



2017 State Leagues 8/9 Report

A big thank you to all participants for supporting our State Leagues held here in the Newcastle Region this past weekend (15/16 July). As most of you are aware a great deal of effort goes into the preparation and staging of these events so it is satisfying to see so many orienteers participating and (by our biased observations) thoroughly enjoying themselves at both of these events.

Personally I'd like to thank all our club members that took on roles either for many months or just on the day(s). We are lucky that as a large club we can spread the load, thus allowing everybody to have their own run and enjoyment of the day even while contributing to the event's staging. I received many "well done" comments which were a result of the great job you did and the enthusiasm you provided whilst doing so.

The weather was kind and produced ideal running conditions, although some rain earlier in the week had made a couple of tracks slightly slippery, especially at Wallaroo.

Saturday's new "Barraba Lane" map prior to the event was a mystery to all but our mapper/setter - Ian Dempsey and his controller - Rob Vincent. It turned out to be challenging but enjoyable terrain, with some steep areas but plenty of fast open running on the lower gentler slopes. A great mix and a great addition to our arsenal of maps. Most people seemed to be won over by the area as an orienteering venue and were chuffed with their courses. Some huge rock features added to its natural beauty as well. Apparently there is a lot more of this terrain bordering the map. Seems like we might have to look into the feasibility of an adjacent map.

Sunday we moved northward to Wallaroo National Park forest where mapper/setter Denis Lyons had stitched two of our adjacent maps together to offer a combined orienteering experience of the area that we'd not previously experienced. Longer legs offered route choices around most of the steeper hills and thicker vegetation, and run-ability was quite good even if visibility was sometimes reduced. Both Denis & his controller Scott Simson hit the mark in providing a brilliant day of orienteering.

Please take the time to fill in the Course Setters Survey for both of these events.

Once again we utilised queueing starts and once again they worked well. We received many comments stating how much the punters like these open start windows. Our thoughts are that they should be implemented for all NSW State League events and we encourage other clubs to do so, provided the board has no issues with them doing so. We were given the go ahead, so it would seem there is a willingness to have this happen. It alleviates the need to create start lists, split starts for childminders and allows club helpers to start at any time. Time of day to a certain extent becomes irrelevant during the window. It may be interesting to see how these queueing starts work on a mixed weather day, say where clearing weather is expected so everybody wants to start late, but so far they have been easy to administer and allow competitors the freedom to plan their day as they see fit.

Results wise, Israeli national Itay Manor (Uringa) had a narrow win over Rob Bennett (Newcastle) in the M21A Middle Distance on Saturday with the pair swapping placings over Sunday's 12.6 km Long Distance event. Georgina Macken (Central Coast) took out the W21A Middle Distance event with Nicola Blatchford (Newcastle) winning the Long. Fastest competitor on Saturday was junior Ewan Shingler (Bigfoot) with a very quick and nicely rounded 7:00 min/km. Rob Bennett was quickest on Sunday clocking 6:45 min/km with local junior Alvin Craig (Newcastle) not too far behind recording 6:57 min/km.

SL8	Results	Attackpoint Splits	Routegadget	Setters Survey
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Injuries were very minor with two exceptions. One a large gash to the leg for Garingal's Istvan Kertesz on Sunday. Apparently he was brought back to the assembly area as a pillion passenger of an anonymous dirt biker, so kudo's to that particular rider for his assistance. Saturday's controller Rob Vincent managed to get a run in on Sunday, and caught a stick to the neck. Merely a flesh wound for RV and unlikely to have slowed him down at all. We hope both these injuries mend quite quickly.

Our gate collection on Saturday raised a staggering \$207 - thank you some much for your generosity. This plus an additional amount from our club will be given to the farmer that owns (and slashed) our fantastic Assembly/Parking area. We think it was well worthwhile to have such a convenient, comfortable area adjacent to our start/finish area. The farmer's wife came down for a visit and to take photos to show her husband who was unable to attend due to being overseas. She seemed quite pleased to see everyone enjoying the day.

The NSW Junior Squad catering reported great sales with goods selling out on the Saturday, requiring a hasty baking session that evening to restock for the next days stall. Thanks on their behalf for your continued support.

Some great photos from Russell Rigby can be found [here](#).

Lastly do not forget that the Newcastle Club is one of the most active club's in Australia having an extensive calender of events throughout the year. We hope to see you at one of these in the near future.

Stay safe and may you result block never touch the ground.

Cheers
Geoff Peel
SL8/9 Organiser (for Newcastle Orienteering Club)

Photo Credits: Ian Jessup, Claire Jessup, Andrea Hackney & Geoff Peel

