

ARRIVAL OF NEW DOC MEMBER.

Suzanne and Nathan's daughter arrived on 6 February 2000. Congratulations.

They have asked for their thanks to be passed on to club members for the flowers and card which the DOC members sent them.

You will note that their photo is on the front cover this month.

As yet their baby is un-named and being called Possum!

E-MAIL NEWS FROM THE DOWLINGS.

(Several ex DOC members now overseas receive DOCument via e-mail each month. I have reprinted an e-mail message, unedited, with Ken's permission of course - Jennifer)

Thanks for the continuing DOCument. Always interesting to catch up. Bruce Collin's trials and tribulations made interesting reading. Lo and behold, we got the Feb issue of UK Compass Sport and who should be the co-author of an article but one Gordon Ross. I rather think Bruce and all DOC officials will be interested in reading what Gordon had to say.

If no-one gets CompassSport then let me know and I will copy and airmail the page.

The foot O season starts 11/12 March but Anitra and I have entered the Polaris 2 day mountain biking navigation event. It is a mountain marathon on wheels including carrying complete camping gear for the overnight. I gather there is at least one team from NZ although it does conflict with the Banks Peninsula Cyclic Saga which is similar.

The MTBO season started in January so we are well into that. Anitra is controller for the VIC Masters Games MTBO in April and I am the planner. We are off to the Easter 3 days in ACT and then hope to see some DOCers at APOC in Queensland in July.

Thinking of heading to Europe for O and MTBO next year and back in time for what we hope will be the first MTBO World Cup event held in Aussie late next year. Then 2002 is the World Vets at Bendigo which is about 1.5 hours from our forest block home. The Southern Hemisphere has certainly had more than its share of this event since it started. We look forward to seeing Bunny successfully defend her title.

Summer has been a bit mixed this year although we are enjoying it that way. Finally got to 34^{0C} last weekend and we noticed the thermometer had hit 38^{0C} during the week. Pouring since so our flowers and plants are doing well.

E-MAIL MESSAGE FROM ANOTHER EX-DOC MEMBER.

(This one was from our son Mark - Jennifer)

Kaweka Challenge.

There are 5 different courses. Mark did the 1 day 13 km solo on the Sunday.

Climb 750m to Kuripango Hill (1250M) descend to the lakes carpark and return around the base of Kuripango Hill to finish at the event centre. Information copied from the entry form!

I went to the Kaweka on Saturday afternoon, slept in my tent on Saturday night and ran on Sunday. It is the steepest race I have ever done. It starts with a 750 m high hill that is so steep in places that you are climbing up with your hands. I was first to the top of the hill in 49 minutes. On the way down you go down a bank that is so steep that you have to use a rope and go down backwards like abseiling. Someone passed me on the way down, but he was a veteran so I won the open mens section and won a Macpac top. I took 1 hour 50 minutes.

Fraser Mills and Andrew Thompson won their course, followed by Michal and Marte and then Greg Flynn and David Stewart.

I had to carry my bag with polyprop, first aid kit, gloves, hat, jacket 1.5 litres of water, compass, whistle, map. It was really hot.

PHOTO

Alan Carman being attended to by an ambulance officer at Narrowdale.

CONTROLLER'S REPORT NARROWDALE - (MASTERS GAMES)

George McLeod

I must apologize to those of you on course three who had your course ruined by a washed out first control. We checked the most distant controls the night before and any I considered at risk of being blown over, leaving 25 of the closest to be checked in the morning. For numerous reasons that didn't happen. However I would like to thank those of you affected, who in the spirit of sportsmanship chose not to protest. This allowed later people to enjoy their course. When I checked the area later I found a piece of ground about 2m long by half a metre deep had disappeared altogether. Debris must have built up against the control and dammed the gully. Then the whole lot scoured away in a flash flood as a lot of rubbish was swept out into the paddock.

Aaron produced suitable courses and I didn't have to alter them much. When we first looked at the area it was very runnable but by the time the event was held it had turned very greasy and some legs may have been planned differently had we known NIWA's weather forecast wasn't worth the paper it was written on. After such a beautiful day at Matarae, it was disappointing to have rain and we were lucky that no car got bogged. The cattle were very hard to shift out of their sheltered end of the paddock to the cold end and for a while I wasn't sure who was shifting whom. A couple of dogs would have been handy instead of flapping my arms and throwing sticks. That was when I discovered my watch was missing.

We were struggling to plan a novice course and I ended up calling it pink. When I checked the controls in the cattle paddock I was startled to find that a large willow tree had split in half over night and more or less blocked their access into the forest.

Barrie did the map work for me and arrived nice and early with the caravan. He seems to only do the work these days and doesn't get a run. Lyn and Claire make a great organising team and I was confident to leave them to it.

Alan and Helen gave us a great day at Matarae and it was unfortunate for both of them that he broke his arm on Narrowdale. We wish you a speedy recovery. Thank you to those experienced people who helped him.

PHOTO

Margaret Tagg presenting M50A competitors with their medals.

Gavin Crow second from the right.

ALLANS BEACH PLANNERS REPORT

Jane Forsyth

I made quite a few visits to the map area during the planning of this event, as I found the map had changed quite a lot - buildings, fences, tracks, vegetation and areas of wet ground were all different. The sea has eroded some of the foredune on the ocean side and the Hoopers Inlet side is very wet and muddy underfoot especially when the tide is in. I also had access to some old maps and it's interesting to see how the vegetation on the dunes has changed - it was all marked as "fight" when the dunes were infested with lupin; then the lupins died and it became "rough open" with marram grass; and now the lupins and gorse are moving in and large parts are becoming "fight" again. However Barrie wanted me to use up the old maps so I did. A full remap, incorporating the changes into the Ocad version, cannot be put off much longer however. As I needed to use many of the new tracks as handrails on the white and yellow courses, I was forced to add these, and the new house, by hand.

I asked the farmer about the long grass etc on the southern part of the map, which appears to be outside his fences so I wondered if it was all under DOC control now. He assured me that area will be grazed again, so the long grass and tangles of Muehlenbeckia we had this summer are not always going to be a problem.

Huge thanks to Bunny who agreed to be my controller - she made excellent comments on the first draft of the courses and came out to run them the day before the event. It was envisaged that these summer series events would not need a controller and an organiser, but as it was only my second time planning I felt that Bunny helped me lots. Sheryl and Bruce Collins cheerfully managed the caravan, start and card checking between them, while I sat on the finish.

On the day, the weather was humid with low cloud, and a couple of drizzly showers during the event. Perhaps this put some people off coming but the turnout (some 30 people) was not bad for a weeknight event out of town, I thought.

Apologies to Kev Knowles, who was first out on the orange course. He wasted some time looking for the first control which had been knocked over by cattle. He was sporting about it, but I felt he could have won if not for that mishap.

My thanks also to Julia Forsyth who came out with me one evening to look over the map; Ian Turnbull who helped me put out and bring in the controls and tow the caravan; Michael Tagg who picked up about half of the controls after his run; Kev Knowles who dug the toilet and Myles and Ciaran who filled it in; and Margaret Tagg, Linda Keen and Chris Ehrhardt who helped unpack and pack up the caravan.

APRIL 2000 DEVELOPMENT SQUAD CAMP

The annual April D-Squad Camp is being held from Saturday 15 to Thursday 20 April 2000 at Havelock North, Hawkes Bay. This camp is in the school holidays and more importantly, is being held as an ideal build-up preparation for the NZ National Championships (21 to 24 April) down the road at Masterton.

So juniors, here is a great opportunity to come and join others and fine tune your skills, learn more skills and, enjoy the social company of fellow juniors.

The only criteria we are looking at for non-Squad members are that you have competed at "Red Level" events at a high standard.

I would point out that this camp venue has **only** 45 beds in bunkroom style. Apart from Squad members, coaches and personal, remaining beds will be allocated on first come basis. However, there is plenty of room for tenting (sleeping only) and those people that miss out on a bunk bed will be offered this choice. If any others (Squad members etc) prefer to tent, please indicate on your entry form.

Entry forms are now available. One has been sent to your club or, a copy can be requested from Les Warren. There is a **new closing date for entries - 25 March 2000**. Camp fee is \$150, which includes food.

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Camp Coaches: Anyone interested / able to coach at this camp, please contact Michael Wood directly. If there is anyone interested in being a "trainee coach", please contact Jean Cory-Wright directly.

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NEWS FROM OTHER CLUBS.

TOPS members received a complimentary copy of the Permanent Course at Rabbit Island with their Christmas Newsletter.

WOC are organising a group trip to the South Island Championships in March.

Hamilton Orienteers are encouraging their members to travel and stay together in the one place for amjor events.

Hawkes Bay have written in "Compass Points" that Mark H who was supposed to be shifting flats sneaked over to the Club Champs leaving Debbie to do the hard work!!

PAPO have 226 members, probably the biggest for any orienteering club in NZ.