

JULY 1998 DOCUMENT

DOC Events Calendar 1998.

Date Place Status Planner Controller Organiser
Jul 26 Town Belt South Jane Forsyth Margaret Tagg
Aug 16 Allans Beach Julie Grant Bunny Rathbone
Sep 13 Street Event
Oct 18 Berwick Forest
Nov 7-8 Akatore Christies Gully Otago Champs Lindsay Smith
Dec 6 TB Advised Club Relays

Other Events.

Date Club Place
Jul 17-18 Silva NZ Sec Sch Champs New Plymouth
Jul 19 SOC Fosbender Park
Sep 26-27 PAPO Sth Island & Cant Sch Champs Bottle Lake
Nov 21-22 PAPO Cant Champs Acheron Dalethorpe

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NEXT EVENT

TOWN BELT SOUTH
Planner : Jane Forsyth
Controller: Margaret Tagg

Start area is at Unity Park, at the south end of the Town Belt near Montecillo Home. Start times 11am until 1pm. There will be white, yellow, two orange and an orange memory course in various lengths. Note that it is pretty muddy underfoot in this area at present.

EDITORIAL.

When I first came to the club, not that long ago, I saw that the membership fee included a hefty contribution to NZOF and I wondered if I really wanted to pay it. Of course I did pay it, because there was

no choice, and I have since enjoyed running in championship events and the recent nationals. But I agree with Bob Cunninghame that we ought to give people the option, because some will never be that competitive and for some the outlay of a full sub will be a big off-putter. These people can still enjoy orienteering at a local level, and can assist with local events, and I'm sure a proportion will ultimately feel involved enough to affiliate to the NZOF.

I didn't feel confident enough, as a relative newcomer, to propose social membership but I did note that many other NZ clubs have it and they seem healthy enough. These clubs do contribute to the orienteering scene at both local and national levels and I don't believe that the national sport is more important than the local version. To me that's one of the attractions of this sport, that I can enjoy it and compete at any level I choose to. I realise that it has been a contentious issue in the past, but I support Bob's proposal for a local membership category.

Cheers,
Jane Forsyth
THE PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS.

A few comments have been made to me about the suggestion I made last month of providing a local membership category for those, who would like to be part of the Club, but do not wish to compete at badge events. The comments have all been in favour of the concept and there have been none against - so far. We should proceed on this in the near future as at the moment we have several families, who come to events on a regular basis, that local membership would suit. Any further comments would be appreciated.

An unrelated matter (or maybe it is related?) is the standard of white courses - have they become too easy? I know the reactions of some to this - I mentioned this at the last committee meeting! However I am not alone in wondering about this. Anyone who follows the rules - the course must follow well-defined line features; controls at every decision point, will know that it is common to have 20-30 controls on a course of 1.2 - 1.5 km. Inevitably some controls are visible from the previous control, if not two before! Some of the courses are little more than string courses, which may be suitable for ten year olds, but seem trivial for anyone older. Would a greater challenge help to retain the interest of those who come only once or twice? I think particularly of some of the school students who come to schools' league events. When a yellow course is attempted and part of the handrail is a stream rather than a track or fence, there is often a reluctance to follow it. To move away from the handrail to a control - even when visible from the handrail and vice-versa, is at times a major barrier. Is there too much handrail dependence - particularly for those who are more than ten or eleven years old?

On that note I shall finish and await comments with interest.

Bob Cunninghame.

A RUN AT RIVERSIDE.

Regular readers of this journal will know how much I love running in the rain. As I left Wellington for the drive over the hill to Masterton, the rain was sheeting down and the Rimutaka hill road was shrouded in fog. However the weather was clearer in the Wairarapa, as it often is, and it was only a damp overcast when I got to the event just a few kilometres north of Masterton.

The first person I saw when I got out of the car was Mark Hudson who had driven down from Palmerston North, about an hour away. He's orienteering every weekend, which is probably a bit easier in the North Island than it is here. The event registration, start, map marking and finish were all sensibly located in a large woolshed, which I thought was good planning in view of the weather. On this day the event was a small one, with only about 10 cars at any one time, but a few days before some secondary school championships had been held here, so there was a good range of courses.

Riverside is a Massey University farm. It specialises in electric fences, all of which were on. After hearing from Jennifer Hudson about a recent experience in Hawkes Bay, I knew to ask about this before I went out. Fortunately most of the fences were little ones I could step over, and for those having multiple strands of barbed wire and electric outriggers, I was able to find gates not too far away.

The terrain is mainly river flats with scattered trees and many old river channels, mapped as sinuous linear depressions. The map is bisected by a river whose course had changed a bit since the map was drawn, and there are steep little hills (foothills of the Tararua Ranges) along one edge. My course gave me a fair sampling of all these, and was an enjoyable one, although perhaps some of the controls were a bit obvious for a red course. The rain held off the whole time I was out there, and it was rather warm and muggy.

Back at the woolshed, I found that I had come in third in the short red, with only a few seconds separating the first 3 places, while Mark had a convincing 7-minute lead, if I remember rightly, over his nearest rival in the long red. There were still people out on the courses as I headed away, but I was glad I had run early because I had no sooner left than the sky went black and a cold, wet southerly change came blasting through. "Ha ha Huey*", missed me that time!" I muttered to myself as I cruised back down the sodden Wairarapa with the wipers and heater on full.

Jane Forsyth

*Huey: trampers' weather god, deity particularly responsible for making it rain.

YODA.

Hello All.

When being persuaded into becoming president of YODA Wayne said "It's the easiest job, you just sit there, say stuff and do nothing." Well I guess it didn't get me out of this job of planning Naseby or supplying food (No I'm nothing to do with the barbeque. Hungry sausage lovers attack Andy!) but now my term is coming to a close and prospective presidents should be starting their campaigns. Don't follow on in Clinton's footsteps. It could make the YODA scandal of ever and maybe clear all the BOLLOCKS (yes TOTAL BOLLOCKS) from my name!. Special thanks to Wayne and Amanda.

At the end of this year many of the YODA's current members are flying the nest. Have you heard Willy's heading to the big Wellington to begin his training which he hopes one day will land him in Jenny Shipley's position (Pity, same party too). Julie's giving up skiing for a year while she braves the heat of Malaysia and I'm giving up my life (or so everyone keeps telling me) by exposing myself to the evils of Colombia. This all means that we urgently need new members. Jennifer our publicity officer will be ringing a longer list than usual. This is the first you have heard of it sorry (but not really) Jen! Remember YODA can be fun. Perhaps we want a repeat of last year's fireworks?. That went off (literally ha ha)

Don't make Jamie happy, show him that things can be done without him. Make a greater than ever Naseby 1999! Any volunteers? Thought not, well think about it, how successful do we want to be? YODA or not to be? Think about the consequences for junior orienteering in Dunedin (forgetting of course that as YODA stands now there's enough money for a giant party, we could go out with a bang but LET'S NOT!!) Hang in there for news about the YODA Night -O. The scariest yet. More later when the venue is confirmed.

Franny and Ale Cunninghame.

All you orienteers out there who want to do a Night-O here's your chance. On August 1, Saturday Willy Flockton and I will plan one at Seacliff (subject to Landowner permission). Jon Searle has offered himself for controller. Also for the first time there will be a Vampire-O before the Night-O. This will be explained on the day. There will also be a BBQ between events.

TIMETABLE:

3.45pm Explaining of the Vampire-O

4.00pm Start of the Vampire-O

5.00pm BBQ and Drinks

6.00pm Start of Night

So support the Youth of orienteering and join in the fun.

More information at the next event.

PS. Bring a torch.

Aaron Searle.

REPORT ON ORIENTEERING FOR THE GREATER GREEN ISLAND SCHOOLS CLUSTER.

An event was held on McLeod's farm on the 5th of May for about 130 year 5 and year 6 pupils. The same kind of event has been held three times before with pupils from schools on the Taieri. Ian Holden agreed to produce a 1:5000 scale map using OCAD. Jon eliminated the contours from the map to make it easier to read the line features of fences, tracks and streams.

Preparation for the teachers and children before the event is essential if the event is to run well and the children are to get around the courses successfully. I met with some of the teachers beforehand and gave out the maps with the courses already marked so that class time could be spent with familiarising themselves with the legend and talking their way around the courses. On the day each group was shown where the first control was before they started. Six courses were planned to give enough scope for each child to do two courses.

A very successful day was had with all children attempting two courses and some completed three. They went around with a partner. Although times were recorded there was no emphasis on competition - this was to be a fun day, a chance to socialise with pupils from other schools and to enjoy a new sporting activity. Some code tags were removed from control stakes and one stake and flag went missing. However this did not mar the event which was held in fine weather and had reactions of "neat fun" and "cool" from the pupils.

We are indebted to George for the use of his farm and his time helping the planner put out and bring in controls.

Bunny Rathbone.
(abridged - JMH)