



PETTICOAT GULLY, CRESWICK FOREST

Eureka Orienteers Club Event

SUNDAY 28th April 2024

Map: Petticoat Gully

Scale: 1:7500 & 1:10000

Event Director: Eureka Orienteers

Course Planner: Warwick

Contact Person: Gary

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The Eureka Orienteers thoroughly welcome One-and-All to the launch of their 2024 Ballarat Classics Orienteering Series! The 'Classics' series is about just getting out into the classic forests around Ballarat and doing some classic Orienteering! It is going to be brilliant to be doing so much Orienteering around Ballarat in 2024!

First up is the totally classic Petticoat Gully! Just South of Creswick, Australian Orienteering Championships and all manner of events have been held here. The reason is due to its classic gold mining detail! Do you enjoy alluvial gold mining detail? Do you enjoy Orienteering? Would you like to try Orienteering in alluvial gold mining detail? If so then you must attend this event! You will be spending time amongst the erosion gullies and 19th century mining remains. You can also go exploring further. Try panning for gold along Slaty Creek! There are only certain areas in Victoria where it is legally allowed to pan for gold along creeks. Slaty Creek is one of those areas, but only if you have obtained your 'Miners Right'. Remember the Eureka Stockade?

Anyway, maybe you will find more controls than grains of gold along the creek, either way you will be shouting out "Eureka!" when you find what you are looking for! No matter how you look at it this area is a classic part of Australian history in relation to the Gold Rush and it is a classic in the history of Orienteering in Australia!

Number of Courses: 6

Course Names:

1) The Enduro	8.1Km
2) The Middleweight	6.3 Km
3) The Miner	3.7 Km
4) The Minor Chord Miner	3.0 Km
5) The Relaxed & Comfortable	2.7 Km
6) The New Chum Novice	2.0 Km

Terrain

The terrain at Petticoat Gully is typical of a dry sclerophyll forest of Central Victoria. There are some marked variations between runnable open forested areas, mostly found on the northern facing slopes above the gullies and creek lines, versus thicker south facing

slopes. There will be patches where it is hard to move quickly due to the vegetation. In general, the higher parts of the map are quite open and very enjoyable to move through. The thickest parts are down in the long creek gullies that traverse the entire map. Some of these are tremendously difficult to get through, and with some steep slopes lining creeks you should make your own decision on how to proceed by considering your own strength, fitness and agility because to get through some parts you will need a lot of those three things!

These terrain notes are also mainly a reminder of gold mining terrain. In summary, miners dug up huge amounts of dirt. They wanted white (quartz) rocks because they found that gold was associated with these quartz rocks. That left highly disturbed soils, pits, holes, shafts, trenches, piles of soil, piles of white rocks and more. Over time, rain eroded more soil, making earth banks higher and erosion gullies deeper, creating very high earth walls. What does all this mean? There are dangerous features in mining terrain that could see falls, slips, trips and slides. BE CAREFUL and LOOK AROUND before running to that control you just saw! WATCH where you place your feet and TEST to see if the ground and/or the rocks are STABLE first. Some of those piles of quartz rock can be like stepping on marbles!

But do not be overly alarmed, some areas are almost devoid of any material on the ground and are a total pleasure to run through. But soon things change! These types of areas vary so much within metres and you just must adapt with what the immediate terrain ahead of you requires. Then an area will be bisected by a deep ditch or drain, which you may not be able to jump over. In summary, you will be presented with many obstacles at Petticoat Gully and these will slow you down over and over. You just have to be sensible and be safe. Then you will also enjoy the moments of free running as you think what an easy place this is to move as the trees glide past or you run for a moment on a track! Then, boom! Back down in the mining! Slowed down again! All you can do is look after yourself as you contend with each obstacle!

Well, that's gold mining terrain! Run, walk, getting up, going down, climbing over, crawling under, looking around! It can be very hard, but it is just oh so satisfying once you have found all the controls and made it back to talk with everyone about how you went! I just wanted to remind you about the physicality of gold mining terrain and ask you to be careful and adapt to the conditions you find yourself in. Only you can make the best decision based on your strength, fitness and agility. Take heed and stay safe!

Directions

From Melbourne, take the Western Freeway towards Ballarat.

Exit the freeway at Wallace, and then take the Bungaree-Creswick road (C291). Approximately 13.5kms after leaving the freeway at Wallace, turn left onto Madderns Road. After 1.5kms, continue straight as Madderns Road (sealed) turns into James Hill Road(unsealed). After 500m along James Hill Road there is an intersection. James Hill Road continues via the left turn. Follow James Hill Road for another 1.5kms, then turn right into Shuttleworth Road. Continue along Shuttleworth and after 2.6kms it reaches Wolfes Road. After checking all is clear, proceed straight along Slaty Creek Road. Follow parking instructions which are that you can only park on the forest plantation side of both Slaty Creek road and Standard Road.

From Bendigo, travel to Creswick then turn left into the Creswick-Bungaree Road (C291). After just over 10kms take care, and turn right into Madderns Road. From here follow instructions as above.

From Ballarat, From the 5 Ways Junction on White Swan Road, take Codes Forest Road. Turn right at James Hill Road. Then Turn left into Shuttleworth. Continue along Shuttleworth and after 2.6kms it reaches Wolfes Road. After checking all is clear, proceed straight along Slaty Creek Road. Follow parking instructions which are that you can only park on the forest plantation side of both Slaty Creek Road and Standard Road.

From Google, be aware that Google could take you any number of routes through the Creswick State Forest, depending on when you clicked the Eventor link. Some routes may even work. However, do not panic and run when you feel you are hopelessly lost and driving in circles because you will never escape on foot! If worse comes to worst keep driving straight on any road and eventually it will come out of the forest. Drive then to Creswick, get a coffee, relax and eventually try again with 'Google-free' instructions as written above.

ENTRY: Online entries close on Thursday, 25th April at 11:59. Lest you forget! (NB: Entry on the day IS available!)

OV Adult Members (21 and Over): \$12

OV Juniors (Under 21): \$5

Casuals (21 and Over): \$17

Casuals: (Under 21): \$5

Families: \$25

ENTRY ON THE DAY: Yes, Entry on the day is available. Try to bring the correct change if possible. Don't go to the ATM the last thing before the event and bring only \$100s!

START WINDOW:

Starts will be between 10:00am and 12:30pm.

COURSE CLOSURE:

ALL COURSES CLOSE AT 2:30PM. You MUST abandon your course and ensure you return to the finish/download tent by 2:30PM in order that organisers can be assured you are safe and well. Failing to do this may cause a search party to be mobilised. In Orienteering, no matter how you went you must report back to the organisers at the finish tent to download the times on your SI stick and this will let everyone know you are back!

NOTES:

This is NOT an SI Air Event!