



OY2 Camel Farm (Balara Homestead) – Sunday 8 Sep 2024

Get your entries in for the OY event at Camel Farm near Lake Wivenhoe on Sun 8 Sep. Runnable, gently sloping land and intricate erosion gullies. <https://eventor.orienteering.asn.au/Events/Show/20541>

Directions

Travel north from Fernvale along the Brisbane Valley Highway. Cross the Wivenhoe Dam and continue for 11.8km. The turnoff to the homestead is 2.7 km after the intersection with Coominya Connection Rd. Look for orienteering signs.

Di the Camel Lady

Balara Homestead is the home of the legendary Di Zischke. In 2001, at the age of 58, Di took off with 4 camels on a 3500-kilometre journey to retrace the steps of Burke & Wills, from the Dig Tree (close to the Queensland-South Australian border), to the Gulf of Carpentaria, and then back again. She travelled solo, with no back up crew, and succeeded where those before her had failed.

Read her story and the history of the Bos Camel Farm in Sue Williams' *Outback Heroines* (extract <https://bookreadfree.com/468479/11509130>).

Now a widow in her 80s, Di still manages the property and cares for animals including Rajah the camel. As an adventurer herself, Di is very supportive of orienteering. *Please consider making a Landowner Donation (select "Add Service") when entering this event.*

Course lengths

Hard 1--8.1 km; Hard 2--6.6 km; Hard 3--5.4 km; Hard 4--3.8 km; Hard 5--2.6 km;
Mod 1--3.3 km; Mod 2--2.5 km; Easy--2.1 km; Very Easy--1.7 km.

NOTE: this map is very flat, with little climb on any of the courses. Hard 1, 2 and 3 may involve some scrambling in and out of gullies, but all other courses are very kind to knees etc.

Starts

Starts from 9am to 10:00am. Courses close 12pm.

The Start is a flat 400m walk from the Assembly.

Parking and Assembly are along the main track from the entrance to the property.

Assembly

There will be water available on the longer courses and limited water at the assembly. Please help by bringing your own drinking water.

Bush toilet – or stop on the way in Fernvale or Cormorant Bay Reserve

Map notes

The map is over 11 years old, and uses the older (pre-2017) map symbols (brown x for termite mound). The map has been updated, but not the vast number of termite mounds, which are constantly changing. There are many unmapped minor tracks, made by camels and horses, that also change from year to year.

There has been some logging so there are areas of fallen timber and some new logging tracks added to the map.

Piles of fallen timber are represented by the thicket symbol:



Please **roll under fences. Do not step on fence wires.**

Broken fences may be difficult to see (just the posts remaining).

IMPORTANT: Please respect the Out of Bounds areas on the map. In particular, **do not go beyond the (dry) river bed** into the northernmost section of the map.

Animals

There are a small number of brumbies and a camel loose in the forest. They are very shy and we did not see them during all the hours we spent on the property. We did however see their tracks. There are also wallabies and resident koalas on the property.

