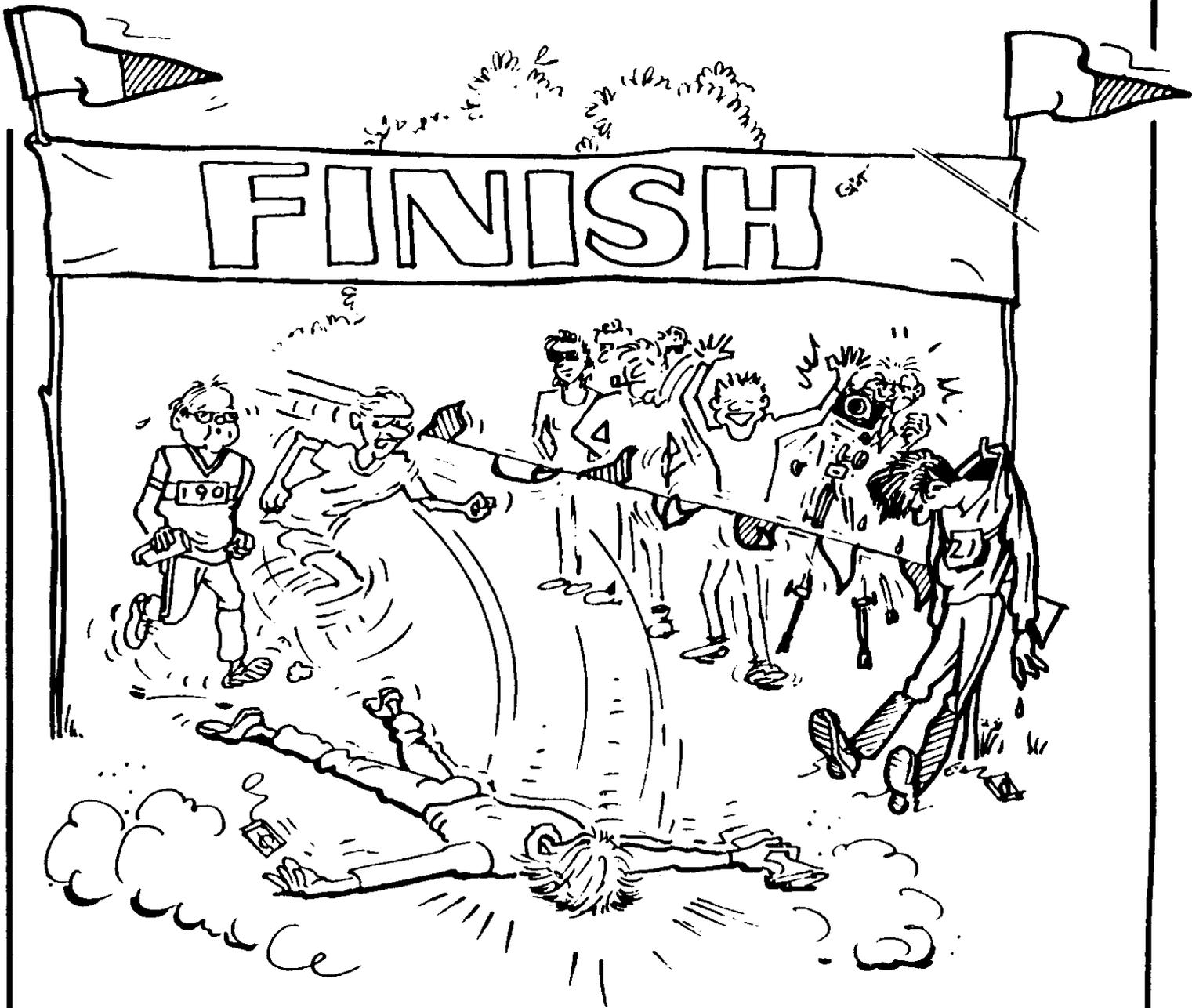


The AUCKLAND ORIENTEER



DECEMBER 1994

BURGLARY

Why oh why do orienteers complain so much about being unfit and wanting a shorter course?

I'm glad to be part of a sport where the rules are few, simple and easy to follow, and affiliated members can run on any course in almost any event in the world if they want to.

But there's no avoiding the fact that orienteering is an intensely competitive sport. Yes I know that lots of committed orienteers profess to be along for a good time and they don't mind getting beaten by Ralph every week. But I suspect that a competitive edge is what makes us into orienteers. If a market research firm were to try to characterise potential orienteers they would probably say something like "active, competitive, own a car, got some money, understand maps, enjoy the outdoors."

I guess we like to rank ourselves against our peers so we know if we're getting any better.

And competitive people like to have someone to compete with, so they feel compelled to run in their correct grades.

So in a free-and-easy environment where no-one else minds what course you run, apparently sensible experienced orienteers (who manage to dress themselves every morning without help from their mothers) insist on running in their own grades *even if they are unsuitable*. And they have a rotten time.

But others say "The A course is too long for me, so I'll run B instead."

Why don't they just run unofficially on a shorter course?

Why should I care?

Because these people complain a lot, to me and to you, when the remedy is very obvious.

Because burgling B courses is a great way to demotivate genuine B grade orienteers, up and coming and needing some positive feedback to push them on.

Because event organisers set B grade course lengths for the winners, (when they should be considering the median), and the winners are so often burglars and unrepresentative of the typical B grade runner.

I've been coaching B grade orienteers for a few years now, and I've observed that the standard of B grade courses is startlingly variable. A standout was a B grade course at a recent Championship event where I assessed only about a third of the legs as B-/B/B+ grade, another third as A grade or A-, and the remainder C+/C grade. So I can see that an A grade orienteer will sometimes get some worthwhile orienteering on a B grade course. But on a well-set course, and I'm happy to say that there are lots of those around as well, an A grade orienteer should be bored stiff. Why bother?

Maybe it needs to be restated that B courses are supposed to be technically easier than A courses?

I admire Egmont orienteer Ian Kendall's initiative at the 1994 National Championships. He felt ill-equipped physically for his official course, but still wanted an A grade navigational challenge. So he chose another shorter course and told all his mates about it. And they ran on that course too, and had a great time, and gave one another magnificent prizes at the prizegiving!

Nomination of "Short" courses at this year's OY season has been a successful solution. Avoiding allocation of grades to courses by something like "colour coding" is another solution that has been mooted and shot down in flames already this year.

MARK ROBERTS

PS If you want a list of A grade orienteers who burgle B courses, just take a close look at the B grade trophies at any Championship event. Anyone whose name appears more than once is probably either a very slow developer or a burglar!

CALENDAR

The editor takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the following information which has been collated from many sources. Please call Club Secretaries for final confirmation: (C) Central: Leon McGivern 576 4567 (CM) Counties-Manukau: Rosemary Gatland 267 5087 (NW) NorthWest: Marquita Gelderman 412 8879 (Wh) Whangarei: Dick Rankin 09 434 6499 (H) Hamilton: Jim Barr 07 856 9501 (P) Pinelands: Don Fraser 07 886 8813 (T) Taupo: Kathleen Lonsdale 07 378 0818 (R) Rotorua: Gary Farquhar 07 345 9608

DECEMBER 1994

- 3rd-4th PAPO South Island Champs, Omaui Beach, Invercargill, new map (changed venue)
- Sun 4th HV Hutt City Rogaine, details in October *AUCKLAND ORIENTEER*
- Mon 5th CM Club meeting, Pilbrow residence, all Club members welcome, 19:30
- Tues 6th C **Summer Series, Churchill Park**, Kinsale Road, Glendowie, 17:00-19:00
Setter Alistair Stewart, vetter Scott Vennell; **REMAP**
- Sun 11th Wh **Mimiwhangata**, club picnic day if map ready in time, maybe not, better call them
On the coast just south of Oakura, 50 minutes from Whangarei, setter Richard Rankin; might be Pompallier instead
- P Lake Moananui, mass start 15:00, 6 Waiti Place Tokoroa, barbecue afterwards
- R Okawa Bay, fun event and picnic, massed start at 12:00
Te Puia Road off SH30 Rotorua-Whakatane, south of Hells Gate
- Tues 13th C **Summer Series, Self's Farm**, Tidal Road, Papatoetoe, 17:00-19:00
Setter Tom Davies, vetter Mark McLean
- 14th-19th Junior Training Camp, Berwick, Dunedin, contact Don Melville, 03 454 2575
- Thu 15th Applications close for January Junior Training Camp, see Club Secretaries
- Nominations close for NZOF executive positions, see November issue
- Thu 22nd Entries close for North Island 4 day, Taranaki Turkey Trot, Masters Games, January and February; details in November *AUCKLAND ORIENTEER*

JANUARY 1995

- 6th-8th C **Woodhill'95 3 day, Lake Kereta**, details in November *AUCKLAND ORIENTEER*
- 14th-15th D 45 Degree South Rogaine (New Zealand Rogaine Champs), Pisa Range, Wanaka
- Tue 17th C **Summer Series, One Tree Hill**, Grand Drive Barbecue Area, 17:00-19:00
Setter Mervyn Paistry, vetter Scott Vennell
- Sat 21st Entries close for MacPac Kaweka Challenge, 18-19 Feb, details in November issue
- Squad **North Island Championships, Manawatu**, details in Nov *AUCKLAND ORIENTEER*

Sat 21st		Lake Wairoa
Sun 22nd		Knottingly
Tue 24th		Gordon Keir
Thu 26th		Whirikino
21st-27th		Junior Camp, 13-16 yrs, Wanganui contact Kevin Bailey 04 478 4552
Tue 24th	C	Summer Series, Auckland Domain, Rotunda, 17:00-19:00 Setter Rod Ball, vetter John Everett
Sat 28th	E	Taranaki Turkey Trot, New Plymouth, details in November AUCKLAND ORIENTEER Ratapihipihi
Sun 29th		Taranaki Traverse - 5 maps in the centre of New Plymouth
Tue 31st	C	Summer Series, Mangere Mountain, Domain Road, Mangere, 17:00-19:00 Setter Bruce Horide, vetter Mervyn Paistry
31st-2nd		Senior (35+) Training Camp, Bulls

FEBRUARY 1995

Wed 1st	C	Club meeting, 19:30, 56 Allens Road, East Tamaki, all members welcome
Thu 2nd	NW	Club meeting, venue to be advised, 19:30, all members welcome
4th /5th / 6th	RK	New Zealand Masters' Games, Manawatu, details in Nov AUCKLAND ORIENTEER Lake Wairoa, Gordon Keir, Knottingly
Tue 7th	C	Summer Series, Churchill Park, Kinsale Road, 17:00-19:00 Setter Terry Nuthall, vetter Andy Brewis
Mon 13th	CM	Club meeting? (to be advised)
Tue 14th	C	Summer Series, One Tree Hill, Pohutukawa Drive Barbecue Area, 17:00-19:00 Setter Tony Cooper, vetter Darren Ashmore
18th-19th	HB	MacPac Kaweka Challenge, contact 06 876 8558, details in November issue
Sun 19th	C	Club event, Woodhill Forest Setter Mike Ashmore
Tue 21st	C	Summer Series, Western Springs, Zoo, 17:00-19:00 Setter Rod Ball, vetter John Powell
25th-5th	All	NATIONAL ORIENTEERING WEEK
Sun 26th	CM	Waiuku Forest, Pukekohe - Manukau Festival of Sport, 10:00-12:30
	H	Whatawhata 2, 11:00-13:00, 3 courses Signed from SH23 Hamilton-Raglan road / road south from Ngaruawahia
	E	Egmont Forest Run
Tue 28th	C	Summer Series, Auckland Domain, Grandstand, 17:00-19:00 Setter Richard Bolt, vetter Clive Bolt

MARCH-DECEMBER 1995

Mar	4	T	Katoa Po All Night Relays, Regional Junior Challenge 1	July	2	NW	AOA OY1
	5	T	CDOA OY1, Taupo		7-8?	PAPO	Silva Nat Sec Sch Champs
		NW	Club Event, Long Bay		9	H	Garlands
	7	C	Summer Series		8-11, 15-23		Canadian O Festival
	10-12	NZOF	AGM, Iwitahi, Taupo		16	CM	AOA OY2
	12	NW	Masters' Games		23	C	Park / streets, new map
		H	Four Brothers			CM	Waiuku Forest promotional
	19	H	CDOA OY2, Patetonga?		24-28		O-Ringen, Sweden
		CM	Totara Park, Club event		30	Wh	AOA OY3
	26	NW	Autumn Series 1	Aug	6	NW	Onepoto Domain
April	2	R	CDOA OY3		12-20		World Champs, Germany
	2-4	Aussie	3 day event		13	C	AOA OY4, Pulpit Rock
	9	NW	Autumn Series 2			H	Rose Gardens / Sandford
		H	Kapamahunga?		19-28	Squad	Trip to Australia
	14-17	CM	National Championships, Easter 4 Day, Pukekohe		20	CM	Waiuku Forest promotional
	22	Squad	WOC Trial, North Island		26-27	Aussie	A-NZ Challenge, ACT
	23	C	Park / streets, new map		27	NW	AOA OY5, NRLeague 1
	30	CM	Autumn Series 3	Sept	3	C	Park / streets, new map
May	7	T	CDOA OY4			H	Forest Lake
		Squad	GIB Woodhill Forest Run		10	C	AOA OY6, Paparua
	14	H	Pakarua		17	R	CDOA OY5, NRLeague 2
		NW	Park / Street event		24	CM	AOA OY6 Paparua
		CM	Waiuku Forest promotional	Oct	1-2	Aussie	Australian Championships
	14-19	Squad	Training Camp, Wellington		8	P	CDOA OY6
	21	C	Park / streets, new map		21-23	Wh	Labour Weekend 3 day
	28	CM	Autumn Series 4				Poutu, Dargaville
	29-2		Veterans' World Cup, Russia		29	NW	Auckland Relay Champs
June	3-5	Squad	3 Day event, Wairarapa	Nov	4-5	C	Auckland Championships
	11	NW	Autumn Series 5		7	NW	Auck Primary Sch Champs
		H	Pukekura		11	NW	Great Day O
	18	C	Park / street event, new map		13	H	Sanatorium Hill
	20	CM	Auck Sec School Champs		19	E	CDOA OY7
	25	CM	Waiuku Forest promotional		25-26		Wellington Championships
				Dec	2-3	H	CDOA Championships
					10	H	Whatawhata 2
					26-1		APOC'96, Hong Kong

COUNTIES- MANUKAU NEWS

NORTHWEST NEWSHOUND

With the AGM coming up early next year, Club members are asked to think about nomination for the various offices. Rosemary Gatland has stated her intention of standing down as Secretary after many years.

April 1995 isn't far off and I hear that the Nationals courses will be physical so start training! Onewhero School is being used as the event centre with plans to set up a "tent city" - dance, showers, barbecues, all at a reasonable cost.

Winners

The OY series was a good one for CM winners Trish Aspin, Linda Brighthouse, Allan Reeves, Ross Brighthouse and Bert Chapman who headed me off in the end.

Now the Summer Series is under way; I attended the first event in the Domain, and it went off with usual COC efficiency.

The AOA Championships saw Kirsten Ambler [NWOC] take out her first major W21E title and Darren Ashmore [COC] win M21E. CMOC had a good result in W40A Classic; Trish, Rosemary and Doeska Currie in the top three places and a repeat performance in the Short-O. James Currie [M12A] also took the double. Congratulations to Wayne Aspin, Ross Brighthouse, Val Robinson and Bryce Brighthouse. Ken Green's Scottish training paid off with a Short-O title.

Firemen

Jim and Phyllis Snedden are selling 1995 Firemen Calendars: an idea for a Christmas gift if you like hunky men hanging around. Supporting the Child Cancer Foundation and the Firefighter Games; \$10 each plus \$1.50 postage, call 09 235 9609 or mail to Box 26 Waiuku. The 1994 Calendars raised \$30,000 for CCF!

Next meeting

Next Counties-Manukau Club meeting will be at the Pilbrows' place in Bombay, at 7:30pm on Monday 5th December, preceded by a "pot luck" meal. Their number is 09 236 0303.

KEN BROWNE 299 8413

Wellington Championships

October and November brought an excellent, if hectic finale to the O season, especially for those of us who travelled to Wellington at Labour Weekend. There was excellent orienteering on 3 sanddune maps and the journey was worthwhile for the weather alone - blue skies, sunblock and sunhats every day.

NorthWest women took all 3 top places in W21E at the Wellington Championships, Kirsten Ambler securing an impressive 5 minute lead. Other NWOC winners were Rob Garden, Keith Stone, Ralph King and Judy Martin.

Auckland Championships

Marquita Gelderman and Rob provided interesting and challenging courses for the Auckland Championships on 5th November and our thanks go to all of the helpers who made this a great and smoothly run weekend. How would we manage without Rob's 4WD? Kirsten maintained her form to take the Auckland W21E title and finish the year on a really high note.

Sunday's Short-O terrain was in total contrast to Woodhill sanddunes. It proved much trickier than I recollect from the good old days when many of the pine trees were only knee high! Low visibility, a scale of 1:15,000, trimmings underfoot and good courses set by Dave Melrose and Ralph King made for challenging orienteering - and some embarrassingly long times for me!

More running

There is no rest for the wicked or the masochistic, and Geoff Mead, Scott Vennell [COC] and Michael Hood inflicted more punishment on their bodies at the Tidelines Coastal Race on 13th November. The race started dramatically with a cannonshot from a boat, and 80 runners charged from the summit of Devonport's North Head en route to Long Bay via 20km of beaches and rocks.

Geoff finished in 103 minutes, 20 minutes behind the winner, Scott in 104 and Michael in 130. The race will be held again in 1995. With 100% off-road terrain it is very well suited to orienteers.

Annual Do

A crowd of 86 attended the NorthWest OC annual dinner and prizegiving at the Mon Desir on 19th November.

We were entertained by guest speaker Grant Chapman, Sports Editor of the North Shore Times and current New Zealand Decathlon champion. He told several interesting anecdotes from the 1994 Victoria Commonwealth Games. As always this was a great social evening and a rare opportunity to see what orienteers look like without mud, sweat and smelly O shoes.

Awards

Major prize winners were:

Morrison Bowl, Most Improved Junior

Karen Monks

Most Improved Senior

Kirsten Ambler

King Trophy, Most Improved Newcomer

Charlotte Marra

Stone Trophy, Most Outstanding Performance

Marquita Gelderman

NorthWest Shield, Most Significant Contribution to the Club

Lorri O'Brien

North Harbour Secondary School Shield

Birkenhead College

People

Neil Haddon of Birkenhead College and Karen Monks won awards for their orienteering at the ASB Bank Schools Sports Awards dinner on 18th November.

Gabrielle Henderson was a member of the EGGS team which dead heated for 1st place in the secondary schools section of the multisport women's Waterfront Challenge recently.

New members

Welcome to:

- Odette Haworth [W14], Birkdale
- Elisabeth Cato, Helensville

An advertising proposal

NWOC is currently arranging purchase of a new equipment trailer. The details of this very attractive wagon were unveiled to club members at the Annual Dinner. To finance the purchase we are

selling advertising space on it. We have an advertising proposal document that can be sent to any prospective advertisers.

If you are interested in seeing our proposal or know a company you would like to approach on our behalf, please contact Lorri O'Brien on 415 8932.

This plea is not limited to NorthWest OC members.

Orienteering until Christmas focuses on the Tuesday evening park series. A good opportunity to keep fit and concentrate on orienteering at speed. The New Zealand Championships are in South Auckland at Easter next year, so this is not the summer to blob on the beach and gain a few kilos!

Keep up the training; and Happy Christmas to everyone.

Next club meeting

There are no December or January meetings as such; next meeting is at 7:30pm on Thursday 2nd February 1995, venue to be advised, all Club members welcome.

LISA MEAD 445 4555

CENTRAL CHATTERBOX

Annual General Meeting

There was an excellent turnout of members. Tom Davies wrapped up the year with his report, noting many outstanding achievements in both competition and event organisation. Tom was re-elected as the President, as were Rod Ball Treasurer, and Terry Nuthall Auditor. Mervyn Paistry is to be our new Equipment Officer; we need a Secretary, Leon will handle it in the meantime.

The meeting was otherwise occupied with the debate over how we should vote at the NZOF conference on the matter of the official orienteering season. It was agreed that there should be a defined season, but it was hotly debated whether it should be centred on summer or winter. Agreement was reached for National Championships between Easter and the end of June. This will be an official remit to the NZOF AGM in March.

The motion for the club to pay for AOA entry fees was passed faster than MP's agree to accept pay

rises suggested by the Higher Salaries Commission.

After the meeting, supper was served. Andy reckoned that the best way to cook steaks was to do it *entirely in darkness* (which he did with Rob and Clive) so that nobody could fuss over their selection.

Annual subscriptions

Annual subscriptions have been set at the same as last year. (What tremendous good value.) Rush in now with your money by Christmas so that you won't miss out on news, good company, information about events, Auckland O magazines, NZ O magazines, access to the library, reduced entry fees, zero entry fees for the AOA relays (unbelievable!), coaching from resident champions and the chance to be involved in many prestigious events *organized with great credit and glorious accolades to your club* (sometimes from people outside the club!).

The forms are in this issue of the Auckland Orienteer. Send them in right away, because reminders will be few and the usual long period of grace will be much shortened this year!

Permanent courses

With a host of new maps becoming available, and the opportunity to print courses directly onto them, the time is ripe for someone to design some permanent courses in parks and reserves.

Would anyone be interested in this worthwhile task which DOES NOT involve coming to meetings or committing to lots of work? Call Mark Roberts or Tom Davies.

Club Secretary

We badly need a new Club Secretary because Leon deserves a break. It's a superb way to learn what happens in the Club. Anyone willing?

Club Colours and O Suit

A suggestion was made at the AGM by Mark with all the attached theatrics and exhibits that we have new club colours for our O suits (a sample was demonstrated). Lively debate could not resolve who sewed the sheep on One Tree Hill. Provided that it does not become One Stump Hill, the idea of a distinctive pattern or logo met with approval but the choice of colours was not resolved.

Full details enclosed, make your own choice.

Working Bees

The shed and the equipment stored in it are now looking much smarter after a couple of working bees. Thanks to Mark, Leon, John, Mike, Tom et al. Who's AI?

Ladies and Gentlemen

Looking at the AOA OY champions for 1994, the ladies of Central O Club have taken out more titles than the men. Congratulations to Margaret Nicholls, Philippa Newton, Clare Codling, Paulette Ashmore and Sabrina Davies. The other OY champions were Clive Bolt, Terry Nuthall and David Stewart (who also was awarded Best Time in the intermediate schools eastern zone and Auckland meetings).

Overseas

While the news is a little late, it was a pleasure to hear that in the Australian Champs, Hilary Weeks and Rob Crawford won their events. Also, Darren Ashmore put in a top performance which we saw again back at the Auckland Champs.

Not to be forgotten from the Oz party was Jill Dalton (a good 4th in Australia). "Party" it was, by all accounts from 33 premises in the Barossa Valley. Three of her bottles of booty were carried home by another orienteering gentleman, who was whisked away by customs and not seen for some time. Jill promises to report elsewhere on developments.

Alistair Stewart has returned from a month in Geneva where he was doing research work related to a WHO project. He regrets that unfortunately there wasn't a gap in his schedule to enter an O event.

Mapping

Two redrawn, computer generated maps were on display at the AGM. The result was very good and the outlook for the work in progress under Mark's direction is very exciting.

Three computer maps have now been printed re-maps of Western Springs, Churchill Park and Dingle Dell (the last filling a gap on the printing plate!). As might be expected from a new computer project the results are largely excellent but with some minor snags. Watch out for the Rough Open Lake, Rough Open Forest Jog, and Forest Walk Paved areas on Western Springs!

Next up will be Carrington (mostly fieldworked), Mt Richmond (fieldwork finished), maybe Mt Eden (fieldwork started) or Mangere Mountain.

Elsewhere

Leon wonders why he can no longer out-pace his son who incidentally has gone by Batmobile to Waiouru for Army exercises until Christmas

Orienteering really is a family sport. Did you know that Catherine Horde is Ken Young's brother's daughter's husband's father's brother's daughter? True!

Do you remember going to the concerts at Western Springs just because everyone else was going to be there? Rae went to the latest concert, because she wanted to see the performance - an apparently great show with the Auckland Philharmonic and Jose Carreras.

New members

Taking advantage of the "join now and get 1995 free" offer are:

Kim Ingham [M11] and Denise Smith [W21B],
Mount Roskill

Joshua de la Chaumette [M10], Avondale

Rick Weymouth [M21B], Onehunga

Chris Grove [M55A], Remuera

Welcome also to Janice Cyprian of the Whangarei Club, not actually a member of CentralOC yet but resident in our area now and seen to vote at the AGM! For anyone out there shopping around for a good club to join after moving from Dargaville to Auckland, Central is the perfect choice.

Etcetera

Hilary Weeks is showing her latest paintings during the month of November (sorry we couldn't tell you this last month!) at Oedipus Rex Gallery, 32 Lorne Street.

Junior members of the Club who want to go to the Junior Camp in January are reminded that the Central Club Junior Training Fund is replete with cash.

The profits from the Woodhill'95 3 days event will be going into the Tony Nicholls National Representative Fund - to help all club members (not just Elites) to compete internationally.

May Young (828 7750) is keen to hear from anyone who has done any KiwiSport coaching or would be interested in taking orienteering into primary schools. We need to register our coaches to ensure continued Hillary Commission support. May has done some KiwiSport coaching at a number of schools this year, the latest at Woodlands School

Next Meeting

There are no meetings in December or January. The next Club meeting is at 7:30 pm Wednesday 1st February 1995 at Jarvis Trading, 56 Allans Road East Tamaki. All Central Club members are welcome

BRUCE AND CATHERINE HORIDE 376 5937

LESS WORK, MORE ORIENTEERING

David Farquhar has been travelling and competing in Scandinavia and has sent to all Clubs a treatise suggesting changes to the way we organise events to create Less Work and More Orienteering. Here is a brief version of his ideas; your Club Secretary has his original 6 page document.

David feels that many of these points encourage Club "togetherness", one of the major differences between Scandinavian and our orienteering cultures.

- Entries are sent in by Clubs not individuals; events organisers only want names and grades.
- All correspondence is sent to Clubs, including start times, which you find out by asking the Club organiser or just turning up early and looking at the list. No programmes are issued, just the initial advertisement.
- Minimise numbers of controls by making the shorter courses variations of the longer courses. Swedes just don't worry about common controls and common legs.
- Control descriptions are not available before the race so no-one knows who is sharing first controls, so you don't need so many.
- Control cards are given out at the start because no-one knows their codes and descriptions anyway. So no race pack is needed!
- Maps are accumulated at the finish in Club bags, and their return is handled by Club representatives.
- Results are sent to Clubs to be published in magazines or wherever.

ABRIDGED FROM AN ARTICLE BY
DAVID FARQUHAR [ROC]

WHO NEEDS ELITES?

I was disturbed to read in Judy Martin's letter last month, her suggestion that we do away with elite courses.

I would be the first to agree that elites are not the be-all and end all of O. But I believe that they bring to the sport more good than bad. By not providing courses specifically for elites, you run the risk of losing those benefits. I don't want to go into a long diatribe, but just for starters:

Elites improve technical skills for *all* orienteers; they provide a future coaching resource for all orienteers, they raise the standard of competition for those who wish to treat orienteering as a competitive sport, and their exposure to international competition brings overseas ideas back to New Zealand.

As an example of the last point, Rob Jessop always comes back from overseas trips full of ideas on how to improve event organisation.

The suggestion I have heard in the past that setting elite courses provides more work than they are worth does not wash. Setting elite courses should be the *easiest* task, because you can never make them too hard. They should be done *last* when all the other controls have been placed. Just pick the hardest control sites, add a few at the back of the map, and join the dots! OK, it's a little harder than that, but elites are less likely to complain about the technical merits of their course than some other grades.

And besides, elites pull their weight when it comes to event organisation, so it's not a case of all take and no give. As an example, who were the setters of the recent AOA Individual and Short-O Championships? W21E and M21E. Who were the setter and controller of the January Woodhill # Day? M21Es.

There are more competitors on elite courses than on M70 or W55, yet I can imagine the howls of protest if we tried to cut out those grades!

I hope that there are not too many orienteers who feel that everyone's investment in elites is unrewarded.

ROB CRAWFORD [COC]
NATIONAL ORIENTEERING SQUAD MANAGER

ARCHIVES - NOV'84

The AOA Relay Championships were held on Waiuku South map with the Setter, Ross Brighthouse, commenting that "next year we could come up with a grade restriction on each leg."

There were 50 teams entered in the various age groups, mostly Mixed B. The veteran men's first three teams were only 5 minutes apart with Murphy / Mellsop / Browne beating Nicholls / Brewis / Nuthall. Junior 14 and under were even closer with Alison Stone / Jeni Martin / Steven Curran two minutes ahead of Tania Robinson / Robert Murphy / Susan Snedden.

OY9 was at Mushroom Road in the rain, with several DNFs and an invalidated course. Among the winners were John Rix (M21E), Alison Stewart (W21E), Graham Fiskin (M35A), John Ranson (M21B) who have all now disappeared from the Auckland orienteering scene.

The CDOA Championships on Tuahu near Te Aroha saw Aucklanders in most of the winning places - Brett Ashmore 20:16 ahead of Matthew Tuck 20:19 in M12A. Tony Reddish M13-14, Alison Stone W13-14, Rob Garden M21A, Jan Somerville beating a class field of W35As and among the M21Cs Les Warren, Mark Newman, Greg Healey and John Greenhall.

The first recipient of the Silva Award for contributions to orienteering was Ralph King; and the course setting competition winners were Brian Crawford [HBOC] and Julia Fettes, NWOC junior.

KEN BROWNE

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

3000 runners in teams of 12(ish) took part in the annual Round The Mountain relay on 26th November. This 150km road race begins at 2am on a Saturday and finishes rather a long time later.

Clare Codling [COC] ran as part of the "Nerd Herd" team, whose result remains shrouded in mystery.

But a team comprising Rob Crawford [COC] (who also represented Massey Harrier Club), Philip Wood [HVOC], Greg Barbour [EOC], Antonia Wood [HVOC], Mark McLean [COC], Darren Ashmore [COC], Martin Girling {UK/NWOC?}, Sasha Middleton [NWOC], Matthew Tuck [CMOC]

and Gabrielle Henderson [NWOC] came second in the Social Grade, with a time of around 11:15.

Remarkably, our heroic team left the (rather large) party early and played Monopoly for the rest of the evening!

The sole 2-man team in the race completed the course in 14 hours; an Australian team won the women's section. The winning men's open team, a "stacked" West Auckland team (according to Rob C), managed a time of 9:30.

GÜTEN ABEND

I'm back in Germany after the Czech Republic World Cup Final. I'm now at the first training camp for the 1995 World Champs near Detmold, south of Hamburg.

The last couple of weeks have been very busy, tense, tough and tiring but rewarding. It now feels that everything has finished and the motivation to do much running has dwindled. The atmosphere amongst the remaining squads is very relaxed and sociable.

We spent some time in Quendlinburg, which was the centre for the German World Cup. This part of Germany used to be within the former East, so many of the buildings are in an advanced state of dilapidation. A lot of work is being done to renovate these buildings to their former glory and the town is becoming a tourist attraction.

We have been orienteering round, through and in some cases over a large area of sandstone pillars in the Czech Republic. It is part of a national park and as a tourist two years ago I marvelled at the area. It was special to be competing in the same area this year and recognising parts of the terrain. It is one of the most unbelievable areas I have run in.

Best Wishes

ROB JESSOP [COC]

NORTHERN REGIONAL LEAGUE

The three Auckland clubs have agreed with John Powell's idea of a Northern Regional League. John has also written to each CDOA Club and so far RotoruaOC have responded with their

agreement.

A fixtures list of 8 events has been drafted but not finalised. Championships and OYs (excluding Whangarei and Egmont) will be used, designed to minimise travel for the participants.

John Powell will perform the draw in advance deciding which Club team is competing head-to-head with which other Club at each event. Each participating Club competes with each other Club once during the season. That's four separate head-to-head competitions at each nominated event, requiring one Bye at each event if all 9 AOA/CDOA Clubs agree to take part.

Each participating Club will nominate before the event 5 team members running in any 5 different junior or senior A grades. The results of the 5 representatives in their respective grades will be assessed to decide the winner. If a small club has fewer than 5 members in different grades present, they may nominate more than one runner in a given grade.

Nominations will be in the form of a written list handed in at Registration before the first start. Clubs will need to appoint team captains or selectors to perform this duty.

Confused? Call John Powell [COC] on 624 1513.

LETTER FROM BRUNEI

It is hard to believe that it is nearly a year since with map and compass in hand we were thrashing around Woodhill Forest. We knew that when we decided to leave the comfort and familiarity of our New Zealand rut there would be adjustments to make. Generally it has been easier than expected although some aspects of living in Brunei Darussalam have taken some adjustment, particularly for our two lads. They now bounce around places they refused to go at first, but still insist on wearing hats to avoid the interest in their blond hair.

Generally our new lifestyle suits us well. We certainly have more family time. We get less exercise, although we have fits of jogging. The locals, who drive absolutely everywhere, do give us some odd looks, but as long as we go first thing in the morning it is not too hot. The temperature fluctuates between 30 and 33°C, but we seem to

have acclimatised well.

One of the biggest advantages of living here is the opportunity for travel. It will be a question of choosing what not to do while we are here. Already we have been to Malaysia several times, visiting the Niah Caves in Sarawak. While Chris's parents were with us during August, we flew to Koti Kinabalu in Sabah, SouthEast Asia's highest peak, at 13,500 feet.

We stayed at a rest house at 10,500 feet at the end of the first day, leaving at 3 am the next morning to do the final 3000'. From there we headed to Sandakan to take in a four day wildlife package. It was a great trip which will be a highlight of our time here. We stayed overnight at Turtle Island and watched a Green Turtle lay her eggs on the beach, and 1000 baby turtles released from the hatchery into the sea.

We then went up the Kinatangan River to see Proboscis Monkeys in their natural habitat and visited the sanctuary at Sepilok where Orang Utan are prepared to return to the wild.

We are spending most of December in Europe, visiting Jager relatives in Holland before going to Copenhagen to spend Christmas with Chris's brother. We don't know whether there will be any orienteering activity in Scandinavia in the middle of winter, but we will certainly keep our eyes open. The boys are excited at the thought of visiting the home of Lego!

Orienteering is one of the things we miss most about New Zealand. We have taken up hash harriers, but it does not compare. For those of you not familiar with this pastime, "hashing" seems to be something that has developed in SouthEast Asia in the late 1930's. The first Hash House Harriers club was formed in Kuala Lumpur. Hashing involves following a paper trail through the jungle until a "check" is reached. Here the paper stops and the runners fan out in all directions in a radius of 200m to find the continuation of the trail. The checks are intended to keep the pack together. A horn is blown once the "on" trail is discovered. Typically a run takes an hour and involves 3 checks.

Having now had the dubious honour of laying a hash trail, we have done our apprenticeship. Actually, it can be a nerve-wracking experience. Setting O courses was not without its anxieties - will a course be too short, too long, too difficult, too easy? The fateful event that became a river swimming exercise at Gumtown last year showed that there can be pitfalls. But in hash setting you have to ponder the odds of losing someone in the

depths off the jungle for the night. It does happen. At a recent women's hash, when the "out" trail could not be found at a check, it was decided that everyone would turn around en masse and return the way that we had come. Instead of a 50 minute run it became a 2½ ordeal, about half of the time spent in complete darkness. If you are going to be eaten by a python, perhaps it's better not to see it coming!

Most of the jungle around Bandar Seri Begawan is secondary growth so there are no huge trees. But parts of it are very pretty and alongside some streams you could easily be in New Zealand bush. Often within days of a hash, the bulldozers move in and great areas of jungle are flattened. Houses spring up within weeks and the hash moves further afield. Perhaps that is not much different from forest in New Zealand, except that those trees are planted to be cut down. It seems a shame to completely flatten the vegetation in the name of progress. The houses are almost all two-storied and white plaster so they look very stark compared with our familiar Titirangi outlook.

The regular reports of a great ski season at Ruapehu have made us envious. The Clendons' account of their recent wine tour of Scotland reminded us again of the New Zealand wines we no longer drink, particularly given the "dry" climate of Brunei. We miss New Zealand icecream, ham sandwiches, fish and chips and decent wholemeal bread. We've invested in a breadmaker which has been an excellent move.

Things we do not miss are grey wet Auckland days, the roller coaster ride that New Zealand education has become, and spending Sunday afternoon scrubbing mud from our gear.

We have really enjoyed receiving the *AUCKLAND ORIENTEER* and we read it from cover to cover. It has been interesting to follow the debate about the timing of the season. Such a debate should be a healthy aspect of club life provided that opinions do not become polarised to the extent that people are lost to the sport. We have always enjoyed the opportunity to orienteer at any time of the year.

The old saying that you don't know what you've got till it's gone has some meaning for us. We orienteered in Auckland for ten years while juggling busy careers with parenting responsibilities. As a result we were only peripherally involved in the organisation of the club. Just as we began to feel we were involved members of the club, we upped and left.

From this distance, it seems to us that if the future of New Zealand orienteering is to be assured,

there must be a satisfying social side to the sport. That is something that draws people to hashing. At times the "after match" function gets a little boisterous, but undoubtedly some people go along to the hash because they enjoy the opportunity to meet others. Because there is no winner as such, you can run at your own pace without your performance being compared to others. We thought the article entitled "Competition?" in the November magazine gave some interesting food for thought.

We wish you well for the festive season and lot of good orienteering in 1995.

*CHRIS AND NORM JAGER [COC]
PO BOX 383, MPC OLD AIRPORT, BERAKAS
3703, NEGARA BRUNEI DARUSSALAM*

LADIES' MARBLES

As a veteran woman orienteer I have, on principle, over many years encouraged other women to run in their correct age groups, in order to upgrade the quality of their courses and to increase numbers and standard of competition.

Alas, imagine my dismay on finding that the older women's classes (W50A and W60A) have been prescribed a B grade course for Woodhill 95. The salt was well and truly rubbed into the wound on discovering that our equivalent male competitors (M60A and M70A) are still allowed to run on an A grade course.

I have some questions for the powers-that-be:

What proof is there that W50As lose their marbles sooner than M60As?

Would M60A and M70A be happy to join W50A and W60A on their B grade courses in January, or would there be such an outcry that the organisers would have to run smartly for cover?

Is the expectation of that masculine outcry the underlying reason why only women have been downgraded?

Please accept this protest as a very loud feminine cri-de-coeur. In the meantime this W59A will run as W40A despite her principles!

HILARY WEEKS [COC]

"I don't agree with the official AOA OY grades either. But for the Woodhill '95 event we chose to use the existing structure. We wanted people to go to OYs this year and then to be able to go to our low-key OY-style event and stay with their

usual grades. I think that we need to revise OY grade combinations next year, so that As and Bs, as well as Bs and Cs, are not mixed."

MIKE ASHMORE, WOODHILL '95 ORGANISER

MARKING COURSES

Jim Lewis, NZOF Technical Officer, has issued an edict about colours for course marking. The problem is that red is invisible to colour-blind orienteers in some circumstances, especially on yellow maps. The IOF, NZOF and OFA rules specify purple (red-violet). Bic "Ultra-Violet" biros are readily available from stationers. Jim lays out a very reasonable set of rules, copies held by Club Secretaries, but this is what they boil down to:

- Go and buy some purple biros.
- Use them for pre-marked maps.
- Use them at master maps.
- Get rid of your red pens.

Sounds reasonable to me!

JUNIOR TRAINING CAMP

21-27 January 1995, Wanganui

For NZOF affiliated juniors 13-16 years old plus anyone else who wants to come. Coincides with the 4 day North Island Series in the same area.

Fees for everything except NI4Day are \$145.

Club Secretaries have full information; contact Kevin Bailey on 04 478 4552. Deadline is 15th December.

ETCETERA

AOA Annual General Meeting

The officers appointed at the AGM held on 22nd November are largely unchanged from last year:

President Ross Brighthouse, Vice-Chair Anne Fettes, Secretary Lyn Watson, Treasurer Mervyn Paitry, NZOF Regional Delegate John Watson.

A reminder

That the deadline for entries for Woodhill'95 was the end of November and if you want to put in a late entry DO IT NOW!

Nominations for Editor of NZOrienteering

Are requested by Les Warren for 15th December 1994, although why anyone would dream of standing against Bruce I can't imagine!

Sounds like M21Es to me

"The group was driving down a steep mountain pass at sunset (in a remote mountainous region in Central China) when three figures more than 1.8 metres tall were spotted. They had long, dark hair, apelike features and protruding foreheads.

The engineers chased the creatures into the forest but were overcome with fear when they saw how the creatures ploughed through the undergrowth with superhuman speed and strength.

The creatures were not human, or bears or apes; we believe they are yeti."

NEW ZEALAND HERALD 27/11/94

Is this an all time worst turnout?

John Macdonald of Hamilton OC reports selling only 6 maps at Te Miro on 23rd October!

Training runs

Every Thursday, 18:00, at the Sunken Garden Roundabout, One Tree Hill / Cornwall Park, an informal run with physical training emphasis, "organised" by the National Squad, all welcome.

Ouch!

Central OC members may (understandably) imagine that their club runs more events than any other in the country. They'd be mistaken; Dunedin OC are planning the same number: 27 events for 1995, and PAPO/CUO appear to be planning 32 days of orienteering events! Ouch!

KIWI ROBBERS STRIKE AUSTRALIA

So it was that Rob Garden gathered together a happy band of (wealthy) orienteers to travel across the Tasman to enjoy the delights of the Sandy Coves Carnival (and the vineyards of the Barossa).

It soon became apparent that he had a very talented bunch of orienteers on his hands.

First up - the Australian Individual Championships at Cantara Dunes. Grown orienteers turned pale at the sight of this map. A giant handful of sand dunes had been thrown upon the map in no apparent order, then liberally sprinkled with green spots. Australian orienteers had not seen the likes of this before.

We did well - Marquita Gelderman 3rd W21E, Margi Freemantle 3rd W35AS, Trish Aspin 1st W45A, Hilary Weeks 1st W55A, Rob Crawford 1st M21A, Mike Parker 3rd M21AS, Mark McKenna 1st M40A, Rob Garden 1st M45A, with Wayne Aspin, Ted van Geldermalsen and Jill Dalton all gaining 4th places in their grades. The word was out - the Kiwi Robbers are here!

At this point I discovered that South Australia is full of vineyards! It appeared that Ted van G, Margi and Mike are all Wellington wine buffs of the first order and their secret mission was to visit as many vineyards as possible.

Quickly I humbly asked if I could tag along and before I know it we were on our way to the Coonawarra Valley where such names as Wetherell, Bowen Estate and Wynnes soon became realities. At this point I witnessed a strange sight - grown men on their knees worshipping the fine terra rosa soil that the Coonawarra is famous for!

The Australian Club Relay Champs quickly came into view at the Beachport seaside town. "You're unofficial" remarked the Aussies, looking sideways at our talented teams, but this didn't stop us and soon we were rushing about the sand dunes and along the beaches with glee.

The W45A team of Aspin, Dalton & Weeks scored a 12 minute unofficial win, M45A Garden, Aspin & Hub Carter an 8 minute win, M35A McKenna, van Geldermalsen & Tony Nixon had a 10 minute lead and a Mixed Open team of Freemantle, Parker and Gerald Crawford a good 2nd place.

The event centre then moved up to the Barossa Valley (oh no, groaned the wine team), for the Interstate Relay Championship at Mt Crawford, a fairly low key affair notable for the exciting battle (unofficial of course) between the Kiwi M21A team of Darren Ashmore, Rolf Boswell and Rob Crawford and the Aussie team of Wymer, Searle & Blatchford. The Kiwis won by 2 minutes!

Now the Eden Valley vineyards hove into view where Mountadam and Karl Seppelt were visited as a warm up for the Barossa vineyard visiting frenzy! To mention some of the more notable

ones, Charles Melton, Orlando, St Hallett, Wolf Blass were all good, but a little gem called Bethany took the prize for me. It makes a wonderful Grenache (among other things), but is unlikely to be found on the shelves here

By this time other orienteers had succumbed and were seen tasting the fine wines of South Australia, and we had been joined by Hilary Weeks and Tony Nixon on various occasions. The Visa cards were taking a beating!

The Silva Handicap O rolled around on the Parra Wirra Map - a low key affair which inevitably spelt doom for most of the Kiwis because of their extravagant handicaps, however some very good runs were recorded all the same. This was typical eucalypt gully spur country.

The Short Course Championship at North Para took a few by surprise as we had expected two short races. Instead there was just one race. Strange course names such as Short Hard Women got some funny glances (Trish Aspin 4th), so we have Ted van G 3rd in Short Hard Men, Mike Parker 1st Moderate, Rolf Boswell 6th Hard Long to name a few.

A visit to the Clare Valley had intervened and was probably the highlight of the wine tasting for me. Tim Knapstein and Jim Barry were the first two vineyards we visited, and the hospitality at the latter was outstanding. Here I discovered 'The Armagh' (Jill is a late developer, we all knew about this incredible elixir - MR) which had me fairly drooling and frothing for the rest of the day - what a wine!

The final race - SA State Championships at Devil Gully wound up the tour. A physically demanding map, lots of steep gully spur covered in an abundance of rocky ground. Marquita 1st W21E, Margi 3rd W35AS, Trish 1st W45A, Kate Fortune (ex-Kiwi) 2nd, Jill 4th. Hilary Weeks 2nd W55A, Darren 5th M21A, Mike 3rd M21AS, Ted van G 3rd M40A, Rob Garden 1st M45A, and Hub Carter was unfortunate to have his course declared a 'no race' after his best run for the trip.

And so it was that the Kiwi Robbers returned happily home. Some considerably poorer due to the number of bottles purchased, or maybe lost at the Adelaide Casino.

The final drama came when the drug dogs attacked Rolf Boswell's luggage and he was carted off by the Customs men - maybe it was the unwashed O-gear?

Many thank-yous to Rob Garden for organising us so well, and to the Wellington wine-o's for generously sharing their expertise around the 33

vineyards that we managed to visit. (Word has it that they visited many more both before and after the O).

JILL DALTON [COC]

The AUCKLAND ORIENTEER

The AUCKLAND ORIENTEER...

...is the monthly newsletter of the Auckland Orienteering Association, combining the Central, Counties-Manukau and NorthWest Orienteering Clubs. It is edited by Mark Roberts (520 5993) and distributed by Marquita Gelderman (412 8879) and published on the first of every month except January.

Next Issue: February 1995

There is no January issue.

Send your contributions to Box 99612 Newmarket, or deliver to 23a Shore Road, Remuera, or fax to 263 4794, or phone me at home on 520 5993, where you can leave a message on the machine, or call me at work on 263 4793.

The deadline for receipt of contributions for the February AUCKLAND ORIENTEER is Friday 20th January 1995.

Disks please, if you can; ASCII text with no hard returns, or Microsoft Word, on DOS 3.5" disks for preference. I will, of course, return your disk, but remember to write your name on the label!

If you can't supply on disk, and the article is fairly long, please supply as camera-ready copy, on A4 with a 16mm border all round (265mm x 178mm), and font size at 11 points. Careful! This border is smaller than your WP or typewriter would normally be set up for, and the font size is bigger.

I am perfectly happy to type articles or letters if necessary!

Distribution

If you change your address, please contact Marquita Gelderman on 412 8879. If you want a back issue of *The AUCKLAND ORIENTEER* (not many available) please contact your club membership person, or Marquita, or me.

Credits

The New Zealand Orienteering Federation gratefully acknowledges the support of the Hillary Commission.

MARK ROBERTS 520 5993

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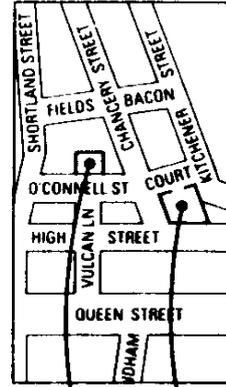
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