

# central orienteering club

## MARCH NEWSLETTER 1983

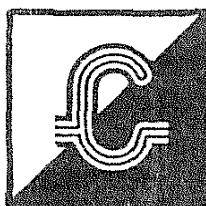
PRESIDENT:

Selwyn Palmer  
5 Aramutu Rd,  
Hillsborough,  
Auckland 4.

Tel: 657-798

TREASURER:

Geoff Bendall



SECRETARY:

Briar Gregory  
13 Buckley Road,  
Royal Oak,  
Auckland 3.

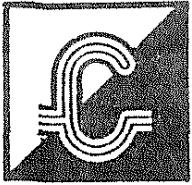
Tel: 656-508

NEWSLETTER:

Martin Newton

### COMING EVENTS

- |             |         |  |
|-------------|---------|--|
| MARCH 27    | NW      | Shakespear Reserve, Whangaparoa Peninsula. Promotion event. 10-12.00   |
|             | SA      | Omana Regional Reserve. Promotion 10-12.00   |
| APRIL 1- 3  | KH      | Easter 3 Day. Badge and Trial. Entries closed.   |
| APRIL 6     | C       | CLUB MEETING. Bill Bruce, 24 Hawkins St. Meadowbank. 7.30. All welcome.  |
| APRIL 10    | C       | A.O.A. O.Y.3. Woodhill 81 Map. Enter via forest H.Q. 10-12.00.   |
| APRIL 17    | NW<br>R | Shakespear Reserve. Promotion 10-12.00.<br>C.D.O.A. O.Y. Peka Farm, Taupo Highway just south of Rotorua. 11-2.00 pm. |
| APRIL 24    | C       | Woodhill '81. Training - Promotion day. Controls left out from April 10th O.Y. 10.00 - 12.00.                        |
|             | SA      | Reeves Farm. Pukekohe. Promotion event.  |
|             | H       | Rogaining event see P.11   |
| APRIL 23-25 | M       | 3 Day event. Masterton area. Non-badge   |
| APRIL 27    | C       | Schools Championships (Secondary) Totara Park.   |
| MAY 1       | NW      | Riverhead. Promotion.  |
| MAY 7       | SA      | Matakawau South. Nationals Warm-Up.  |
| MAY 8       | SA      | NATIONAL CHAMPS. Entries close April 2nd. See February Newsletter for entry form.                                    |
| MAY 14      | HB      | INTERNATIONAL. Esk Forest. Entries close April 18th. See February Newsletter.  |
| MAY 15      | RK      | INTERNATIONAL RELAYS. See p.10 Entry Form encl.  |



# NEWS

- Recent Club buys have been of a CamperMatic (used for the first time at our Woodhill Promotion Event) and two new clocks: one a large display clock, the other a digital clock with a printer.

- KAAHU ITI BADGE AND TRIAL:

Marvellous to see so many Central members at the event; made it seem like a 'home' event! Well done Hilary Weeks 1st W.43; James Brewis 1st M.15; Robert Brewis 1st M.13; Penny Clendon 1st W.12. The M.19 and W35B grades were also highlights for Central, with club members taking the first two places in each grade: Simon Clendon and Robert Crawford in M.19, Janet Newton and Rosemary Brodie in W.35B. It is a long time since the Club had three runners in the M21A grade - keep up the good work Paul (Dalton), Peter (King) and Ron (Wright)!

- I hear that a new 'O' Club is just being formed in New Plymouth - look forward to some events on Mt Egmont!
- Information about the Asia/Pacific Carnival is included in this newsletter. There is also an entry form. Please enter early - this would greatly help the finances of the organisers who have a lot of bills to meet before the event.
- ....Glad to hear that a standard pre-start/registration procedure is being examined for use at all events. We seem to be able to dream-up as many 'new' procedures as we do courses...

CLUB MEMBER PHIL BRODIE REPORTS GETTING  
VERY GOOD SERVICE FROM 'TERRAIN SPORTS'  
WHEN BUYING 'BRAMBLE BASHER' SOCKS. CONTACT  
PHIL (2764285) FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR WRITE  
DIRECT:

Send for free copy of Mail Order Catalogue to:

## **TERRAIN SPORTS**

60, OAKWOOD DRIVE,  
BINGLEY,  
W.YORKS, BD16 4SL. ENGLAND

CENTRAL 1983 - WE NEED YOU

Have you renewed your membership? We need your support, help and money! Forms were in the February Newsletter!



### NEW MEMBERS

...come To Contra. Club.

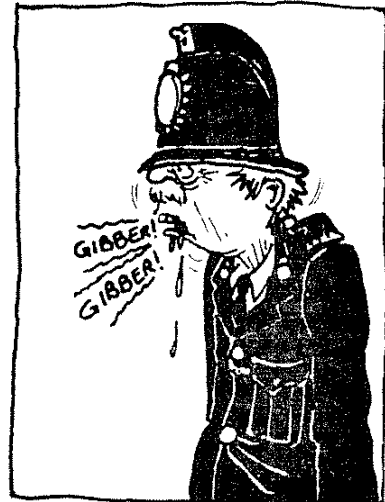
Hope we see you at coming events.

Paul Dalton  
 Chris Robinson  
 Warren Young  
 Herman and Marjorie Van Gessel  
 Ron King  
 Judy Begg  
 Simon Rea  
 Justin Rea  
 Andrew Upsall  
 Lester Gray  
 Crosbie Family (Bruce, Lorraine, Mark, Paul)  
 John Bradbury  
 West Family (Peter, Sharlene, Aaron and Matthew)  
 Peter Ensor  
 Pam Hill  
 Rick & Julie Fleming  
 Norm & Christine Jager  
 Richrd Isaacs  
 Brett Dyer  
 Wade & Anna Brett  
 John & Clare Murray  
 Neil Windross

### S...L...N . AL...R

(Club President 1983)

Age: 33  
 Grade: Not sure. I'm still  
 trying to find one to  
 suit.  
 Occupation: Policeman  
 (ex school teacher who  
 saw the light)  
 Interests: Tramping, Orienteering,  
 Badminton, Food,  
 Classical Music.  
 'O' Hopes for 1983: To eliminate  
 navigational errors.  
 This is also my a... for  
 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, etc.



Pen Picture: (I asked for a 'funny pen- picture' and this is  
 what I copped - Editor)





### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time of our first club meeting in February I had recovered from the shock - the shock of returning from the South Island and being told by my non-orienteering neighbour that I had been elected President of some orienteering club. Take my advice and don't be absent from this year's A.G.M.

It's a hard act to follow our previous first rate Presidents. A few years ago our Club was so low in membership that consideration was given to uniting with another Club. We are now one of the strongest Clubs in the country.

I see our major strengths as:-

1. An enthusiastic, helpful core of members.
2. Members who willingly provide an hour or two of assistance at events.
3. Proven ability at organising major events.
4. Recent and current updating of equipment.

Our Summer Series has been outstanding; new mini-controls, pre-marked maps, streamlined registration, fast results at the event and in the mail and greatly increased participation. Special thanks are due to the many helpers, especially the Gregory Family. There is obviously a place for this type of event for central city slickers. Many are coming just for an enjoyable run in a park.

The Hallmark Mountain Marathon was a milestone in Orienteering history. Central Club members contributed a significant proportion of the organisation and running of the event. A number of trampers and marathon runners discovered Orienteering.

During 1983 I hope the Club can focus on:-

1. Improving publicity in local papers and radio.
2. Continuing the improvement in equipment.
3. Producing a new quality forest map, and begin another one for next year.
4. Aiming for high standards in course setting and controlling events.

# FROM THE FOREST

KAAHU-ITI EVENT - 20th February 1983

After an early morning drive down from Auckland it was nice to arrive at Kaahu-iti with over an hour to spare before we set off on our respective courses. As we approached from Tokoroa a huge black cloud hung over the vicinity of Kaahu and we had visions of yet another wet miserable day (remember Labour Day, how could one forget). However it was just the opposite and we certainly could not have wished for a more pleasant day. Once again the setting for the Start/Finish was perfect and I am sure you will all agree this map is hard to beat.

After a bad start to the season at Matakawa last week I was a little apprehensive as I started my course W35B. However I just sailed into the first eight controls and for once really felt I had kept good contact with the map. Then I had to do my usual trick and overrun No 9. I floundered around for quite some time here and eventually re-located myself and managed to finish the rest of the course without too much difficulty. Although my time would not be very impressive to anyone else I was personally satisfied.

Once again the Hamilton Club have proved very efficient at running events - the results went up fast and I heard that a few Central Members lent a helping hand in doing this. Looking forward to the next Kaahu-iti event - I for one will be back.

\*\*\*\*\*

Up to M35A Grade this year and what a blow to the system, Extra course length and extra difficulty but I am certainly enjoying the challenge. Today's M35A course took in both maps "Kaahu" and "Kaahu-iti". Performance wise it was a disaster for me. I breezed through the Kaahu section, crossed the stream to the Kaahu-iti map and blank. Running to the first control I lost complete contact with the map. I could only put it down to a deadly combination of oxygen debt and an 180° error. After what seemed an age running around like a headless chicken I finally re-located and with a couple of further basic errors finished the course. Despite my "lets forget it" performance I really enjoyed the run on what I consider to be my personal favourite maps.

Finally, player of the day award in the Ashmore family had to go to Darren whose second placing in the M12 grade easily out-gunned his Mum and Dad's dismal performances.

## ASHMORE FAMILY

### THE LAND OF THISTLE

A short blurt on Willie Hines's car horn welcomed us to Kaahu-iti. We got ready and meandered down to the start. After sprinting for the first few controls I slowed down to a fast jog. Many of my route choices

went straight through patches of thistles and my legs and arms objected to such treatment. The country was steep - especially when you head straight to the top of each crag. After bumping into every rock face and crashing into every thistle I ended up with quite a good time. I feel I was very lucky as Simon Clendon came up in a massive rash from the thistles. I liked the course - it was well set with many controls but it was a pity about the vegetation. Apart from the thistles, a good day's orienteering.

Robert Brewis

Having only started M17-18 this year I was a bit dubious about a clean run on such a long course. I had run once before on Kaahu-iti and although it was in terrible weather (National Relays '82) I found the forest much to my liking.

Soon after arriving in the forest I set off to the yellow start at a brisk trot to warm myself up. Although this involved a steep climb to the start itself, I felt quite strong and ready to run. Although deciding to go carefully for the first few controls I stupidly set off at my fairly rapid pace and as usual got within 20 metres of the control before making mistakes. In general I did this at most of my 15 controls, mainly due to bad route choice and bad entry into the control circle. I finished feeling very tired, having run very fast and orienteered very badly.

Found the course tough but very well set, allowing those like me to finish and still testing the skills of the top orienteers in M17 and M19. In the end a fun day although my bare legs did not get on with the waist-high thistles.

Alistair Cory-Wright

# CRIBBAGE

7.

## GUIDE FOR ENTERING BADGE EVENTS

The following table might help you to choose your grade for these events. IT was based on the Kaahu-iti trial BUT DOES NOT NECESSARILY APPLY to any of the events in this newsletter. The organisers are supposed to advertise course details and grade allocations but have not done so.

AGE *	STANDARD GRADE	EASIER ALTERNATIVES	HARDER ALTERNATIVES
<u>Men</u>			
to 12	M12		M21C, M13, M15, M21B, M17, M19, M21A
13, 14	M13	M21C	M15, M21B, M17, M19, M21A
15, 16	M15	M21C	M21B, M17, M19, M21A
17, 18	M17	M21B, M21C	M19, M21A
19, 20	M19	M21B, M21C	M21A
21-34	M21A	M21B, M21C	
35-42	M35A	M21B, 21C, 35B	M21A
43-49	M43	M21B, 21C, 35B	M35A, M21B
50-55	M50	M35B, M21C	M21B, M43, M35A, M21A
56 up	M56	M35B, M21C	M50, M21B, M43, M35A, M21A
<u>Women</u>			
to 12	W12		W13, W15, W21C, W21B, W17, W19, W21A
13, 14	W13		W15, W21C, W21B, W17, W19, W21A
15, 16	W15		W21C, W21B, W17, W19, W21A
17, 18	W17	W21B, W21C	W19, W21A
19, 20	W19	W21B, W21C	W21A
21-34	W21A	W21B, W21C	
35-42	W35A	W21B, 35B, 21C	W21A
43 up	W43	W21B, 35B, 21C	W35A, W21A

\* Age at  
31 Dec  
1983

SOURCE: ROTORUA CLUB NEWSLETTER

## INTERIM REPORT - ORIENTEERING PLANNING CONFERENCE

IWITAHU - FEBRUARY 5TH & 6TH 1983

Thirty people representing 14 of the orienteering clubs from throughout N.Z. attended the Conference and they varied from mainstays of the N.Z.O.F. Executive to relative newcomers to the administration of the sport. It was pleasing also to see the South Island clubs represented. Representation may have been even wider had I not been so late in distributing the final details of the Conference and for this I apologize.

A considerable amount of useful information was contributed in the form of papers and notes, prior to or during the Conference.

Four major objectives were considered during the Conference and they were:-

- (i) To increase membership.
- (ii) To increase orienteering skills.
- (iii) To establish an effective organisation to administer the sport.
- (iv) To adequately fund the sport.

Objectives (i) and (iii) received the most attention.

The Conference delegates were divided into four working groups or syndicates to address each of the objectives and how they might be achieved. Each group reported back to the whole Conference where endeavours were made to reach a consensus. With the number of people involved and in the time available this was not possible in many cases but was achieved in a surprising numbers of others. The major points that were agreed on are listed below so that they may give some direction to the N.Z.O.F. executive before the full Planning Conference Report is produced.

The task of producing a full report of the proceedings of the Conference has been given to me but as the amount of information and findings produced is considerable and in some cases complex it will not be an easy task and will take some weeks.

I have had feedback from several attendees to say that they found the Conference stimulating, enjoyable and well worthwhile. This I think was due to the contributions and efforts made by the delegates themselves.

The major points that came out of the Conference are:-

### 1. Re Membership

- (a) First priority is to double membership within 5 years. Main strategies to achieve this are:
  - (i) Carry out surveys to determine who are orienteers and why.  
(some caution expressed regarding interpretation)



- (ii) Concentrate membership drives on that section of New Zealanders most likely to become orienteers.
  - (iii) Start new clubs in new areas.
  - (iv) Ensure that orienteering features on courses for adults at Outdoor Pursuit Centres.
  - (v) Retain orienteers in the Sport.
- (b) Second priority is to have orienteering introduced into school programmes. This would require:
- (i) Mapping of school areas.
  - (ii) Instruction for teachers.

(Clubs will be asked to give attention to planning programmes to do this in their areas and to advise what they consider they can achieve.)

## 2. Re Orienteering Skills

The general feeling was that there should be more instruction available for newcomers and run of the mill orienteers so that they might enjoy the sport more and get greater satisfaction from it.

Targets were:

- (a) One training officer in each club by the end of 1983.
- (b) Clubs to set aside training days for their members.
- (c) Area training camps to be run for 'ordinary' orienteers.
- (d) A coaching scheme with regional and national co-ordinators be set up.

(On the question of elite grades and longer courses it is recommended there be mens and womens open grades (not called elite) with long courses in addition to the usual M21A and W21A.)

## 3. Re Administration of the Sport

- (a) It is recommended that the principles of the new constitution be adopted as soon as possible. i.e. A small executive meeting fairly frequently to carry out the business of the N.Z.O.F. and a full committee representing each club meeting once or twice a year to set policy.
- (b) That voting rights be on the basis of one vote per club plus further votes related to membership numbers.
- (c) That area associations are considered worthwhile for the purpose of co-ordinating activities in a region but should not be a required administrative level between clubs and the N.Z.O.F.
- (d) That real efforts be made to institute a bulletin type information dissemination system from the N.Z.O.F. to clubs (and perhaps vice versa).

- (e) That sub-committees be replaced with individual officers who will have specific responsibilities.
- (f) That there should be progress towards having a paid officer for the N.Z.O.F. (either part or full time).

4. Re Funding

It was on this objective that there was the greatest divergence of views and opinions. They ranged from aiming at a steady increase in funds through to a massive and immediate funding effort probably using professional fundraisers.

- (a) Affiliation fees. Views varied from a zero increase to a three fold increase. (A family affiliation must be based on two and a half adult fees.)
- (b) Event levies. Recommended that International and National Event entry fee levies be doubled to \$1.00 and that Badge Events be levied 50¢.
- (c) Two tier membership was not promoted.

TERRY BRIGHOUSE

INTERNATIONAL & AREA RELAYS 1983

Organising Club : Red Kiwis (Manawatu) Orienteering Club.

Venue: Hokino Beach Road, 5 minutes west of Levin.

Date: Sunday the 15th May 1983.

The Map: New 5 colour 1:15000 5m contours.

Terrain: Rolling to moderately steep sandhill country. The map will cover an area part farmland (fast) and part native T Tree and scrub (fast-slow-walk). In parts the terrain is very intricate and is accentuated by the many depressions and marshes.

Area Championships: It is intended to run in conjunction with the International relays, an Area Championship and it is expected that teams will be selected and submitted by the respective areas i.e. AOA, CDOA, WOA, Hawkes Bay and South Island. There will be also a mixed age grade.

Accommodation: Arrange your own, though some billets may be arranged. Contact Robyn Galloway, 4 Aotea St. Feilding. Entrants are advised that the approximate travelling time from Palmerston North to the event is 1 hour.

Entry Forms: Will be sent to all clubs in the next few weeks. *Attached.*

Social: It is intended to arrange an informal get-together in Palmerston North on the Saturday Night - details later.

SUNDAY 24 APRIL 1983

the day before the<sup>11.</sup>  
Anzac Day  
holiday.

A true "ROGAINING" event .....

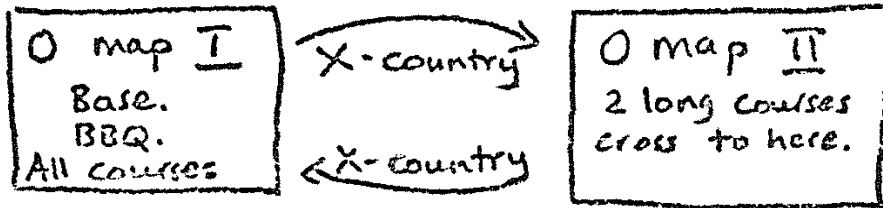
Start with an O course at one orienteering venue (Roto-o-rangi, near Cambridge)

Continue using Lands & Survey map 4 km across to a nearby O venue (Garlands Farm)

do another O course then return to base by a different route

For an EVENING BARB-B-QUE .....

Conventional (but shorter than usual!) courses on each O map. Apply some of that Mountain Marathon knowledge in between (or have a taste of it at a more sane level?)



Full range of courses at Roto-o-rangi and 2 long courses to choose from.

Pairs and groups encouraged to enter - or as individuals (as you wish)

ENTER ON THE DAY. - NOT PRE-ENTRY.

ALL  
WELCOME.

Further info will be in a forthcoming Hamilton Club newsletter, or contact:

Organiser: John Neal, 15 Paulette Pl, Hamilton, phone 54434.

— Hamilton orienteering Club —

\* CENTRAL MEMBERS: SUGGEST YOU CONTACT JOHN IF YOU ARE INTERESTED

# central orienteering club

## 1983 MEMBERSHIP

(Tick box as appropriate)

- New Member
- Renewal

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

- Senior (19years and over)..... \$12.00
- Junior (under19 years)..... \$ 5.00
- Family ..... \$18.00

	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>BIRTH YEAR</u>	<u>OY GRADE</u>
<u>SURNAME:</u> _____	_____	_____	_____
<u>ADDRESS:</u> _____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
<u>TELEPHONE:</u> _____ (Home)	_____	_____	_____

Please forward payment to:   The Treasurer,  
   G.A.Bendall,  
   73 Whitehaven Road,  
   Glendowie, 5.

- NOTES:
1. Year of Birth is required for affiliation purposes.
  2. OY Grade required only for those who intend to enter the 1983 OY competition (Orienteer of the Year). The competition involves 9 races of which the best 5 times count towards the award. Details will be forwarded in a later newsletter. Entry fee for the competition is payable to the AOA Secretary - \$1.00 per family.
  3. Membership of the Central Club also involves automatic membership of the Auckland Orienteering Association Inc. and, accordingly, members are bound by the Rules and Constitution of that Association.

# FROM THE FOREST

13.

## O.Y.1. Matakawau

Course 1 consisted of a well laid series of long 'cross-legs'. My time of 1 hour 52 minutes seemed such a poor effort that I looked at the results from the bottom rather than from the top!

'Brainpicking' winner Christian Toberer of Switzerland later, I had him draw his route choice. It looked so simple. Even his 'bad' route choices on 3-4 looked good although he said he lost 4-5 minutes.

A well organised day. Well thought-out courses and I liked their caravan. Thanks South Auckland. Also good to see so many new people at the event.

Tony Nicholls

## PUKETAPU ROAD O.Y.2

Puketapu Road deserves the respect of most orienteers. Dave Melrose and Ralph King set courses with an emphasis on distance and difficulty. This type of course is needed if we are to successfully compete with the Australians in the coming Challenge and at the Asia-Pacific event.

Course 1 had more than a few of us chasing around for Control 3 (clearing S. end). I used the depression on the right as an attacking point as the rides seemed rather vague. No 11-12. Very pleased I had bought 'O' pants before I left. The direct route was easier 'O'ing, but definitely not for running.

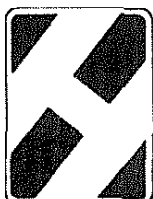
The 2nd map stop had me thinking hard. I was more than pleased when Rob Garden informed me I was writing Course 2 instead of Course 1. Congratulations to Rob Garden for his first O.Y. victory - and what a way to do it. 7.7 Minute KMS!

W21B - A good strong run by Debbie Evans showed that determination can get you through on a demanding course.

M21B - Rolf Wagner certainly showed the M21B what it was all about with a steady km rating and obviously good map contact.

I was too fatigued to notice other results as they are not legible when you are flat on your back exhausted. I wondered what Dave Melrose was grinning about when I saw him at Control 6 - now I know!

P.S. Could we please have more drinks available on all courses. Cheers! from a dehydrated Ron Wright. (Beer or wine Ron? - Ed)



Hallmark

# HALLMARK MOUNTAIN MARATHON 1983 TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK

The 1983 Mountain Marathon, the first of its kind ever held in New Zealand, was staged over the weekend of 26-27 February in Tongariro National Park. The weekend was the culmination of several years planning by a small group of enthusiasts and its success has perhaps ensured that it will become a regular feature on the Orienteering Calendar in the future. Whether this should be on an annual or biennial basis remains to be seen and is no doubt dependent on the speed of recovery of both the contestants and the race organisers.

As well as being a demanding event physically and mentally for the race teams, it was equally so for the organisers and the weekend was a hectic affair. We were fortunate, for this inaugural race, that the weather was favourable and that no major mishaps, or injuries were suffered by any of those involved.

Selwyn Palmer and I spent the week before the event based at the Outdoor Pursuits Centre, located in a pleasant, bushed valley about 20 miles from the Chateau. During that time, and with the help of Dave Rogers (NW) later in the week, we checked all control sites and hung flags. This involved 3½ man days which gives an indication of the extent of the task which was not made easier by the need to work off xerox copies of a colour photo of the proposed map (at that stage still not printed!). In addition, we completed plans for the start-finish areas, carried in the gear required for the overnight campsite on Courses 1 & 2 in the Waihohomu Valley and prepared for the influx of campers and those accommodated in dormitories at the OPC. It was fortunate that the two of us were able to spend this time on the spot as, in retrospect, long range organisation from Auckland would have been impossible.

As with any event there was concern that what needed to be done had been done and that there was sufficient gear available. In this latter respect we were grateful for the generous help of Hamilton Club who made their caravan and its contents available for the week. Nevertheless there were a couple of frantic phone calls northwards during the week which resulted, eventually, in an over-supply of toilet tents! Generally, arrangements ran smoothly and we were appreciative of the help throughout from the Directors and staff of the OPC, the management of the Chateau and the Chief Ranger and staff of Tongariro National Park.

Of all those involved, the Park Board staff were perhaps the most apprehensive as to the outcome of the weekend. There had been concern from the outset at the effect that 400-odd competitors may have on the Park's environment and the damage that may have resulted. Also, a precedent was

being set in allowing a substantial number of people to camp out in a relatively confined area. The Park Board staff accepted the challenge of these and other problems involved and did their utmost to ensure the success of the weekend.

Jim Lewis set courses that were challenging at all levels and demanded the best from competitors. The DNF rates on courses 1 & 2 were high (41% and 29% respectively) indicating that many competitors entered with little knowledge or expectation of the conditions and type of terrain they would encounter. The event set out to be a test of stamina, route choice and map skills and Jim's efforts fully tested these capabilities. All but a handful of competitors were accounted for by 8.30 p.m. and the end of day 1 but in the knowledge that contestants were self-sufficient in shelter, food and equipment, there was no concern for those who had by that stage, not been located. Of those who DNF'd there were some on whom the decision was forced by injury - fortunately of relatively minor significance. Of the rest, the decision was a realistic re-assessment of their capabilities in relation to the scale of the event and reflected sensible judgment.

Phyl Snedden produced a map of high quality, one that could well become the standard for trampers and other areas of the area in the future. She had the difficult task of interpreting the field work of two widely diverse operators in Kjell Melander (Sweden) and Dave Miller (Australia) and this caused some problems in the final production. In my opinion, the most notable one is the heavy blacking of the old lava flows, so as to virtually obliterate the contours, in the Oturere Crater and south of the Waihohomu Track, near the Tama Saddle. Both areas are beautifully contoured and abound with usable features.

The major impressions I am left with after the weekend are, firstly, the great spirit of co-operation that existed, from the outset of planning until the event's conclusion. This was evident at all levels but notably from:

- Our Sponsors, Hallmark International
- The Tongariro National Park Board and staff
- The Chateau Tongariro's management
- The directors and staff of the Outdoor Pursuits Centre
- The O clubs whose members were involved and who so willingly made time and gear available
- The organisers - and their wives and families.
- and finally, the competitors themselves.

Secondly, the over-riding impression is one of relief! Relief that:

- The weather was kind
- The map finally got printed (it arrived on site at 2.48 am on Friday 25 February)
- The procedures did work.
- The starters for Courses 3 & 4 on Day 2 did turn up at the right place, in time.
- The helpers did, too.
- The last, unaccounted for team checked in (at 5.38.33 pm)
- The clean-up was completed by 11.30 pm.
- Its over! Until next time.

GEOFF BENDALL

Strange Encounters or, But for the Grace of God, Go I.

by Wallace Bottomley

It was with *some relief* that I heard the starters gun for course A on the Mountain Marathon; for it had all been a bit of a rush - leaving little or no time to think about the consequences of what I was about to undertake (now, that's a strange word to use!).

Earlier in the week, in a weaker moment I had consented to fill the O-shoes of a drop out whose partner was determined to get his fifteen dollars worth. A hurried training program was the order of the day. Day-3: 3½ hours up and down the Waitakari's with a 16lb pack. Having survived that, I reckoned I could survive anything - well almost anything.

My partner, being well-experienced in these parts, counselled a steady pace. We just made it through the 4 pm time limit at the saddle between Mts Ngaruhoe and Tongariro. It was *cloud covered* and blowing up cold. Up the steep climb towards Red Crater my partner began getting leg cramps. We planned to dog leg control 127, so dumped our packs at the track junction and donned our parkas - just in case!

At the edge of Blue Lake, compassion welled up stronger than good sense: "I'll just nip down and get the control: you rest."

Whereas others had followed the stream bed, I chose the ridges and felt elated to be running but soon had to relocate. Climbing out of this bleak and lonely valley was hard work, then.....

When orienteering on farm or forest, one frequently passes a skeleton. But this one had boots on! It stopped me dead in my tracks. A prickly feeling crept up my spine as the realization of my being alone in this wilderness area was both stupid and dangerous - let alone rule-breaking. I could easily have slipped and hurt myself as this poor fellow may have done. Or had he got lost - just as I was a moment ago. And what if the cloud came down completely as it was threatening to do and evening approaching. Brrr!

Think. Take a couple of bearings. Describe what I have seen. Where's the skull? He's got as many fillings as I have. Rucksack? Parka? He is wearing a belt. Is there a compass?

The bones were picked up within twenty minutes of the helicopter arriving at the spot I had given. A pack was found and an optician identified his patient. The police keep no records of missing persons. He had been on the mountain side for eight years. He was about the same age as me.