

2021 Garingal Club Championship Report

The 2021 Garingal Championship was reduced to thirteen (13) events due to Covid, nine (9) NSW State League events including the three NSW State Championships (the 6 best scores contributing toward to a member's total), plus the 4 Metro League events conducted.

The first two events were conducted on the 21 & 22 March, with rain on both days, heavy at times making map reading testing on occasions. On Saturday it was the NSW Sprint champs on the WSU Macarthur Campus map, the rain turning ponds into small lakes adding a further dimension to selection of route choice. "Swimmers" on the day were Aniko Fozo Kertesz, Toni Bachvarova, Barbara Hill, Cooper Horley, Andrew Smith, Michael Ridley-Smith, Lloyd Gledhill & Alex Kennedy. Wattle Ridge was the venue for a long distance event on Sunday, as it had been quite a while since some competitors had been in the bush it took them several legs to regain their bush "O" rhythm. Winners on the day were Aniko, Barbara Junghans, Istvan Kertesz, Ian Jessup & Adam Horley. Early leaders in the champs were Aniko 200, Cooper 189, Istvan 189, Ian 171, David Bray 167, Jim merchant 135 & Peter Annetts 132 pts.

Metro Leagues 1 & 2 followed, ML 1 was conducted at Yerambah Lagoon, the map recently updated and good weather greeting competitors, the only GO winner was John Bulman in Division 5. Boggabilla (UR N) hosted ML 2, fog early but lifting before the first starts, pleasant day for "O". John Bulman won Division 4, Tania Kennedy & Robert Newman were match winners for the Geckos & Skinks respectively. New leader in the champs was Ian Jessup 350, followed by David Bray 321, Cooper Horley 283, Tania Kennedy 267 & Ross Barr 247.

A State League double header in mid May on the South coast at Broulee using a new sand dune map enticed a larger entry than anticipated. Both events were Middle Distance in length & with few opportunities to run in sand dune terrain most competitors found it technically challenging. Garingal winners were Hanna Baracsi & Barbara Junghans both days, plus Aniko, Airdrie Long, Adam Horley Saturday and Andrea Lux, Robert Herkes, Ross Barr, Peter Fozo, Ian Jessup and Arpad on Sunday. At the completion of six events leading the champs were Ian Jessup 461, Cooper 456, Ross 446, Aniko 404, Airdrie 382, Arpad 352, David Bray 341 & Peter 334.

The following Sunday a local ML event was conducted on the McComb Hill map at Manly Vale, the only Garingal winner was John Bulman in Div. 4. The four leading the championship remained the same, Ian 550 Cooper 543, Ross 519 and Aniko 449 then followed Jim Merchant 415, Tania Kennedy 414 & David Bray 407.

QBIII conducted in the Newcastle area in lovely "O" weather was the next opportunity for members to add to their score, and for members who had competed in all seven SL events, they could start discarding their lowest scores. Day 1 was a Middle Distance event on the Redgum Ridges map, Day 2 a long event on the Barraba Lane map and Day 3 a Sprint on the Avondale Uni College map. Winners on all three days were Melissa Joseph and Ross Barr, winners on two days were Cooper, Keiran Joseph and Michael Hanratty, winners on one of the three days were Stephanie Nicholls, Adam Horley, Andrea Lux, Arpad, Barbara Junghans, Barbara Hill, Barbara Dawson, Riley Grainger and Lloyd Gledhill. In the race for the medals Ross Barr took the lead 814, followed by Cooper Horley 742, Adam Horley 625, Jim Merchant 619, Jamie Kennedy 572, Arpad Kocsik 570, Tania Kennedy 564, Melissa Joseph 560, Ian Jessup 550, and Aniko Fozo Kertesz 549.

Meto League 4 was held on the Excelsior map at Castle Hill and was coming to a conclusion when light rain began to fall signaling the completion of the ML season due to Covid. Garingal winners were John Bulman in Division 4 and Mark Lusher in Division 5. Retaining the lead in the championship was Ross Barr 873, followed by Cooper Horley 819, Adam Horley 715, Jim Merchant 669, Arpad Kocsik 663, Jamie Kennedy 645, Tania Kennedy 628, Melissa Joseph 560, Ian Jessup 550 and Aniko Fozo Kertesz 549.

The NSW Middle Distance and Long Champs weekend conducted on the Gardiner's Gap and Long Swamp maps North of Lidsdale concluded the State League competition and the Garingal Club Champs. The adjoining maps having large areas of thick regrowth after recent bushfires providing good visibility but slow going. The Long event perhaps a little short with many times faster than on the Middle Distance event. Winners of both events were Ross Barr, Keiran Joseph, Juha Lehtonen, Huon Wilson and Kirsten Horley. Middle Distance winners were Cooper Horley and Melissa Joseph. Long winner was Barbara Junghans (I hope that her competitors are ready for the onslaught in 2022 now that Barb has had her operation). 2021 Club Champion Ross Barr 877, 2nd Cooper Horley 847, 3rd Adam Horley 760, 4th Arpad Kocsik 737, 5th Melissa Joseph 715, 6th Jim Merchant 705, 7th Tania Kennedy 628, 8th Airdrie Long 618, 9th Jamie Kennedy 608 and 10th Riley Grainger 591.

Finally thanks to all the landowners, mappers and all the Garingal members that helped during the year in whatever capacity.

Jim Merchant.