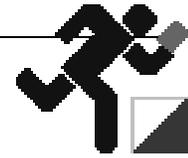
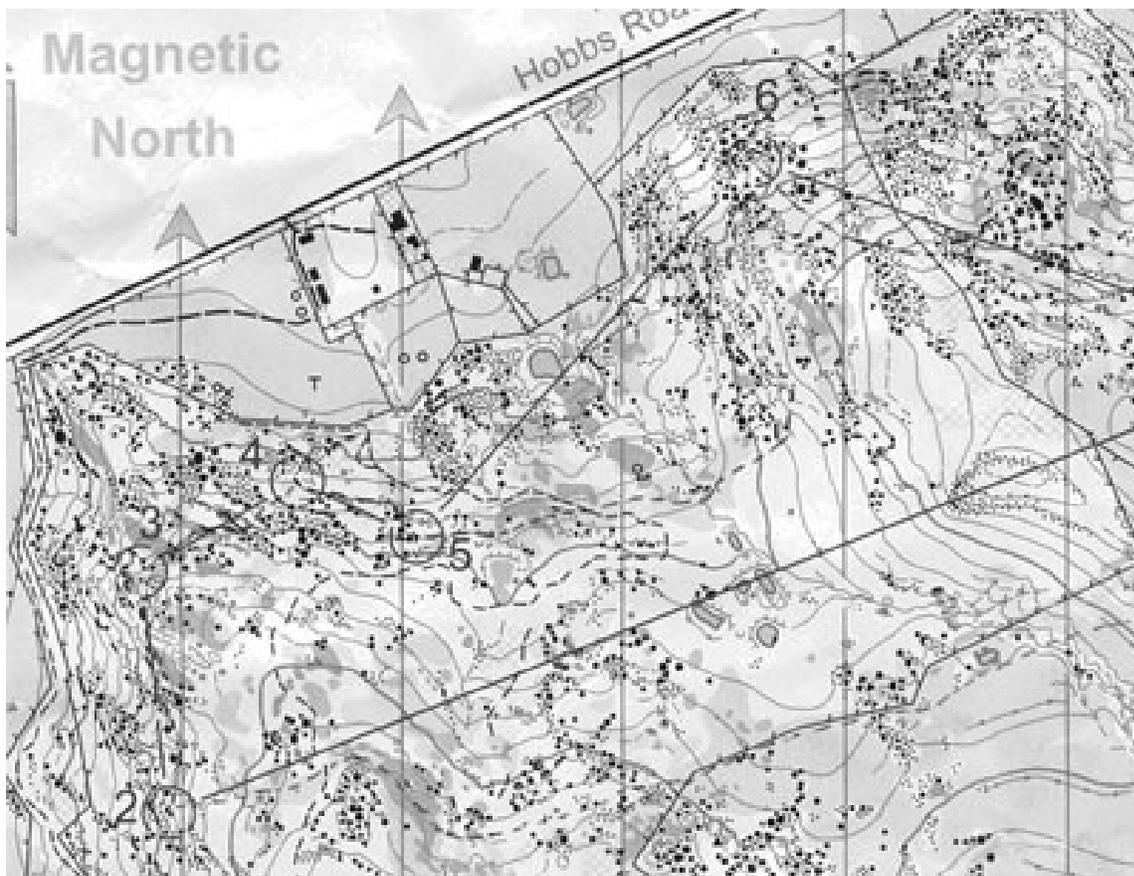


The Auckland



Orienteer



September – November 2006





Cover

The magazine cover shows part of the map used in the long distance 2006 Australian Orienteering Championship event. It shows the intricate and complex rock features typical of much of the terrain used and which provided an orienteering experience markedly different from New Zealand events. The light grey is open land and the dark grey is bare rock.

Orienteering on the Web

NWOC	geocities.com/nwocnz
AOC	orienteeringauckland.org.nz
CMOC	cmoc.co.nz
Results	club websites
Orienteering news	maptalk.co.nz
NZOF Homepage	nzorienteering.com
MTB orienteering	mapsport.co.nz/mtbo/mtbo.html
Rogaining	mapsport.co.nz/rog/rogaine.html
Ski orienteering	mapsport.co.nz/skio/skio.html

The Auckland Orienteer is the magazine of the Auckland Orienteering Association and incorporates articles from the Auckland Orienteering Club Inc., the North West Orienteering Club Inc. and the Counties-Manukau Orienteering Club.

It is produced monthly and is available online from the NWOC homepage.

Other orienteering related publications are welcome to draw material from the magazine although credit is asked for both the author, if stated, and the magazine.

Information for advertisers is available from the editor.

Editorial

Hi folks

There were no newsletters in September and October as there was a pause in publication while the search for a new editor proceeded. I volunteered as editor of last resort and was appointed when it eventually became clear that I really was the last resort.

There have been some remarkable changes in the production process of a newsletter since I last edited one. New to the scene are readily available personal computers with affordable print and picture shaping software, widespread email and cost effective digital printing techniques. My previous experience with a word processor has been to use it as a typewriter and have an expert do the layout of documents, reports and so on, hence I had problems with this issue. You would not believe the time I have spent in getting this magazine into columns without large blank bits! How this magazine will be produced in another fifteen to twenty years when personal computers and digital printing have been superseded by even better technology is hard to imagine.

This issue has a focus on the Australian championship events held in the Darling ranges near Perth in Western Australia, which were attended by a number of AOA members and the New

Zealand Secondary Schools' Team. The overall results of the New Zealand secondary school students was outstanding as Mark Lawson details in his following article.

There is no use of colour in this and following issues as the AOA finances are unable to sustain the cost. I was unable to test the black and white print quality of the colour photographs included so you may find that some are unsatisfactory.

I ran out of space to include a 'Cook-O' article and OY results but they will appear next month.

Finally, there is no newsletter without the contributors so value them and if you like their contributions then tell them.

John

Editorial Bits

Next Issue: December 2006

Please send your contributions to John Powell at rae.jon@pl.net to arrive by November 20

Distribution

If you change your address and still wish to receive this magazine please contact your club membership officer or Stephen Reynolds at 09 358 8549, stephen.reynolds@roar.net.nz

Sender: Auckland Orienteering Association, 23a Fernleigh Avenue, Royal Oak, AUCKLAND

Event Calendar

Details of events may change between the publication in this newsletter and the date of the event. Check on club websites. Phone club secretaries, if necessary, for confirmation.

AOC: Selwyn Palmer, 625 7798, selwyn@quicksilver.net.nz

CMOC: Hilary Iles, 235 2941, hilaryiles@paradise.net.nz

NWOC: Jill Smithies, 838 7388, smifam@ihug.co.nz

The websites mapsport.co.nz and nzorienteering.com contain a more comprehensive listing of national and international event listings than listed below.

Auckland Area Events

November 2006

Thur 16	A	Park event, Mt Eden, Tahaki Reserve, Mt Eden Rd, 5.30-6.45pm
Sun 19	NW	Urban rogaine, Whangaparoa, pre-entry, entries close Wed 15 Nov
Thu 23	A	Park event, Macleans Park, The Esplanade, Eastern Beach, 5.30-6.45pm
Tue 28	A	Park event, Big King, Three Kings Plaza car park, 5.30-6.45pm

December 2006

Tue 5	A	Park event, Panmure Basin, Ireland Road, Panmure, 5.30-6.45pm
Wed 13	A	Park event, Churchill Park, Kinsale Avenue, Glendowie, 5.30-6.45pm
Sat 16	NW	Mountain Bike Rogaine, 6 and 3 hour - Ahuroa, north of Kaukapakapa. Email makaraumadness@hotmail.com for details

January 2007

Tue 16	A	Park event, Michaels Avenue, Ellerslie, 5.30-6.45pm
Tue 23	A	Park event, Unitec, Carrington Road, Mt Albert, 5.30-6.45pm
Wed 31	A	Park event, Lloyd Elsmore Park, Bells Road, Pakuranga, 5.30-6.45pm

February 2007

Thur 8	A	Park event, Western Springs, Stadium Road, 5.30-6.45pm
Sun 11	NW	Sprint event, Massey University, Albany
Wed 14	A	Park event, Mt Richmond, Great South Road, Otahuhu, 5.30-6.45pm
Sun 18	CM	Park promotional event, Roseville Park, Pukekohe
Tue 20	A	Farm event, Self's Farm, Tidal Road, Mangere, 5.30-6.45pm
Sat 24	A	Night park event, 8.15pm start , Ambury Park, Ambury Road, Mangere Bridge
Sun 25	NW	Sprint event, Massey University, Albany
Wed 28	A	Park event, Alexander Park, Campbell Crescent, One Tree Hill, 5.30-6.45pm

Major NZ Events

Feb 3-6	NOS/Taupo	Waitangi 4-Day
March 3-4	NZRA	NZ Rogaining Championships, Marlborough
March 10-11	Taupo	All night relay, Katoa Po
March 17-18	Dunedin	Otago championships
April 6-9	CMOC	NZ championships
April 21-22	Egmont	North Island Secondary School Championships
June 2-4	?	Undecided
July 13-14	PAPO	NZ Secondary School Championships
July ?	Dunedin	National Ski-O
Sept 16	PAPO	South Island Secondary School Champs
Sept 22-23	AOC	Auckland Area Championships
Oct 20-23	WOA/CDOA	WOA and CDOA Area Championships
Nov 17-18	Nelson-Marlb	South Island Area Championships

Overseas Championships

July 7-14	WMOC	Kausamo, Finland
July 8-13	JWOC	Dubbo, Australia
Aug 5-12	WOC MTBO	Milov, Czech republic
Aug 16-27	WOC	Kiev, Ukraine
Oct 3-4	AUS/NZ schools	ACT, Australia
Oct 3-7	Oceania	ACT, Australia
Nov 3-4	Australia MTBO	NSW

Auckland Chatter

By Craig Pearce

A lot has happened since the last magazine came out. It has been a couple of months since that issue and I hope that I will not have forgotten anything (of course I will have, I will make my apologies now to anyone who feels that a "mention in despatches" is due to them).

John Powell has taken on the role of magazine editor and no doubt John will stamp his mark on the publication. Enjoy the new look.

The summer series will have started by the time you receive this magazine. This basically means that the serious orienteering for the year is over and we have to wait for Waitangi day for the next big event in the New Year. We look forward to seeing you in a park over the summer.

It is also the time of the year when the AGM is held. Currently it has been penciled in for Tuesday 5th December 2006 at the Panmure Yacht & Boating Club, 104 Kings Rd, Panmure. This date has been chosen to coincide with the Summer Series event at Panmure Lagoon. A BBQ will be held before the meeting begins so just pop over from the event enjoy the food and take in the meeting.

Although all positions on the committee are open to nominations the position of president in particular is open for nominations. The official AGM details will be sent out in due course.

We hosted a coaching weekend in early September, which attracted a reasonable number of people. I hope that those who attended put the lessons learnt to good use at the Auckland long distance championships.

The Auckland long distance championships run by the NWOC took place in September. We had a number of good results which are listed below (top 3 placings only).

Congratulations to all on these 2 lists.

Auckland Long Distance Championship

W10	1st	Tessa Boyd
M10	2nd	Alex Boyd
W14A	1st	Kate Smirnova
M14B	1st	Reuben Wilson
M20A	2nd	Simon Jager
M21A	2nd	Robert Kingston
	3rd	Ionel Popovici
W21B	2nd	Mary Ho
M21B	1st	Scott Clark
W21C	1st	Mari Kvasnickova
M21C	1st	Arnold Leigh
	2nd	Patrick Harris
	3rd	Oliver Wilson
W21AS	3rd	Robyn Oldfield
W21E	2nd	Rebecca Smith
M40A	1st	Peter Swanson
W40AS	1st	Irene Smirnova
	2nd	Annette Orchard
M50A	2nd	Alistair Stewart
W60A	2nd	Heather Clendon
M70A	1st	Tom Clendon

OY final points

In this list I have given the Auckland club members' placings as they appear in the points listing. Again only the top 3 placings.

M10	1st	Alex Boyd
M12A	1st	Jonty Oram
M21A	1st	Dave Crofts
	3rd	Ionel Popovici
M21AS	1st	Nick Monteith
	2nd	Ellis Lam
M21B	1st	Scott Clark
	2nd	Malcolm Gawn
M21E	3rd	Simon Jager

M40A	1st	Peter Swanson	W21B	3rd	Liz Pascal
M40AS	3rd	Steve Oram	W21C	3rd	Mari Kvasnickova
M50A	2nd	Alistair Stewart	W21E	3rd	Rebecca Smith
M50AS	1st	Russell Howard	W40A	3rd	Lyn Stanton
M70A	3rd	Tom Clendon	W40AS	1st	Annette Orchard
W10	1st	Tessa Boyd	W50A	3rd	Joanna Stewart
	2nd	Nikita Mahe	W50AS	2nd	Bronwyn Holcombe
W14A	1st	Kate Smirnova		3rd	Raewyn Bennett
W18A	1st	Alina Smirnova	W60A	2nd	Rae Powell
W21AS	1st	Iryna Smirnova		3rd	Heather Clendon
	2nd	Melvina Wise	W70A	1st	Hilary Weeks

Counties-Manukau Chit Chat

By Greta Knarston

Martin has officially retired as the author of this column to take up the position of club secretary and I have taken over his role.

Most people don't know me as I'm a relatively new junior in the sport. If you are interested in checking me out I have lime green orienteering shoes and will be around at upcoming event.

I recently returned from Perth with the Schools Team where I had a blast along with my fellow Counties members, Nicola and Andrew Peat. We had some great results as listed below.

The trip to Australia was an incredible experience and showed me how awesome New Zealand is compared to the Aussies in pretty much everything.

Thanks to Derek Morrison, Julie Smith and Mark Lawson for taking us and making it such a memorable trip.

WA Champs.

In the W17-20E I placed 6th and Nicola 9th. In the boys grade Andrew was 16th. As I have come to expect, Tricia Aspen

placed 1st in W55A creaming the next competitor by exactly 6 minutes and Wayne placed 2nd in M60A.

The Schools Individual Champs

The schools individual champs were a slightly different story. Andrew and Nicola both placed 10th and I had a very interesting run and got my money's worth to place 30th.

I didn't really understand why everyone was so shocked to see I had no shoes on at the end. It seemed logical to me that considering I had blisters and was not in with a chance, that it would be a lot more comfortable running in socks.

Apparently I am the first person many people have heard of to do this in Australia. After the race I remembered they have snakes.

The rest of the team had some outstanding results consisting of a first, 2 seconds and a third.

(Continued on p8)

The Australian Sprint Champs

These champs were in the historic town of York where the Kiwi's once again showed off their talent. Nicola gained third in W16, I was seventh in W17-20E and Andrew was 21st in M17-20E. Yet again Tricia came away with a win in W55A and Wayne was 8th in M60A.

The Long Distance event

This event was one of the most successful overall for Counties as Nicola placed second in W16, I placed fourth in W17-20E, Tricia won W55A by 9 minutes, Wayne placed sixth and Andrew placed 13th. I even saw a baby snake as I was running, which just made my day.

North West News

Hi everyone,

It has been a few months since I have sat at the computer to type out some news of the orienteering fraternity. As you will obviously know there have been a few events to finish off the year.

The North West members who attended the Australian Champs and School Competition did really well. Thomas Reynolds won the Senior Boys Individual event and the Senior Boys Relay with Simon Jager and Jack Vincent. A few days later he came up Second in the Sprint Event.

Mathew Ogden also put in a very fine effort. He also won the Junior Boys Relay event with Duncan Morrison and Scott McDonald, was 6th in the Individual event, 2nd in the Sprint and to finish off the Western Australian Wander, came 7th in the Australian Champs.

Mary and Terje Moen and Jill Dalton all did well in the age groups at the Australian Champs. Great results you guys.

Rob, Dave Middleton, Phil Johansen and Mike and Gene Beveridge travelled down to the Wellington Champs at Labour Weekend. From the tales Rob has told me since he got back, they had a great time.

One proviso of Gene going was that he wasn't allowed to beat the men as the whole 5 of them were running the same course.

He started with a handicap as he was poorly on the Thursday, but he went anyway. He was still not firing on the Saturday, but did come right apparently after that and only from a lack of experience that the "oldies" had, he probably could have "wiped the floor" with them. The weather on the Saturday was great, but not so good after that. Dave did win!!!

Anyway this is my last NEWSHOUND as Rob and I are leaving for parts further south on Monday 6th November. We are going for about 5 or 6 months roaming the country, fruit picking, and whatever else comes along. We are planning to go to Waikaia near Gore next month to the event there and Rob says we will be back for the Nationals next April. We may go away again straight away who knows. Anyway have a great Christmas all of you and we'll see you in 2007.

NEWSHOUND MARK II

Australian O Championships

WESTERN WILDFLOWER WANDER - a perspective by Jill Dalton



Jill, Bert and John strategising about orienteering in rocks



Typical granite rock cluster

Never been to Perth before, here is a good opportunity. Wow, it's a long way away from NZ but with a few air points and a bit of creative airfare planning, trip planning was soon underway.

NZ was well represented, surprisingly, but with the add-ons of the MTB Champs and then the World Rogaine Champs, those with plenty of leave could have a bonanza.

Just for the record, sighted at various times were, apart from myself and Jim, Wayne & Trish Aspin, Hilary Weeks, Tom & Heather Clendon, Selwyn Palmer, Rae & John Powell, Bert Chapman, Terje & Mary Moen, Mark Lawson, Dorothy & Neil Kane (WOC), Pam & Robert Whitla (PAPO), several members of the Peat family, Hamish Goodwin (HB), Alan Horn (WOC), Roz & Andy Clayton (PAPO), Derek Morrison (HB) and a large contingent of juniors (article follows - ed).

Western Australian State Champs

Alex Tarr had again come to the party with two great maps of a great area to the south east of Perth in the Mt Dale national park. We were treated to lots of rock features, generally fast running, granite slopes, and rolling terrain. A feature of this area was the Black Boy trees and we were warned about ticks!

The Australians always seem to turn on reliably well organized, well mapped and well planned events and this series was no exception. Long walks to the start maximized the course setting potential and excellent assembly areas meant there was lots of congregating and support for all the competitors.

The food has to be mentioned! Everything from soft serve ice cream, pancakes (ask Mary Moen), hamburgers, bacon and egg toasties, soup, cake and coffee was available each day with frightening regularity. It was hard to resist.

1st - Jamie Goodwin W14A; Trish Aspin W55A
 2nd - Scott McDonald M16A, Wayne Aspin M60A, Jill Dalton W60A
 3rd - Heather Clendon W65A, Matthew Ogden M14A, Graeme Fortune M65A.

Those are just the beginning as there were lots of great 4th placings, for example, Thomas Reynolds 4th M17 – 20E. The juniors performed particularly well overall.

Wildflowers

We were staying, with the Aspins at a camp at Jarrahdale. Visitors at night included possums who insisted on dancing on the roof – why do they protect them in Oz?

Trish being a botanist was particularly keen on tracking down the famed wild flowers. Every day she could be seen (along with Jim in particular) cameras at the ready, grovelling around the roadsides, off in the bush, round the camp, in fact everywhere there was a plant there was a command to halt the car so that investigations could take place. All this resulted in some absolutely spectacular photos after two weeks.

Then came a week of touring the South West – famous for wild flowers (!), big forests of Tingle, Kaari and Jarrah trees, including a tree top walk, beautiful coastlines, wine tasting and wild rocky shore with huge seas. Well worth the trip, and if anyone is keen to see wild flower photos, well I know two people who have quite a few!!

NZ & OZ States Secondary School Challenge

A fantastic effort by everyone. I need a rest! And I didn't see a single snake!

By Mark Lawson



Western Australia – Hot, dry and full of snakes? Not really. It was really hot when I first arrived there but it rained every couple of days and was cool by New Zealand standards on a couple of the days. With no time to train or adjust to the time difference (5 hours behind NZ time) it was straight into the first competition day.

Western Australian Champs Middle Distance

After a long dusty drive in to Mt Dale we were greeted by some fairly normal gully spur Australian terrain, some rock but not too much. Out on the course the map had a bit of green on it but just reduced visibility otherwise it was open fast eucalypt forest with patches of rock and the odd area of bare rock to help you along, also unusually for Australia some of the watercourses had water in them!

A great start was made by the Kiwi schools team with Jaime Goodwin winning W14, Scott McDonald winning M16 (by 2 seconds). Nicola Peat 3rd, Greta Knarston 7th in W17-20E and Thomas Reynolds 4th and Simon Jager 9th in M17-20e.

Western Australian Champs Long Distance

The same event centre for day 2 so another long dusty drive for most of us, however, those of us that hitched a ride in the WA schools team bus got to see some different scenery as their manager/bus driver knew a really good shortcut, one way to win the bus race to the event!

Day 2's map was across the road from yesterday's so couldn't be that much different – wrong! The map was steeper, greener and rockier and called for some more finely tuned map reading skills to find the correct rock and control among all the others.

More great runs from the Kiwis with Jaime winning again, Greta 4th, W17-20e; Thomas 4th and Jack Vincent 6th, M17-20E; Simon unfortunately mp'd; Rachel Goodwin 3rd, W16; Matthew Ogden 2nd and Duncan Morrison 3rd, M14; Scott 4th, M16.

Monday was a day off so most of us headed to Perth and Fremantle to check out the town

and the nearby beaches on a nice sunny day and get mentally prepared (well some of us) for the -

Australian Schools Individual Champs

Another early start as it was a bit of a drive to get to Peterdine. The map turned out to be rolling to steep (in a couple of places) farm/forest with lots of unmapped clearings to put you off and rock spread evenly across the map, some large bare rock patches were quite helpful. AWESOME effort by the Kiwis.

Junior boys

Scott 2nd (by 20secs), Matthew 6th, Duncan 11th, Aari Barrett 14th (Aari twisted his ankle badly in the previous race and was running with about half a roll of strapping tape on it! Great effort.

Junior girls

Laura Robertson 3rd, Kate Morrison 7th, Angela Simpson 12th, Jaime 13th.

Senior boys

Thomas 1st, Jack 4th, Simon 6th, Andrew Peat 10th out of a field of 35. Outstanding!

Senior Girls

Emma Watson 2nd, Nicola 10th, Kate Rea 18th, Greta 30th (with some blister problems). Awesome race from Emma.

Australian Schools Relay Champs

Getting used to the early starts by now (0630 breakfast), we arrived back at Peterdine, the weather had improved and eventually turned out hot.

I don't think anyone expected the high drama that unfolded as the relays got underway. Thomas got the senior boys team into a good position coming back in first place. Simon added to the lead and things were looking good as he came in and handed over to Jack.

Excitement turned to disappointment when we found out that Simon had mispunched. Jack ran the race of his life to bring NZ in first with a 15 minute lead.

Meanwhile both the Kiwi junior teams were dominating their races, the senior girls were all running solidly, we had a nail biting wait

for Kate Morrison to come in as the Southern Cross trophy hung in the balance and we needed the points to beat Queensland.

The Tasmanian team protested the control that Simon mispunched as being too close to another one (one of their girls mp'd too) the protest was upheld and our senior boys were reinstated.

Unfortunately this dropped our senior girls from 2nd to 3rd as the Tasmanian girls were reinstated as well. So in the end it was senior boys 1st, senior girls 3rd, junior boys 1st, junior girls 1st, and winning the Southern Cross Challenge Trophy again. A truly awesome effort.



Sprint Championship

Race day 5 saw us all travelling to the historic town of York, those of us that weren't already staying there that is, for the all important sprint race. The start and finish were in the town's main street which had been closed to vehicle traffic for the day. The map was the downtown buildings with a park behind the buildings and both sides of the Avon River.

There were warnings of dire consequences if anyone bounced any non-orienteeing tourists off the suspension bridge as they ran across it.

Once again the Kiwi juniors had a great day.

W14: Laura 1st, Jaime 2nd.

W16: Angela 1st, Nicola 3rd, Kate M 4th.

W17-20E: Kate 2nd, Emma 3rd, Rachel 6th, Greta 7th (out of a field of 23).

M17-20E: Thomas 2nd, Simon 3rd, Jack 14th, Andrew 21st.

M14: Duncan 1st, Matthew 2nd.

M16: Aari 6

Model event

Friday was the model event day and was worth the longish drive to check out some relevant terrain which was open, fast running eucalypt forest with lots of clearings, some big bare rock patches and lots of scattered rock ranging in size from small (is that one on the map or not?) to a pretty big 5 metres or so.

There also seemed to be more than the usual amount of ticks around, they apparently hang out in the “grass trees” (ask someone who was there) and jump on you as you brush past.

There was a bit of green on the map but not enough to slow you down much - looks like tomorrow’s going to be fast!

Australian Individual Champs

As we drove in to the event centre there were some worried expressions on people’s faces as the side of the hill facing the car park was covered with rocks looking more like a huge pile of boulders. How are we going to find controls in that lot?

It was not as bad as it looked and if you concentrated on the contours and used the rocks as you needed them, then navigation was reasonably straight forward.

The mapped area was small so the longer courses were looping around all over the place to the extent that on my course (M21E) I ran over the same bare rock patch 3 times, all on different legs!

The technical difficulty of the rock areas combined with the open fast farmland caused a lot of catch and chase type orienteering with trains of runners forming then splitting as the faster runners broke away from the slower ones.

M14: Duncan 2nd, Matthew 7th:

M16: Scott 5th:

M17-20E: Thomas 3rd Simon 8th, Jack 10th Andrew 13th (out of 26):

W14: Laura 1st, Jaime 4th:

W16: Nicola 2nd, Kate M 3rd

W17-20E: Greta 4th, Kate R 11th



Australian Relay Champs

Just down the road from the previous day but the map was different. It had one large hill system with quite a bit of climb, was less technical but still lots of rock in patches and some massive areas of bare rock, one of which just measuring off the map is 450 metres long!

The racing was reasonably tight for a relay with the Kiwi M17-20E team of Thomas, Andrew and Jack winning by a 1 minute margin. Similarly, the M16 team (Duncan, Matthew and Scott) won by 2 minutes.

It was even tighter in the W16 grade with Angela, Nicola and Laura winning by only 11 seconds with the other team of Jaime, Rachel and Kate M close behind in 3rd.

The W17-20E team of Emma, Greta and Kate R were 3rd.

Excellence

Why is the secondary school team so good? I know that gaining a position in the team is highly sought after so the juniors are motivated to train and perform well at the selection trials and obviously representing New Zealand is a factor in motivating anyone to perform at your best. Also, our juniors are getting some good coaching at club level either in group training sessions or being personally mentored/coached.

The junior training camps are obviously having an impact as well, helping them to develop good orienteering skills early in their careers and the older team members who are

also in the development squad are being well looked after. I get the impression that our team members are fitter than their Australian counterparts – stronger and faster. Whatever is happening it is working so keep doing it or do it even better!

MTBO Champs

But that's not all folks. After most of the travellers departed for home, Roz and Andy Clayton and Mark L, stayed on for the Australian MTBO Champs. The first two days were held in Wellington National Park near Bunbury and the conditions couldn't have been much different between the days!

The first day was the middle distance. The map was described as undulating to steep forest with a mixture of fire tracks, gravel roads and single track. The setter needs to MTBO at Hanmer Springs to appreciate what steep is! So I think we had a bit of an advantage on the hills.

On a hot sticky day Roz was 2nd W40, Andy was 5th M50 and Mark won M Open.

Next day was the long event. It poured with rain from about midnight right up till we drove away after prize giving.

The pine forest map was unusual for Australia and was mainly on gravel forest roads, which became very soft to ride on with the rain.

The courses were a bit of a mission in the wet and some people got excellent value for their entry fee. This time Roz was 4th and Mark 3rd.

The final race was a sprint at a mountain bike park near Perth called "The Goat Farm". The map scale for this race was 1:5000, compared to 1:20,000 on the previous two days, so mistakes were inevitable in a "sprint" through a complex system of a single track with some tracks hidden in the long grass.

The winning time on the 4.5km 165m climb Open Men's course was 26 minutes, not fast, but accuracy was more important as some found at the end they had missed a control out. So in the final race of the carnival it was Roz 1st, Andy 6th and Mark 2nd. Not too bad!

Selwyn's Trees

By Selwyn Palmer

'I reckon next time I go orienteering in Australia I will develop better strategies for managing trees (and rocks).'



A Black Boy or Grass tree



Spot the control in the rocks.

I tried orienteering in West Australia, but found the rocks and rock mapping very tricky and finished very well down the list, just one or two away from last.

On the Sunday of the first weekend I fell over on the rocks and grazed my knees, cunningly rolling down the slope with shoulders tucked in to protect my hands and wrists. I spent 5 mins semi-stunned, standing there wondering whether to walk direct to the finish.

It was just after control 3. But, despising DNF, I opted to walk on, and then broke into a "run" in a rare bit of open bush.

Tree #1

Then began my saga of encounters with Australian trees. I felt a spiky object scratch my shin and thought nothing of it because that's what Australian vegetation does.

At the finish I checked into the St. Johns volunteers to have my grazed knees sterilised. But the staff developed more interest in the spiky stalk in my shin that I had not noticed. Failing to extract the black ash covered stalk, St John's advised me to take it a hospital.

At the Armadale hospital on the fringes of Perth the blue chairs are for the victims waiting for the assessing triage nurse who takes shelter behind a bank-teller type counter. The blue chair queue only takes about 45 minutes, then 20 minutes of assessment and entering details in a computer entitles a victim to progress to the white plastic chairs.

It seems to take from 30 minutes to an hour for names to be called, possibly based on the triage assessment. I didn't detect any bias against foreign bodies.

Then you advance through a solid one-way door, past the "flight deck" (as the staff call it) of bustling management types, to gain a chair outside a specific surgery room. Another 40 minutes of watching an old lady trying to escape from her wheelchair, then I'm "in". Howzat!

A youngish doctor on loco from Perth recognises the event logo on my shirt. He

had one too, being a cyclist from the previous weekend's Anaconda challenge multisport event.

The piece of Australian bush in my shin is rather stubborn and when the doctor had dug deep enough he could not see it because of leaking blood.

Failing to find a tourniquet, he used another injection of anaesthetic but this time including adrenalin, which draws blood away from the capillaries, and which I could have used during the orienteering event.

After about 50 minutes, the bush fragments and ash deposits are extracted and flushed away and I am despatched with a fresh Tetanus injection and a packet of penicillin.

My worries about paying were unfounded. No charge. NZ has a reciprocal agreement with Australia.

Tree #2

Three days later, rather than mid-week orienteering, the Clendons and I opted to head for the Albany area on the south coast.

Tom had driven for two hours when we stopped for a break and some fruit. I took over the driving in the Hyundai Sonata rental and after 45 minutes the next encounter with Australian trees happened.

The road 40 km north of Walpole on SH1 is exceptionally narrow with a very loose gravel shoulder. I suspect I dozed off (11.40 am!), hit the gravel on a bend, sending the car into a 180 degree spin.

Just as we thought the car was going to roll over down a bank, a large karri tree loomed just in front of my face at the driver's door. Then I saw nothing for a few seconds - must have been smothered briefly by a big side-airbag.

All three of us acquired unpleasant bruising from the impact against sea belts, my seat belt also causing a shattered collar bone. Magnificent help a few minutes later from passing motorists and police, firemen and a surplus of ambulances.

The Clendons were taken 40 km south; I was taken 65 km north for cheap accommodation in hospital for a night.

Thrifty Rentals wanted to assess the car! We had already done that for them. The car came off much worse than the people, it was dead. The people were much worse off than the tree. Even the insurance companies came off worse than the tree. It pays to be a tree.

We missed Albany but the rest of the holiday continued much as planned in a powerful replacement 3.8 Mitsubishi

The drowsiness? Out of character but I do wonder about very unlikely side effects from the penicillin tablets. Apparently this was the eighth crash this year on the same stretch of road but I still feel rather stupid and irresponsible. I reckon next time I go orienteering in Australia I will develop better strategies for managing trees (and rocks).

From the archives

By John Powell

The 1986 NZ team were in South Australia at the Ozzie champs where NZ winners were Mavis Hatwell W60 and Hillary Weeks W50 while Val Robinson W35 and Rob Jessop M17 were placed second. The Australians had a convincing win!

OY8, 1986, was on Taurangaruru and OY9 on Mushroom Road. The largest age class in the 1986 OY competition was M35B where Peter Johansen and Mike Beveridge took top places.

North West and Counties were first equal in the 1996 Northern League competition after the eighth event.

Mark Stewart, AOC club secretary, gave notice of 3 motions for the AGM to be debated as remits for the NZOF AGM:

- That a club may split its votes at the NZOF AGM

- That clubs should have one vote per affiliated member
- Something else I can't remember.

The controversy about the contribution of the WACO club to Auckland orienteering continued with Jamie Stewart, DOC, and Clare Codling, COC, outlining the contribution the club was making to training and in providing a club "where young people can have fun, stay in the sport and stay interested."

North West News Hound reported that 70 people enjoyed a Trivial Pursuits fundraiser evening hosted by quizmaster Bas Cuthbert. "Our table was severely challenged by some of the entertainment questions and North West had to concede an ignominious defeat to the intellectuals from the Central Club", who as I recall, got louder and louder as the wine bottles emptied.





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