NSW State League #2/ACT League #1

Wattle Ridge (Bargo State Conservation Area)

# Driving Instructions:

Please carpool where possible, we may be forced to limit the number of vehicles at the assembly area if it’s too wet. Cars with sole occupants may be turned away to park on the sealed access road and hitch a lift back.

Make your way to Hilltop, north of Mittagong, using Church Rd to exit the M31 Hume motorway. Take Wilson Drive and when you reach Hilltop, turn into Chalker Parade, across the railway bridge and into W parade. Follow W parade until it turns into Wattle Ridge Rd, driving 5.6km from the railway bridge. Take care as the last 2km are unsealed and there may be other traffic and runners on the road. GPS coordinates are -34.318356, 150.462594.

If the weather is too wet then you may have to park on the last sealed section of road and carpool with others. Unfortunately, the forecast is not positive.

# Parking Instructions:

Parking is more complicated than usual. We are using powerline easements on both sides of the road. Parking marshals will direct you left or right through a gate into a parking area. Wattle Ridge road can be busy so please take care approaching the assembly area and turning into the parking. Please follow the instructions of the parking marshals: we aim to get vehicles off the road as soon as possible, so your patience and obedience are required!

The clearings have tall but sparse grass present. Higher clearance vehicles are better, but others should be OK. The marshals will direct you so please follow their instructions. Forecast wet weather may make the ground soft so take care. It’s possible you’ll be parking along the sealed road on the way in and walking 2.5km to the assembly area, so please be prepared. If it is wet as predicted, please try and car share, otherwise we may need to force carpooling for that last 2.5km stretch.

If you have parked on the south side of the road you will need to cross it to reach the assembly area, start and finish. You may cross the road with caution anywhere under the powerlines, but do keep an eye out for traffic. If you prefer to use the gate to walk across, please give way to vehicles so they can exit the road as soon as possible. During the event we need to keep the gates shut, though not locked. NPWS don’t want other vehicles entering the powerline easement, so if you open the gate, please shut it. We will monitor the gates while orienteers arrive and depart.

# Assembly Area:

It’s not the nicest assembly area you’ll ever visit, with uneven, and at times rocky ground. It may be muddy too. Bring any chairs or other comfort items to make your stay a pleasant one. There is also little shade, but that might not be a problem with current forecasts.

# Safety information:

All courses except the easy standard ones will cross or use the Wattle Ridge Rd. Please be very careful near the road, there are vehicles (2 and 4 wheeled) and some will travel quite fast. If you are seriously lost during your run, make your way uphill South or North to the road. The powerlines run over the assembly area and they’re a bit of a giveaway if you can see them.

Contrary to the previous event information there will be no water supplied on the courses. Please bring your own to drink before, during and after your run. There are 2 locations on the map near the road marked with a “**+” /** cross / 1st Aid symbol. There will be limited water & cups available for emergency use only, plus some basic 1st Aid supplies. These locations will be checked from time to time during the event, but there should be other competitors and vehicles on the road too.

# COVID stuff:

We’re still trying not to catch this, so please keep your distance from all those people you haven’t seen in a year. 1.5 metres should do the trick.

We will have hand sanitizer at the toilets, but would appreciate if you’d bring your own too.

Competitors must bring all their own water, including any water they want on the course. There will be none provided, except for emergencies. Getting used to providing all your own water will be good practice for the Easter 3-Days.

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| **Course** | **Actual Length** | **Classes** |
| Hard 1 | 10.7km | M21A |
| Hard 2 | 8.0km | M20A, M35A, M40A |
| Hard 3 | 6.8km | W21A, M18A, M45A |
| Hard 4 | 6.0km | W20A, W35A, W40A, W45A, M21AS, M50A |
| Hard 5 | 5.1km | W18A, W50A, M16A, M35AS, M55A, M60A, M65A |
| Hard 6 | 3.9km | W16A, W55A, W60A, W21AS, M70A, M45AS |
| Hard 7 | 3.2km | W65A, W70A, W35AS, W45AS, W55AS, M75A, M55AS |
| Hard 8 | 2.2km | W75A, W80A, W85A, W65AS, M80A, M85A, M65AS |
| Moderate | 3.0km | W14A, M14A, M Open B, W Open B, M Junior B, W Junior B |
| Easy | 2.0km | W12A, W12A, Open Easy |
| Very Easy | 1.7km | W10A, M10A, M/W10N |

# Map:

Wattle Ridge, kindly offered to BigFoot for this event by Bennelong Orienteers.

1:10 000, 5m contours

Mapped by Alex Tarr, 2007, extended and updated by Terry Bluett since then.

# Control Descriptions:

Are on the map but not available loose at the event. Please print out your own control descriptions prior to the event and bring them with you (available on Eventor).

# Starts:

Are an easy 5 minute walk from the assembly. They are queuing starts at 2 minute intervals operating from 9am until 11.30am, so please spread yourselves out. Course closure is at 1.30pm, so if you anticipate taking a while, plan to start early. Please clear and check and use the start punches, even if you have SI Air. No clothing return.

# Course Closure:

You must abandon your course if you cannot finish by 1.30pm (toilets will need to depart at 2pm!)

# Course Setter’s Notes:

Wattle Ridge has been extensively burnt, including in the deeper gullies. The regrowth is rapid and will inhibit visibility while runnability will vary but is mostly good. The North side of the road is more runnable than the South side. There are many unmapped small trails made by dirt bikes and many of these have pink tape, they can provide better runnability but are likely to not consistently be going the right way. The mapping is exceptionally good. On a map with so much rock much of the smaller rock has been left off; in general, rock faces below around 1m may be omitted.

For the easy and very easy courses some taped routes have been marked on the ground, they are shown on the map in purple.

This is a great technical area and will test the navigation technique of even the best navigators, so keeping control of your direction and using attack points will be vital. Enjoy.

Organizer: Jock Davis

Setter: Greg Barbour

Controller: Simon George