do become familiar with the control sites after one or two visits, however even when collecting controls I still had my map and compass in my hand.

Both setting and running on a course at Gumble require constant concentration, any lapse usually results in lost time trying to relocate.

Course setting at Gumble is slow motion orienteering, you keep plodding along, always checking your position at a fairly slow pace.

Really course setting and running on a course involve different skills, but running at speed on the Gumble map would be more difficult than actually course setting.

- **What if Gumble was close to Sydney rather than 300 Km west ?**

A map like Gumble Pinnacles, as its name implies, is the pinnacle for experienced orienteers. We were lucky to have some new mapping done for our event so that the easy and very easy courses were not exposed to the really technical parts of the map.

The attraction of Gumble is that it is a pristine area of native bushland, with minimal impact from human settlement. There are perimeter fences, however within the fenced areas the orienteer has to cope with perfect natural features, a rare occurrence in today's urban sprawl and trial bike activities.

People do travel a long distance to experience the Gumble terrain, so on this basis if it was closer to say Sydney I am sure more people would enjoy the terrain it offers.

## Gumble Stories:



### Rodney Parkin:

*As organiser, I didn't get to run in this event, but my great satisfaction was seeing the enjoyment that everyone seemed to get from the event. Oh yes, and my great relief that everyone returned safely at the end.*

*As you may appreciate, Gumble is a great area from the competitor's perspective, but it's also a major challenge logistically. As a rugged and remote area, without boundary roads, the organisers must always be thinking about making sure no-one is lost or injured. We had a bit of a scare near the end with the last 2 competitors returning right on course closure time, having both been out nearly 4 hours, but it all worked out in the end.*

*I first walked through this area in 1999 or 2000 when Bennelong was first considering mapping it.*

*Ever since then it has been a real favourite of mine. The area challenges even the best orienteers. I've heard many stories of errors and bad runs at Gumble, but no-one ever blames the courses or the mapping – they just acknowledge that they weren't quite up to the challenges that Gumble put before them. I'll be back, again and again, for as long as the local landowners will allow us.*

### Gordon Wilson:

The thing I enjoyed most about this event was the technical challenge provided by both the area and the well set courses. I'll definitely return to Gumble. One of the best granite maps in Australia.

### Mel Cox:

Being a helper I got to go out early before almost everyone else – this is what I enjoyed most, being out in the fantastic terrain all by myself on a beautiful morning. I will certainly be hoping to go there again.

### Bob Morgan:

I did the M55 course at Gumble and it was by far the hardest course I've ever attempted.

I wasn't able to finish in the end and headed back to base after Control 6 to avoid going over the 3 hour time limit. Also, I was one of the later starters so I would have been flirting with the 2:00 course cut-off if I'd continued. In hindsight I should have opted for the short course.

I was actually going fairly well after 4 controls but Control 5 was a complete disaster for me and I burned a lot of time finding it. While my overall nav ability has improved significantly (from doing State League events) in the last couple of years, I still find heavily "rocked" courses very difficult.

It would be interesting for me to return to Gumble with another 2 or 3 years experience under my belt and see how I go. I thought the weather for both events was just about perfect for orienteering and was pleased I made the effort to go.

## Wayne Papper:

I have always enjoyed orienteering at Gumble, even before the first event in 2001 with the NSW champs, I visited the area to look to see its suitability for running the event with a couple of other BN members, this was possibly in 1999.

I thought the area was fantastic, but wondered how it would be effectively mapped with all of the granite that the area contains.

The 2001 NSW champs was a great introduction, with two event being held there, one on the southern map and the other day on the northern map.

In spring when the wattle is ablaze with colour the area looks terrific, but it hides the complexity of all the granite. It is a tough area to navigate through, if you don't have the skills of an elite orienteer.

In 2002 we held the Queens Birthday 3 days event, with 2 days at Gumble. I was the course setter for Day 1.

During the course setting and control placement days for the event, I appreciated the mapping that has made the area it is, and all of the possible control locations are fantastic.

I have been back all of the times since to run on Gumble, to mixed results.

This year, unfortunately I didn't have the best run on the Hard 3, 6.2km course. I found No.1 OK, a little unsure near the control, and wasn't easy to see the flag placement.

I made a 5 minute error on No.2, a short leg, making a basic error when I relocated off a track nearby, not checking the track direction with my compass, could have save a few minutes.

Controls 3, 4, 5, and 6 were found OK, a little slow when getting into the control location to be precise and limit lost time. No.7 was a long leg, a compass bearing, then track run to an open area

then another compass bearing through a thickish area, but I seemed to drift too far right, but eventually found the control with some lost time. For No.8 I lost it!

The plan to run up the hill, across an open area, then down beside a long watercourse into a saddle to a 1.6m boulder on the edge of the saddle.

I kept following my compass bearing all the way to the open area then started to head down the hill, but was worried I was headed down into the watercourse, and I wanted to keep right of the watercourse.

I should have trusted the bearing, but I went hard right and across hoping to hit the the spur I could take down to the saddle. But I went too far across and must off went across the spur to the next spur and was lost.

I couldn't find a relocation point, I was trying to match objects on the ground to the map, and features I thought matched, didn't. So after 30 mins of frustration, I decided I had had enough, and it was time to get out. I made it south to the major creek, and I guess from this I could have relocated back to No.8 from there, but time had taken its toll on me and I walked back to the assembly. It was a dejected long walk back.

I will be back to Gumble next time, I just hope my navigation skills will be up to it.

It is a great area.



## Kids Corner

Please give a quick advise based on your experience - what was your strategy to attract your kids to orienteering? (or what would you do differently to attract them to orienteering more?)



### Michelle and Keith Povah:

Space racing!  
Doing courses near to home and an unlimited amount of lollies!

### Fedor Iskhakov:

String course and have a dedicated kids activities officer at each event. It would be good to have more elaborate maps for the string courses as they had is SA for Easter. More formal competition and prize giving ceremony for kids activities would also help.

### Terry Bluett:

I feel orienteering should be fun for kids, I really like what my granddaughter, Tiia and other kids have done recently. This includes the O show at Easter, where a lot of orienteering kids put on a show displaying their talents. Tiia produced a video at the State League at Newcastle where she asked various orienteers including myself to dance, it was a funny video and I wish that it would be shown to a wider audience.

Also I'd like to announce to all Bennelong members that Bennelong pays entry fees for all juniors in our club at State League events.

### **ENJOY READING!**

Our next Newsletter #3 is scheduled for October, 15th 2015.

Thank you very much for your exciting contribution and time! We are always waiting for your news!

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