

History of the Eureka Orienteers in the 20th Century

Major Events and Significant Personal Highlights

1975

Feb. 25 Inaugural meeting of Eureka Orienteers at State College of Victoria, Gillies Street elected Tom Norwood President, Blake Gordon Vice President, Ian Johnson Secretary, and Derek Viner Treasurer.

May 16 First club event in north end of 'Canadian Forest' (fordiograph map 84 entries).

July 20 First state event shared with Red Kangaroos at 'Slaty Creek' (291 entries)

1976

First five colour map of 'Canadian Forest' Tom Norwood/Peter Dyson/Ian Johnson

June 2 Eureka held 1st club championships at 'White Swan'

August 8 Eureka held State event at Canadian Forest Ian Johnson/Tom Norwood

October Phillip Norwood won 'Sport Star of the Month' after victory at Vic Champs at Lake Eppalock

Dec 13 AGM at Mt. Clear Recreation Hall held first 'NightO' event after the meeting

1977

January 12 Eureka staged event for Talents and Abilities Unlimited in Canadian Forest

February Established permanent course in Canadian Forest Ian Johnson/Tom Norwood, 'Trim course' set up in Canadian Forest

March 6 State event in Canadian Forest

1978

January 3 to 7 International 5Days Orienteering held at Ballarat (event centre at Ballarat airport maps at Bungal, Borhoney Ghurk, Champion Hill, Little Hard Hills, Canadian Forest '78) Tom Norwood , Ballarat coordinator

New map of 'Canadian Forest '78' Tom Norwood/Derek Viner/Ian Johnson

May 21 'Man vs Beast' competition held in Canadian Forest Phillip Norwood and Dale Ann Gordon beat the horses

May Tom Norwood elected VOA Vice President and Chris Norwood elected VOA Treasurer

October 29 Phillip Norwood 1st, and James Valentine 2nd at the Inaugural Victorian Schools Championships at Carinya Cutting

1979

March 8 First 'Ballarat Fun Run' 3 courses all starting and finishing at same point staged by Eureka Club and the "Courier"

April 7 John Preston, Andrew Campbell, Blake Gordon, & Keith Meerbach teamed up to take 2nd in the Kimbolton 12Hour Rogaine

May 26 Dale Ann Gordon, Phillip Norwood, and Rod Gray help AUS won the Cerebros Cup on New Zealand's North Island; Norwood's rental van almost gets caught by the tide

September 30 Victorian Individual Championships at 'Kurucaruc Creek' Ian Johnson/Tom Norwood/Chris Norwood (390 competitors) trees given as awards; badges for sale to everyone on the day

October 6 Dale Ann Gordon and Gale Dwyer ran Ballarat Regional Schools Event at Kurucaruc Creek

1980

April 28 Tom Norwood elected VOA President

July 5 First Eureka 'progressive dinner' Viners for soup, Campbell's the main, and Gordon's the desserts to raise money to send the W35's Relay team to Tasmania

August 17 Rose Campbell set a 'snowflake' course in Canadian Forest

October 5 Eureka's trio of Rose, Shirley and Dale won the W35 Australian Relay Champs for the first time at Bothwell, Tasmania

October Peter Jones (2.56.36) and Blake Gordon (2.58.41) broke the '3 hour barrier' in the 'Big M' Melbourne Marathon

December Dale Ann Gordon selected "Ballarat Sportswomen of the Year", Eureka claimed the first 'Victorian Club of the Year' title with 219 points to Bayside's 175

1981

January 4 to 9 Australian 6Days Orienteering staged in Ballarat on 'Haphazard Reef', 'Glenluce', 'Greendale', 'Tarilta Creek', 'Kalimna Park', 'North Creswick Forest' Blake Gordon coordinator Eureka's vegetarian food tent proves very popular

May Phillip Norwood, Shirley Viner and Dale Gordon went to NZ for AUS/NZ Challenge

June 28 New 1:10,000 map of Nerrina forest by Mark Hennessy and Mandy Ackland

August 19 Ballarat Primary and Secondary Schools event Blake Gordon organiser

August Tom and Lesley Norwood managed the WM'81 Australian team in Switzerland and brought home 6th placings in both men's and women's relays

December Eureka won 'Victorian Club of the Year' with 261 points to Bayside's 209

1982

October 3 Victorian Individual Championships at Shepherd's Flat Mandy Ackland, Mark Hennessy, Peter Jones Ballarat brass band entertained, the beer flowed, the punches fell apart, and the wind blew down the dunnies!

October Neil Sinclair ran the 'Big M' Marathon in 3.32.21

October 31 Memorable 'Bendirat Challenge' at Castlemaine gumboot throwing, rolling pin throwing and a punchstand relay were popular

Shirley Viner won 'Orienteer of the Year' and Eureka was second in 'Club of the Year'

1983

March Mark and Mandy Hennessy leave Eureka to form 'Central Highlands Orienteering Club' based in Macedon

March 13 5th (and last) Courier Begonia Festival Fun Run staged over 3 distances

Kay Haarsma did exchange teaching at Ballarat North Tech for a year and convinces Shirley Viner (3.49.43), Heather Bice (4.18.24), Judy Charlton (4.34.31) and Annette Charlton (4.40.50) to run the 'Big M' Marathon

December Shirley Viner (W40A) won 'Victorian Orienteer of the Year' title while Eureka came second to Yarra Valley in Club of the Year'

1984

February Weather is hot (33 degrees) for TriO on Lake Wendouree, and Vic Park

March Eureka's Courier Begonia Festival Fun Run becomes 'The Courier Begonia Classic' run over 17.2 km on a new course designed by Russell Bourke

September 16 Victorian/Australian AllSchools Event at Mt. Clear ('Canadian Forest 84') 786 competitors
Dale Ann Gordon/Rose Campbell/Blake Gordon

First effective use of microphone/speaker system at All Schools Event Russell

Bourke

December Eureka second again to Yarra Valley in 'Club of Year'

1985

February TriO staged with one canoe/kayak leg, one cycling leg and finishing with a running leg all with maps!

July Carolyn Johnstone created native animal logos for all 18 courses at Vic Champs '85

August World Orienteering Carnival (WOCARN) Victorian Individual Championships at 'Slaty Creek' Dale Ann and Blake Gordon/Rose and Andrew Campbell (1128 competitors) largest Victorian Champs staged

August WOCARN maps 'Slaty Creek', 'Big Rock', Chewton Diggings', 'Sailors Diggings', 'Mt. Hickey', 'One Tree Hill', 'Crocodile Reservoir', 'Wattle Gully Diggings'

1986

April Orienteering for the disabled at 'Nerrina' Richard Bice/Russell Bourke

June 'Whitehorse Ranges' map produced at 1 :7,500 scale thanks to Donald Staudte/Carolyn Johnstone the Eureka horse as the logo

October Aquinas student orienteering team won Australian Tertiary Championships in Canberra, ACT

November 30 Victorian Relay Championships at 'Slaty Creek' Andrew Campbell/Peter Jones more than 300 participants with great kids relay at the start of the day

1987

TriO organised by Jenni Jamieson at St. Patrick's point on Lake Wendouree

New maps made at 'Victoria Park' (Donald Staudte/Bill Borrie), 'Mt. Helen'(Bob Braszell) and 'Springdallah Creek' (Andrew Campbell/Carolyn Johnstone)

February Permanent course established at 'Victoria Park' Blake Gordon/Tom Norwood set the pine posts in concrete

April Blake Gordon appointed Coach/Manager of the Victorian Junior Squad

September Dale Ann Gordon appointed captain of Australia team in AUS/NZ Challenge

1988

January Eureka invented the 'Eureka Cake Stall' (at State events) to support our juniors in state and national squads and our mapping program

January AUS/NZ Challenge in Tasmania with Sarah Campbell, Karen Staudte, Rose Campbell, Shirley Viner, Dale Gordon (Captain), Ian Jamieson, and Andrew Campbell in the victorious AUS team at APOC

May Andrew Campbell took over as Victorian Technical Committee Convenor and Blake Gordon as Victorian National Selector

May Dale Ann Gordon organised testing of Australian elites at Ballarat CAE

August Victorian AllSchools event at Mt. Helen campus of Ballarat CAE for 240 competitors Tom Norwood/Heather Bice/Bob Braszell/Blake and Dale Gordon

November Started 'StreetO' around Ballarat's streets during the summer months

1989

January Emily Viner, Ian Jamieson, and Tom Norwood represented Eureka in AUS/NZ Challenge in New Zealand

May Chris Norwood elected VOA Vice President but declined

August Blake and Dale Gordon managed the WM'89 Australian Team in Sweden with Nicki Taws, Karen Staudte and Rob Plowright in the team

1990

May Blake Gordon elected VOA Vice President and OFA Councillor, while Dale Ann Gordon convened the Victorian Coaching Committee and Karen Staudte worked with the Victorian Junior Squad

September Nicki Taws, Shirley Viner, and Andrew Campbell helped AUS whitewash NZ in the AUS/NZ Challenge in Victoria

October Australian Relay Championships at 'Mt. Beckworth' Tom Norwood/Andrew Campbell/Roch Prendergast; our first Rob Plowright map last event in the Hovell Tour

October Terrific cake and food tent at Aus Relays lets us 'get away' with the event when the Forests and Lands people bulldoze and smooth off an intricate sand quarry near the start/finish less than 3 weeks before the event

1991

May Heather Bice our lone representative in AUS/NZ Challenge in New Zealand

June 29 Inaugural Victorian ShortO at 'Yarrowee Pines' Rose Campbell/Richard Bice

July Emily Viner in JWOC in Berlin with Sarah Campbell as Manager of the AUS team

August Nicki Taws, Rob Plowright, and Karen Staudte in WOC'91 in Czechoslovakia

October Eureka was first Victorian club to purchase a flatbed plotter to overprint courses on maps. Tom Norwood used it at Christmas 5-Days and then at Easter 3-Days

November 24 'Eureka Blazers' won Brumby's 'Runners World Relay' with the team of Tom Norwood, Shirley Viner, Andrew Campbell, Emily Viner, and Rob Plowright

December Christmas 5Days at 'Canadian Forest', 'Slaty Creek', 'Mt. Beckworth', 'Springdallah Creek', and 'Yarrowee Pines' Rob Plowright/Karen Staudte

December Fifteen Eureka Orienteers won Victorian Orienteer of the Year in their respective age classes (three generations of Norwood Andrew, Chris, and Tom win)

December Eureka moved equipment storage from Braszell's to YCW, York Street

1992

January 3 13 Veteran's World Cup in St. Helens, Tasmania; Rose Campbell 6th in W45, Dale Gordon 11th in W 50, Chris Norwood 15th in M 35

January Doug Bartram, a 'miner' at Sovereign Hill, features as Easter logo

April Kate Blood (DC&NR) assembled environmental display for each day of Easter

April Australian Easter 3-Days at 'Little Forest', 'Mt. Doran', and 'Borhoney Ghurk' Tom Norwood/Rob Plowright/Chris Norwood/whole club effort over 1 050 competitors

April Accommodation at Sebastopol Technical School Jenni Jamieson and Registration and Results System devised for Easter events Ian Jamieson Dale, Karen and Heather dug 16 toilet holes at each of 3 Easter maps with a crook digger

May Blake Gordon elected VOA President and Teny Haebich elected VOA Treasurer

July Rob Plowright (Coach) leads JWOC team to Finland Elspeth Campbell and Emily Viner were members of the 12 person team

1993

March First OY of year at Mt.Doran Tom and Lesley Norwood

March Ian Jamieson/Blake Gordon won 'Future Directions' \$12,000 grant for development of software for the World Cup and Victorian OY series

July Elsie Campbell finished 23rd in JWOC ShortO in Italy

September Emily Viner and Nicki Taws represented Australia at WOC'93 in New York, USA Gordons cheered from the sidelines

December Rose and Andrew Campbell moved to Cairns, Queensland

1994

February Inaugural 'Eureka Challenge' at 'Mineral Springs' Roch Prendergast/Rob Plowright to provide elites with some head-to-head competition before '94 World Cup

April World Cup ShortO and Relay (World Cup Events 2 & 3) 'White Swan/Nerrina' and 'Little Hard Hills' Rob Plowright (mapper and course setter)

April Nicki Taws, Emily Viner, and Elsie Campbell ran in the World Cup ShortO (Nerrina) and World Cup Relays (Little Hard Hills); Nicki took 10th place in World Cup ShortO Race 2 and finished seconds behind the leading runners in the first leg of the relay

April Results system for World Cup races and "Goldfields Challenge" by Ian Jamieson

April Kate Blood set up environmental display on weeds at the World Cup ShortO finish at Brown Hill oval and got many positive comments from overseas competitors

April Russell Bourke revamped control punch stands for World Cup (blue & silver)

April "Goldfields 3Day Challenge" and "Southern Cross Challenge" (for Elite Juniors from NZ and all states) Blake Gordon/Rob Plowright/Shirley Viner

June Eureka bought 'Nerrina/White Swan' and 'Petticoat Gully' maps from World Cup

October Victorian Individual Championships at 'White Swan' Chris Norwood/Jenni Jamieson (312 competitors) 'first edition' printed results distributed at the end of the presentation ceremonies; Victorian ShortO Champs run on 'Buninyong' 1:10,000 produced with Adobe Illustrator (Eureka's first computer drawn map) by Rob Plowright

1995

March Eureka Challenge II 'White Swan' Hageby (mass start and two/three loops) Rob Plowright & 'Petticoat Gully' Roch Prendergast/Rob Plowright

April Easter in Queensland (Crow's Nest) most Eurekaite camped with the 'QLD Campbells' on the school oval

June Selection Trials for World Championships (Germany) 'Chinaman Flat' and part of 'St Georges's Lake' Rob Plowright/Blake Gordon

June Emily Viner selected in WOC'95 team to Germany

September Interstate Relays/Australian Schools Relays 'Petticoat Gully' Roch Prendergast/Rob Plowright; great 'loop run from final control' in sight of the finish crowd

December International Christmas 5-Days 'Chinaman Flat' and 'White Swan' Tom Norwood/John Erwin; five perfect Ballarat days!

1996

March Eureka Challenge III 'Little Forest' Shirley Viner/Rob Plowright/Lesley Norwood and 'Mt. Beckworth' Tom Norwood/Sue Hart/Rob Plowright

April Easter at Orange many Eurekaite sleep at Bloomfield a former psych hospital

April Rob Plowright elected president of the Australian Elite Association

June 2 Victorian Club Relays 'Chinaman Flat' Heather and Richard Bice/Jenni Jamieson excellent food tent by Helen Haebich and Glenda Norwood

October Emily Viner wins W21E Australian Championship in St. Helens, Tasmania, and was runnerup in Ballarat Sportswoman of Year '96

1997

January AGM Jenni Jamieson steps down after 14 years as Eureka Secretary and mountain bike orienteering (MTBO) starts in Canadian Forest Blake Gordon

March 8 & 9 Eureka Challenge IV 'Chinaman Flat' Hageby Rob Plowright/Chris Norwood/Lesley Norwood & 'Nerrina' Relay Peter Scott/Melanie Pither/Karen Staudte/Rob Plowright; club vowed to never do 4 events in two days again

Easter at Broken Hill Accommodation at the old town hall in Silvertown (ghost town); Blake Gordon volunteers as OFA Mountain Bike Committee Convenor; Silvertown pub several Eurekaites passed "the test" and become instant members

April 19 Inaugural Ballarat Masters Games Orienteering 'Nerrina' Karen Staudte/Richard Bice

June Shirley Viner wins 'Victorian Individual Veteran Athlete of the Year' and completes Winter Classic in Victorian High Country

August WOC'97 in Grimstad, Norway Karen Staudte, Assistant Manager, Emily Viner and Nicki Taws in team; Emily (1st leg) and Nicki (4th leg) set record 6th place (+27 min behind Swedes) best result by any AUS WOC Relay team

August 31 Blake Gordon completed Kangaroo Hoppet 42 km cross country ski course (4.45.43 hours) at Falls Creek

October Dale Gordon finished 7th W55 in the Veterans World Championships at Camp Ripley, Minnesota, USA, with over 2000 competitors

November 30 Inaugural Victorian Mountain Bike Individual Championship at 'Lal Lal' Eureka's first OCAD map Rob Plowright/Dale Gordon/Blake Gordon

1998

January 11 Eureka AGM at Bungal Dam games for all

Blake Gordon produces first EU Handbook club history, records, assets, information

March 7 OY #1 Eureka Challenge V at 'Petticoat Gully' Karen Staude/John Erwin Hageby is humongous effort 2 events in same day is enough of a challenge!

March 29 MTBO event in 'Canadian Forest' Mark Valentine/Blake Gordon

April 25 Ballarat Masters Games #2 at 'Buninyong' Richard Bice/BJ Hamilton; lowkey event in tennis club with gold medals for Blake, Wayne Strong, Dale, Shirley

April 26 OY#4 Ballarat Classic at 'Mt. Beckworth' Dale Gordon/Tom Norwood toilets on a trailer are slid off much easier than pushed back on!

Australian Schools Events Emily Hart, Conan Prendergast (reserve) and Hayden Lebbink (reserve) go to WA; Dale (1st, W55A), Conan (1st M16B), Emily (2nd W16A) in the National titles held east of Perth, WA

Australian MTBO Inaugural titles in Ballarat; Blake (2nd M50+) and Emily Viner (3rd W1834); in the 2nd Vic MTBO, Amanda Billett won W18-34 from Emily Viner by 15 seconds while Blake topped M50+, Dale 2nd in W50+ and BJ Hamilton 2nd in W35-49

Rob Plowright makes 5 maps for Eureka on OCAD White Swan, Nerrina MTBO, Creswick S and Creswick N MTBO, Dunn's Flat MTBO, and new 'Blowhole' map

Blake and Richard get a Country Sport Scheme grant of \$2144 to make the Creswick S MTBO map for 1st Australian MTBO Championships 85 competitors

Eureka Ostore moves downstairs at YCW, Tom and Blake make new equipment rack and Russell takes up residence, complete with desk and frig!

1999

Judy Prendergast elected first woman EU president since Nicki (1991) and Shirley (1992) at Gong Reserve AGM

Local series of 7 events from March to May; Second EU Handbook printed 25 years of Orienteering in Ballarat

Blake G (+ Barry Hart and Peta Whitford) obtain \$20000 grant (4 years) to make MTB-O maps in Victoria

Blake G (and Sue Brown) receive \$3000 for Vic Masters MTB-O event run by Ken D in Canadian Forest

Blake G awarded Honorary Life Membership in VOA

Eureka wins 18 places (club record) at "The Blowhole" Vic Champs – running the event in the rain and almost gets trailer stuck in the paddock

Rob P does complete MTB-O map survey of Victoria to identify the best terrain for mapping

Anitra D win W50+ at Australian MTB-O Champs at Monterey, SA

Mark V wins M35-49 at Victorian MTB-O Champs in pouring, drought-breaking rain at Mandurang

2000

Blake and Dale G go to Fielding NZL for World Masters – first in new millennium

Kent E wins two 1st places at APOC and two 2nd at Australian Championships in Qld

Rob P makes Vic MTB-O Champs map at Kurth Kiln with two scales on same map using map insert

Eureka wins 18 places (for second year in a row) at Eppalock South Victorian Championships

2001

Rob P completes Level 3 in National Coaching Scheme

Tom N successfully manages the Australian 3-Days at Easter in Daylesford

Eureka runs Day 1 at "Don't Wake 'Em Gully" organised by John E

Chris N wins M40 class in Victorian OY competitions for 9th time

Peter Scott wins Men Open in State Series MTB-O

Tom N wins VOA President's Award for his efforts organising the Easter 3-Days

2002

Blake G (manager), Emily V and Grant Lebbink selected for inaugural MTB WOC in France

July 4 Emily Viner wins Silver Medal at MTB WOC in Fontainebleau in Long-Distance

Emily V wins Middle and Long-Distance MTB-O at Australian MTB-O titles in Bendigo/Whroo

Anitra D take 2nd place in W50A at World Masters in Bendigo

2003

Ken D and Dale G stage 1st AUS/NZL MTB-O Challenge at "Brandy Hot"

Stephen Balharrie, Jonathan G, Dale and Blake G win State Series and Vic MTB-O Champs at "Rodoni"

Eureka wins seven places at Vic Champs at "Rodoni"

Dale G wins her 11th badge at Australian Easter 3-Days events

Ian Chennell takes over the SI management in Victoria

Mark V helps Eureka run successful Ballarat Summer Series – Street-O

2004

Mark V becomes EU president and starts club on an ambitious three-year major events program

John E serves as Pres/VP for the 8th time

Tom N awarded Honorary Life Membership in VOA

Hayden Lebbink represents AUS at JWOC

Emily V wins Women Open in MTB-O in Qld

Blake G serves as Event Director for MTB WOC in Australia

Eureka stages Training Camp and hosts 26 teams at 2004 MTB WOC in Ballarat and district

Emily V finishes 5th Long-Distance and 5th Middle Distance in MTB WOC in Central Victoria

Blake G wins VOA Annual Award for Services to Orienteering

Mark V runs Ballarat Summer Series followed by low-key bush series on the Ballarat outskirts