



Three World Ranking Events – Ballarat, Australia, September and October 2015 - Bulletin #1

On behalf of the International Orienteering Federation, Orienteering Victoria invites elite orienteers from around the world to enjoy three World Ranking Events in seven days. The events are part of the annual Australian Orienteering Championships Carnival, to be held in Ballarat in the (southern hemisphere) spring of 2015. The theme of the carnival is Dr Blake's Mystery Tour, named after a popular television drama series set and filmed in Ballarat.

Over the whole 9 day Carnival period, elite orienteers can participate in three World Ranking Events plus two National Orienteering League Events, all within about 1.5 hours of Melbourne International Airport by motorway, or about 3 hours by bus and train. Bus transport to events will be available for events not accessible by public buses.

Ballarat is a large regional city located 100 km west of Melbourne, at an elevation of approximately 500 metres above sea level. It combines the old world charm of the rich Victorian gold rush era with chic hospitality and beautiful natural and urban scenery. The gold miners of the 1850s dug up the forests, which have now regenerated, leaving some of the most complex forest orienteering terrain in Australia. The main events are within about 20 minutes drive of Ballarat, so there will be plenty of time for sight-seeing or relaxing after each race.

Main carnival events WRE = World Ranking Event, NOL = National Orienteering League event

Date	Events	Event status	Event organiser	WRE Event Advisor / Controller	Location	Km from Ballarat	Map scale (elite)	Winning times, minutes
Saturday 26 September, from 1 pm	Victorian State Middle Distance Championship	NOL + model event	Ruth Goddard	Barry McCrae and Warwick Williams	Creswick Forest	20 km NE	1:10,000	30 - 35
Sunday 27 September morning	Australian Middle Distance Championships	WRE + NOL	Dennis Mews	Ted van Geldermalsen	Creswick Forest	20 km NE	1:10,000	30 - 35
Friday 2 October, midday	Australian Sprint Distance Championships	WRE + NOL	Debbie Dodd	Blair Trewin	Saint Patrick's College	3 km W	1:4,000	12-15 (all classes)
Saturday 3 October, morning	Australian Long Distance Championships	WRE + NOL	Mark Valentine	Chris Norwood	Creswick Forest	20km NE	1:15,000	M21E 90 W21E 80
Sunday 4 October, morning	Australian Relay Championship	NOL	Rob Edmonds	Kathy Liley	Borhoney Ghurk	35 km SE	1:10,000	

Terrain and map notes

Map scales are set out above. Contour interval is 5 metres for all forest maps. The middle and long distance events will be held in the Creswick forest which is predominantly mature native eucalypt vegetation with patches of pine plantation. The forest is generally open and runnable, but with some patches of very thick vegetation in the deeper gullies. There are extensive areas of disturbed earth due to surface gold mining in the 1890s, leaving some complex patches of terrain with pits, trenches, erosion gullies, small knolls and small and large cliffs. Parts of these are littered with areas of broken quartz rock which can be rough underfoot. There are some deep mine shafts in the area. These are marked on the map with a black V symbol, and will be taped in the terrain to reduce risk of injury. Full leg cover and upper arm cover are recommended for all forest events.

The first event – the Victorian Middle Distance Championships on Saturday 26 September - will serve as a model event for the Australian Middle and Long Distance Championships.

The Australian Sprint Championships will be held on an urban boarding school campus, in flat terrain that will not require more than one contour line, if any.

Note that the earth's magnetic field in Victoria is best suited to compasses with needles counterweighted for the southern magnetic zone – this means you need a compass labelled “MS” on the base of the compass housing. Northern hemisphere compasses (labelled “MN”) will not settle as quickly as MS compasses.

Embargoes

The Creswick forest is embargoed between the Invermay – White Swan Road (in the south) to the Creswick – Melbourne Road in the north. St Patrick’s College campus and Borhoney Ghurk, are also embargoed. See www.ozchamps2015.com.au for further details of embargoed areas.

Training opportunities

The forest orienteering season will be in full swing in Australia, with bush events every Saturday near Bendigo (about 80 minutes from Ballarat) and State Series events on Sundays leading up to the Carnival – see Australian Eventor for all orienteering events in Australia. In addition there are urban and bush events in and around Melbourne. Within about 5 km of Ballarat, Nerrina offers excellent familiarisation with gold mining terrain, and Canadian Forest provides good general forest navigation training opportunities. Further details will be available on www.ozchamps2015.com.au

Entries

All entries and payments for the Australian Championships Carnival should be made on-line via Orienteering Australia's online entry system, **Eventor**. First go to <http://eventor.orienteering.asn.au/> for Friday 25 September 2015, select *AusChamps Carnival Social, Merchandise and Services*, and read the entry instructions.

All M21E and W21E competitors who wish to receive World Ranking points for the three World Ranking events will be asked to provide their IOF ID number. You can find this by checking *My Pages* on the IOF Eventor site. Please forward an email to the Entries team: <mailto:voa@iinet.net.au>, providing your Name, Age Class, and IOF ID number. Entry deadlines are as at midnight, Australian Eastern Standard Time, for each of the two dates below. Note that this is earlier than European time.

Entry deadlines: Discounted early bird online entry closes on **June 30, 2015**.

 Standard online entry closes on **August 31 2015**.

NO LATE ENTRIES.

Entry fees

Entry fees for the World Ranking Events are (in AUD):

	Early bird (before 30 June)	Standard (before 31 August)
Australian Middle Distance	\$35	\$38
Australian Sprint Distance	\$30	\$33
Australian Long Distance	\$40	\$44

Entry fees for other events and classes vary in the approximate range AU\$20 – 40 for different events, and vary between senior and junior, and when you enter (discounted entry closes midnight 30 June Australian Eastern Standard Time).

Register with Australian Eventor – to enter events, you need to be registered with **Australian Eventor**, and have a login and password. If you are entering for other people, they will also need to be registered. Eventor records your details, making registration quick and easy.

IOF Eventor – In accordance with International Orienteering Federation policy, entry may be made through IOF Eventor at <http://eventor.orienteering.org/Events>. However, we highly recommend entering and paying via **Australian Eventor** to obtain full carnival information, order services and merchandise, and use convenient credit card payment (IOF Eventor does not offer a payment facility).

Travel, accommodation and food

Ballarat is within an easy 90 minutes drive by motorway from Melbourne International Airport. Skybus services leave the airport every few minutes for Southern Cross Station, where trains depart about every hour from about 7 am for the 90 minute ride to the centre of Ballarat.

Ballarat is a major tourist centre with a wide range of accommodation options. However, September is a very busy time so book early. Other options include Creswick, Daylesford, Hepburn Springs and Castlemaine. Check locations via Australian Eventor, www.ozchamps2015.com.au, www.visitballarat.com.au

Buses will operate from central Ballarat for the three middle and long distance championships. Pre booking is essential, via Australian Eventor. Public buses can be used to get to the Sprint venue, which is within urban Ballarat.

At all events, food and drinks will be for cash sale by local volunteer groups (no credit card sales).

Contact details

www.ozchamps2015.com.au, www.visitballarat.com.au

Email enquiries– mark.valentine@ballaratbasketball.com

Telephone enquiries – Mark Valentine 61 418 310 125 or (from within Australia) 0418 310 125

Obtaining entry permits – Visas

Visit Australian Government Department of Immigration and Border Protection website for information on travel documents required to enter Australia:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/About/Pages/managing-australias-borders/travel-documents-for-entry-to-australia.aspx>