

## FEBRUARY DOCUMENT 2008

### EVENTS

#### AGM

The club's Annual General Meeting will be held at Chingford Park following the summer series event on February 27th. The venue is the Leith Harriers Clubrooms (as last year) and the time is 7:30 pm. The agenda will include President's and Treasurer's reports and election of officers.

*Several people are retiring from the committee this year so please come along prepared to be nominated for the committee.*

#### Geocaching with the Hudsons aka W.E.K.A.

Jennifer Hudson

Several orienteers have asked me to explain Geocaching.

Geocaching is a worldwide game dedicated to GPS (Global Positioning System) users. The game basically involves a GPS user hiding a cache (a container and its contents), and publishing the exact coordinates so other GPS users can come on a "treasure hunt" to find it. The only rules are: if you take something from the cache, you must leave something for the cache, and you must write about your visit in the logbook.

Geocaching has been described by some as using billion dollar satellites to find Tupperware. We use a hand held GPS to find hidden caches which have been placed all over the world. Our GPS is a Garmin, with maps showing contour lines. There are about 2000 caches in the South Island and over 500,000 in the world. The website is [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

We began geocaching in September 2006 and since then have found more than 800 caches.

We thought orienteering took us to places we would never normally have visited. Geocaching does this even more. Many caches are in historical places with others requiring quite a walk to find. A couple of weekends ago we walked 20 kms up to Swampy and to several other spurs and places along the ridge.

To find a cache one has co-ordinates such as

E 45 .22.675

S 169 44 227

The GPS is usually accurate to about 5 metres and often it is spot on.

A cache is usually a small container with a log book for cachers to sign to prove they have found the cache. A cache size ranges from a finger tip size to a 20 litre bucket. One also logs that the cache has been found on the website. Reading other people's logs can be quite entertaining. The cache may also contain "swaps" which are small trinkets. With swaps, you can take something and leave something to replace it. Caches may also contain travel bugs. A travel bug (TB) is a trackable item that moves from place to place, picking up stories along the way. Most TB's have a goal. We have a Volvo matchbox car which is currently in New South Wales. We named it "Dunedin Volvo". Mark our son who lives in Palmerston North has a "Palmy Evo". The goal for is - "Dunedin Volvo" started from Dunedin, New Zealand, and is racing an Evo from Palmerston North to see which car can travel further and faster. The Evo is winning by a long way as it has been to Australia and is currently in the USA.

Last week we drove a devious route to Cromwell finding a few quality caches along the way. The first was in Gimmerburn Cemetery, hidden by Kev Knowles. After that I had to bike some of the Rail Trail to retrieve a cache above a tunnel. Grant had said it was above the tunnel, which indeed it was, but not the first tunnel! I had to bike in the dark through the first tunnel, to get to the second tunnel. I just hoped there were no rocks for me to hit in the dark.

Another of the caches we found was, at Serpentine Union Church (Otago).

Here is some of the information about Serpentine from the website.

Gold mining at the Serpentine began in 1863. At an elevation of 1000m it was the highest gold town in Otago and probably in New Zealand. The church was built in 1873 with funds donated by the miners. According to a legend the minister arrived late for the opening of the church and found that the congregation had been passing the time in the nearby pub. After the first hymn the congregation, suitably lubricated, thought that their singing had been so good that they should give an encore. They apparently performed this with great enthusiasm. One can only imagine the minister's response! Records show that by 1902 (and probably earlier) the church was no longer being used for its intended purpose and was being lived in by miners. Today the church is the only surviving building at the Serpentine.

Below is the log we recorded on the website.

As you say this is not a cache to be taken lightly. We first found the cache at the Poolburn Dam and then continued on the Old Dunstan Road and into Long Valley Ridge Road until it seemed a sensible idea to stop driving and mountain bike the rest of the way. The Old Dunstan Road is fine for driving, wet or dry, even in a 2WD although there is one ford which could be a problem at times. Long Valley Ridge Road is definitely dry weather only. It has good sections but also some sections with deep ruts (40 cm plus) from big 4WDs going through when it is soft and wet. These required precision straddling and driving on this road is not recommended for inexperienced or faint hearted drivers. Our vehicle is a Volvo V70 XC AWD station wagon and we got as far as the gate at E 45 22.675 S 169 44 227, before Mr W.E.K.A.'s frazzled nerves gave out at the sight of a very long section with deep ruts. While he had a snooze to recover, Mrs W.E.K.A. biked the 6.25 kms to the church. Much to my surprise when I arrived I found a large group of people with large 4WD vehicles parked and camped for the night. Apparently they come here every year for one night. One man from Norfolk Island was very excited and asked if he could come and help. He came and videoed the whole procedure and got me to read out the history on the geocaching sheet for his video.

Because Serpentine is so isolated we are only the third people to visit it in a year. We have 4 caches of our own. Our first cache which is beside the harbour, has been in place since August and has had 23 visits. A more recent cache is by Cherry Farm and is called "Top Hat". You might be able to find it without a GPS.

Are we crazy? The answer is very possibly yes. It is a really addictive and fun hobby.

## Waiora 2 December 2007 - Results

Orange			Yellow		
1	Dave Browning	47.34	1	Emily & Stacy Buschl	36.01
2	Daniel Johnston	47.59			
3	George McLeod	49.54			
4	Myles Thayer	1.07.54			
5	Jane Cloete	1.09.15	1=	Lucy, Tessa & Grace	30.15
6	Annie Grant	1.09.25	1=	Malachi & Zeke	30.15

### White

7	Michael Ogle	1.09.26		1=	Charlotte	30.15
8	Judy Browning	1.11.42		4	Georgia	43.50
9	Fraser Brown	1.15.44			Aslyn & Luca	M1C
10	Bunny Rathbone	1.19.07				
11	Alan Grant	1.20.00				
12=	Jennifer Hudson	1.25.37				
12=	Grant Hudson	1.25.37				
14	Kathryn Jeyes	1.26.03				
15	Kate Cotter	1.26.35				
16	Eunice McLeod	1.37.57				
17	Maggie Pasek	DNF	(2 laps complete)			
18	Chris Brown	DNF	(1 lap complete)			

## NZOF NEWS – January 2008

### NEW COUNCILLOR

The NZOF Council welcomes John Robinson (**Counties Manukau**) as the new **Auckland Area representative**. John replaces Nicola Kinzett, who resigned at the end of 2007. Nicola's work commitments mean she will no longer be resident in the Auckland area. The NZOF thanks Nicola for her time (close to three years) on the Council.

### MEMBERSHIP AT NEW HIGH

NZOF membership, at 1,690, reached a new high as of the end of 2007. Membership grew by 45 in the South Island and 11 in the Auckland Area. However, despite strong growth in Hawkes Bay (the largest club in 2007), Wellington Area membership fell by 14, and that for Central Districts by 29.

Membership retention at 74.5%, however, was down on 2006 (79.9%). This was partly the result of only half of all new members in 2006 being retained in 2007. Nevertheless recruitment of new members in 2007 was impressive; at 416 they made up a quarter of all members as at the end of 2007. The largest recruitments of new members were made by Hawkes Bay, PAPO and Nelson.

### JALAS SPONSORSHIP

NZOF, and in particular the NZOF Development Squad, continues to benefit from sponsorship courtesy of The MAPsport Shop through the sales of J alas O-shoes. The NZOF thanks Michael Wood and The MAPsport Shop for this ongoing support for orienteering.

### NZOF FUNDING FOR MAJOR EVENTS

At its meeting on 1 December, the NZOF Council reviewed the 25% event levy policy. While it confirmed that the current 25% level be continued, there be discretion for clubs to apply to the NZOF for grants to host major events.

Such funding assistance recognises that major events are an investment in the future of orienteering since they:

- Require the production of new or updated maps;
- Employ the use of modern event technology;
- Require high standards of event organisation, which in turn requires the employment of more volunteers than for club events;
- Provide top-level experience for the planner/controllers(s) involved.

## APPOINTMENTS

Norm Jager (Auckland) and James Bradshaw (Counties Manukau) will be the manager and coach respectively of the 2008 Silva New Zealand Junior team at JWOC.

Dianne Michels (North West) has been appointed to replace Christina Freeman on the NZOF MTBO Committee. The NZOF thanks Christina for her service on the committee.

Alistair Coulter has stood down from the NZOF Rogaine Committee. In line with the MTBO Committee, the Rogaine Committee will now remain at four members.

## REAPPOINTMENTS

NZOF Officers reappointed for 2008 include Carsten Jorgensen (High Performance Director), Graham Teahan (Technical Director), Geoff Morrison (Secondary School Coordinator), Paul Smith (Webmaster), Mick Finn (Editor, NZ Orienteering), Bryan Teahan (Statistician), Jamie Stewart (NOS Coaching Coordinator) and James Bradshaw (D-Squad Coaching Coordinator). The Selection Panel and the MTBO and Rogaine Committees, other than as noted above under appointments, remain unchanged.

Carsten Jorgensen has also agreed to continue as Acting Coaching Director until an appointment is made, see Vacancies at end of this news.

## MAPPING WORKSHOP

An NZOF Mapping Workshop will be held, as part of the Waitangi Summer Carnival, on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February in Auckland. For further details contact the Technical Director, Graham Teahan: phone (06) 329 3938 or email gteahan@xtra.co.nz, or check out the notice on the NZOF website.

## ORIENTEERING CONTRACTORS

As part of a strategy to ensure that professional standards are maintained in New Zealand and are available to as many clubs as possible, along with a need to ensure succession planning, the NZOF has begun developing a database of people providing contract services within orienteering. While such services are principally mapping services, they can encompass the full range of orienteering services. Accordingly clubs and individuals are asked to advise the General Manager of contractors that they are aware of.

## PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

In line with the requirements of a major forestry company, the NZOF's cover for Public and Products Liability and under the Forest and Rural Fires Act has been increased for 2008. Further details are available from the General Manager.

## PM's SCHOLARSHIPS

After seven years of successful NZOF nominations for Prime Minister's Athlete Scholarships, administered through SPARC, orienteering will have no scholarship recipients in 2008. This is the result of the scholarships being made contestable across all sports as well as orienteering as a non-Olympic and Commonwealth Games sport not being rated highly enough in SPARC's high performance mission of "more New Zealanders winning on the world stage".

On the plus side, however, Marquita Gelderman has been awarded a Performance Enhancement Grant, based on her 8<sup>th</sup> place at the 2006 World MTBO Championships, to pursue her quest for a medal at this year's World MTBO Championships in Poland.

### NEW SILVA AWARD

With the agreement of the sponsors, Ampro Sales Ltd, the NZOF Council has decided to replace the existing Silva Magazine of the Year Award with a new award, the Silva Event Organiser of the Year Award. Further details will be provided to clubs with the call for nominations for awards. It should be noted that while the NZOF AGM will be held independent of Nationals (see next item), the annual awards will still be announced at Nationals at Easter.

### 2008 NZOF AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the NZOF will be held in Wellington on the weekend of 12-13 April.

The AGM will be held in conjunction with a Strategic Planning Workshop, which will aim to outline the priorities for the renewal of the national strategic plan through to 2012. Participation at the workshop (and therefore the AGM) will be funded by the NZOF. Details about the workshop have already been sent to clubs.

### VACANCY: MARKETING AND PROMOTION OFFICER

This is a new contract position, incorporating the previous volunteer roles of Media Officer, Ampro Liaison Officer and the marketing-promotion role of the Editor of New Zealand Orienteering. As such the primary role is to foster and promote orienteering through the various forms of media and through sponsorship agreements.

The position will commence as soon as possible. A job description is available from the General Manager.

### VACANCY: COACHING DIRECTOR

The national position of part-time, paid contract Coaching Director for 2008 remains open.

The primary role of the Coaching Director is to identify the needs and priorities of orienteering coaching within New Zealand. This is translated into a network of coaches at various levels, with support (personal and materials) depending on funds available.

Applicants should have strong administrative and interpersonal skills as well as coaching experience and senior NZOF coaching qualifications (or equivalent).

A job description is available from the General Manager.

### VACANCY: WOC 2008 MANAGER

The national volunteer position of Manager for the Silva NZ team to compete at the 2008 World Champs, 10-20 July, in Czech Republic, remains open.

A job description is available from the General Manager.