

North Perth MetrO Event Report

(The Laneway Labyrinth)

Despite living a stone's throw from the area, I had always doubted its suitability for a MetrO event until COVID happened, when I turned to SuburbRun as there were no orienteering events. Bryce Crage's North Perth course alerted me to the large number of laneways behind the regular street grid and a plan began to form. Eventually I decided to set courses using the laneways as a theme.

After starting the map, I broke a bone in my writing hand at the Australian Relay Champs, but fortunately Nick Dale agreed to help with field-working the more detailed areas. Also, Google Maps Street View is a useful tool for identifying which features on the roads and laneways need to be mapped and/or can be used to attach a control marker. Saves a lot of walking and easy to do, even if you only have one good hand!

In setting the courses I tried to make the best routes a bit harder to find. As an example, going directly from 4 to 9 looks unappealing, but is actually an efficient route allowing canny navigators to collect 6 on the way from 7 or 8 to 5. On the Short course this meant you didn't have to tackle the steep hill between 8 and 7. I was also aiming to provide several different options at each control in the Southern half of the map in order to separate groups of runners, eg from 17 or 20 there were 5 different options. A summary of the best routes, with some comments, is attached.

Sten Claessens managed to outfox me, his Long course route being shorter than any I had seen, but this was my own fault. Despite not including 15 in any of the shorter Medium course routes, I did include it in my shortest Long course routes when it was in fact an obvious "leave". However, Sten's route could have been even shorter (by 200m) if he had seen the 9 to 4 option mentioned above.

Thanks to Sharon & Riley McFarlane for organising a sausage sizzle, which also brought several juniors from the School Championships to compete, with some talent being unearthed – congratulations to Troy Kingma and Amelia & Tilly Black who won their classes on the Short course.

Other casual entries Michael Cake and Caroline Bertolino were first on the Short and first woman on the Medium courses. Carol Brownlie was a clear female winner on Short, while Russell Wade broke through for a win on Medium. Sten Claessens won the Long, while Rachel West just pipped Ceri Pass.

Don't forget to upload routes to Livelox, and to see where others went.

Thanks to LOST Club members Jan Fletcher, Jennifer Binns, Liisa Hirvonen, Jason Simpson, Edward Plummer, Gary Aitken and Robert Graieg for helping to set up, to meet'n'greet, and to collect controls, and to Melinda Richards for registration (very busy) and sorting download failures (also busy).

Tony Simmo