

JANUARY/FEBRUARY DOCUMENT 2005

EVENTS NOTICES.

NEW ZEALAND ORIENTEERING CHAMPS

Hawke's Bay

Entries close 28 February 2005. For more information go on-line entry to

www.hborienteering.org.nz

FROM THE COMMITTEE

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

"THE NENTHORN NEMESIS" 24 hr & 6 hr Rogaines

26/27 Feb 2005

It's not too late to enter this challenging event, planned by our own Bob Cunninghame. Just get your team together and enter by 11 February.

See the Rogaine website www.rogaine.org.nz for full details.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The club's AGM will be held on 2 March, following the Chingford Park summer series evening event. The venue and other details will be notified by email closer to the time.

PUBLICITY/MAPSPORT COLUMN

I hope you've all noticed the monthly "Mapsport" column that was appearing in the STAR last year. I'd like to make this more visually appealing this year with more photos. So do please bring your digital cameras along to events and get some action shots to liven up our column. Talk to me about how to get your work in the paper! Thanks

Jane Forsyth

MAPPING NEWS

We are still looking for good areas to map. Inspections so far have been disappointing, with another forest area (between Cuttance and Christies Gully) crossed off the list because recent thinnings are too difficult to get through. It really is a hard road finding the perfect area! Next to try is an area near Gabriels Gully. Please let the committee know if you have any other ideas.

On a more positive note, we are looking at having Naseby turned into a MTBO map, which promises to be a cracker, if we can get access issues sorted out.

TONI WILLIAMS

Peter Wilson

Long standing members of DOC will have been saddened to learn that Toni Williams – wife of Graham Williams - passed away in Dunedin Hospital just before Xmas.

Although many newer DOC members will not know Graham (a Life Member of DOC) and Toni, I believe their enormous contribution to DOC in the 80's should be appreciated. Without Graham's expertise and leadership we would certainly not have run such a successful APOC at Naseby in 1984. He was a most effective Chairperson of DOC for a number of years as well as being a most enthusiastic competitor.

Since Graham retired from his position as manager in what was the Head Office of National Insurance in Dunedin they lived in Queenstown. They built a magnificent home at 27 Edinburgh Drive with million dollar views, which have been enjoyed by many DOC members over the years.

When in Dunedin, Toni and Graham hosted many club members at their house in Roslyn. Meetings of the club's committee and the APOC organising committee were held there and inevitably Toni turned on a scrumptious supper. At that time Toni owned a very popular café called The Upper Crust in George Street, which was also frequented by DOC members who appreciated Toni's prowess at cooking.

Toni and Graham also organised the most wonderful nights for DOC members at the National Insurance building up on the top floor in the staff café. They were the most generous and hospitable people. What a riot those evenings were, celebrating landmarks such as DOC's 10th birthday. Toni's huge 'hotpots' were legendary, as was her welcoming nature and ever present smile.

Although Toni was not really an active orienteer, she was always supportive of Graham and son Scott's involvement in the club. It could be that she encouraged their participation so that she could get on with her quilt making at which she was nationally recognised as an expert.

At her funeral in Queenstown on December 24 her quite magnificent quilts were displayed – and her fellow quilt makers formed a guard of honour.

Appropriately Ian Douglas also attended the funeral. Ian, Graham and I were somewhat known as 'the big three' when we took part in the ten support events in Australia for the World Championships in 1985. Bunny, Judy and Graeme Hardy will well remember our travels in our camper van.

Toni was a wonderful mother to Scott, Glenn and Lisa and all three paid tribute to their mother at her funeral. Their anecdotes were based on the many happy memories they had and the whole service was truly a celebration of Toni's life.

THE PLEASURES OF PLANNING

By Ben Ludgate

It all started about 10 months ago when at a committee meeting Annie Grant asked Jackie and I if we'd like to plan the fun Christmas event at Chingford Park at the end of the year. Our response: 'Mmm, ummm, ohh, ummm, we don't have enough experience to plan an event'. Everyone else's response: 'Yes you do!!!' So it was settled – Jackie and I were to plan the fun event at Chingford Park.

Time passed with other events during the year, but our thoughts always drifted back to Chingford Park. Having never planned an event we weren't sure what was expected, so we

bugged everyone we could and got the general idea. We got a copy of the newly revised planners guide and had a flick through that. Following the guide we started planning the courses about 8 weeks before the event (the guide says 6 weeks, but we were new to this!). We got some blank maps and had a think about where we'd like courses to go, not go, and how they'd get there. A couple of trips to the park to check control sites and make sure things were OK, then make up some master maps and pass them on to the controller. Everything was going as planned.

Someone mentioned that we may need a key for the gates at Chingford Park. We called the DCC to get a key and discovered that somewhere in the DCC administration system Chingford Park had been double, actually triple booked!!! Hundreds of kids were to be on the cricket fields during the day, but worst of all, the archery club were having a major tournament on the same day!!! We briefly (very, very briefly!) toyed with the idea of having some form of Extreme-O (e.g. to get to control 3 on the yellow course go along the track, past the building, dodge hundreds of arrows flying at your head: the control is at the end of the ditch). As the archery club has only one venue and we have quite a few, we changed our venue to Town Belt North.

At this stage the planning process had been going well for about 5 weeks. This left us with just 3 weeks to plan an entirely new event. We did everything again: designing new courses, getting blank maps, checking control sites. It was all going well then we had to be away for a few days at a funeral. We got back and checked some more control sites and learnt of an important health and safety notice for the event – be careful of moss on footpaths! Unfortunately I learnt this the hard way by slipping over and joining my chin with the footpath to make a nice star shaped hole in my chin! Following a trip to the After Hours Doctors and 6 stitches we decided to take the rest of the day off. That week I had three days away working on the West Coast while Jackie remained at home, ill in bed!

Two weeks left until the event. I made up some master maps and passed them on to Alex Wearing the controller, who checked through the courses making a few adjustments. I got Barrie Foote to make some map changes and got some new maps printed out. I also got a copy of OCAD, as no matter how hard we tried we couldn't get Event Organiser to work on our computer (it turns out that it doesn't like Windows XP – thanks for proving it wasn't just our ineptitude Bruce). A few nights of toiling over control descriptions and it was done. Picked up the blank maps 3 days before the event and drew up some master maps. Sorted out a special guest for the day, and made up a string course. Sorted out the controls. All ready!

On the day it all went smoothly – the controls went out early and were checked, the weather managed to come fine later on, Santa turned up for the kids (although some of the adults seemed to enjoy having him there more than the kids!) and everyone seemed to have a good time. It was great to get some positive feedback from everyone!

It isn't until you actually plan an event that you realise the number of voluntary hours that go into organizing an orienteering event. We just planned a fun town event – it would have been much harder planning an event away from Dunedin. There are lots of things that just seem to happen at events, but someone is always involved. There are lots of people who work in the background to make events happen.

So, next time you're at an event, thank the planners and controllers for the courses, thank the organiser for having everything ready and think about all the work that has gone into the event. And if you're like us and have done some orienteering but don't think you're

ready to plan an event, just give a local event a go. It makes you appreciate everything that is done for the club, and is great for your orienteering skills.

OCEANIA CARNIVAL

Jane Forsyth

Several Dunedinites made the trip north to the Oceania Champs north of Auckland in January. The first 2 days, I heard, were steep and muddy but as it happened I only turned up for the later part of the carnival where the weather was consistently beautiful. A whole week of sunshine! most welcome after Dunedin's non-summer at that time.

Bunny and Ian were the best-performed DOC members, being in the NZ team and each achieving 2 wins. The others from the club were Jennifer, Grant, Pat E, Tane, Riki, Brian B and myself. I don't know what other people's excuses were, but mine was too much Christmas cake and maybe I need new glasses.

It was my first venture into the famous Woodhill Forest on the southwest of Kaipara Harbour. We had 2 events here in intricate dunes with variably aged pines and lots of pampas grass in places. The area was as challenging as I expected, with subtle formline features in tall pampas grass proving particularly troublesome. My other 2 events were in steeper, higher dunes further north along the same sand spit. This new map, Waioneke, had generally younger pines, manuka undergrowth, and some large open and semi-open sandy patches. The map and vege were very complex in places and at one stage I was the most lost I have ever been apart from Naseby. I was by no means the only one either!

Many of us stayed in Parakai, the nearest small town. Apparently the motels are ok, the camping ground is ok, but I'd like to take this opportunity to warn you against the cabins at Black Pete's Bar and Grill. Perhaps we should have been warned by the name! However the surrounding countryside is pleasant, and the tourist things we did like the Puhoi cheese shop, the macadamia nut farm, and bush walks among the nikau and kauri, made up for the grotty accommodation. In summary a very pleasant week, thanks Bunny and Ian my travelling companions, and especially Bunny who did all the driving.

A Shoe Story.

Jennifer Hudson

Day One of the Oceania Carnival was at Stillwater where it was extremely muddy and slippery. So I arrived at the finish very muddy and dirty. My shoes were indescribably messy. After getting changed I put them on the bumper bar of the car. Now for this event we had to park on the ordinary road and we were about one kilometre from the registration area. Grant had a very late start time and therefore a late finish as well. I had wandered down to the registration area and Grant kindly decided to shift the car closer to the action but did not know about my shoes. He arrived with one shoe sitting where I had placed it, so Mark wandered back up the road doing a shoe search. He found the insole but no shoe. So I also did a search and Mark did a repeat search where he had found the insole. No shoe. Who would want a filthy size 3 shoe? I have such trouble finding shoes to fit that losing one was a problem. Michael Wood had one pair left and kindly said take them and return them if your shoe turns up. Next day we were running in the same area but had a 3km walk uphill to the start. Off I walked to the registration tent and there was my shoe 😊 Nobody there knew who had returned it, as it had just appeared.

2005 SUNDSTRUM RALLY – 4th/5th/6th March

Want to try Orienteering by car for a change?

This event, organised by the Otago Branch of NZ Automobile Association, involves detailed navigation instructions, timekeeping, map reading, driving tests, road code knowledge and observation. For details contact the Hudsons or www.sundstrum.org.nz

NZOF NEWS – JANUARY 2005

OCEANIA CARNIVAL SUCCESS: NEW ZEALAND REIGNS SUPREME

Congratulations to the North West Club for a hugely successful carnival to begin 2005. More than 550 competitors, exciting competition and coverage on both major TV networks. And it was home advantage all the way for NZ with wins over Australia in the elite test match, the inaugural secondary schools test, the ANZ Foot-O & MTBO Challenges.

Furthermore with two World Ranking Events held at the carnival, many members of our National Squad have improved their world rankings. Leading the way are Tania Robinson (84) & Rachel Smith (86) among the women, and Chris Forne (110) & Darren Ashmore (145) among the men.

NEW NZOF COUNCILLOR

The NZOF Council welcomes as new Wellington Area representative, Andrew McCarthy (Hutt Valley). A big vote of thanks go to outgoing representative, Jim Barr for his five year term on the Council.

PRIME MINISTER'S ATHLETE SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to the following who, through the NZ Academy of Sport, have been awarded PM's Athlete Scholarships for 2005: James Bradshaw (W), Greg Flynn (H), Chris Forne (PAPO), Penny Kane (PAPO) and Claire Paterson (RK).

VACANCY: EDITOR, NZ ORIENTEERING

Applications are invited for the position of Editor, New Zealand Orienteering, to commence with the second issue this year. A stipend is paid and direct expenses reimbursed within the budget. A job description is available from the General Manager. Applications close 15 March.

URGENT VACANCY: JWOC 2005 TEAM MANAGER

Applications are invited for the position of Team Manager for the 2005 Silva NZ Team, to the Junior World Championships to be held in Switzerland in July.

The manager is responsible for the financial and logistical matters pertaining to the team and is expected to attend the championships with the team. Direct expenses will be reimbursed within the budget. A job description is available from the General Manager. Applications close 15 February.

VACANCY: NZ SCHOOLS TEAM PRE-TOUR MANAGER

Applications are invited for the position of Pre-Tour Manager for the NZ Secondary Schools Team, to compete at the Australian Schools championships, late September. While this is some months away, we need an administrative manager now if this tour is to happen. A job description is available from the General Manager. Applications close 15 March.

DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

A final draft Strategic Plan has been sent to all clubs and is also on the NZOF website, available for comment from both clubs and ordinary members. A key difference between this plan and the previous one is that the new plan is not just for the NZOF itself but for the sport of orienteering as a whole, both the NZOF and its affiliated clubs.

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

After increasing each of the previous five years, national membership as at 31 December was 1584, down slightly from 1632 in 2003. Wellington area, however, increased membership, Auckland area was static and Central Districts and South Island both fell. On the positive side, participation at events in 2004 reached new highs with 27,668 people taking part in events (big and small) at an average per event of 84.

NZOF AGM

The 2005 NZOF AGM will be held on Good Friday, 25 March at Lindisfarne College, Pakowhai Road, Hastings, 7 pm.

The Hawkes Bay Club have submitted the following policy remit:

“That the NZOF travel equalisation policy not apply to any meeting (including general and special meetings of the federation) or seminar when held in conjunction with the National foot-orienteering championships.”

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