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Kangaroo's Tale

Issue 50, March 2009

Judy Hopkins

(On 14th February, Judy Hopkins died after a long illness)

Judy, as all who knew her would be aware, was a highly active contributor. No matter what she was involved in, you could be sure that Judy would always be in the thick of the action.

On the wider level the Hopkins family home was made available on numerous occasions to support activities emanating from Leeds Road.-- Night events-Special events -- Saturday events --Club meetings. You name it --Leeds Road was where it happened. And as always working away behind the scenes to make it all work smoothly and unobtrusively would be Judy with various family members co-opted and organized to share her enthusiasm.

(continued p2)



Social Calendar

Listed below are some of the social activities planned for the year. Dates and times will be supplied as required

- AGM March 28th . 6.00 pm for 6.30. Three speakers and an entertaining evening guaranteed! Willison Park Tennis Clubrooms. Camberwell. (Details p3).
- Two theatre nights in May-June to "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Footloose"
- Mid Winter Dinner
- Film Night- October
- Christmas Brunch 10.00 till 2.00 Sunday Dec 20th.
- Theatre Night Nov --Besen Theatre
- Casual Bike rides announced as the calendar offers opportunities
- Sunday Aug 23rd State Series 7- Butterfly Gully (BK)- is the 40th anniversary of the first Bush O event in Victoria which was hosted by Red Kangaroos. This will be a Special BK day!

Judy's contribution to Street O was measured on many levels

For the Saturday O she always arrived with a plate of home made goodies specially prepared –. Her regular contribution was of a standard that inspired others to follow suit –making the Saturday O events something special. For many plodders, her scones were something to look forward to as a reward for finishing.

Her competitiveness was renowned. She was part of the group of 'nice ' ladies who originally started out participating for fun, and ending up with a killer instinct that would make a crocodile look friendly. If you got in Judy's way when she was in full flight- *LOOK OUT!*.

Her mapping skills were of a high order. She was map aware. Having mapped the detail of Garden City with Michael, Judy's mapping sensors were sharp, so that over the years many of the corrections/adjustments made to sundry maps were the result of Judy mentioning the observation always in that special manner that indicated her comments were made as a mapping purist.

One of the memorable events organised by Judy was our Flinders O where Judy provided the map and organised a terrific social happening for the club, where our Chardonnay instincts were given full reign with art shop visits, cultural discussion and a great meal at the local restaurant. This was a very special day.

Her favourite map would have been Knoxfields, as the Hopkins family had close links with the area long before it was subdivided for residential development. She definitely had a soft spot for this map, and loved setting courses on it on it or having it used by others.

In her role as Club Membership Secretary Judy's talents for meticulous record keeping and personal contact were given full reign. She loved being involved with people and her role as membership secretary gave her an even greater opportunity to exercise her talents as a people person.

In her battle with cancer Judy showed qualities that made us wonder how on earth she managed to keep going. I found it hard to grasp that this very small lady was regularly fronting up to activities with a cheerful and bouncy demeanour when according to what you guessed was happening she should have been at home having others look after the day to day obligations she seemed to be able to manage despite the setbacks she was incurring.

Many were very surprised to learn that Judy was so ill when three weeks before her death she had been actively orienteering. Those of us who knew her were not surprised. This merely exemplified the type of person we so loved and respected.

Having met Judy shortly after the Red Kangaroos O club merged with Bayside, Jenny and I have had the pleasure of being involved with Judy for many years and in many ways. Judy, we will miss you.

John Sheahan

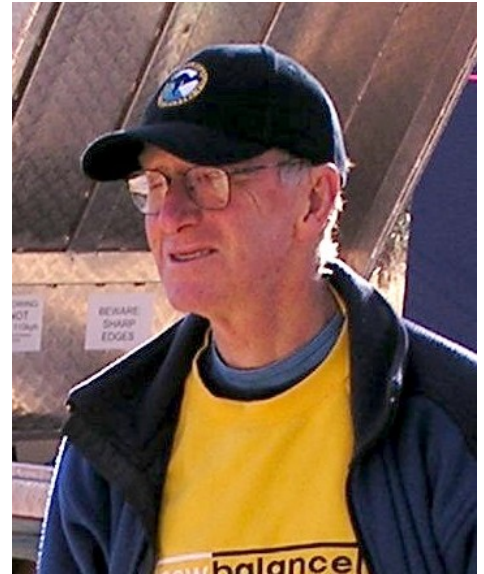
President's Piece

John Sheahan

This year's O calendar illustrates the tremendous depth and diversity of BK as a club. Members are making significant contributions across the whole spectrum of the Orienteering program.

We particularly welcome the contributions of **Matthew King** who is setting his first state Series later in the year, and **Jun Okabe** who is taking on the challenge of setting the Hageby event at Irishtown.

We also have **Peter Black** and **Jackson Sword, Rosie Salvaris** and **Des Gregory** setting their first street O events.



As well as this **Des Gregory, Jane Harries, Jun Okabe** and **Des Gregory** represented the club at the Australian Masters Games emerging with considerable hardware for their efforts.

The true test of our ability to put on first class events will be the Australian Champs relays on October 4th. with **Greg Tambyn** and **Steve Peacock** at the helm. Please put this date in your diary as a day the club will look forward to your contribution.

AGM

The BK AGM consisting off High Tea and High Adventure will take place on Sat March 28th at the Willison Tennis Club, Culliton Rd Camberwell. Time 6.00. for 6.30.

We will have three speakers

- **Peter Cusworth** will furnish details of his experiences in the Anaconda Trail Enduro ride in the Alice Springs area
- **Syd Boydell** will tell of his 4 day traverse of the NZ south island with "graphic" slides and
- **Greg Tamblin** will present a compilation of the trials of trekking in the Sahara

Nominations for the committee should be sent to Di Shalders not less than 7 days before the meeting date, signed by two club members and with the written consent of the nominee.

Agenda

- *Confirm minutes of last AGM*
- *Receive reports from the committee of the progress of the club over the past year*
- *To elect officers of the club and members of the committee*
- *To inspect the books showing the financial affairs of the club.*

Friends of Judy will be well aware of her great interest in orienteering and also genealogy. However, not too many will be aware of her expertise as a proof reader. About eight years ago I was researching and writing my first local history (A History of the Lyal District) and when I mentioned this to Judy she offered to proof read the draft.

Her offer was gratefully accepted, but little did I realise how thorough she would be - not only were missing full stops found, commas in the wrong locations corrected, typographic errors where the finger slipped on the keyboard giving an uppercase rather than lower case letter located, but she would pick up that a surname/place name, etc was spelt differently 100 pages on! She must have had a photographic memory.

I had two other friends who also proofread the draft and they found only about a third of the corrections that Judy did. Judy proofread the draft of my 12th book in December and was just as thorough, efficient, interested and keen to help as with the first book.



Western 3 Hour.

*On Sunday May 17th a group of enthusiastic Western BK members will be conducting a 3 hour maxi foot O event starting from the Strand Williamstown using a specially produced Melways map, coordinated by **Rick Gardiner** and **Cam McFarlane**.*

Running and Walking Categories

3 hour and 2 hour options will be available with a special one hour event tailored for novices and families. The three hour competitors will start at 9.00 am, the two hour competitors will start at 10.00 am and the one hour participants at 10.30.

Two Hour Cycle Course.

The extensive cycle path network emanating from the start allows for a Cycle Track Cruise of two hours duration.

Competitors will be given a specially prepared cycle path map. It is envisaged that very little riding will be away from the designated cycle paths. Cyclists will start at 9.45 am. and finish by 11.45 am

Q. Where is Brett Sparkes ?

A. He can be found at the Mt. Everest Base Camp.



Jun Okabe scores gold in M35-50



Jane Harries scores gold in W35-50



Rosie Salvaris and Des Gregory, sharing the honours

Australian Masters Games (You Yangs, Geelong)

Rob Lewis

Orienteering Australia's High Performance Group has appointed Rob Lewis to be the 2009 Australian Men's Coach for the World Orienteering Championships in Miskloc, Hungary.

Congratulations Rob.

Geelong Street O

The recent launch of a Street O series in Geelong has been initiated by a group of BK members- led by *Alan Cooke*, with assistance from *Tania Elderkin-John Gavens- Heather Leslie* and *Stuart Lloyd*.

We have been strongly supported by NE's *Robyn Sunderland* and received generous assistance from NE's *Helen Schofield*.

At the First event in Eastern Park they attracted 35 participants.

They plan to offer 4 events in the series to test the level of support, with the prospect of an expanded series towards the end of the year.

The BK committee has offered to supply the clubs infrastructure and financial support to encourage this innovative project.

From the Saddle – MTBO snippets

by Bruce Paterson

Bayside have a busy MTBO year ahead, including running the Victorian MTBO Championships at Woodend along with Tuckonie Orineteers. TK are looking after the Starts and course setting, and BK everything else. Yours truly will be revisiting SportIdent, after a fair period off, so any techie volunteers please contact me for the finish tent team !

By the time you read this, we will have had the first BK run Summer Series event at Maccelesfield, with Peter Cusworth promising an interesting course. Prior to this it's been a long break since the first DuO event at Macedon. Two events cancelled due to the fires, the rescheduled Silvan event and the second Gembrook DuO. Eltham North Summer Series was attended by some Bks, with a 3rd place to Anthony Jones followed by Paul Leicester in 6th who is coming back to form after some time off.

Well done to Steven Cusworth and Tim Hatley for 4th and 6th outright in the long DuO course, and Dianna Mittag for her convincing 2nd in the Womens long. Steve Peacock and Geoff Robinson came 2nd in the relay division with Steve doing the running and Geoff the riding. In the short course Gary Panter slammed in 2nd followed by Ian Mack. In the juniors, Angus Robinson won, and, not to be outdone by Dad, Darian Panter about 12 minutes later for 2nd. By comparison, my own effort in the long course of 13th place needs work. Not helped by leaving the control card behind at the transition !

Hope to see you all at the Vic Champs in April, and if you can volunteer either before of after your ride for about an hour to help out the BK effort we'd very much appreciate it. Contact me at brucep@netspace.net.au with your preferences.

Also, keep your eye on the Australian MTB O championships coming up over the Queen's Birthday long weekend in June. Mt Gambier isn't too hard for us Victorians to get to, and having been there every year since the 80s I can vouch for the terrain. It will be interesting riding there now too.

Did you know that

- After conducting the MTBO event at Macclesfield **Carolyn** and **Peter Cusworth** ended up entertaining 10 BK riders at their house after the event- It was control number 8.
- Great to see **Stuart Elliott** as he continues his steady improvement from injury. He recently notched up a win in Course A at Oak Park.
- If Skiing is your poison **Bev** and **Merv Trease** and **Paul** and **Sue Waller** are at present participating in selected events from the World Loppett marathon skiing circuit.
- **Judi Herkes** has just returned from a European ski tour and started off the Bush O season finishing as top woman in Course 6 at the Daylesford State Series. There is a message here somewhere for us plodders. High altitude training?
- **Angus Robinson** has been asked to update and adjust his school map using his newly acquired OCAD expertise.
- BK members **Alan Cooke**, helped by **Tania Elderkin-John Gavens-Heather Leslie** and **Stuart Lloyd**. have started a Street O series in Geelong. Their first event at Eastern Park attracted 35 participants-A great effort.
- **Les Bright** has taken over from Peter Creeley as editor of the weekly O bulletin. The change over has been ultra smooth. Well done Les.

BK Events for 2009

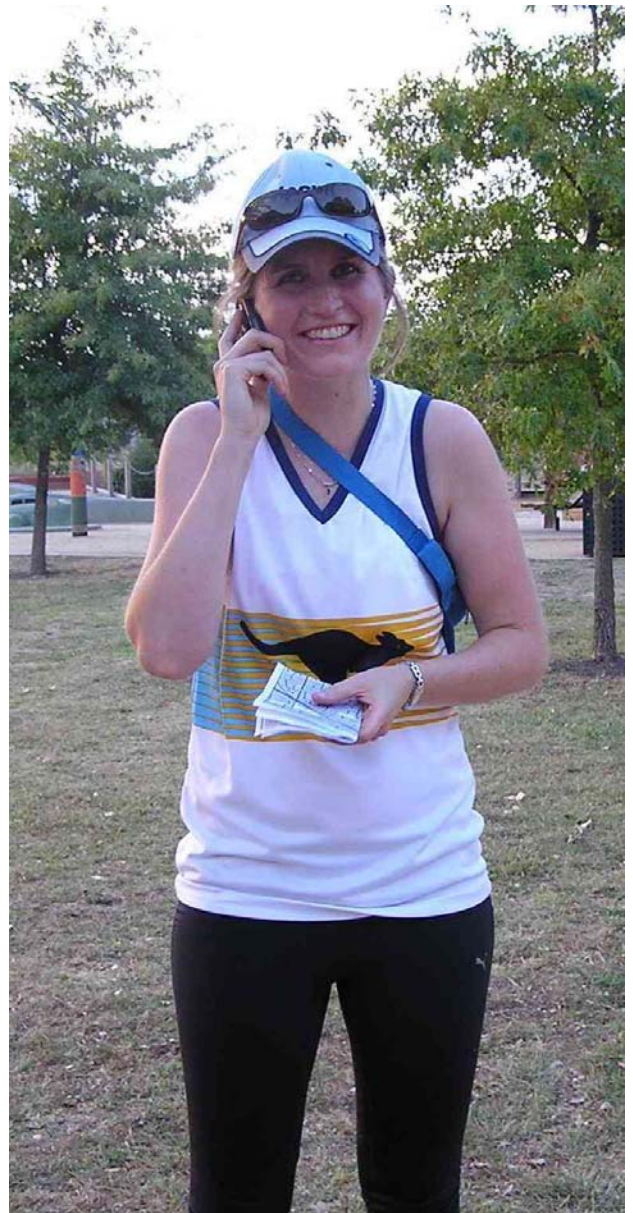
Apart from setting our quota of Night events- 21 events- and Saturday events -6 events, members are also organizing two Sunday Specials –at Williamstown and Braeside, as well as our Bush O events-

- April 25-26th we are hosting with TK the Vic MTBO Champs near Woodend.
- On May 17th our Western Members are organising a 3 hour Maxi Run/Walk or a 2 Hour Bike ride for the MTBO brigade.
- June 28th. we are conducting a full Hageby event at Castlemaine
- August 23rd we are organizing State Series 7 at Butterfly Gully- which is our 40th bush O anniversary
- Oct 4th –perhaps our biggest challenge ever? We are conducting along with AW club the Australian Relay Champs with an expected 300 or so teams taking part
- Oct 25th. the very popular Braeside event will be held.



Niki Ritchie

TIRHATUAN PARK



Emma Kearnes

Our Big Event in 2009

Greg Tamblyn

This year BK have agreed to organise the **Australian Relay Championships** on 3rd October. The Australian Individual Champs will be in the Warby ranges near Wangaratta on the Saturday and the Relays will be on the Sunday at the same site. It is a brand new map prepared by **Alex Tarr** and courses have already been set by **Tim Hatley**. Many people will then head toward Sydney for the World Masters Games the following week.

We are expecting between 600 and 800 competitors on the day. So it will be a very big exciting event. Even if you have only done street O in the past. It is worth coming up for the weekend and be involved in the best event in Australia

We are organising accommodation and will prepare the work roster for the day shortly. It is a big event and we will really need your help so put the date in your diary now. Entries will be open from after Easter. If you have any questions contact Greg Tamblyn.

What's happening with the BK web site?

Suzanne O'Callaghan

You may be wondering how the development of the new BK site is going, after hearing that OA had generously offered to let us use their content management system (socialfx) for free.

What does that mean? Well, it means we can put a web site together that several of us can maintain by logging in to the new BK web site and updating pages, rather like using MS Word... the operative phrase here being "put a web site together"!

Before Christmas, Bruce Paterson, Mike Hopkins and I bit the bullet and sat down with the content management system to find out how it worked and make a cunning plan. We decided to develop the web site over two stages.

The first stage is the basic stage, with a simple design and pages based on the feedback we received when we surveyed members a while back. We're currently developing the structure for the pages and some members of the BK Committee are drafting text for the pages. It will include information on the Club, news, information about events, reports from events and social activities, the newsletter and how to join BK. And don't forget the picture gallery (which you can already see on the current BK web site)!

Stage two will be a design specifically for the BK web site. Mike Hopkins is developing the concept and will also develop the Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) – the programming that tells the web site what colour, font and size the text is, how the menu and pages look, how much space to put around an image etc etc. While Mike is developing this, VOA have loaned us their CSS to edit and use in the interim.

When we have put together a basic set of pages for the BK web site, we will replace the current web site with the new version. Watch out for it – we've done more than half, so it won't be too far away. In the meantime I have been updating some of the current BK web site pages and Bruce has been adding to the picture gallery.

Where will you find the new site? When it's ready, it will be at the current web address – www.bkv.org.au .



Lina Gluschenko, Alain Le Bon and Emily



Paul and Alexandra Leicester and Tim Hatley



Vic Sedunary and Prue Dobbin

NORTONS PARK

....and what's more

- **Lilya Gluschenko** has recently returned from Ukraine. She is still thawing out!
- **Suzanne O'Callaghan** is continuing to update the BK website. She would welcome your contributions/opinions.
- The day after organizing the Heyington event, **Matt Manning** was starting in the annual Scotch College 24 Hour walk the next day starting at 5.00pm! The aim? 100 K in 24 hours.
- **Bryan Ackerly** recently received his award as a member of the winning age group team in the Melbourne Marathon. He was also among the top finishers in the recent Cradle Mountain traverse, scoring a PB!
- The overseas contingent was in full force at **Adam Scammell's** event at Tirhatuan Park. **Pierre Brockner** conducted two relatives from Germany around the course – **Finlay Stuart** and **Bridget Walker** introduced two English visitors and two Norwegians turned up in transit to Oslo!
- In the course of her flying visits to Australia **Jean O'Neill** has managed to notch up a third place Australian ranking in her age group!

Nundle to Tibooburra July and August 2008

Robyn and Murray Hall

(Edited version. The full article will be placed on the BK website. See if you can track this trip. Ed)

Early in July, we left Melbourne to head towards an area called The Fossickers Way in NSW. We drove for 3 days to get to the start of the area in Nundle.

Nundle is a small village which began as a gold-mining town in the 1850s. Between 1852 and 1856, alluvial gold to the value of \$1.67 million was extracted from the area. The remains of mine workings and equipment can still be seen scattered about the valley floor and the up mountain sides. Gold, in small quantities, continues to be found in creeks and rivers along with other semi-precious stones and minerals. Whilst we were in Nundle, the temperature overnight was as low as -6°C . The days were usually sunny and pleasant but the water in the rivers was still COLD.

Next we drove to Manilla, NSW on the Western Slopes of the New England Highlands, Just north of Manilla is Mt Borah which has a specially prepared site for paragliding and hang-gliding.

Then on to Barraba whose fortunes have been strongly tied to the rise and fall of various mining operations including gold, copper and white asbestos. Then Bingara (rusty iron), Ruby Hill (small garnets) and Warialda (decaying petrified wood and agate) and Inverell. At Inverell, the president of the local gem club. Eric Provis, the president kindly took us to fossick for smoky quartz and jelly bean crystals.

It was then time to head west to Moree (thermal pools with graduated temperatures,) to Bourke, to Mt Oxley, via Wanarring, to Tibooburra. We saw only three other cars the two day journey.

At Tibooburra we went gold prospecting with a group from a gold prospecting club called the Victorian Seekers Club. Murray found at least one gold nugget most days. One day we drove 130 km to Cameron Corner for a drink. After two weeks of detecting, we drove home via White Cliffs, Broken Hill (bitumen at last), Wentworth, Dunolly and then Melbourne.

The verdict? Great scenery, but the cold nights.



Prospecting and finding gold.



Tree at Cameron Corner with Dingo Fence behind

Paterson's Pursuit Rogaine

-The Wash Up?

Well, the feedback has been enormous. We have been inundated with Positive/Rave comments from all involved-- be it the Volunteer Help or the Participants.

As well as fully staffing the whole event we also were well represented in the results with 12 of the top 24 teams either completely BK or having at least one BK representative!

A full report and photos can be found in the VRA magazine.



Judi Herkes, Stephen, Nicolas, Peter and Phillipa Collins, Tracey Speakman, Jenny Sheahan and Lyn Grey battle the wind at Cairnlea.

Accommodation

To support members travelling considerable distances to events the club arranges –where possible- group bookings for accommodation, as well as coordinating group dining opportunities

Listed below are our accommodation arrangements

- Easter Accom in Tas has already been arranged for Club members.
- MTBO Vic Champs Woodend 25-26 April Accom. contact Carolyn Cusworth 5968 5254
- MTBO Aust Champs –Mt Gambier-June 6-7-8. For accommodation contact Peter Cusworth 5968 5254
- Aust. Champs-26th Sept to Sun Oct 4th For accommodation in Castlemaine-Bendigo and Wangaratta contact Jenny Sheahan NOW as the pressure to confirm our bookings is mounting! 9397 3493

If any member would like to organise a -picnic-bike ride-theatre night or whatever if an opportunity arises in the calendar, please contact Tina Smith or Jenny Sheahan.

Street O

The 2008-09 Summer Series has seen BK members setting 42 events. The fact that this has all taken place so smoothly and efficiently has been due to the great contribution of so many members.

Including-

- Vic Sedunary as the MC helped by Andre Baker-Ewen Templeton and John Sheahan,
- Henk De Jong our map librarian, who is constantly updating our map files
- those individual members who look after and update specific maps,
- the course setters who have pulled out all stops to ensure that our maps and courses have been an excellent advertisement for the club.



Paul Waller at Knoxfields



Matt Mannings and
Ken James at Scotch
College



Peter McNulty,
Steve Cusworth and
Angus Robinson at
Macclesfield

Night O

If you are interested in setting a course in the Night O series contact Vic Sedunary for the Wednesday and Saturday Series or John Sheahan for the Tuesday Series.

In September 2008 Janet and I were considering a trip to Italy. However after some consideration and having already been to Europe earlier in the year we decided to go trekking in Bhutan. Bhutan impressed us as a country with a beautiful natural environment, which the former king had taken steps to protect, and with no obvious poverty.

Bhutan is a country that is rapidly coming into the 21st century. Its King had stepped down early in 2008 and instituted parliamentary democracy. Everywhere we went decorations were being put up in preparation for the coronation of the new king who would become the new constitutional monarch. The coronation was to occur the week after we left.

In line with this liberalisation, controls on tourism had been relaxed and any tourists were allowed in provided they booked with a registered tour company. This contrasts with 2002 when only 1,500 tourists a year were allowed.

We spent the first 3 days acclimatising and visiting a number of Dzongs around Thimpu, the capital and Panakha, the old capital in the next valley to the east. The first picture shows the spectacular Tiger's Nest Monastery just north of Paro perched precariously on the edge of a cliff which we visited on the last day of the tour. A Dzong is a fortification housing, a combined monastery and government offices



Sightseeing was all done with a driver and a guide who provided fairly constant supervision. However, on the morning of the trek, we did manage to get some time to ourselves. This was met with exclamations from the local populace of: "where is your guide", or "what tour company are you with"? They haven't got used to the idea that tourists might be able to look after themselves.

We had a big surprise when we arrived at the first camp to start the trek, the party consisted of: Janet and I, our guide, a cook, a cook's assistant, a horseman, a horseman's assistant, 8 horses and a foal along with its mother.

The first day was spent walking through villages until we reached the wilderness - no villages only yak herders camps. We ascended to 4,500 metres over the next two days. The second picture shows our high camp in a beautiful cirque with mountains lit by the setting sun.



The final picture shows the next morning - the first blizzard of the winter. We had to turn back because our guide decided it was too dangerous to stay high. In fact on the main range (100 km north) there was 1.5m of snow overnight and many people had to be rescued by helicopter.

We finished our trek via another lower route walking through a number of local villages and over a lower pass at 4,000 metres.



BK Committee

President	John Sheahan	9397 3493
Vice Pres-Bush	Greg Tamblyn	9803 9082
Vice Pres MTBO	Bruce Paterson	9888 7509
Vice Pres Street O	Vic Sedunary	9459 4964
Treasurer	Henry Post	9740 3421
Secretary	Di Shalders	9846 6912

Office Bearers

Activities Committee	Jenny Sheahan	9397 3493
Club Statiscian	Matthew King	9885 4280
Equipment Officer	Mike Hubbert	9844 4878
Map Librarian	Henk De Jong	97585156
Mapping Officer	Tim Hatley	9570 2611
Membership Secretary	Gwynneth Baker	9898 4316
Newsletter Editor	Bob Leicester	9589 5408
Public Officer	Charles Zerafa	9728 2394

Committee Members

Bryan Ackerly, Geoff Adams, Mary Enter, Adam Scammell, Tina Smith, Ewen Templeton.

All members are invited to attend club committee meetings.

Clothing Special Prices.

Running Tops-Polo Tops-Vests-Fleeces-Cotton T Shirts and Caps.

At the AGM the full stock of BK attire will be available at 10% off all items

BK Bytes.

Do we have your email for instant club updates?

If you didn't receive a BK Bytes email on Friday 7th March then you aren't on our members address list.

Please let us know if you wish to be included in receiving this regular update bulletin.

BK Club Rankings

The club bush O handicap rankings for 2008 prepared by Matthew King will be announced at the AGM. There will also be a special award to the current titleholder of the Final Control Sprint Handicap compiled and adjusted by Bruce Paterson

El Presidente

Our modest President, John Sheahan, is not prone to blowing his own trumpet, but BK members would have noticed that he gets two notable mentions in the recent OVIC. First it was noted that in 2008 John and Kathy Liley were the only two competitors to win both the Foot-O and the MTBO State Series awards for their respective age classes.

Then in an article on the National Championships Carnival (Queensland) by the editor of the magazine 'Outer Edge', the concluding sentences are:

"Once people get hooked on this sport, they stay hooked. In the Men's Over 70s Sprint Event (1.6 km, 13 controls) John Sheahan and Clive Pope both clocked a time of 12 minutes and two seconds. After racing against each other for decades, seconds could not separate them, and they shared gold."

What a delightful accolade for dedicated orienteers!

