

NOVEMBER DOCUMENT 2002

DEADLINE FOR DOCUMENT CONTRIBUTIONS.

25th of the month for computer/e-mail contributions.

20th of the month for lengthy handwritten contributions needing to be typed.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER GENEVEIVE WEBB.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Jesse Robertson, who has been chosen by King's High School as an outstanding student and is included in the Class Act 2002.

Bunny Rathbone, who won W60+ at the Australian Championships.

Penny Kane and Jamie Stewart, on receiving Skeggs Foundation Grants.

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE.

2003 Subscriptions

The committee discussed subscriptions for 2003 at the October meeting. After reviewing the expenses of running the club the following rates will be presented to the AGM.

Senior \$40 Junior \$20 Family \$90

It was agreed that event fees will remain largely unchanged.

Reminder about Archives

It is important that event controllers arrange that archive copies of event maps and control descriptions are lodged with the Brownings. If you don't see Dave or Judy at the event and make arrangements there, please leave the maps in the caravan.

Reminder about Vacancies

We still have vacancies both on the committee and outside the committee. We especially need an assistant for Annie Grant with either landowner liaison or the event programme, and a publicity officer.

Chingford Park Permanent Course

The next time you are passing Chingford Park be sure to have a look at the sign just inside the gates. It has a map of our new permanent course and description of what to do. Maps are available from the Visitors Centre in the Octagon and from the Tourist Shop in North Road near Baldwin Street. Many thanks to Lindsay Smith for designing and installing this great facility and to NZOF and the Community Sports Fund for funding.

MAPPING NEWS

By Bruce Collins

After no new maps for a while the Club has decided to spend some (most!) of its reserves in new maps and remaps.

Cuttance Block which is mainly pine forest, a bit like Akatore but not as steep, is currently being mapped by Svend Pederson. This map will be used for the first time at the South Island Champs in November next year.

Naseby is a wonderful area but the mapping has left a bit to be desired in some areas. Michael Wood is to remap the central area and this will be used for the first time for two days of our major 6-day event in January 2004.

Naseby remapping may now not go ahead with the release of the Naseby Forest Management plan showing the whole Highburn valley to be thinned and the area south west of Translator Road (the road from the swimming dam) to be clear felled!! We are waiting for the forest manager to come back from annual leave to confirm our options but the management plan shows these areas to be completed by 2005.

Mt Ross map is going to be extended which will increase the map size by almost 50%. We are hoping that this can be completed in time for the second day of the SI Champs next year.

Town Belt North map is presently undergoing a remap with fieldwork almost completed by Michael Tagg.

Jamie Stewart is doing fieldwork on the Pyramids map in the areas that weren't completed previously.

Christies Gully map is also to undergo a refieldwork with Michael Tagg doing the work. The adjoining forest to the south will also be looked at to see if we can amalgamate it.

Otago School Orienteering Championships 21 September 2002

Planner's Report

Matt Scott

I think I was sixteen when I took my first try at planning, on a reserve I had helped map the summer before. The area is largely an impenetrable thicket of green briar, juniper, and raspberry that surrounds the historic homestead of some little-known bear-wrestling pioneer, who's dubious claim to fame seemed to be staffing Native American attacks over disputed lands throughout Appalachia. Lined in lush nettle patches, the tracks of the reserve are made of a revolting clay-like substance that, like epoxy, tenaciously adheres to any surface to which it gains purchase – shoes, map case, compass housing, glasses lenses, and then dries rock hard. This it does with considerable proficiency. Also, the tracks are pocked by years of horse riding. So, thin-legged and small-footed orienteers regularly slip waist deep into a murky swill of mud and manure, especially along the ominously deep tea-coloured streams that dissect the map. The reserve is also noted for its abundance of ticks. Anyone crossing any of the overgrown fields will be instantly infested with dozens of these tiny beasts, who make it their immediate business to find their victims most private areas and then proceed to bury their heads into a revolting frenzied feast. So, between the questionable quality of the map, the inexperienced course planner, and the bizarre qualities of the area, the event was sure to be a disaster, somehow.

If I remember correctly, I had the orange course negotiate a length of an icy waist-deep stream for nearly a hundred metres, while red runners got the pleasure of bashing through an impossible labyrinth of green briar and scrubby pine, looking for a half buried tractor chassis. Technically, I'm sure the courses were terrible, fraught with bingo controls and possible doglegs, but that was partly the point. Of course, it was by no means typical planning of a club who's exceptionally conservative course planning and membership had earned it the reputation in the US as the "family club," but

I wasn't aiming to make something typical. I guess then that I am honestly not sure what people really thought at the time, as I was able to hide behind the controller, who had suspiciously allowed his irreverent son to make such ridiculous courses. However, I do find it interesting that courses at the homestead have ever since been a bit eccentric.

In retrospect, I think it raises an important point in planning. That is, in the end, the courses should be designed in the spirit of the event, whether that means they are banal, diabolic, or somewhere in between. This is important for two reasons. First, variety is what makes orienteering interesting. As an orienteer, I enjoy variety – variety in length, difficulty, technicality, and terrain. Second, and more importantly, allowing some leeway in planning lessens the pressure on the planners to make “perfect” courses (whatever that may mean), thus hopefully encouraging more people within the club to be willing to have a hand in course planning. Of course, there are some dos and don'ts of course planning which everyone planning should be made aware, but not so many that a less experienced orienteer should feel incapable of planning fun courses. Still, having not planned an event in many years, I approached the task with some trepidation. Not-so-surprisingly though, I had heaps of fun in the process and will happily get involved again. Planning the Mount Ross event did present me with a couple of new challenges, which I have considered.

Length constraints

The main constraint with course planning for this event, was its purpose, the Otago Schools Champs. This did mean that I had to be somewhat more careful about how I planned the courses, paying careful attention to length and technical difficulty. In the end, it meant I had to alter some of the courses to try to hit a target length and estimated winning time. This was especially apparent on the short red, where I unfortunately had to leave in a long “no brainer” leg (although I am certainly in favour of the occasional long leg!), because of our target length. My apologies to those who were not up for the 2km run in the middle of the course. At least it was a nice day for it, aye?

Agoraphobia

Until coming to New Zealand, I have never before run on a map where open and rough open are the dominant landforms. On forested maps, it is usually quite clear what white and yellow courses can and can't do, making planning those courses a bit easier. I found it very tempting to use visibility as a gauge, thus perhaps overestimating white-level capabilities. It was very helpful, in this case, to have an experienced controller, like Sheryl, to keep me in check.

The white course

I also became acquainted with the guiding principle on white courses and decision points. For those unfamiliar, white courses should, as is the current general policy, have a control at each point where a decision must be made. This is obviously to help minimise the magnitude and number of mistakes made by white runners. I can see value in this type of policy; however, I think it can be a bit restrictive on the planner and at times overly protective of the runners. For this particular event, I believe it worked out well, but I can think of many cases from when I was a white runner that it would have either proved to be impossible or just plain ridiculous to have controls at every decision point. Without redressing all the overworked issues surrounding the white course, I would suggest a more lenient approach to white course design to allow for the occasional route choice.

Thanks again to Sheryl for her help as controller. Also, thanks to Bruce for all his behind the scenes help, to Judy and Dave Browning, Jane Forsyth, Myles and Pam Thayer, Ali Cunninghame, and all the others who made things run smoothly on the day of the event. Also, thanks to Ali for finding our lost person and doing all the right things.

Controller's Report

Sheryl Collins

I absolutely love controlling courses at Mt Ross as I get the opportunity to find controls in that interesting terrain at my own pace.

It is not an easy task to set courses that give the experienced runners a good run, but are easy enough for the less experienced to complete. Matt did a great job and the winning times on the courses were very close to our estimated winning times and with one exception even the competitors who hadn't competed at that level before managed to complete their course and were justly very proud of their results.

Our sympathy to the young lady, who became lost and ended up suffering from dehydration. It is very important that competitors drink well before an event and take advantage of the drink stops.

Big thanks must go to all those people who helped in the search for her. While Judy & Dave Browning and Owen Cambridge had some fun trying out their 4-wheel-drives off-road I did appreciate that because of the time they spent in the search they were unable to compete themselves.

I must apologize to Matt and the Red Course runners for the fences on their maps. Matt and I checked all maps before the final printing but unfortunately in adding a danger sign to the maps the fences were activated and although I checked the maps twice I did not notice the fences had appeared.

Congratulations to the winners and all the competitors for their successful completion of the courses.

Thanks must also go to Matt for the excellent job he did in planning, the organiser of the day Owen Cambridge and the helpers, Dave & Judy Browning, Jane Forsyth, Myles & Pam Thayer and Michael Tagg. Thanks also to those who helped us collect the controls, Jane Forsythe and Allie Cunninghame (who also found our missing competitor). A special thanks to Bruce who did the maps for Saturday, put out water and tapes, rescued a few controls that the livestock or wind had played with, and collected controls.

South Island School Orienteering Championships 22 September 2002

Planner's Report.

Annie Grant.

It's always interesting to plan courses at Middlemarch. The rocks are so fascinating, especially the one with 3 faces. It changes from a mermaid to a dinosaur and from the west into a kangaroo, but you all were probably running so fast you didn't have a chance to observe.

The weather was very kind to us too and helped to make the day a success. It's so much better when you don't have frozen, wet feet and fog. I'm sure that would have challenged our fast red course runners too.

Thanks to: Andrew and Robin Kelly and all the helpers - we could not have done it without you. The landowners Ian and Jill Bagley, who always make us welcome. John, at Southern Print for his extra miles, and all the

orienteers who helped to collect controls. And last to Barrie for his support and advice.

I hope you all had a good time and we see you again at orienteering.
Cheers Annie

Controller's Report.

Barrie Foote.

Students obviously coped well with the courses, with the only DNF being for injury. It obviously wasn't too serious as she was out again next week on the Vampire-O.

The times for the rest were all pretty good, with some really fast times by some, especially the red course competitors. I guess the competitors enjoyed this side of the map, which tends to be more open and easier to sort out. Just as well the fenced maps were spotted early enough and changed to unfenced maps.

While out observing on the courses, I noticed a couple of boys on the White Course (Course 4) running the course by looking for the next flag that they could see and running to it. It was clear they weren't reading the map. Even on the white course this is essential. It certainly cost these two a lot of time.

As usual with orienteering there is a large team responsible for the event. Annie has mentioned most, but one who needs mentioning is Sheryl Collins who coordinated the organising of the whole event (a huge task) and Dave and Judy Browning who organised the equipment (and incidentally operated the finish for the day and assisted the injured competitor). It certainly takes a team effort to run the event. Thanks to everyone involved. We hope the competitors enjoyed the day.

Dunedin Orienteering Club **would like to thank**

R & R SPORT: For their generous donation of the spot prizes

MCDONALDS: For the donation of the water bottles

Sunday Club Results - Mt Ross

Long Red 9.0 km

- | | | |
|---|-------|--------------|
| 1 | 59.58 | Michael Tagg |
| 2 | 69.15 | Penny Kane |

- 3 79.33 Willy Flockton
- 4 81.13 Dave Browning
- DNF Jane Mitchell

Short Red 6.4 km

- 1 39.50 Andrew Kelly
- 2 48.28 Nick Mortimer
- 3 48.54 Alex Wearing
- 4 50.58 Lindsay Smith
- 5= 57.41 Jennifer Hudson
- 5= 57.41 Grant Hudson
- 7 61.10 Owen Cambridge
- 8 67.12 Jane Forsyth
- DNF Judy Browning (record short run, sprained ankle between start and start triangle!)

Orange 4.4 km

- 1 67.45 Ev Smith

Yellow 3.3 km

No entries

White 1.8 km

- 1 25.22 Naomi McFarlane

THE ADVENTURE OF ORIENTEERING

Ross Creek Adventure Event 6 October 2002

By Jackie Wilson

Having only decided to give orienteering a go fairly recently, and with only a few events under our belts (the hardest being an orange at Mt Ross.....) Ben and I were slightly nervous when arriving at the adventure course at Ross Creek. We were even more nervous after reading the "rulz" and noting that this was not like any orienteering we had done before!! So we started off doing Loop 1, just to see how it would go.

On arriving at the master map, we quickly realised that it contained less than half of the actual controls, so we knew we were in for some fun! Off we set - heading for the first control which, as it turns out, was nestled in some bush up off the track (what! a control that is off the track!!! – this has been unheard of for us until now!!). So with lots of scrambling and even more slipping we started to make our way around the course.

Number 2 was a bit of a sneaky one, we found the cliff, we found the control – but it had the wrong number. So while Ben eagerly scampered away to try and find the REAL one, I casually glanced around (trying to save energy and hence not actually moving at all) and noted the control hidden behind a plant..... so there was lots of yelling for Ben to come back and we continued on.

All went relatively smoothly from then on (apart from my new found magnetism to mud) UNTIL it came to the clue for number 7. “The northern most knoll on the map”. Now in my limited experience, I must confess I don’t know many of the map symbols and prefer to write longhand notes on the control card – BUT I did think that a knoll was a small filled in circle. However, we also thought that it could be represented by a larger circle and Ben thought that we should be heading off away up to the top left-hand corner of the map. We were slightly dubious about this, and to me it looked like the top of a hill. So a slight argument followed (while standing in a creek) about the differences between knolls and hills, with the eventual mutual agreement to head to what we thought was the “knoll”. This was our first mistake. Our second was to misread the vegetation cover near this knoll, so that our “most direct route” was in fact dark green and entirely GORSE. This had us a bit stumped, but after triumphantly crawling and scraping through the gorse we arrived on the “knoll” “This looks like a horse paddock” I exclaimed (and being a keen horsey person I was quite impressed with the friendly horses). No controls were in sight and after a quick scout around the paddock we realised that we had stuffed up and confused this “very large knoll” (which was in fact a hill!) with the small knoll that we actually needed to find. So off we went crashing through the bush all the way down the hill again, meeting quite a few people who were coming up to get control number 8 (I think we managed to confuse them a bit as we were heading in the opposite direction). Found the CORRECT knoll, then we were back on track (or off track really).

Got very wet hunting for the control in the stream (nasty idea that one!! – especially the fake controls that gave us hope). Then off to the last control “under a fallen tree”. Hmmmm, didn’t sound too bad. It quickly transpired into “which #@\$!*!% tree!!”, as there were many to choose from. It didn’t help that I face planted while scrambling through the bush, but we managed OK and eventually found it. Now to get back to the finish..... we decided on the very direct route – Ben climbing over the water race on a very dodgy looking bit of tree (apparently this was tried and tested by the man who was in front of us), and me (not at all trusting that technique) jumping INTO the water race and getting Ben to heave me out the other side (considering it was straight up and down concrete walls that were a lot taller than me!!). Thanks for that Ben.

Off to the finish for a well deserved rest BUT Ben decided he hadn't had enough so he ran backwards into loop two!! He had lots of fun running the length of Ross Creek and jumping into the river lots, and into steep dry water channels. All in all it was a very fun time (we didn't do a very fast time on account of the visit to the paddock) but we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and managed to find all the controls (eventually).

Many thanks to the planner and controller, Bruce Collins and Myles Thayer for the great course. It was a very good introduction to "off track" orienteering for us, with many bruises and scratches and sore muscles to tell for it!!!

ROSS CREEK ADVENTURE O.

Bruce Collins 6 October 2002

Once again the aim was to have something slightly different. As wacky as a YODA event but toned down to suit a planner of a different age group!! As for last year what the event proved is that some orienteers, despite claims by some to have a higher intellect, have great trouble in basic reading and knowing what to do!!

For example there were the people who approached the caravan asking for the longest red course control descriptions, or the yellow course control descriptions. If they had bothered to read the notice prominently displayed on the notice board under "TODAYS COURSES" they would have understood that there were no red or yellow courses! Dur!

Another example of reading skills was those that arrived ready to start who hadn't read "the Rulz" also prominently displayed on the notice board less than 2cm below the courses on offer. Some went back and read them. Some said they had read them when it is obvious by results and tales of woe that they hadn't (or if they had then they had the retention capabilities of a knat!)

Now the most important part of "the Rulz" was the first one, which said "Be careful you clip the correct control. There are a number of similar control numbers on similar features. Sometimes there are similar control numbers on the same feature! Often there are extra controls with similar numbers just to fool you!. Controls may not always be directly on the feature but they generally are! Control descriptions are generally accurate! Some controls have flags but most don't!"

Basically the Adventure O comprised two loops (the first called Loop 1 and the second Loop 2!) On loop 1 the control descriptions said that after control 11 “If you have had enough at this stage head for the finish and you have completed Loop 1. If you are still enjoying this then carry on to control 12!! After control 12 the control descriptions said “Run backwards to caravan and you will be told where the master map for the next loop is”. It was amazing the number of people who were only doing Loop 1 but still went to control 12 and then ran backwards to the finish. Amusing to watch but a lot of unnecessary effort!

Special mention must be made at this stage of two competitors who really stood out on the backward running leg. Jamie Stewart for pure speed (faster than I can go forwards!) and Jim Cotter for being the most ungainly!! (Sorry Jim I wish I’d had a video!)

Loop 1 control descriptions showed all the control numbers but the master map had only 5 out of the 11 or 12 control sites shown. At a number of sites was a small piece of map showing which way to the next control. This allowed a lot of route crossing and allowed people to climb up and down, then up and down, and up and down, and up and down and then up again instead of just one up and down. Great for putting out and collecting controls but suitably tough on the competitor!.

Loop 2 was more of the same but two control sites had been visited before though the control was in a different place (top of bank instead of bottom). Some clever people saw both controls the first time they visited the site but weren’t able to work out which one the second was. With a bit of lateral thinking they could have clipped in the “Reserve” box and saved quite a bit of time and effort!

Control 2 had two controls at the foot of the cliff. One with a flag and the wrong number and one with no flag and the right number. Remember what “the Rulz” said? Look at the results below to see who checks their control numbers or who thinks the planner has stuffed it up.!

Last year there was a cryptic clue which only a few managed to crack. This year to be easier on people (I thought!) the only slightly cryptic one was control 7 was “most northern knoll on the map”. After all there were only two knolls (you know those little brown dot things) on the map. The only trick thing was that at the knoll there was a control on the side of the knoll with a flag BUT the wrong number (377 instead of 372). On the far side of the knoll was the correct control but without a flag. One person came back to tell me that the control number was wrong! However the top prize went

to the three people (Yes three!) who after finding the wrong control at the knoll thought I was being extra tricky and climbed to the highest point on the map being the hill in the open farmland. Their reasoning (and yes they did talk about it between themselves) was that the legend showed a knoll as a closed circle contour line and dot knoll as a brown dot. They thought that since the giant hill had closed circle contours that was the knoll I meant. Come on guys I'm not that evil!!!! What made it worse was that one of the three is colour blind and he went and investigated the small green circles (trees) that to him looked like small brown circles! After finding lots of gorse and being investigated by horses our intrepid threesome returned to the correct knoll and found the correct control!! And none of them was last either! However they do have a small point.....the IOF symbol on maps for a knoll is shown by contour lines and a small knoll is a brown dot. But when you look at the IOF pictorial control descriptions a knoll is shown with a dot and the elliptical shape is a hill!

It's a shame that all the logging has opened the area up to be prone to wind damage. It was disturbing to see all those giant pines that had fallen over even if it did make a good control site of "Fallen tree, under"

It was a pleasure planning this event again and seeing all those wet, muddy and scratched bodies returning home. Most were even smiling. Its good to plan an event where you try to get people through as much water as possible. Also pleasing that I saw at least 5 route choices to the first control!

Thanks to Myles for controlling (tough controlling an event when you try to have things wrong but some things must be right) and collecting controls, to Annie as organiser and worker and to Jane, Nurrul & Geraldine for their long time at the start/finish.

CALLING ALL JUNIORS...

If you are between the ages of 12 and 18, come to the 2002 NZOF Junior O camp in Wanganui.

Meet new people.

Learn new skills and practise old ones.

Do lots of orienteering

Do lots of other thing

Run on fantastic maps (Harakeke, Jail House Dunes and Marangai)

And have a great time.

Arrive afternoon Sunday 15th December, depart afternoon Friday 20th.
 Cost of \$140 includes all food, all transport at camp (you need to get yourself to Wanganui and back), all activities, all coaching and all maps.

To apply for a place use email, snail mail or the phone by the end of November.

Email: jan.ianATclear.net.nz
 Address: 1305 Tram Rd, R.D. 1, Rangiora
 Phone: 03 312 6475

Send your name, address, email/fax, phone, O grade, O club, colour standard, and age.

I look forward to hearing from you.

COACHES... and potential COACHES

Do you want to get some coach training and improve your own orienteering at the same time?

How about an all expenses paid trip to some of the best O maps in the country!!!

We are looking for coaches to work on the junior camp advertised above. If you can help out, (even if only for part of the time), please let Jan Davies know via email or phone. Contact details are as on the junior camp advert.

I look forward to hearing from you!

O TOUR 10-16 2002. 26 DAYS OF ORIENTEERING IN EUROPE.

French 5 Day	5 - 11 July
World Masters Norway	13 - 17 July
O-Ringen Sweden	20 - 25 July
Scottish 6 Day	27 July - 3 August
Swiss 6 day (inc World Champs)	3 - 9 August

Lisa and Graham Frith are organising a tour group.

INTERESTED??

For more details contact:

Graham at : otour2003@hotmail.com
 or 3/75 Ashby Ave, St Heliers, Auckland.

NEWS FROM OTHER CLUBS.

PAPO The South Island Masters Orienteering was cancelled due to the low number of entries.

HAWKES BAY Geoff Morrison is recovering from his accident and even made it round a course at Pukeroa.

AUCKLAND Auckland Orienteering Club has been awarded \$20,000 for the purchase of Sport Indent electronic punching. They have committed themselves to have it in place for the Nationals at the Easter Anzac Carnival.

WAIRARAPA Wairarapa Club celebrated its 20th Birthday in August.