

NEXT DOC EVENTS.

OTAGO CHAMPS - NEW DATE - 17 JUNE - MT ROSS.

The Otago Champs have been rescheduled for Sunday June 17 at Mt Ross. Everyone who was entered will have been contacted. Please remember to reply as soon as possible. Anyone who wishes to enter at this late stage please do so by Friday 8 June.

PYRAMIDS event 24th June. Usual start times. Travel details - drive past Portobello , along Harington Point Rd. Turn right on to Weir Rd and follow the signs to the Okia reserve. Park at the woolshed.

DEFINITELY DEFINITELY NO DOGS allowed as the event is on farmland and wildlife reserve.

Please bring a hammer and be prepared to spend a few minutes helping the farmer repair his fences! This small gesture will be much appreciated.

DOUBLE HEADER WEEKEND IN AUGUST.

On Sunday 12 August DOC are running the first ever Otago Short O Champs. These will be a traditional 2 race, chasing start format, not the wussy one race format that many clubs nowadays seem to prefer. On the day before the Short O will be another first - The Otago Adventure O Champs. This will be an event not for the fainthearted. Stream crossings, steep climbs, mud, steep descents with the aid of a rope, cryptic controls and all sorts of exciting things will be the order of the day all on our most notorious town map Ross Creek.

Keep the weekend of 11 and 12 August free.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS.

Margaret Tagg

Otago Champs day on May 26 arrived. Earlier weather forecasts and the snow we'd had during the week were forgotten with the weather fine in Dunedin. The team in Middlemarch area were doing final checks for the event feeling relieved that the weather was so settled there. Only problem was that the road from just out of Outram was closed due to snow and stormy conditions!!

It must be intensely disappointing to all the people who had worked so hard to make the Mt Ross and Matarae events a success and enjoyable for participants. Thank you all and hopefully the decisions the Committee and you make about the events will mean we can run those courses you have planned at a later date.

The Club has been fortunate to have two excellent training days recently. In April Lindsay Smith conducted a training for White and Yellow course orienteers using the Kettle Park map. On May 12 Ray Pratt from PAPO, who is the Silva coach of the year, held a training session with indoor teaching in the morning and outdoor practice of skills at Waikouaiti in the afternoon. Ray also kindly

discussed people's Narrowdale runs with them the following day. I am looking forward to an improvement in my times using the things I learnt.

As well as enjoying wonderful events at Seacliff and Narrowdale recently many DOC members have travelled to Southland Champs at Waikaia, Easter Nationals at Hamilton-Rotorua-Taupo and PAPO champs at Timaru and Craigmore. Everyone always comes back saying they have had a great time and it isn't necessary to be a great orienteer to participate in these events. However did you notice in the results list that Ian Holden won the Nationals Short O and Classic M65A events? Congratulations Ian. Penny Kane won the Classic W20A, walking not running because of injury! But have you seen how fast Penny walks and how she goes straight to the controls?

Announced at the NZOF AGM at Easter were awards to Bunny Rathbone, Silva Award for Outstanding International Performance in 2000, and Bruce Collins, Silva Administrator of the Year for his work for NZOF. Bunny has a beautiful glass trophy which she will display sometime for everyone to see. At Club events we know these people have lots of other talents as well.

Thanks to everyone in DOC for your contributions to events. What seems a big task the first time we do it gets easier from then on. And there are lots of little important jobs!

Hope to see you at the next event.

FROM THE COMMITTEE.

Donation.

Bunny Rathbone has donated a new compass to the club. It is an excellent SILVA thumb compass, both very quick and very stable. Bunny suggested that it be used as a prize and the committee has agreed to this. Please contact a committee member with any suggestions of an appropriate occasion, event or series.

CONGRATULATIONS.

Congratulations to Katherine Radford Winner of the Human Impact on the Environment, 14 and under, section of the "2001 Otago Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition". See ODT May 22 for the actual photo.

THANKS TO YODA.

Eunice and George

Here's a belated thankyou to Melanie, Aaron and Michael for putting on such a fun event on April 1st. George put on gumboots to run this day because he had seen some of the control sites and also of course knows the land, he thought the run would be a practise in control punching, he was getting ready for the

nationals!!! However he was surprised to find that he had to actually work his way around his own farm especially when it came to finding the elusive control punches.

The first race was run as a score event with many twists and gimmicks. The first control promised us gold, but we failed to find it, a couple of controls later the control site was in two feet of thick mud in a not so dry pond. Over the hill to an easy sight, or at least George thought it was going to be, the control number was hanging on a piece of string from a tree, finding that was a trick too, then one had to follow the string to find the punch, through the vines, through gorse bushes, more vines eventually finding the punch about two metres from where the number was hanging!!!! around in a circle!!!!!! The next one was on a marsh, very distinct, unfortunately a note on the closed punch said "sorry we meant this other marsh" half a kilometre away!!! a wee map was attached. April 1st is a recurring theme, into the scrub for the next control, there were letters attached to several trees, "spell the word, nine letters" unfortunately there were ten letters and three words, (THAT WAS FUN) few solved this problem. Off to the next the circle, it was more like an oblong, which took in about twenty cliffs the description was cliff foot!!!!

Over the hill to another muddy pond, if the control wasn't in the middle of the pond when George arrived, it was when he left!!!! A couple of controls later the circle was around a hut, when we got there the map showed three different control sites each a kilometre apart two back where we had come from!!!!!! I travelled back home at this point however George continued on, an April Fool face was grinning at him from a tree, one control was a distinct tree there were thirty of them in the circle!!!! It really was fun.

Michael added a new dimension to night orienteering with a standard course and added optional extras on some route choice legs. For instance if you went left down the gully and punched a control down there you received 6% off your race time, if you chose the easier right hand option you only got 3% off if you took neither option you got nothing off. This kept you thinking while navigating wondering whether it was worth taking the easy route.

There was a lot of thought went into the planning of this event by the above mentioned folk.

Well done guys, thanks.

NEWS FROM OTHER CLUB/S.

HVOC: A request to use Waitangirua Farm was turned down probably as a result of a gate being left open and bringing of dogs to an event.