

# BENNELONG NORTHSIDE NEWSLETTER

**#1, 2011 due to March, 15**

## **The Word from Terry Bluett:**

Bennelongers, I feel energised by the enthusiasm of our new members. You'll meet 2 of them in print in this issue. As well you'll hear from 2 of our oldest members.

Thanks Marina for taking on the newsletter editor role. In coming newsletters I'd like Marina to tell her story, Marina and her husband, Fedor and daughter Ariadna come from Russia, via Norway, 2 countries with a very strong orienteering tradition. There is a very interesting story behind their move to Australia.

The summer orienteering season is drawing to a close and the real orienteering is about to begin. Bennelong has entered 3 teams in the Metro League which gets underway on 20<sup>th</sup> March. Joel Putnam is picking the teams this year, please let Joel know if you would like to run in one of our teams. We have teams in Div 1, 3 and 4, so there is a team for you whatever standard you may be.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> April Bennelong is organising a State League event at Wattle Ridge. I'd encourage all those who may have never ventured out of Sydney for an orienteering event to give this event a go and experience the challenge and joy of bush orienteering. You can pre-enter or turn up on the day for an enter-on-day course.

The last event in the Summer Series on 30<sup>th</sup> March at Drummoyne is a Bennelong event. The venue at Drummoyne Sports Club is a great place to have a meal after your run. The prizegiving for the series will be at the club, so come along have a run and have a meal at the Sports Club after the event.

It looked like the NOSH footrace would be no longer, but Darren and Joel have taken on the role of organising the event this year. I very much appreciate them taking on this role, which is not an easy one. The run will be the 37<sup>th</sup> running and its on 5<sup>th</sup> June. Keep this date in mind as

we need plenty of helpers on the day and on the afternoon beforehand marking the track.

You would have also seen recently an email from Darren seeking thoughts on the club logo. If you haven't replied to Darren yet, please do so there are traditional and new designs to consider, have your say.

Happy orienteering to all our members

Terry Bluett

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### **The Word from a New Editor:**

Dear Bennelongers! Thank you very much for your trust in appointing me for this exciting position. I am sure that together we will be able to produce great and very awaited Newsletters. Our plan is to publish 4 Newsletters in 2011 by March 15th, June 15th, September 15th and Christmas Newsletter by December 15th. Mark please these dates in your calendars and allow 15-20 minutes for each date to enjoy our Newsletters.

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### **Content:**

1. BN Birthdays
2. Statistics of Favorite O-Places
3. Bruce and Janet's O-Story
4. Welcome to a new Club Member – Joel Putnam
5. Welcome to a new Club Member - Darren Slattery

### **1. Birthdays in March:**

Sincere congratulations and best O-wishes to:

**Julian Ledger** - March, 13<sup>th</sup>

**Terry Bluett** - March, 23<sup>d</sup>



## 2. Statistics of Favorite O-Place

#	Member	Terrain
1	<b>Terry Bluett</b>	My favourite map/terrain in Australia, for Bennelong maps: Wattle Ridge, Gumble Pinnacle, Kahlis Rocks. For other maps/areas in Australia: Pittwater Dunes in Tasmania, the granite maps around Armidale and Stanthorpe, Big Badja, the maps near Wilpena Pound in South Australia
2	<b>Bruce Dawkins</b>	I like spur/gully terrain without too much complex rock detail.
3	<b>Janet Dawkins</b>	My favourite place is Belanglo State Forest which is great for camping too.
4	<b>Barry Cole</b>	Pennant Hills Park
5	<b>Gordon Wilson</b>	Favourite terrain. Sand dunes. Favourite map. Hard to pick just one but "The Argonaut" at St Helens in Tasmania is certainly one of my favourites. This area was used for the VWC in 1991
6	<b>Judith Hay</b>	My favourite terrain is granite because it will always be a challenge and one day I'll succeed
7	<b>Julian Ledger</b>	Gardens of Stone National Park
8	<b>Rodney Parkin</b>	Gumble Pinnacles ... unfortunately the landowner doesn't let us use it any more.
9	<b>Cathryn Cox</b>	My favourite map was the old Belanglo forest map with its lovely mature pine forest and carpet of pine needles. Sadly this is no more. These days my knees appreciate any map that doesn't have undergrowth or windfall on the ground. My favourite terrain is spur/gully.
10	<b>Fedor Iskhakov</b>	Rocks along the shore
11	<b>Marina Iskhakova</b>	Mount Piper Hills!

### **3. Bruce and Janet's O-story**



#### **Bruce**

I was born in 1941 and joined Bennelong Occasional Orienteers a few months after my first attempt at orienteering in 1972 about a year after the sport commenced in NSW. My favourite map is Belanglo, always a challenge. I like spur/gully terrain without too much complex rock detail.



I had not heard of orienteering until after the City to Surf run in 1972, when a friend of mind picked up a brochure being handed out about orienteering and suggested that we should give it a go. The event was the inaugural NSW Championships and held in Royal National Park near Audley on a very hot September day. There were 3 courses on offer. I chose the 'Intermediate'

course which I think was about 7k. The map was in black and white, scaled 1/20000 and basically showed contours, a few of the bigger cliffs and some creeks only. Most of the control features were not even mapped and were listed in the descriptions as a boulder, a rock outcrop etc. After about 3 hours when I was only about 2/3 of the way around the course I thought I had better return to the finish in reasonable time. I figured that a time of 4 hours missing a couple of controls would be a better result than 5 or more hours with all controls. At the finish, to my dismay I was told that I was classed as a 'did not finish' and therefore my time was irrelevant.

On the way home I was thinking to myself that orienteering was not for me but at least I tried. However, a week later when I had recovered from all the aches and pains I thought of having another try just to see if I could get all the controls or buckets as they were called then. This time the event was in Kuringai Chase and I successfully completed the Intermediate course. Since that day I have been hooked.

Orienteering has taken me to many places that I would not have seen otherwise, in NSW, ACT, Victoria and Tasmania. I also competed in the Swedish 5 day O-Ringen in 1974 along with about 30 Aussies and 12,000 others.

## Janet



I was born at Bowral in 1950. Love the man, love the sport. I started orienteering in 1978 at Lane Cover River Park with Bruce in pouring rain. My favourite place is Belanglo State Forest which is great for camping too.

My claim to fame is the Aust Champs in W21B where I was 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1979 and 1<sup>st</sup> in 1981. In W35B I came 3<sup>rd</sup> in NSW Bicentennial Champs and 1<sup>st</sup> in 1989 Aust 3 Days.

Our young son John travelled with us and Bruce's Mum plus lots of trucks to play in the dirt (he is now a landscape gardener).

Now, I only walk on Green courses due to bad knees, but love it still. I will probably be remembered as 'Toilet Lady' to all involved in the 2009 World Masters Championships (another story)

## **4. Welcome to a new Club Member – Joel Putnam**

### **0. Profile: Full name, age, place of origin**

*Joel Putnam, 30, born and raised in Sydney*

### **1. When did you join the club? What was a main motivation to join?**

*Joined in 2010. The club's members and history appealed, as did the potential to represent the club at competitions*

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

*A work colleague introduced me*

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

*My first event was a Summer Series event at Forty Baskets in November 2006*

### **4. What is your profession behind the orienteering?**

*I work in Chartered Accounting and Law*

### **5. What is your most favorable terrain/landscape?**

*Steep bush terrain is my favorite. Second to that are coastal/waterfront based events*

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

*To have fun and make a worthwhile contribution to the sport*

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

*In whatever way the club feels I could best be utilized*

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

*Europe is a pipe dream of mine. One day :-)*

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

*The people, challenge and fitness in that order*

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

*To have fun at the same as maintaining and securing the Club's culture and future*

## **5. Welcome to a new Club Member – Darren Slattery**



### **0. Profile: Full name, age, place of origin**

*Darren Slattery, 30 years old, Born in the small farming town of Canowindra NSW, about a 4 hour drive west of Sydney, population 1,700.*

### **1. When did you join the club? What was a main motivation to join?**

*I only just joined Bennelong this year. I have been running in the Sydney Summer Series for a few years but only just last year made it to my first State League event down at Belanglo. I loved it! I ran the Enter-On-the-Day red course. I have entered rogaines before, but I enjoyed the challenge of doing this on my own and as a race! The course was mostly off-trail so navigation was key. The only problem, it was only a short event! OK, it still took 80 minutes, but I was keen for more. To do the longer competition courses I would need to be in a club. There was my motivation for joining a club! Not wanting to just automatically join the biggest club, I looked to the other club in my area, Bennelong Northside! Here was a club with a great group of friendly members and the longest heritage who were keen for new members to keep the club energised!*

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

*I had taken orienteering for school sport back in high school, but as I know now, it wasn't orienteering; No maps, no controls. They eventually renamed it to bushwalking. I wasn't much in to sports at the time and walking around in a bit of nature sounded enjoyable. My first exposure to actual orienteering, was from a flatmate back in 2006. He kept to himself a lot of the time and it was always unexplained why he would come home late on Wednesdays. Eventually he revealed; His secret love affair was with the Sydney Summer Series.*

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

*I eventually convinced my flatmate to tell me what this orienteering thing was all about. I wasn't a runner as I hadn't seen much point exercising for the sake of exercising. I certainly wasn't a gym-junkie. But, here it was, a reason to run. I had always been into maps and on family car trips as a kid would always try to be the one with the map, or otherwise exercise a lot of patience in the back seat while the pilot (Dad) and copilot (Mum) in the front seats debated about which way to go. (Canberra was always fun because being full of circuit roads you usually got a second chance if you missed the first turn off). Anyways, I got to my first event down at Gore Cove. There seems to be a convention with SSS. If you introduce a friend, you will run with them once to show them how to do it, but next time they are on their own! After all, there is a leaderboard to think about! Well, I was completely exhausted and hurting all over for the next two days, but I loved it! Unfortunately it was near the end of the season, but then I found the Come-And-Try-It events on weekends!*

### **4. What is your profession behind the orienteering?**

*To protect my secret identity as an orienteer, during the day I don my secret disguise of glasses and a suit, and hang out at an office posing as an Engineer. I work in electronics design, mainly for the Rail industry.*

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

*I love the bushy stuff, especially when there are rocks to climb. I love a good stream crossing too, especially if you have to get wet. My first off-piste adventure was at a Metroleague event at Thornleigh Park. My flatmate and I teamed up to take on the challenge. We got stuck looking for the second control for over half an hour; But after surviving many attacks from spiky plants and spider webs we worked it out and raced through the rest of the course hitting the remaining controls with deadly accuracy!*

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

*My goal isn't to be the best. I know I'm never going to be the fastest runner. What gives me great delight though is beating a faster runner by being a better navigator! My challenge is always against myself: make no navigational mistakes, find the quickest path, run a little quicker. I would like to do more bush events this year and do some more night rogaining. I also want to do an overseas event as I think it would be a great way to appreciate a foreign landscape.*

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

*This year I have put myself in for a website coordination role. We plan to revamp the website in order to provide a great orienteering resource and attract some new members to the club. I have also taken a role as an OANSW delegate and hope to learn about the inner workings of the organisation. Joel Putnam and I have also taken on the challenge of organising the Great NOSH Footrace this year so we can continue the 36-year long tradition of Australia's oldest and best off-road race!*

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

*I would love to orienteer in Japan. The landscape is so unique. I've also read articles about orienteering around old castles in Europe. I think that'd be a lot of fun!*

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

*Hmm, perhaps it's the freedom? As a kid I was always told "come inside if it rains", "don't jump in puddles", "stay on the trail". I get to break all these rules orienteering. I think orienteering is a great way to connect with your landscape. How can you say you know a place until you have pounded the dirt and bashed through the trees?*

**10. Your wishes to BN members:~)**

*I wish everyone out there the best health so they can get out there and have the best times orienteering!*

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*Dear Bennelongers!*

*Thank you very much for your attention and your time.  
Our next Newsletter will be published by June, 15<sup>th</sup>  
Your news, o-stories, plans, dreams and o-experiences are very welcomed!*

*We wish you great and successful O-season!  
See you soon in the bush!*

*My best O-wishes, Marina Iskhakova*

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