

2026 australian

MTBO

championships

8-11 OCTOBER – BALLARAT & CRESWICK, VICTORIA

WORLD RANKING EVENTS
WORLD MASTERS SERIES
AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND
MTBO CHALLENGE
NATIONAL MTBO SERIES
VICTORIAN MTBO CHAMPS

Orienteering Victoria invites competitors to take part in the 2026 Australian Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships to be held in Victoria from 8 to 11 October 2026.

The four Championship events will be held at Ballarat and Creswick with a warm-up event at Ballan.

The events will feature new or updated maps that will provide an excellent orienteering experience suited to riders of all ages and experience levels.

This **Bulletin 2** contains the available information for each event. There will be a **Final Bulletin** published the week before the Championships with complete details.



Orienteering Victoria acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung and Wadawurrung as the traditional owners of the lands on which these events will be held. We recognise their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past, present and future.

ORGANISATION

These events will be organised by Bayside Kangaroos, Eureka, Nillumbik Emus and Yarra Valley orienteering clubs on behalf of Orienteering Victoria.

KEY PERSONNEL

– see event pages for event organising personnel

John Gavens:	Carnival Director
Kathy Liley:	Budget
Peter Cusworth:	Promotion, bulletins and publicity
Carolyn Cusworth:	Start team coordinator
Ian Chennell:	Finish and results
Greg Tamblyn:	Infrastructure
Arpad Kocsik:	Orienteering Australia, commentator
Aislinn Prendergast:	Orienteering Victoria
Ricky Thackray:	Finance
Elizabeth Leung:	Promotion and social media
Heather Leslie:	Registration and volunteer coordination

INFORMATION AND CONTACT

Carnival Director: John Gavens

Ph. 0427 840 816 2026mtbo@orienteering.asn.au

Website: ausmtbochamps2026.orienteering.asn.au

MOIRA WHITESIDE BEQUEST

The 2026 Australian Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships has received funding support from the [Moira Whiteside Bequest](#).



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SCHEDULE

LOCATION

THURSDAY 08 OCTOBER

am	Victorian Schools MTBO Championships	Ballarat
pm	WARM-UP EVENT	Ballarat

FRIDAY 09 OCTOBER

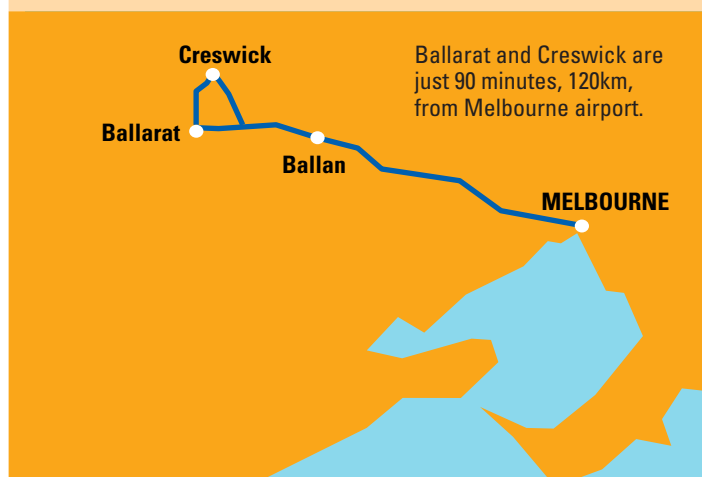
pm	MASS START	Ballarat
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SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER

am	MIDDLE DISTANCE WRE & WMS	Creswick
pm	SPRINT DISTANCE	Ballarat
pm	CHAMPIONSHIPS DINNER	Ballarat

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER

am	LONG DISTANCE WRE & WMS	Ballarat
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ENTRY

Enter all events and the dinner on [EVENTOR](#)

ENTRIES CLOSE AT MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER.

Late entries will be accepted up until midnight Sunday 4 October but will incur an extra \$10 fee per event.

ENTRY FEES	Warm-up	Mass Start	Middle	Sprint	Long
Aus Champs Senior	\$15	\$45	\$45	\$40	\$45
Aus Champs Junior	\$10	\$25	\$25	\$20	\$25
Explorer Senior*		\$40	\$40	\$35	\$40
Explorer Junior*		\$20	\$20	\$15	\$20

START LISTS

Start lists will be published on Eventor on Tuesday 6 October.

CLASSES

AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP AGE CLASSES

M12, M14, M16, M20, M21, M40, M50, M60, M70, M80, W12, W14, W16, W20, W21, W40, W50, W60, W70, W80

LEGENDS CLASS

For the Middle event there will be a special **Legends class** (M and W) [open to former Australian MTBO team members and elite class \(M/W21\) placegetters at previous Australian MTBO Championships](#). Course lengths equivalent to M/W50

Bonus Entry: If you enter the Legends Middle race, you can then choose a free entry when entering the Sprint.

EXPLORER CLASS

A non-championship **Explorer score event** will be available at the Mass Start, Middle and Long distance events for those not wanting to compete in their age class course.

E-BIKE CLASS

For the Mass Start, Middle and Long events there will be three courses: a long line course, a short line course, or a score course. The Sprint event will have one line course.

E-bikes at the 2026 Australian MTBO Championships

If you are entering the E-bike class your E-bike must meet the following Victorian requirements for an electrically power-assisted cycle (EPAC).

- the bike requires pedaling to activate the motor and propel the bicycle
- the motor must cut off once you reach 25 kilometres per hour
- a maximum continuous rated power output of no more than 250 watts

People of any age can ride an E-bike without a licence in Victoria.

REGISTRATION

You will need to attend registration before starting your first championship event and to collect your collect your goodies bag, race number and if ordered, hire SIAC stick.

Registration is open at the following times and venues:

Friday: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm – Mass Start, Pax Hill camp

Saturday: 9:00 - 10:00 am – Middle, Creswick

Saturday: 1:00 - 2:00 pm – Sprint, Federation Uni

Sunday: 9:00 - 10:00 am – Long, Brown Hill

WORLD RANKING EVENTS (WRE)

The **Middle Distance** and **Long Distance Australian Championship** events have been approved by the IOF as World Ranking Events.

This means that riders in M21 and W21 are eligible to earn points in the [MTBO World Ranking list](#).

To enter the WRE and earn world ranking points, you must have an IOF ID and provide it in Eventor as part of your entry for each WRE event. If you don't have an IOF ID you can get one by creating an IOF Eventor Account.

WORLD MASTERS SERIES (WMS)

The Middle and Long events will be the first two scoring races in the 2027 World Masters MTBO Series.

The WMS is scored in 5 year age classes from M/W35 up, so despite the Aus Champs events having 10 year classes, the WMS is scored for results in each 5 year age category.

AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND MTBO CHALLENGE

These championships will also see keen competition between selected riders from Australia and New Zealand. New Zealand being the visiting country, has nominated W21, W40, W50, W60, M21, M40, M50, M60 and M70 as the classes to be contested. The times for the 3 selected riders from each country are totalled after each event to see

which country won that class. The total class wins are scored over the championships program to find the winning country. After 12 challenges since 2003, New Zealand has 9 wins to Australia's 4. Come on Aussies!

[NOMINATE for the AUSTRALIAN TEAM HERE.](#)

The ANZ MTBO Challenge rules can be found [here](#).

NATIONAL MTBO SERIES

These events comprise the second round of the 2026 National MTBO Series for Junior, Senior and Masters classes. More information on the series [here](#)

Points are awarded to individuals in each class (30 for first, 27 for second, 24 for third, down to 1 for 25th) over this year's designated races. The best 5 accumulated points count for final individual result in each class. The person with the highest point total is the National MTBO Series champion in that age class.

The other rounds of this year's series are:

QLD MTBO Championships 19-20 September

ACT & NSW MTBO Championships 17-18 October

CHAMPION STATE PLAQUE

A hotly contested competition to find the most successful state at each Australian Championship. Points are awarded on the combined finish times of the best 2 riders from each state in each age class. These points are aggregated across the event program to form a total state score.

AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

Mountain Bike Orienteering

Australia

New Zealand

September 2003
 Daylesford VIC
 AUS 4 - NZ 0

January 2005
 Auckland NZ
 NZ 6 - AUS 1

November 2007
 Newcastle NSW
 NZ 11 - AUS 10

June 2009
 Mt Gambier SA
 NZ 13 - AUS 8

January 2012
 Central Otago NZ
 NZ 14 - AUS 10

January 2014
 Rotorua NZ
 NZ 24.5 - AUS 7

June 2014
 Alice Springs NT
 AUS 15 - NZ 6

October 2015
 Anglesea VIC
 AUS 14 - NZ 10

October 2017
 Wingello NSW
 NZ 23 - AUS 12

April 2018
 Central Otago NZ
 NZ 18 - AUS 3

October 2019
 Maryborough VIC
 AUS 18 - NZ 14

September 2023
 Brisbane QLD
 NZ 18 - AUS 14

October 2024
 Canberra ACT
 NZ 18 - AUS 17

October 2026
 Ballarat VIC
 NZ ? - AUS ?

 CHAMPION STATE PLAQUE			
Year	Location	Host	Champion State
1998	Creswick	VIC	Victoria
1999	Monterey	SA	Victoria
2000	Kowen Forest	ACT	Victoria
2001	Joe's Folly	NSW	Victoria
2002	Whroo	VIC	Victoria
2003	Kowen Forest	ACT	Victoria
2004	Bullecourt	QLD	Victoria
2005	Bendigo	VIC	Victoria
2006	Bussell Brook	WA	Western Australia
2007	Cessnock	NSW	Victoria
2008	Maryborough	QLD	Victoria
2009	Mt Gambier	SA	Victoria
2010	Chewton/Daylesford	VIC	Victoria
2011	Beechworth	VIC	Victoria
2012	Taree	NSW	New South Wales
2013	Gympie / Canberra	QLD/ACT	Victoria
2014	Alice Springs (NT)	SA	Victoria
2015	Anglesea	VIC	Victoria
2016	Dwellingup	WA	Western Australia
2017	Wingello	NSW	New South Wales
2018	Brisbane	QLD	Queensland
2019	Maryborough	VIC	New South Wales
2022	Kurri Kurri	NSW	New South Wales
2023	Brisbane	QLD	Queensland
2024	Canberra	ACT	Victoria
2025	Collie	WA	Western Australia

RULES

These events will be conducted in accordance with the [Orienteering Australia MTBO Competition Rules](#)

WRE classes (M/W21 in Middle and Long) will be organised in accordance with the

[IOF MTBO Competition Rules rules](#)

Note: Off-track riding is not permitted in any of these events except where the following symbols are used.

	Open land, permitted to ride (824)
	Rough open land, permitted to ride (826)
	Forested area, permitted to ride (825)
	Paved area (501)
	Unpaved area (501.4)

MAP LEGEND

Note: this legend has been enlarged.

where you CAN ride:

		paved road / path
		unpaved road
		fast track / path
		medium track / path
		slow track / path
		very slow track / path
		permitted route
		open land permitted / rough open permitted
		paved area / unpaved area
		forest permitted to ride
		crossable obstacle or gate
		one-direction-only track

where you CAN'T ride:

		forest / thick forest
		open land / rough open
		scattered trees / rough open scattered trees
		settlement / out of bounds
		forbidden route



TIMING SYSTEM

We will be using SPORTident Active Card (SIAC) system for contactless timing using BS11 control boxes that have a range of 1.5 metres.

These controls do not have 'dibbing' holes. **You MUST use a SIAC (numbered in the series 8000000-8999999) for contactless control timing.**

Make sure you **Clear AND Check** at the start to activate the stick.

SIACs are available for hire @ \$2 per event. Order/pay via the Service section in Eventor as you enter each race.

When you pass a control (within approx. 1-1.5m distance), your stick should flash and beep. **Make sure it does FLASH and BEEP. It is rider's responsibility to ensure that your SIAC stick has recorded the control.**

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR SIAC STICK DOESN'T REGISTER AT A CONTROL?

If you didn't go close enough to the control, or went by too fast, go back and try again.

If the battery in your stick has failed, or the control unit has turned off, try the following:

Most control stands will have an old-style pin punch. You should use the small card you received in your registration pack to pin punch the card, or use the edge of your map.

At some controls there will also be a smaller standard control unit (BSF8) with a dibbing hole (either blue or a deep red colour) that you can record your visit by dibbing your SIAC stick into the hole on that box. That will record on your stick that you have legitimately visited the control at that location.

AT THE FINISH there will be a large square black plate to record your flying finish. The SIAC registration distance for this unit is up to 3m – so several riders can ride past at the same time in the finish chute. Off to the side, there will also be a standard finish control unit (BSF8) with a dibbing hole. You can use this to register your finish time if the battery in your SIAC has failed during the course.

BATTERY CHECK: check the condition of your SIAC's battery using the "battery check" box at Registration.

If you would like to check how old your SIAC battery is before the weekend, use this website:

<https://www.sportident.com/siacservice/>

More details on how the SIAC punching system operates:

www.sportident.com/news/385-fast-faster-siac.html

THE START

Start procedure:

Please line up in start order as your start time approaches.

The clock at the front of the first start box viewed from the Pre-Start area, will display 'the Start Time for those with that allocated time now being called up'. E.g. if your start time is 11:00 then this will be the time displayed on that clock when you must present yourself to the Start Official. (There will be a second clock actually on the start line – showing the time of those actually starting.)

At each event, the call up will be 4 minutes prior to your start time.

At -4 min	Name and SIAC number check. SI CLEAR box. Move into the first box.
At -3 min	Move into the second box. SI CHECK box – turns your SIAC on SI TEST box – confirms your SIAC is working
At -2 min	Move forward to stand at the maps.
At -1 min	Take your map and immediately move forward to the start line. Arrange your map on your map board.
At start time	GO on the 6 th beep of the clock. (there is no Start Punch).

Late Starters

The officials at the Start and Finish are not authorised to change a rider's start time. Riders who arrive at the start later than 4 minutes before their allocated start time must report to the Start Official. If possible, the rider will be directed into the correct start box and start normally. Otherwise, the rider will proceed through the late start process and start at the next available half start interval using a manual start punch – however, their start may be recorded as per their official allocated start time. If they believe the Event Organiser caused their late start, they should make a request to Registration or to an official at the Download after they finish for consideration.

Volunteers have access to the Late Start process without penalty if they are unable to ride at their allocated start time due to volunteering duties.

VICTORIAN SCHOOLS MTBO CHAMPIONSHIPS

Thursday 8 October – from 10:30 am

The annual Victorian Schools MTBO Championships is open to all Victorian students and any interstate visiting students.

Enter via [Eventor](#).

Organised by: Orienteering Victoria

Location: Bungal Forest, Ballan

Map: Bungal Forest.

Scale: 1:15,000. **Contours:** 5m

Event format: Score course format with different time limits for year levels:

Year 11-12 120 minutes, Year 9-10 100 mins, Year 7-8 80 mins, Year 5-6 60 mins.

Students can compete individually or as a pair.

Classes: Girls Year 5-6, Girls Year 7-8, Girls Year 9-10, Girls Yr 11-12.

Boys Year 5-6, Boys Year 7-8, Boys Year 9-10, Boys Year 11-12.



AUS MTBO CHAMPIONSHIPS WARM-UP EVENT

Thursday 8 October – from 2:30 pm

This event will provide an example of the terrain and forest for the Long, Middle and Mass Start events.

Organising Club: Bayside Kangaroos

Organiser: John Gavens

Course Setter: Heather Leslie

Map: Bungal Forest (updated 2026)

Scale: 1:15,000 **Contours:** 5m

MTBO map created by Geoff Adams (2003), updated 2014, 2024, 2026.

LOCATION

The arena area is at the south end of Llandeilo Road, Ballan (accessed via Old Melbourne Road from Ballan or Gordon).

Portaloos available.

Start and Finish is close to the arena.

EVENT FORMAT

75 minute score event - 20 points per control, 10 points penalty per 1 minute, or part thereof, late.

The event will use control units set in "Air" mode for touchless punching.

All controls will use BS11 boxes with a 1.5 metre range, as will be used in all events on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Some control stands will also have a smaller BSF8 control box attached as these will be used for the earlier Schools event.

Start window: 2:00-3:00 pm

Course closes: 4:30 pm

TERRAIN:

The area is mainly open eucalypt forest with a network of tracks and trails. There are some steep sections particularly through creeks and in the east of the map around the Moorabool River. The area can be muddy, particularly after rain.



Organising Club: Bayside Kangaroos

Organiser: Carolyn Cusworth

Course setters:

Scott Gavens & Rebecca Shaw

Event Advisor: Peter Cusworth

Map: *Woowookarung (updated 2026)*

Scale: 1:10,000 & 1:7500 **Contours:** 5m

Map updated 2026: Peter Cusworth

LOCATION

The event arena is at the Pax Hill Scout Camp, on the corner of Fussell and Spencer Streets, Ballarat. The start and finish are on the edge of the camp with the competition area out in the *Woowookarung* forest.

Registration, download and results will be on the verandah of the main building. There is a toilet block next to the main building.

MAP HISTORY

The area was first mapped for orienteering in 1978 and called *Canadian Forest*. Rob Plowright made the first MTBO version in 1999. See map history info for Sprint event.

TERRAIN

The *Woowookarung* forest has a dense network of tracks particularly in the north section. No big hills, but it is undulating terrain with many short climbs and descents.

Course	Mass Start classes	Dist km	Climb m	No of controls	Map size	Scale	Map Flips
1	M21	24.3	607	28	A3	1:10,000	3
2	W21, M40, M50, E-bike long	21.1	517	26	A3	1:10,000	3
3	W40, M20, M60	18.6	467	24	A3	1:10,000	3
4	W20, W50, W60, M70	11.9	312	18	SRA4	1:7,500	2
5	W70, M16, M80, E-bike short	10.7	297	19	SRA4	1:7,500	1
6	W14, W16, W80, M14	8.4	204	16	SRA4	1:7,500	1
7	W12, M12	6.0	150	17	SRA4	1:7,500	1
Explorer and E-bike Score Course – 75 minutes					A3	1:10,000	

There are many tracks and complex junctions, so you need to be careful with your navigation. Paths can be fast, distinct and a metre wide or much narrower and not so distinct and difficult to pass oncoming riders.

There are a couple recently created and signposted walking/riding paths in the forest. Please take care when on these and look out for walkers.

Tracks can be mixed as well. Much of the forest is now blocked off from vehicle use and is not maintained so are bumpy with drainage ruts and sticks and branches to negotiate, others are much faster with several good unsealed roads cutting through the map.

There was a “controlled burn” in the northern part of the forest earlier this year which has resulted in a number of trees down across tracks and

Expected Mass Start winning times	minutes
M/W16 and under	60-68
M/W20	60-68
M/W21 and over	75-85

paths. Trees that require dismounting to get around or climb over are shown on the map using the “crossable obstacle” symbol.

PARKING

There is limited parking inside the camp. After that is full you can park along the side of Spencer Street or if that fills, along Fussell St north of the camp.

WARM-UP

Use the suburban streets north of Spencer and west of Fussell. Don’t go near the forest or the forest perimeter roads.



This event is a **World Ranking Event** for those entered in M/W21.
Note – to be eligible for WRE points, you must provide your IOF ID in Eventor as part of your entry.

Organising Club: Nillumbik Emus
Organiser: Helen Edmonds
Course Setter: Robert Edmonds
Event Advisor: Tim Hatley (BK)
IOF Advisor: Kathy Liley (YV)

Map: *Djuwang Baring (new map)*
Scale: 1:10,000 **Contours:** 5m
Mapper: Andrew Slattery 2026

LOCATION

The arena and finish are on open parkland at Northcott Park, Creswick. Enter off the corner of Semmens Ave and Ayres St, north of the Melbourne Road C291, Creswick. Parking is available at the arena.
There are public toilets at the prestart at Hammon Park which is nearly 1km and a 5 minute easy ride along a bike path from the assembly area. Portaloos will also be provided at the assembly area, and you are welcome to put up club tents at the arena.

MAP

This area was first mapped for orienteering in 1981 and used at the Christmas 6 Days. It was called *St Georges Lake*. The map was first used for MTBO events in 1999 and was last used in 2016. Orienteering was banned after a severe weather event and bushfire damage and was not allowed

Course	Middle Distance classes	Dist km	Climb m	No of controls	Map size
1	M21	16.9	410	19	SRA3
2	W21, M40, M50, E-bike long, M-legend	13.8	320	20	SRA3
3	W40, M20, M60	11.4	260	17	SRA3
4	W20, W50, W60, M70, W-legend	7.3	160	12	A3
5	W70, M16, M80, E-bike short	6.6	150	10	A3
6	W14, W16, W80, M14	5.8	120	12	A3
7	W12, M12	4.4	75	13	A3
Explorer and E-bike Score Course – 60 minutes					SRA3

until infrastructure around St Georges Lake was completed and the trails in Djuwang Baring built. This will be the first event on this new map. Andrew Slattery fieldworked the map and Warwick Davis set up the map file.
'Djuwang Baring' is mapped at 1:10k reflecting the complexity of the track network including many one-way tracks of various difficulty. Please check the track directions on the map and obey the directions which are also shown on track marker-posts at the entry to most tracks. If there are no specific directions shown, the track will allow two-way riding.
The course setter has avoided black tracks (difficult riding). Be aware that some of the tracks cater for accessibility riders and walkers.

TERRAIN

'Djuwang Baring', which means 'long track' in the Dja Dja Wurrung language, is a network of 60 kilometres of mountain bike trails that start at Hammon Park and pass through the varied landscape of

Expected Middle winning times	minutes
M/W16 and under	32-37
M/W20	40-44
M/W21 and over	50-55

Creswick, traversing the ancient cultural lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung people. Construction began early in 2023 on a network of mountain bike trails that was intended to be the venue for mountain bike events at the Commonwealth Games this year.
The track network also incorporates the GFT, the Goldfields Walking and MTB tracks which extend from Mt Buninyong near Ballarat to Bendigo. (You may also see GFT signs at other events this weekend.)
The terrain is a mixture of eucalypt forest and pine plantations, steep in places with fast forest and slow single tracks. Significant areas of pine are in various degrees of regrowth and forest management. Open pine forest is mapped as white the same as native forest. Thick pine plantation with low visibility is mapped as green.

STARTS

The preliminary pre-start will be from Hammon Park. The actual pre-start for all courses is another 260m ride on a quiet suburban street. Riders will be held back for a suitable time before moving to the pre-start prior to their start times. The start triangle is a further 130m up the street.

WARM UP

Riders can warm up on the bike path towards Hammon Park. The bike path east of the assembly is out of bounds.



Trail signs indicate whether tracks are 2-way or 1-way.

Organising Club: Eureka
Organiser: Blake Gordon
Course Setter: Mark Valentine
Event Advisor: Chris Norwood

Map: Federation University
Scale: 1:4000 **Contours:** 2.5m
Mappers: Roch Prendergast and Andrew Slattery 2026.

LOCATION

The Mt Helen Campus of Federation University, Gear Ave Mt Helen.

MAP

This is a new MTBO map. The area has been used for foot-o sprints but never for MTBO.

Map history: The Eureka Orienteers club was founded in 1975. In 1978 Ian Johnson / Barry Heywood (fieldwork) and Tom Norwood / Derek Viner (cartography) produced *Canadian Forest '78* for the International 5-Days centred in Ballarat. This 5-colour map included the Ballarat Institute of Advanced Education (now Federation University) at the southern end. Rob Plowright fieldworked and drew the first MTBO map of *Canadian Forest* in 1999. That map included the area used for this years' Mass Start event and the University of Ballarat (now Federation University). Despite several Victorian and NOL foot-o sprint events, the campus and surrounding bushland has not been used for a MTBO event until now.



Course	Sprint classes	Dist km	No of controls	Map Size
1	M21, M40,	8.1	20	A3
2	W21, M20, M50	6.7	18	A3
3	W20, W40, M60, E-bike	6.1	16	A3
4	W50, W60, M70	5.5	15	A3
5	W70, M16, M80	4.9	14	A3
6	W14, W16, W80, M14	4.6	12	A3
7	W12, M12	4.2	10	A3

TERRAIN

There are two distinct riding terrains for the sprint events – the campus building environment and the natural bushland and open fields.

The courses will feature a mix of paved surfaces within the building environment, including bitumen roads, sealed carparks and concrete walking paths.

Surrounding the building environment are sporting fields and natural eucalypt forests.

Within these areas are fast rideable trails, single-track paths and open, rideable grasslands.

The area is not steep but does have a general fall across the map from high points in the eastern and northern spur-gully terrain to lower sporting fields in the west.

When riding within the building environment, riders must use the path and road network, unless there is a specific open area permissible (bright orange) to cross indicated. The map will reflect this requirement - dark green OB - for areas of garden beds and small grassed areas between the buildings.

NB - Riders need to take into account that although the University is generally quiet on a Saturday afternoon, it is still open, so pedestrians, dog walkers, students and urban road users, including buses will be evident within the grounds.

WARM-UP

Cyclists will be allowed to ride a designated marked track west of the carpark, but not on any other sections of the university campus.

Expected Sprint winning times	minutes
M/W16 and under	15-20
M/W20	16-20
M/W21 and over	20-25

SAFETY

There are several steep staircases between buildings on campus which will be marked as out of bounds (red hatching on map and red stripe tape on the campus. This precaution is to avoid any accidents climbing the staircase or descending on foot carrying the bike.

PARKING AND ASSEMBLY

Enter the campus from Gear Avenue only. Follow signs to the large southern carpark / arena.

START

200m from arena.



World Ranking Event and World Masters Series

This event is a **World Ranking Event** for those entered in M/W21.
Note – to be eligible for WRE points, you must provide your IOF ID in Eventor as part of your entry.

Organising Club: Yarra Valley
Organiser: Heather O'Donnell
Course Setter: Dion Keech (MFR)
Event Advisor: Kathy Liley
IOF Advisor: Kathy Liley

Map: *White Swan* (updated 2026)
Scale: 1:15k and 1:10k **Contours:** 5m
Map updated 2026: Rod Gray, Kathy Liley, Dion Keech, Gavin Bennette

LOCATION

The arena and finish is at the Brown Hill oval, Reid Street Ballarat.
 Assemble near the Cricket pavilion.
 Public toilets available.

The competition map heads north from there and includes parts of previous orienteering maps: Nerrina, Monte Christo, Creswick Forest. Previous maps are on Eventor (note the Monte Christo area is included in the displayed Nerrina map).

PARKING

Around the oval, in adjacent car parks, and overflow in the nearby streets.
 Look for our parking attendants.

Course	Long Distance classes	Dist km	Climb m	No of controls	Map size	Map scale
1	M21	31.4	800	18	SRA3	1:15k & 1:10k
2	W21, M40, M50, E-bike long	27.5	700	16	SRA3	1:15k & 1:10k
3	W40, M20, M60	23.5	500	16	SRA3	1:15k & 1:10k
4	W20, W50, W60, M70	17.2	475	14	SRA3	1:10,000
5	W70, M16, M80, E-bike short	16.6	430	15	SRA3	1:10,000
6	W14, W16, W80, M14	11.7	280	12	SRA3	1:10,000
7	W12, M12	8.1	150	13	SRA3	1:10,000
Explorer and E-bike Score Course – 90 minutes					SRA3	

MAP

This map had it's first iteration as an orienteering map in 1976 – first event organised by the long-defunct Super Turtles OC. (map will be on display at the arena).

TERRAIN

A mix of forest roads, suburban bitumen roads, rough forest tracks (which at the time of writing have some large mud puddles) and single tracks – some good, some slower. The finish is at river level. All courses climb onto the Brown Hill plateau – and longer courses find more hills further north.

STARTS

The start for courses 1, 2 and 3 is approx. 3km and 50m climb from the arena along suburban bitumen and

Expected Long winning times	minutes
M/W16 and under	70-75
M/W20	84-92
M/W21 and over	105-115

dirt roads. The start for all other courses is approx. 900 m flat ride from the arena on suburban road and bike path.

WARM UP:

For Courses 1-3, on your way to the start. For other courses it's a bit more restricted – roads and paths adjacent to the arena and south of the Yarrowee River. (More information at the event.)

DO NOT RIDE ON THE OVAL!



EMBARGOED AREAS

Valid until after the event on 11 October 2026.

The EMBARGOED areas for these championships are shown on this map and can also be viewed and enlarged with more detail using this link. <https://tinyurl.com/55y8et2x>

It is not permitted to reconnoitre terrain and tracks in this area – unless required for employment or residential purposes. If you require exemption, please contact the Carnival Director.

PREVIOUS MAPS

Copies of previous maps of the embargoed areas will be posted on Eventor for each event.

VOLUNTEERS

Championship events like this do not occur without the support of our volunteers!

We appreciate the support we receive from our volunteers but we don't want them to miss out. So, in recognition of their efforts, we will:

- support them to volunteer and compete in the events
- Provide all volunteers with a voucher to compete for free at a future MTBO, MelBushO or VIC Series event.

During the championships, our volunteers can be identified with their distinctive orange caps. If you need help, please ask them for assistance. If you don't need assistance, thank them for volunteering.

At all times, please treat volunteers with respect.

Please contact the [Volunteer Coordinator](#) or [Carnival Director](#) if you would like to volunteer.



CHAMPIONSHIPS DINNER

A Championships Dinner will be held at the North Ballarat Sports Club on Saturday evening from 5:45pm. Book your place at the dinner via the separate Championships Dinner event in [Eventor](#). Full details in Eventor.



PRESENTATIONS

Award presentations for the Mass Start, Middle and Sprint events will be held at the Championships Dinner on Saturday evening. If you are not booking for the dinner, you are welcome to attend for the presentations.

Presentations for the Long distance event will be held as soon as possible after the conclusion of the event at Brown Hill on Sunday 11 October.

1st, 2nd and 3rd placegetters in each championship class will receive an award certificate and a unique championships mug.



Class winners will also receive a prize chosen from MTBO socks, chocolate or a bidon bottle.

The first Australian in each class will be acknowledged as the Australian Champion.



BIKE SHOPS & MECHANIC SUPPORT

For bike repairs and equipment during the championships, two bike shops in Ballarat have agreed to provide support to riders:



430 Sturt Street, Ballarat 03 5331 3185

www.myride.com.au/pages/store/ballarat

Wednesday: 9:00 to 5:30

Thursday: 9:00 to 5:30

Friday: 9:00 to 6:00

Saturday: 9:00 to 2:00

Sunday: Closed

Contact: Tim



CYCLESCAPE

111 Sturt Street, Ballarat

Ph: 03 5333 2211

Web: cyclescape.com.au

Wednesday: 10:00 to 5:00

Thursday: 10:00 to 5:00

Friday: 10:00 to 5:00

Saturday: 9:00 to 2:00

Sunday: Closed

Contact: Phil

*In addition, Phil Orr from **Cyclespace** will be present at the **Sprint (Saturday afternoon)** and the **Long (Sunday morning)** to provide mechanical support and repairs.*

BIKE WASH

There will be an area with a hose for washing bikes at the Mass Start, Middle and Long events.

ACCOMMODATION

We recommend accommodation in Ballarat or Creswick. Creswick is close for the Middle distance event, while Ballarat is convenient for the Mass Start, Sprint, the Dinner and the Long distance event.

WEATHER

Climate averages for October for Ballarat and Creswick:

Daily maximum 19° **Daily minimum 6°**
Days of rain 10 **Rainfall 55mm**

COFFEE VAN

Deja Brew Espresso will be on site at the arena for the middle (Saturday morning) and long (Sunday) morning.

Deja Brew have a mobile coffee van serving a selection of coffee, tea, drinks, cakes, slices, pies and sausage rolls.



PHOTOGRAPHY

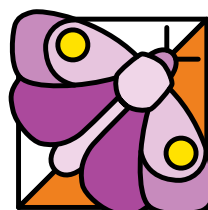
Orienteering Australia is introducing a once only consent process for the use of photography of competitors across the sport. Once entries have closed, all entrants will receive by email a consent form to complete. There are separate forms for adults and the parent/carer of children.

This process is to ensure photographs of participants in orienteering activities are used solely for the purposes for which they are intended as defined in the Orienteering Australia Privacy Policy and Photography Policy.

TRAINING MAPS AND OTHER EVENTS

A selection of MTBO maps will be available near Ballarat, Castlemaine, Macedon, You Yangs, Anglesea and Woodlands (near Tullamarine airport) that can be downloaded and used for training. Some of these have MapRun controls, and some are just course maps from recent events.

[The maps are available to download here.](https://oceania2026.orienteering.asn.au)



**OCEANIA
ORIENTEERING
CHAMPIONSHIPS
2026** 26 SEP-04 OCT
NGUNNAWAL COUNTRY

<https://oceania2026.orienteering.asn.au>

ACT & NSW Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships

17-18 OCTOBER 2026
Mogo, Eurobodalla Shire

MIDDLE, Mogo MTB Trails
SPRINT, Tomakin
LONG, Mogo State Forest

Beginners Welcome:~!
Enjoy the Coast!

