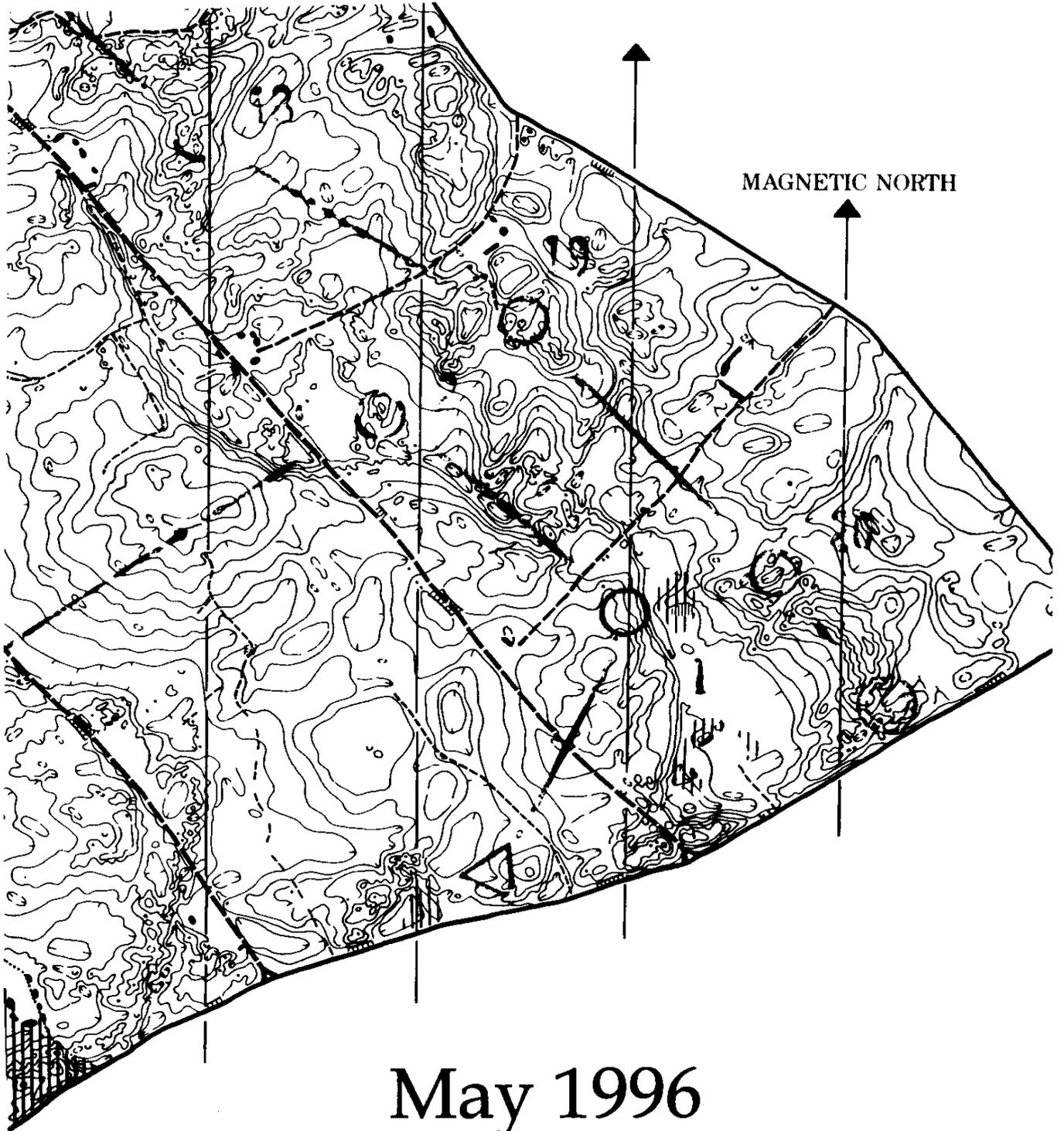


# The AUCKLAND ORIENTEER



May 1996

## THINKING IS BAD FOR YOU

I've been thinking. (Good line, eh? Must use it as the name of my first book.)

I've been thinking about what I need in order to be able to edit a damn good newsletter every month. Thing is, quite a few orienteers have contacted me in the last couple of months and said how much they appreciate the work I do on the newsletter. Not many, but enough. I guess I can cope with the rest of you being ungrateful even after a great big hint. So here is my wish list, in approximate order of achievability and/or importance.

- I need the Secretary of the Auckland Orienteering Association to send me the minutes of the meetings of the Association. Better still, to write a brief article summarising the interesting bits and to send them to me on disk or by email. Are the meetings a secret?
- I need the Secretary of the Counties-Manukau and NorthWest Orienteering Clubs to send copies of the minutes of their committee meetings to their club scribes or to me so that we can put the interesting bits in their monthly columns. Are your meetings a secret too?
- I need the CMOC and NWOC club scribes to get hold of PCs so that they can send me their columns on disk. I am getting rather sick of typing them out. This is, after all, 1996. There are literally tens of thousands of ratty old practically worthless IBM-standard PCs out there and every one of them can be used to create words for the newsletter (sorry, no 5¼" disks please). Surely someone has a spare PC they can lend to Lisa or Sally? I can contribute one or two old colour screens. (Ken and W100, you are forgiven and excused, following your recent protestations, but I'm sure we could come up with something for you if you like.)
- I need a Central Club scribe, and I need one right now. Is your name Heather, Tom, Clare, Jill, Bruce, Catherine, Rob, Terry, Selwyn, Mervyn, John, Rae, Alistair, Joanna, Scott or May? You'd be really good! Pretty please? (Do you have a different name? I don't mind!)
- I need the COC, CMOC and NWOC events people to send me information about the events they are planning, their setters, controllers, venues, signposted froms, course structures, special features, you name it.
- I need the organisers of big events to contact me three months in advance with vital information and an entry form (for crying out loud.)
- I need that information to be sent to me every month without my having to ask for it. Do you or don't you want people to go to your events? Could you at least tell them about it? Do you realise that I have almost never been officially and informatively advised about any event in the Auckland region in the past two years? Do you realise that last year the Official AOA Calendar was published and no-one sent me one? Do you realise that every club in the country was sent a copy of the QB3 event by NWOC but they didn't send me one?

Yoo hoo! Heelloo! I'm the newsletter editor! You want me to put this information in the newsletter so that people come to your events, remember? As you can see I have not asked for anyone to write an article. I have merely asked to be given information that exists and is easy to supply to me but is apparently top secret.

Club committees, please discuss this at your next meeting. The purpose of orienteering clubs is to hold orienteering events but what's the point if no-one comes to the events because they don't know about them?

MARK ROBERTS 520 5993

# CALENDAR

*The editor takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the following information which has been collated from many sources and no-one tells him anything anyway so he just makes most of it up. Please call Club Secretaries for final confirmation, although no-one tells them either: (C) Central: Rae Powell 624 1513 (CM) Counties-Manukau: Linda Brighouse 09 298 8380 (NW) NorthWest: Marquita Gelderman 412 8879 (Wh) Whangarei: David Nevin 09 435 2415 (H) Hamilton: Jim Barr 07 856 9501 (P) Pinelands: Lyndon Haugh 07 886 9671 (T) Taupo: Alison Mensen 07 378 0577 (R) Rotorua: Andrew Wilson 07 348 7694 (E) Egmont: Annie Sanderson 07 753 3541.*

## MAY 1996

- Wed 1st C Club meeting, 19:30, Roberts residence, 23A Shore Road, Remuera, 19:30  
All Central Club members welcome. Please park across the road.
- Thu 2nd NW Club meeting, 19:30, Garden/Gelderman residence, 23 Nixon Road, RD2 Henderson  
All NorthWest Club members welcome
- Sun 5th H Glenora, signs at Wharepapa South off Putaruru/Kihikihi Rd. Rolling farmland with  
spectacular limestone formations, 11:00-13:00.
- Mon 6th CM Franklin Primary Schools Championships, Cape Hill, Val Robinson
- Tues 7th CM Counties-Manukau Club Meeting, 19:30, all club members welcome  
Brighouse residence, 27 Coulthard Terrace, Papakura
- Wed 8th World Cup 1 Individual, Lithuania
- Fri 10th Deadline for entries for Queen's Birthday event, form in April newsletter
- C Social, to be confirmed, Windsor/Grammar Hockey Club, could be 17th, not sure  
Rob Jessop talking about World Cup, introducing club coaching programme.
- Sat 11th World Cup 2 Individual, Latvia
- Sun 12th World Cup 3 Relay, Latvia
- NW **Ngapuketuraa, Autumn Series**, Secondary Schools event, 10:00-12:30  
13:00 Auckland Junior Squad meeting
- P Redwood Reserve, Tokoroa, new colour remap. Magnificent patch of Redwood forest  
in the heart of Kinleith Forest. Signs from SH1 north of Tokoroa. 11:00-13:00
- Wh Night event, Sherwood Park Golf Club, 19:30, a "fun family event"
- Fri 17th C Social could be tonight, see also 10th, but I'm not sure because no-one could  
be bothered to tell me
- Sat 18th JSq Auckland Junior Squad Training day, venue TBA
- Sun 19th Wh Glenbervie, 11:00-12:00 steepish complex pine forest
- T CDOA OY2 Ngamotu, Rerewhakaitu turnoff from SH38 to Murupara 11:00-13:00.  
Northern League Central v NorthWest Hamilton v Pinelands/Taupo

Fri 24th	T	CDOA Secondary Schools Championships, Karapiti
Sun 26th	CM	<b>Autumn Series, Reeves Farm, Paerata, 10:00-12:30, Roger Hiscock and the Aspins</b>
	H	Sanatorium Hill, 11:00-13:00
	T	Karapiti, 11:00-12:00, farm and forest, geothermal bores, new map used for Katoa Po.

## JUNE 1996

1-3	NW	<b>Queen's Birthday 3 Day event</b> Auahine Topu/Otakanini Topu, pre-entry Setters Mike Beveridge and Lesley Stone, controllers Dave Melrose and Keith Stone, entry form in April newsletter; farmland and forest, entry deadline 10th May
	PAPO	Canterbury Champs, Craigmore
Tues 4th	NW	Club meeting, 19:30, Pilbrow residence, Bombay All Counties-Manukau Club members welcome
Wed 5th	C	Club meeting, 19:30, McGivern residence, 46 Hope Farm Road, Pakuranga, 19:30 All Central Club members welcome.
Thu 6th	NW	Club meeting, 19:30, Mead residence, 10B Patuone Avenue, Devonport All NorthWest Club members welcome
8-14		Junior World Championships, Romania
Sun 9th		Secondary Schools event that no-one could be bothered to tell me anything about so I can't tell you.
	H	CDOA OY3 Kairangi Northern League: Central v Rotorua Counties Manukau v Pinelands/Taupo
	Wh	Gumtown, 11:00-12:00
Sun 16th	C	<b>Pulpit Rock, Autumn Series, 10:00-12:30</b>
	P	Crossing, 11:00-13:00
Tues 18th	NW	Auckland Secondary Schools Championships, Kaipara Knolls Setter Stan Foster, Controller Marquita Gelderman
Sun 23rd	H	Kapamahunga, 11:00-13:00
Sun 30th	C	<b>Streets/parks, Mangere Mountain, 10:00-12:30</b>

### July 1996

3	C	Club meeting, Codling residence	14	NW	<b>Ngapuketuru</b> , Promotional
7	Wh	<b>AOA OY1, Mangawhai</b>		R	CDOA OY4
8-14		Junior World Champs Romania	21	CM	<b>AOA OY2, Waiuku Forest</b>
12,13	C	Silva NZ Sec Sch Champs, Woodhill		Y	Winter Classic
			22-26		O-Ringen Sweden
			28	C	<b>Streets / parks, Farm Cove</b>
				H	Rose Gardens / Sandford Park

Wh Winstones  
30 World Cup 4 (Short O) Sweden

### August 1996

3 World Cup 5 Norway  
4 NW **Sixteen Mile, AOA OY3**  
World Cup 6 (Relay) Norway  
11 T CDOA OY5  
17 World Cup 7 (Relay) Switzerland  
18 C **AOA OY4, Ngapuketuru**  
19 World Cup 8 (Short O) Switzerland  
21 World Cup 9 Switzerland  
24 World Cup 10 France  
25 C **Streets/parks, One Tree Hill / MtStJohn**  
H Hamilton Lake  
Wh Omu Creek (?)  
31 World Rogaine Champs W Australia

### September 1996

1 CM **AOA OY5, Whiriwhiri Maloro**  
8 H CDOA OY6 MtEliza  
NW Karamatura  
15 C **AOA OY6, Te Heke (?)**  
22 Wh Mair Park  
P Hodderville (?)  
29 C **Streets / parks, Auckland Domain**  
H Kairangi  
28-6 Oz Aussie Championships, Tasmania  
Southern Cross Junior Challenge

### October 1996

6 NW **Otakanini Topu, AOA OY7**  
P Hodderville (?)  
13 Wh Phoebe's Lake (?)  
T CDOA OY7  
19,20 CM **Auckland Champs & Trials & NRL  
Harkers Reserve & Four Seasons**  
26-28 HB 3 Day event, A-NZ trial  
PAPO MTB/Club/Night/Train-O, Hanmer  
Springs

### November 1996

3 C **AOA Relay Champs, Velvet Downs**  
H Glenora  
5 Auckland Primary Schools Champs  
9,10 E CDOA Ch, Ratapipi/Mangamahoe, trial  
16,17 D South Island Champs, Otago, A-NZ Trial  
17 Wh Kioreroa Road  
23,24 Wellington Championships

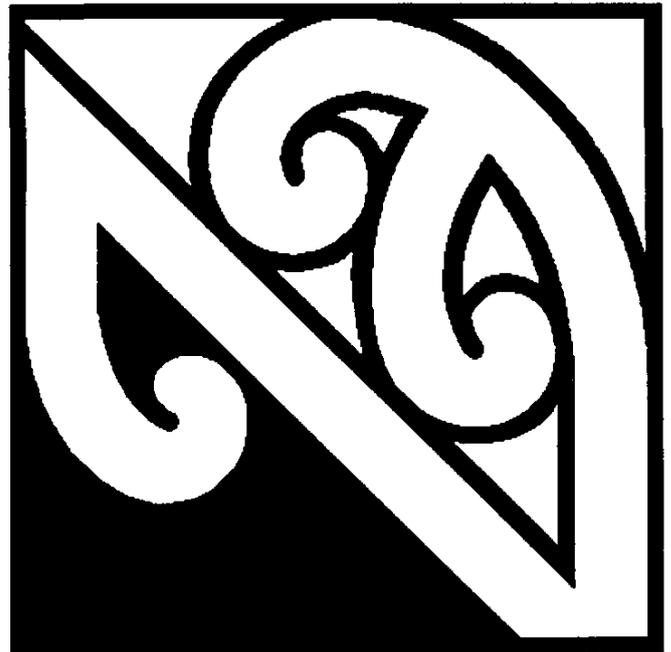
### December 1996

8 H University  
Wh Mangawhai  
29 PAPO A-NZ Warmup, Bottle Lake  
31 PAPO A-NZ Challenge Individuals, Dalethorpe

### January 1997

1 PAPO A-NZ Model, Craigmore  
2 PAPO A-NZ Relays, Craigmore

## NORTHWEST NEWSHOUND



### The Nationals

The climax of the orienteering year has already passed with the national championships held at Easter, but those orienteers whose enthusiasm was kindled by 4 days of events will look forward to the multiday at Queen's Birthday weekend, hosted by NWOC.

One positive aspect of holding the Nationals out in the sticks is the camaraderie generated by hundreds of orienteers all camping in one spot. Piopio College was an excellent venue with the only major hiccup being the catered dinner on Sunday evening. Some of us wondered if we would be served before the Relays the next day!

Our National Classic Distance Champions are Dave Middleton M50A (Glen attributed his success

to abstaining from red wine the night before); Lisa Mead W35A and Michelle Nash W16A. Winners on the Short Course were Ralph King M70, Peter Godfrey M60, Lisa Mead W35, Mark Lawson M21A, Charlotte Hood W18 and Marquita Gelderman W21E.

A big thank you to Michael Hood who had the controversial job of selecting our relay teams, with numerous permutations of his original combinations. Our best placed team of Alex Hood, Peter Ambler (fastest split for leg 2), Geoff Mead came in 6th, while the "Elite" team was 9th.

Dave Middleton takes the prize of O Entertainer of the Year for his comedy performances. First, he missed his relay changeover as Bryan Teahan waited impatiently for Dave to appear for his 2nd leg run. 40 minutes later Dave and WACO's Neil Kerrison were racing neck and neck when Dave tripped and sprawled headlong, blocking the finish chute. Neil fell on top of him, but Dave leaped to his feet to pip him to the post. O as a contact sport!

The Nationals were followed by a junior training camp, culminating in the North Island Secondary Schools Championships at Waitarere Forest near Foxton. Congratulations to Charlotte Hood who won the Senior Girls' title by a 4 minute margin. Michelle Nash was 2nd in the Intermediate grade, while Birkenhead College placed 3rd in the Boys category.

## People

While his pupils were competing, Graham Peters joined Phil Mellsop, Maurice Penney and Christine Crate in Spain for the World Veteran Champs. Phil and his wife Julie are now touring Wales by narrowboat.

On 12th April there was a potluck dinner to farewell Colin and Bev Tait, who were presented with a pastel scene of Woodhill Forest by artist Mary Moen.

Rob Garden now actually owns a small pocket of Woodhill Forest and even employs the odd orienteer to work on it. I wonder if they are building new knolls?

## Next club meeting

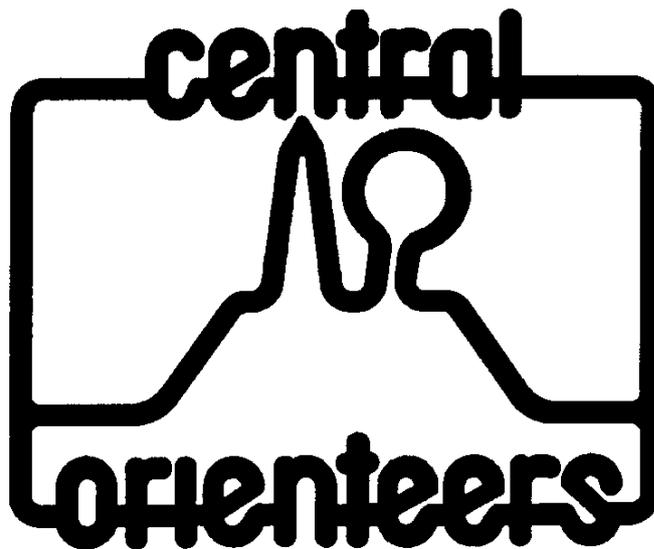
The May NorthWest Club meeting is at 19:30 on Thursday 2nd May at the Garden/Gelderman residence, 23 Nixon Road, Henderson.

The June NorthWest Club meeting is at 19:30 on Thursday 6th June at the Mead residence, 10B Patuone Avenue, Devonport.

Every club member is welcome; come along and get involved with your club.

LISA MEAD 445 4555

# CENTRAL CHATTERBOX



## Summer Series

Plans for next year's series include dropping course 4, premarked maps and control descriptions for courses 1 and 2, new course 1A - a novelty course (line event, contour only, score, memory)

Also planning a competitive sprint event, approx 2.5km.

Winner of the Top Ten competition this year was Dave Crofts, who will be given free entry to all events next year. A special note of achievement for Jamie Munro who was in 5th place.

## Next club meetings

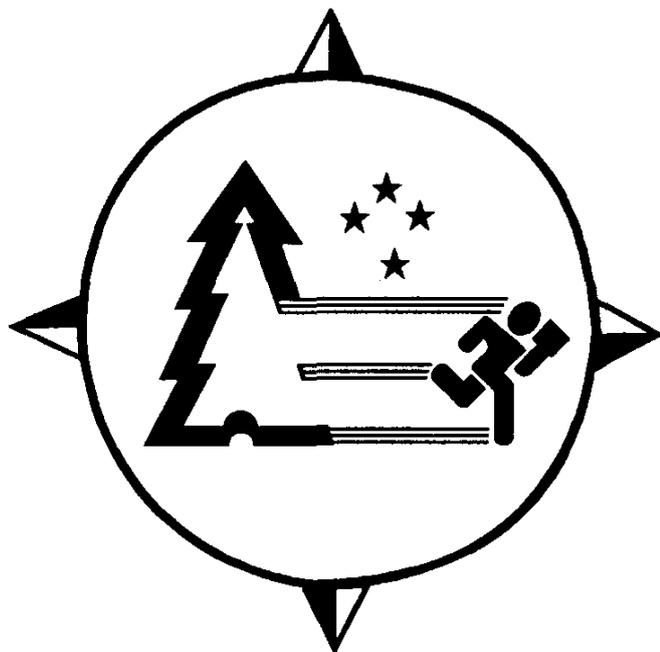
The next meeting of the Central Club will be at 19:30 on May 1st at the Roberts residence, 23A Shore Road, Remuera; please park across the road. All club members are welcome.

The June meeting will be at 19:30 on the 5th at the McGivern residence, 46 Hope Farm Road, Pakuranga.

The July meeting will be on the 3rd at the Codling residence, 3/8A Ballin Street, Ellerslie. Please park on the main road.

MARK ROBERTS 520 5993

## COUNTIES- MANUKAU NEWS



### Athol Oldfield

We begin with the sad news of Athol Oldfield's death on Sunday 14th April. Our condolences to Doreen and family. An obituary will appear in next month's newsletter.

Congratulations to Linda and Ross Brighthouse who are now grandparents. Remember, grandchildren can be given back!

We welcome to CMOC several new members: George, Hilary, Robert and Jennifer Isles; and Martin and Phillip Barber. Please ask to have a CMOC member pointed out to you at the next event, and make yourselves known. We do tend to yack to each other but most of us have known one another for years. We do not mind if you interrupt to say hello.

Welcome back Shane Phillips who somehow managed to slip the net last year.

Glenn Clark who works for DSIR in Pukekohe is overseas doing research at present.

Congratulations to Tania Robinson and James for wins at the Nationals at Easter.

### Next Club meeting

The May club meeting will be at the Brighthouse residence, 27 Coulthard Terrace, Papakura at 19:30 on the 7th.

The June club meeting will be at the Pilbrow residence in Bombay at 19:30 on June 4th.

All Counties-Manukau Club members are welcome.

SALLY PILBROW 09 236 0303

## ARCHIVES MAY'86

May 1986 was dominated by the Milo 7 Day with the Northern region producing over 500 competitors, including busloads of Australians, enjoying a feast of orienteering. The maps Pollok, Quarry Road, Pukekura, Mt. Auckland, Perimeter Road, Wainui and Death Valley tell us of the clubs involved and the variety of terrain.

With the best five events to count for a points result, Rob Garden was the M21A winner from Ross Brighthouse and Alistair Landels in a close contest which saw the first eleven finishers qualify for gold badge credits.

Central Club's Alison Stewart won five events to take the W21A title from Trish Aspin and Gillian Ingham with Carey Martin fourth.

Among the Auckland winners were Brenda Stone W12, Darren Ashmore M15, Tania Robinson W15, Phyl Snedden W35, Jill Dalton W40, Judy Martin W50 and Bob Murphy M60.

Other events during the month were the Winstone Forest Run at Temu Road and the Auckland Secondary Schools Championships at Self's Farm. King's (Landels/Brewis/Boswell) and Waiuku (Snedden/Oldfield) won the boys and girls events.

KEN BROWNE [CMOC]

## WORLD VETERAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Murcia, Spain, 8-12 April

M60B	Graham Peters	56th
	Maurice Penney	63rd
M60C	Andy Brewis	19th
	Tom Clendon	24th
M50C	John Powell	39th

W55A	Ann Scott	28th
W55B	Jill Brewis	23rd
	Heather Clendon	35th
W50B	Rae Powell	66th
M65B	Phil Mellsop	62nd

JILL BREWIS [COC]

## MARGARET NICHOLLS

**16th November 1938 - 10th April 1996**

Margaret decided to depart this world quietly and peacefully at a time when some of her friends were where she wanted to be - in Spain or Australia.

Margaret was the person beside one of New Zealand's greatest orienteers, Tony Nicholls. She was always there to support Tony and they both worked tirelessly for the sport we enjoy. Margaret was a great competitor as well as a person always willing to help at events.

It was only natural that Margaret's daughters Kirsten and Tanya were caught up in the sport in their early years. Margaret always put her family first, worked hard as a nurse and then worked hard for orienteering.

The past 3 or 4 years have been particularly and unkindly tough on the Nicholls family. Margaret's support for Tony during his years of pain was tremendous. And now over the past year, Margaret has had to suffer her own pain. Never once a cross word was said by Margaret during this time, nor did she ever complain. She seemed to have everything organised and under control. She always remained positive, totally positive, and had us all believe that some day she would again join us in Australia or in the forest.

Another love of hers was to join us for a glass of wine. Margaret loved fossicking in the bargain bins, especially in a certain shop in Taupo, searching for those small bottles of delicate sweet wine.

It was only last month that a group of us had the rare treat of trying a bottle of 1968 Chateau Margaux and a 1970 French Sauterne. Bottles that Tony had stored away for a special occasion.

We shall really miss the name of Nicholls in orienteering circles. Margaret and Tony put so much into this sport over two and a half decades so

that others could enjoy themselves.

Thank you, Margaret, for the tremendous contribution you made. We will be forever grateful.

There are no more hills to climb, especially to the finish line; no more blackberry bushes to scratch your legs; no more fences for you to squeeze through, no more electric outrigger wires to avoid.

Your warmth, fun, honesty and friendship will remain with us forever.

Farewell, dear friend.

BEATRICE AND TERRY NUTHALL [COC] IN  
SPAIN

We remember Margaret with great fondness, especially from our early days in Tauranga when she often invited us around for meals. Tony was the great inspiration for starting us on our orienteering enthusiasm but Margaret was always there, just as keen and encouraging, seeing to all of the practicalities ignored by Tony. Having known Margaret for several years and seen her win numerous races we remember being amazed by her confession that she actually couldn't read contours.

TRISH AND DICK CARMICHAEL, SCOTLAND

I have known Margaret for about 15 years, ever since I first started to orienteer. We have raced together many times; we have even raced together against the Australians, and won. My fondest memories are, I think, of me vainly ducking under low branches while Margaret gaily scampered underneath them and ahead of me! She was however heard to mention that the fences were rather too high and the cows rather too big.

Margaret was a good winner and a good loser, readily making excuses for us losers, and generous in her advice, saying cheerfully "We will just have to do better next time, won't we."

Margaret has, however, finished the race of life before us and she is a most glorious winner.

Margaret and Tony were heavily involved in and committed to orienteering. They devoted their time to course setting, event coordinating, committee work and teaching others. Their energy and enthusiasm was very infectious, as others will bear witness. They are a sad loss to orienteering.

As a doctor I come into contact, all too often, with terminal illness, death and dying. Some people stand out for their courage and their amazing ability to cope with leaving this life. Margaret was one of these. Her courage is something I shall remember and think upon for the rest of my days. In their

dying and their living, people like Margaret set a most impressive example to the rest of us. I think it gives hope to us in tackling life and facing our own mortality.

After her initial surgery many years ago, Margaret was back orienteering within weeks; with her usual positive thinking and optimistic attitude, she put all thought of recurrence from her mind. However the intense strain of facing and coping with Tony's illness and death must have weakened her own resistance. It was therefore a tremendous shock when the diagnosis of widespread cancer was made last year. As Margaret said "Hilary, I honestly never gave it a thought."

True courage can only occur when there is fear, and Margaret was truly very frightened; however she bravely continued to work and to orienteer and to live life as normally as she could.

One day, some time later, she set out to orienteer in much pain. "That could be cancer in your hip, Margaret, it could break at any moment" warned my husband Roger, an orthopaedic surgeon. "Yes I know," said Margaret, "we will just have to wait and see, won't we." Margaret later described how, in a beautiful part of the forest, with the sun glinting through the trees, she suddenly lost all pain, she felt happy and uplifted and broke into an effortless and painless jog.

Minutes later her hip shattered and she fell to the ground. By the following day, she was the proud possessor of a new hip replacement; in two days she was walking and cheerfully entertaining her visitors. Not long afterwards she held a party in her home to celebrate the start of her radiotherapy treatment. This was Margaret - ever cheerful, coping calmly and optimistically with her last illness.

Kirsten her daughter, who gave so much love and care in the final weeks, tells of how when they were both exhausted after a broken night, she would ask Margaret how she felt. "I'm fine," said Margaret, "but how are you?" Margaret was a very gallant lady throughout her life and none of us will ever forget her.

During her life, she has had great fun, and she has had great sorrow. She has given love and support to all around her. Margaret has lived life to the full; she has lived life to the end; and she has won her last race.

#### HILLARY WEEKS [COC]

Margaret's funeral was on Saturday 13th April. Many orienteers were present. Hilary Weeks spoke on behalf of the orienteering community. Tom Davies read messages from orienteers

around the world.

I have been to funerals for three Central Club members in the last year and a bit. Each of them was a moving experience. I'm hoping there won't be any more for a long while.

MR

## THE NATIONALS

As the cartographer, I approached the Nationals with a number of emotions. Joy that at last the map was finished, all in a rush at the end as always. Relief that I didn't have to do that any more. Determination that "We would do it properly next time". Awe at the nature of the area and the size and complexity of the map. Expectation about the opportunity to actually run on this area that I knew so very well but had never actually visited. (On the way to the Taranaki Turkey Trot I had searched for it on the wrong side of the road!) Fear that my complete lack of fitness, a necessary consequence of spending the entire summer indoors drawing the map, plus being a slob, would prevent me from shining.

The realisation of some of this was on Day One, the Warmup, where it became quickly apparent that (a) the area is gorgeous (b) the map is well fieldworked and drawn (c) the map has lots of small mistakes on it. (Oh yes, (b) and (c) aren't mutually exclusive.) Warmup speed allowed everyone to pull the details to bits, and they were sad indeed.

But the next day saw us traversing the same terrain at speed and finding no significant errors. I saw a couple of small errors during Day Two, the Individuals, but nothing of any importance and I flew across the map, spiking everything in sight. What a lovely area, and what a lot of contours it has. The course setting was a little gratuitous - Pawel gave us 5.5% climb, well known to test the legs of most orienteers, not to mention their patience. The final loop from the spectator leg to the finish was my coup de grace and my magnificent and genuinely mistake-free performance saw me very close to the bottom of the field in a finishing time a little under two hours. However, in a M35A field crammed with gun elites I never stood a chance. It'll be M21AS next year I reckon.

Early finishers reported making a small number of large errors. As soon as they lost sight of the map it became quite tough to relocate. I had no troubles like that, just my usual tussle with those

damn up contours. I don't mind down contours.

That night the HVOC and COC wineOs made me taste a dozen different wines in an informal "wine options" game. Tremendous fun, but of course not the best diet for an orienteering weekend. Sunday morning brought no sign of enthusiasm into our motel room. We took a long leisurely breakfast, piked the event, and shot through to spend the rest of the weekend in gentle consideration of how nice it is to sit around and do nothing instead of attacking hills and tomos.

In summary, I believe that the weekend was an unqualified success. Pawel had not been quite so laidback early on Saturday morning however. He had shot out for a last-minute check of some controls, to find a control with the right number in the wrong place; plucking it from its cosy tomo he trotted on to its allocated place to find an identical control there also. The setters for the next day had planted their controls, with some numbers in common. Pawel was having the shuddering horrors. As an "unofficial" competitor I stepped in to help, and it took us about twenty minutes to check all controls on the master maps and identify half a dozen that had to be removed temporarily - one pair within 200 metres of one another.

MR

## ORIENTEER OF THE YEAR 1996

The OY (Orienteer of the Year) is a regional competition series with awards made in all grades at the end of the season. There are seven events in the series, as detailed in the Calendar section of this newsletter. You may compete in these events without competing in the OY series.

The details that follow are essentially unchanged from last year.

### Entering the OY series

Any financial member of an orienteering club may enter the OY series but if you are not a member of AOA or Whangarei OC you must pay the OY statistician (Keith Stone 478 8224) a \$1 fee. If you change grades during the season, you must tell John Watson on 835 0519 because you may only compete officially in one grade. Club secretaries should keep John advised of new affiliations.

### OY points

Competitors earn OY points according to their placing in their grade and their time as compared with the winner of their grade.

**Place points** are awarded to the first 20 placegetters in each grade (not each course). The winner gets 10 points, the 2nd gets 9.5 points, etc.

**Time points** are calculated according to the formula:

$$10 - ((\text{Your time} - \text{Winner time}) / \text{Winner time} \times 10)$$

You lose 1 point per 10% slower than the winner, down to 0 points when you take twice as long.

**Double points** are earned on OY7 (OY6 for whoever sets OY7.)

Your best 5 of 7 points make up your series total.

Awards are made in all junior grades and senior grades where someone runs 4 or more events.

### Results

Cumulative OY points will be displayed at each event and in *The Auckland Orienteer*.

### Grade combinations

Ages as at 31st December 1996. Junior grades mean "up to and including this age." There are 30 grades spread over 8 courses, designed to ensure that almost every competitor has a grade to suit. You are encouraged to experiment with courses until you find the best for you, rather than simply following the "official" grades. Please DO NOT run a Red course if you are not an experienced and competent orienteer.

(Results from Ngapuketuruua suggest that far too many orienteers are too ambitious. It is more rewarding to be successful on an easier course than to routinely DNF or take two hours.)

Anyone may run in the "Short" and "Open" courses officially.

	Men's grades	Women's grades	Technical difficulty	Time
1	M21E		Red	65 Win
2	M19-39A M40-49A	W21E	Red	50 Win
3	M50-59A M21AShort M18A	W19-39A W40-49A	Red	40 Win
4	M60-69A M70A	W50A+ W21AShort	Red	40 Win

	M40AShort			
5	MOpenB M16A	WOpenShor t	Orange	45 Med
6		W16A WOpenB	Orange	35 Med
7	M14A M20B MenC	W14A W20B WomenC	Yellow	35 Med
8	M12A Kiwisport	W12A Kiwisport	White	25 Med

The following guidelines apply to typical forest maps and might change at other venues:

**Red courses** can be described "as technically difficult as possible". They are intended for experienced senior orienteers.

**Orange courses** have "controls near attack points but away from handrails, some route choice." They are for inexperienced seniors and experienced juniors.

**Yellow courses** have "controls near handrails, little route choice, no reliance on understanding of contours." They are aimed at inexperienced juniors and novice seniors.

**White courses** have "controls on handrails, all routes directly along handrails, no route choice, no terrain (contour) features." They are for young children and novice juniors.

### Event structure and course setting

While most events will be conventional "Classic" events, there is no rule preventing a Short-O being set. Setters are encouraged to discuss their courses with Rob Garden, AOA Technical Officer, on 412 8879.

Please don't assume that you must use every difficult control site on the map. The style that we have observed overseas is faster courses, not tougher courses, and maybe we too should be thinking like that. Steep maps are difficult to assess but there will be previous events - please look at their results - they have mostly been too long or tough or steep in the past.

Would you please remember to put course length and climb in results booklets so that we can use the information like this next year?

**ROB GARDEN,  
AOA TECHNICAL OFFICER, 412 8879**

## SILVA NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**12th/13th July, Woodhill**

The 1996 Silva New Zealand Secondary Schools Orienteering Championships will be held on the Ngapuketuru map for the Individual Championships event and Lake Kereta for the relay event on the 12th and 13th of July. The entry forms for this event have been distributed to all Secondary Schools in the country, as well as being distributed to interested individuals at the Nationals in Piopio and the NI and SI Secondary Schools Championships which were held on the weekend after Easter. Only one entry form per school is necessary. Any school that doesn't have an entry form can get one from the organisers. The closing date is 7th June.

There is to be a training camp based at Houghton's Bush Camp in the few days prior to the Championships. Some information on the camp is on the entry form and details can be obtained from the training camp organiser, Stan Foster (09) 416 7106. This is a great opportunity to improve orienteering skills on a map similar to that being used for the Individual Championships. Bookings need to be made very soon.

A social, to be held on the Friday evening at the Aquatic Centre in Parakai, has been organised and for a very good price there is unlimited access to the hot pools and hydrosides and a simple meal.

*We urgently need some group to offer to provide food on both days at the event centre. This is a great opportunity to raise funds as there could be as many as 300 hungry teenagers captive in the forest. Would anyone interested please give the organisers an indication of interest as soon as possible. If we don't get an offer of help very soon we'll have to go outside the orienteering fraternity for help and hence a good fundraising chance will disappear.*

Joanna and Alistair Stewart are organising the event on behalf of the COC. Contact numbers are: phone 5755695 (home), 3737599x6362 (work), fax 3737503 and email aw.stewart@auckland.ac.nz.

## **Me and my Lampyris Noctiluca.**

Here I go again with another report. I thought the last one would get me out of this report writing business. But oh no, now I've got to write one on night orienteering. Let me see what's the absolute minimum I can get away with. How about, we drove down, it got dark, it got even darker, I went for a run, it was very dark, I got wet, it was very very dark, I got very very lost, it was oh so dark, I finished, I slept, it got light, we drove home. I think that would just about cover it.

I know Phil won't be happy with this minimum article. I get the impression he wants to use me to fill out the magazine a bit by composing a literary epic extolling the pros and cons of night O's. Unfortunately for Phil I don't even know the meaning of the word "extolling", so I'll start by writing about something else.

A very important aspect of orienteering never mentioned in any article giving helpful hints, and one of the most important, is the art of excuses. I can guarantee, and I'm sure you will agree, there are more orienteers out there needing a good excuse for failure, than there are needing a reason for success. So at this point I intend to educate novice orienteers and anyone else in need of assistance with the noble orienteering art of excuses. The sport of fishing is the only sport where the competitors are truly adept at excuses and I would like to see orienteers rise to the same level of competency.

There are three requirements to be met in order to make a good excuse. They are; 1 Plausibility, 2 Sympathy and 3 Amazement.

**1 PLAUSIBILITY:** There's no use saying "I was attacked by a shoal of Piranhas", especially if there isn't as much as a puddle on the map and after all everybody knows if you really were attacked by Piranhas, you wouldn't be alive to tell the tale. It's got to be more convincing.

**2 SYMPATHY:** A good tug on the heart strings. People should feel really sorry for your misfortune and if you're really tossing a line a few tears thrown in, really helps.

**3 AMAZEMENT:** Turning a dismal failure into admiration is the ultimate in excuses. In fact it is possible to overshadow the achievements of the winners and gain hero status as well with a perfectly orchestrated excuse.

Now to the excuses themselves.

**THE OLD 180:** This is a well used excuse, high on plausibility especially to people who've been witness to your orienteering prowess before. Low on sympathy and zero for amazement.

**THE WRONG ROUTE CHOICE:** This is also a well used excuse and scores the same as the old 180. The reason is they don't shift the blame for failure from you. There's no use saying I followed the fence straight up the steep hill instead of following the road round the bottom. It's very plausible and you might get some sympathy but everybody still thinks you're an idiot.

**UNMAPED FIGHT:** Not such a well known excuse. It scores moderately on plausibility and can score fairly high on sympathy especially if you have a few scratches but amazement would be pretty negative. It's important when using this excuse to pick a route on the map that no other orienteer would dream of considering and say you went that way. Having to fight your way through head high gorse and blackberry not marked on the map, showing off your injuries to emphasize how dreadful your ordeal was. However the only amazement your likely to arouse is how stupid you were to go that way in the first place. It's worth trying though, if your running out of excuses and you've got the physical skin abrasions to prove it.

**THE CONTROL WAS IN THE WRONG PLACE:** This is also a well used excuse, it may or not be high on plausibility, it all depends on how convincing you are, especially if you know it was in the right place all the time. High on sympathy, after all no orienteer wants to lose because of a misplaced control. Low on amazement because of all the other competitors on your course who had no trouble finding it, but at least it scores.

**I LOST MY MAP:** High on plausibility, moderate on sympathy, low to high on amazement depending on the circumstances. The way to use this excuse is to give the impression you lost your map early on the course and had to finish the course using your memory. The earlier, the more impressive will the accomplishment appear. Of course you really just pushed the map into the nearest bush after the last control. The only problem with this is being seen doing the dirty deed by following competitors. However if you need this excuse there is unlikely to be anyone behind you anyway.

Now a special one just for night O's.

**MY LIGHT FAILED:** If like the "I lost my map excuse" you say it happened early on the course you will once again get the sympathy and admiration of the other competitors. The twist to this excuse is removing the batteries from your light before finishing. The problem is making your finish look convincing. Remember your going to say you ran the whole course without a light so approaching the finish on all fours is not going to help. Neither is tripping on a tuft of grass and breaking your leg.

**DOUBLE JEOPARDY:** This is the real gold plated hero stuff, definitely not for use by novices. It can only work at night O's and requires considerable skill spinning a yarn convincing enough to be believed by others expert in the noble art. Failure would mean ostracization or even worse, being accused of lying. However should you succeed, the rewards would be awesome. First would be the amazement and admiration of all present. Any thoughts of the winners would vanish. The only topic of conversation would be your achievement and your name would be spoken with reverence, up there with the other biggies like Charlie Chaplain and Mickey Mouse. Then the reports in the local magazines, the national and international magazines, radio and television interviews and perhaps even a guest spot on Holmes or even Oprah. Have you guessed what the excuse is? If you picked "I lost my map and my torch went out at the second control" you'd be right. Just imagine running on a map you've never seen, with no map, at night, without a light and successfully completing the course! The time you took would be irrelevant.

**THE BROKEN LEG:** This excuse has been known to be used on a few occasions. It scores high on plausibility and sympathy but few competitors capitalize on amazement by finishing the course. Most just lie down and try to attract the attention of other competitors. In fact the most amazing thing is that some actually succeed. The way to use this excuse to its utmost is to break your leg just after the last control, crawl or hobble to the finish claiming to have been disabled for hours. This excuse is also among the gold plated hero status variety with the added advantage of being plausible even for the novice. Most orienteers however find this excuse a trifle extreme.

I have tried to explain how the excuse system works as simply as possible. It is now up to you. There are other excuses but if I mentioned them all here it would render them useless because remember, winners read this magazine too.

Fools rush in where wise men fear to tread. Well that just about sums up my participation in night orienteering. My preparations for the event included mounting a bicycle headlamp on a headband, from a face shield, borrowed from work. To make that a little more understandable, the lamp ended up on top of my head instead of on the forehead which is the more normal and sensible position. Although the failings of this particular design became apparent during the event, I was at this time quite proud of my engineering skills in producing this, the ultimate in lighting headgear. You wouldn't believe I actually do this sort of thing for a living.

I won't bore you with all the gory details of the night but I will mention if anybody is going to an event where Barbara Rankin is going to be present don't bother taking any food. Barbara takes enough to feed an army. As a member of the SPCV, that is the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Vehicles, I felt duty bound on this occasion to consume as much of their food as possible so as to reduce the burden on their poor vehicle when they returned home. I thought at the time that my over indulgence in Barbara's cuisine could very well have a bearing on my performance. So I considered the thought for possible use as an excuse. This is an example of excuse design prior to an event. In this case shifting the blame from me to Barbara's cooking. I'm not going to try to score this excuse, you'll have to ask the Rankins.

The event was a relay and while waiting for my turn I was entertained as I am sure were others by the silhouette theater performed by those who used the toilet tent and took a torch in with them. I admit I had to use the convenience myself but was careful not to use a torch. After all I don't mind people having a joke at my expense but there is a limit, when my butt, is the butt of the joke.

Eventually it was my turn to go and it soon dawned on me the pitiful excuse for a light my lamp was compared with the others. In fact it was so drowned by the passing light of other competitors, (emphasis on the passing) that it appeared to be equal in candle power to a Glow Worm, alias *Lampyrus Noctiluca*. With great difficulty I found the first two controls but upon reaching the third I was blinded by an angel ablaze with light rising out of the ground and as the angel flew past she said unto me, "The control's down there". When I recovered my sight I descended into the pit and discovered she was right. Sensing that this

was not a nice place to be, for I could clearly hear the roar of the demons nearby, I risked life and limb and raced after the angel with the bright light. It's not that I'm scared of the dark. It's just that I have a very vivid imagination and I am scared of what I imagine. Catching up with the bright angel I followed her like an obedient dog and she safely led me out of death valley over the hill to the valley on the other side. Feeling more confident now that I was out of danger, and since the angel had met someone else, I went off in a direction incompatible with the direction they took and even with the feeble light of my glow worm I found the next control with ease. I was sure the angel was looking for the same control and I would have liked to repay her kindness but she was too far away and a locomotive light was rapidly approaching, so I departed without a word.

Once again I traversed a hill but upon descending strange things started happening. Perhaps it was divine retribution for not assisting the angel. My glow worm was held on by a single screw in the base and after the considerable effort and little progress I had made, this single screw came loose and gave rise to a peculiar visual dilemma. The 360 degree sweep. When I turned my head the light would follow but would not stop where I was looking. Instead it would continue to a random position and required constant repositioning. I discovered if I moved my head repeatedly from side to side quickly the glow worm would rotate like a propeller making an interesting but totally impractical stroboscopic effect. If anyone was observing me from a distance I must have looked like *some sort of crazed lighthouse or perhaps a UFO about to take off*. This situation could not continue, so I attempted to tighten the glow worm as best I could and although I was moderately successful, it required constant attention for the rest of the course.

After a while and probably due to the constant twisting and screwing to keep it on the straight and narrow my glow worm became somewhat inconsistent. It started to send Morse code signals instead of a steady beam of light and although I had learnt Morse code when a boy scout in my very much younger days the only memory I have of it now is having learnt it. Not what was learned. So I resorted to physical abuse and slapped it. I also learned I had forgotten something else. Namely that when one slaps something on ones head the percussion continues right through to ones spine. With a combination of twisting, screwing and slapping I was able to keep my glow worm alive for the rest of the course.

At some point during the course it started to rain, (more divine retribution) making map reading difficult. Since the map was in a plastic bag the rain made reading it like looking at it though the mottled glass normally found on bathroom windows. Now this is serious excuse material I realize. With a light that spins, sends Morse code signals and has the *photon emission of a glow worm, plus the difficulties of map reading caused by the rain*, I decide to abandon the Barbara's cooking excuse and file it for possible use at a future event. Most of the rest of the controls were a mixture of success and frustration till I got to a patch of pine trees where I ended up going round in circles. I knew I was in the right location but couldn't find the control till along came this WACO chap who, like his name

sake whacko jacko, had the Cape Reinga lighthouse surgically implanted in his forehead. I'm certain that had it not been raining the heat given off by this light would have ignited the forest. With the extra illumination I was surprised to find I was within meters of the control and actually got there before him. Using his light first from behind and then to follow I was able to reach the next control without mishap, but being at least ten times faster than me he was the last bright moment for me and I had to flounder around on my own to the finish.

On returning I discovered the rest of the team had not waited for me and as it was early morning and I was very tired, pressing home my excuse to the small welcoming committee with the efficiency required for such a dismal failure was beyond me so I retired for the remainder of the night in shame. I was so distressed thinking of how I had let down the whole team by my performance that I couldn't sleep and tossed and turned in abject misery waiting for dawn and the verbal abuse I would receive. As a matter of fact I slept rather well without the least concern for my fellow team members but I bet I pulled a few heart strings with that line for a fraction of a second. A perfect example of raising the sympathy score. In the morning I learned while polishing off some more of Barbara's food, that Janice Cyprian tried to prove she was tougher than the rest of us by going for an early morning swim in her jammies. It happened that her tent was about as water proof as a sponge while the ground sheet was totally impervious to water. My advice to Janice is to pitch her tent upside down in future. Janice would have been the only orienteer present who could justly claim she had showered before breakfast.

Next time I go night orienteering I'm taking a horse. Not to ride on but to carry the battery for my torch. Good luck to all orienteering failures, may your excuses bring tears to my eyes and put a smile on my lips.

**Malcolm Mack.**

# 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, COC (520 5993) and distributed by Marquita Gelderman, NWOC (412 8879) and published on or about the first of every month except January.

## **Next Issue: June 1996**

Mail your contributions to Box 99612 Newmarket, or deliver to 23a Shore Road, Remuera, or fax 263 4794, or call me or my machine at home on 520 5993, or call me at work on 263 4793, or email mark@kiwiplan.co.nz

*The deadline for contributions for the June AUCKLAND ORIENTEER is Friday 21st June.*

Disks please, if you can; ASCII text with no hard returns, or Microsoft Word, on DOS 3.5" disks. I will happily provide you with a stack of free disks if you ask for them. If you can't supply on disk, and the article is fairly long, please try to 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 your club membership officer or Marquita Gelderman on 412 8879. If you want a back issue of *The AUCKLAND ORIENTEER*, 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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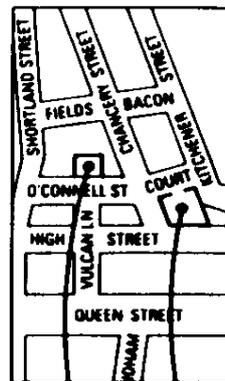
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