



Auckland Orienteering Club

President's report 2017

I have pleasure in presenting this report on the accomplishments of the Auckland Orienteering Club in 2017 and the opportunity to celebrate some of our successes over the year. It also gives me the opportunity to thank the many Club members that have helped out to make this happen.

It's been quite a busy year!

Oceania and World Masters Games

When the World Masters Games concluded in April, mixed in with the relief and sheer exhaustion, there was considerable pride looking back over the 13 events we hosted in a period of just over two weeks, on a scale we've never seen before.

Feedback from our overseas competitors was very positive, commenting the organisation and event centres being everything they would expect to see in a large, well run European event. Competitors loved the terrain and found the courses set by our planners and controllers demanded the best of them.

For the three Auckland Clubs, AOC, CMOC and NWOC, this was an opportunity to come together and operate as one combined organisation in a collaborative way with a focus only on what was best for the Championships. The legacy of this is a new level of cooperation between the three clubs, which we should leverage off in the future so orienteering in the Auckland region will go from strength to strength.

There were many club members involved which I've tried to acknowledge in newsletters during the year but again I would like to make special mention of the club's juniors, generously giving up their time so the seniors could run at the Masters, and the selflessness of the many Club members who sacrificed competing themselves, so they could concentrate their time on making the running of the events a success.

Other Events

In the 2017 season we organised 32 events, eight less than the previous year, however these figures do not include the Oceania or World Masters events as these were a combined effort by the three Auckland clubs. If we were to include these it would add another 9 events bringing the total to 41 (and the number of participants to something over 17,000!)

In a year when we could be forgiven for taking a bit of a rest after Oceania/WMOC and having a few less events, we continued to host a full programme, including organising a forest event the weekend after WMOC finished (crazy!) so there was an opportunity for the juniors to have a run before heading down country for the NISS Champs.

AOC Events		
year	events	participants
2012	43	6,101
2013	35	5,008
2014	39	4,913
2015	37	4,688
2016	40	5,260
2017	32	4,289

Next year in Easter we are hosting the NZ Champs and planning is already well advanced for these events. We're excited to be able to use the same maps as for WMOC this year. This will be the first opportunity for many to run on these maps so we're expecting a strong turnout, a number of Australians having already indicated they will be making the trip across the Tasman. Entries are now open!

One of the challenges we will face in coming years is finding new maps to run on. We have seen the loss through felling of many of our Woodhill maps, everything south of Restall Road having now gone, and one of our favourite maps, Puketapu Block, scheduled to be felled towards the end of 2018. We plan to have several events on this map next year to extract maximum use before it disappears. The new maps developed for WMOC will help us here, and we will explore other areas or whether some of our old maps can be refreshed. Another initiative we are exploring is to work with our neighbouring clubs in Waikato and BOP to create an opportunity to run on their maps in different terrain, and have a social weekend away at the same time. Watch the newsletter for more details.

Obtaining landowner permissions for our SummerNav events is also becoming more restrictive, reducing both the number of maps we can run on and the areas within these maps. This can make it hard to keep the series fresh and not overuse the same areas. There are however a couple of new areas we're currently mapping so look out for these in the next series. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of John Parsons organising the SummerNav series, working with Council and various landowners to make this series happen.

Results

When we look at results it's impossible to go past Tommy Hayes' standout result, winning Silver in the Sprint distance in the Junior World Orienteering Champs in Finland. This was a stunning result, and follows on from his strong result in this distance the previous year. I was fortunate enough to be at the event with Tommy's parents Jules and Libby and was as excited as they were with Tommy's run (well perhaps not quite as excited as Libby!). Tommy can be justifiably proud of his achievement.

At the same time Imogene Scott was in Estonia, producing some good results in WOC, and Jonty Oram was competing in the Fin 5 and as part of the Academy in O-Ringen, where he came a creditable 19th overall in the M21 class.

Jonty, Tommy and Imogene came along to one of our Club Nights to talk about their experiences and how they prepare for these races. What became clear is the amount of hard work that goes into these performances before the race starts to make sure they are as prepared as they can be.

Earlier in the year we had already had exciting results from the World Schools Orienteering Champs held in Palermo, Sicily. The Club was well represented with 10 juniors taking part, making up the Mount Albert Grammar School team competing in Junior Boys and the Baradene College team competing in Junior Girls.

Baradene came 3rd overall, having been as high as 2nd before going into the final event. Special mention to Anna Duston for her 4th in the long and Lucy Burrell coming 9th in the long. Mitchell Cooper placed 6th in the middle so another great individual result. While their results were impressive enough, what made us even prouder was their achievement, in combination with the other New Zealand teams, in winning the Fair Play award. Special mention went to Adam Bateman who with Amos Plumpton from Napier Boys helped out a seriously injured English orienteer whilst out on course in the middle competition. Congratulations also to Hayley Smith and Kieran Woods who coached the two teams.

The girls and boys talked about their trip to Italy at one of the Club Nights and not letting their lack of experience daunt them, impressed us with the serious way they approached the competition, and the humorous way they relayed their adventures afterwards!

Attached to this report is a summary of Club members' placings at the National Champs 2017 and the titleholders from the Auckland Champs. Other highlights of the year for Club members from the Schools Championships included:

- In the Auckland Secondary Schools Champs held in May, Alex Jobbins taking out Junior Boys, Penelope Salmon Junior Girls and Zara Stewart winning Year 7-8 Girls.
- Club members were well represented In the North Island SS Champs, in the sprint distance Hayden Williams winning Junior Boys, Liam Buyck Year 7/8 Boys and Zara Stewart Year 7/8 Girls, with India James, Anna Duston, Lucy Burrell, Penelope Salmon and Alex Jobbins all placing.
- In the long event Lucy Burrell won Intermediate Girls, Hayden Williams repeated his win in the Junior Boys, Penelope Salmon took Junior Girls and Emily Hayes Year 7/8 Girls, with Chelsea Oliver, Anna Duston, Campbell Syme, Liam Buyck and Zara Stewart all placing.
- In the NZSS Champs in Junior Girls Penelope Salmon won both the sprint and long distances, with Meghan Drew, India James, Lucy Burrell, Campbell Syme, Alex Jobbins, Emily Hayes, Rachel Duston and Liam Buyck all placing in their respective grades.
- Club members winning selection for the New Zealand Secondary Schools Team to compete in the 2017 Australian Schools Championships included Meghan Drew, Michael McCormack, Lucy Burrell, Anna Duston, Sylvie Frater and Anna Cory-Wright as reserve. Meghan was also selected for the NZ Pinestars team to compete against the Australian Bushrangers at the Australian Champs.

Congratulations to all the Club members who had success during the year.

Coaching

At this year's ONZ AGM, Club member Lyn Stanton was announced as the Silva Coach of the year. The accolade recognises Lyn's work in coaching the MAGS team to their best ever results in 2016, culminating in selection for the World Schools Orienteering Champs, and also her work in developing a comprehensive coaching programme, which we will be using as a template to roll out across other schools.

Lyn would say what she did wasn't necessarily new, or different to what other coaches are doing, but the way she brought the parts together to make a complete package is what makes a difference. Some of these ideas were borrowed from other sports, for example having a regular coaching session each week, asking the students to commit to a whole season, getting them to buy the right gear to build commitment. The programme followed a logical progression, starting with sprint events, then moving on to forest/farm orienteering, at which point Lyn recommends students join the Club so they can benefit from additional training sessions and coaching resources we can provide. Another key is involving parents right from the start, many of whom have now also joined the Club and are turning out to be competitive orienteers in their own right!

Based around this programme the Club plans to develop templates and resources to better support parents or coaches running school orienteering teams. By using club events and networking with other coaches/parents we want any Club member wishing to support a school team to have the confidence to put together an effective training programme, without having to do it all yourself.

To make our training programmes happen Jeff Greenwood put in a great deal of work organising our training days, and Ali Comer and Lyn Stanton did the same organising the club nights run over the winter season. These events are a lot of work to pull together, but are incredibly valuable for Club members. Everyone who attends comes away with some new skill or technique they have learned to help improve their orienteering.

Membership

We are continuing to grow. On top of last year's 23% increase in membership we have grown another 20% this year, the Club now having 378 members. It is our junior ranks that are growing the fastest, with a 28% increase in the number of juniors and the number of seniors increasing by 12%. Notably this year the juniors have now overtaken the seniors in total membership.

As at 31 October end of financial year	AOC Member Numbers			Types of AOC Memberships			
	seniors	juniors	total	senior individual	junior individual	family	total memberships
2008	111	40	151	54	2	25	81
2009	113	48	161	46	4	36	86
2010	127	54	181	55	5	37	97
2011	134	69	203	59	6	36	101
2012	154	83	237	46	4	53	103
2013	118	75	193	40	17	37	94
2014	151	119	270	51	33	49	133
2015	134	122	256	39	40	49	128
2016	158	156	314	46	54	53 <small>Comprised of 214 members</small>	153
2017	178	200	378	56	84	61 <small>Comprised of 238 members</small>	201

Contributing to this has been the work put in by club members coaching schools – Hayley Smith, Kieran Woods, Jeff Greenwood, Elizabeth Parsons and others encouraging club membership as part of their schools programme. For a very modest membership fee (\$20) the students get access to our training resources plus the savings from member's rates at events.

Two years ago I floated the goal of growing the Club to 500 members. At the time we had about half that many so it was a bit of a stretch, but is now tantalisingly within reach. One of our neighbouring clubs (with perhaps a touch of fright) wondered whether we were trying to build a 'Superclub', but that's not our aim. Instead the best result would be for all three clubs in Auckland to have 500 members. Then we would really see the benefits of improved depth of competition, plus more members and more resources to organise quality events and training.

By getting more people involved in setting, controlling or coordinating the events we already have, it frees up other Club members to invest time in other areas, whether it be administration, building coaching programmes for schools or organising social events. All important things if we wish to develop our sport, improve our own orienteering skills, plus have fun at the same time.

Financials

The Club remains in good shape financially. After adjusting for the KiwiSport Income (which gets backed out by a matching expense) income is largely the same as the previous year, with slightly more from membership dues but slightly less from having fewer events.

For those that are not aware KiwiSport contracts the Club to run orienteering coaching courses in Auckland Primary Schools. Leon McGivern with the assistance of Irene Smirnova is the driving force behind delivering these sessions, which are hugely popular with schools, to the point where Leon and Irene are having to limit numbers, last year delivering over 250 sessions to over 2,000 students. For many, one of Leon's courses will have been their first introduction to the sport of orienteering.

We have used some of the Club's cash reserves that built up over recent years to fund an asset renewal programme plus expand our equipment base. Purchases included another complete set of Sportident controls, 40 freestanding sprint controls, another set of SummerNav controls, two clocks and a set of O-Lynx radio controls. This was on top of the new laptop, two new TV screens, new splits printer, and two new Club tents purchased in the previous financial year. This gear gives us improved capability going forward to hold large multi-day events, for example the NZ Champs which the Club is scheduled to host in Easter 2018.

As reported last year, we're continuing to look at options for the replacement of our trusty Camp-o-Matic, which while still doing a good job is not as weatherproof as it once was.

The Junior Training Fund received applications for funding this year from the juniors selected for the World School Orienteering Champions in Italy and for travel costs for James and Michael McCormack to attend the selection trials for the NZ Schools Team to compete in Australia, Michael successfully winning a spot in the team. The Club is pleased the Junior Training Fund was able to assist in a modest way with these members' travel costs and we can be proud of what the teams achieved and the way they presented themselves to the world.

The Nicholls Fund was able to assist with some of Tommy Hayes travel costs representing NZ in WOC in Estonia and JWOC in Finland, Tommy also giving us a good return on our investment!

Club Officers

The Committee and Club Officers for the 2017 year were:

President:	Martin Crosby	
Secretary:	Alison Comer	
Treasurer:	Gillian Magerkorth	
Club Captain:	Dwayne Smith	
Committee:	Mike Ashmore	Guy Cory-Wright
	Selwyn Palmer	Lyn Stanton
	Joanna Stewart	Karen Woods

Mike Ashmore has decided to step down from the committee at the end of the year, his wish being to encourage a younger member to come on board. I would like to thank Mike for his contribution to the Club during his term. Mike is particularly clever in sourcing new gear, having arranged the purchase of our new tents and the design and manufacture of our new freestanding SummerNav controls, which means we can now have events in areas where there are restrictions on putting stakes in ground.

I wish to thank the Committee for their support during the year and the volume of work they managed, in what was a very busy year. This is a strong performing team, but there is still room for others to join. In particular areas such as marketing, communications, social and engagement and others could all benefit from having someone who has a little time to spare to develop these areas. If that sounds like you, or you have any other skills and a bit of capacity to help out, let me or one of the committee members know and we would be pleased to talk to you.

Singling anyone out for special mention is always a dangerous thing when we have a Club of now almost 400 members, all who are happy to lend a hand and help out where required, which makes the job of putting on our events and training days more manageable.

Thank you all, keep developing your orienteering skills and remember, nothing beats spending time running with a map in your hand.

Martin Crosby
President

Auckland Orienteering Club

NZ Champs 2017 Results – Hawkes Bay

Sprint

Harry Borton, 2nd M10
Lucy Jobbins, 3rd W12
Matthew Greenwood, 1st M12
Penelope Salmon, 1st W14
Meghan Drew, 1st W18
Eveline Husner, 3rd W20
Zoe Karantzas, 3rd W21A
Tommy Hayes, 1st M20
Paul Borton, 2nd M40
Lyn Stanton, 2nd W50
Jeff Greenwood, 3rd M50
Scott Vennell, 2nd M55
Martin Crosby, 3rd M55
Joanna Stewart, 2nd W65

Middle

Matthew Greenwood, 1st M12
Liam Buyck, 3rd M12
Natalie Salmon, 1st W12B
Juliet Frater, 2nd W14
Emma Johns, 1st W14B
Megan Drew, 3rd W18
Tommy Hayes, 2nd M20
Zoe Karantzas, 1st W21B
Simon Jager, 1st M21A
Kieran Woods, 2nd M21A
Lyn Stanton, 3rd W50
Joanna Stewart, 3rd W65

Long

Matthew Greenwood, 2nd M12
Kate Borton, 3rd W12
Lucy Jobbins, 1st W12B
Juliet Frater, 3rd W14
Elsa Popovici, 2nd W14B
Tommy Hayes, 3rd M20
Zoe Karantzas, 1st W21B
Kieran Woods, 1st M21A
Simon Jager, 2nd M21AS
Lyn Stanton, 3rd W50
Russell Syme, 2nd M50B
Scott Vennell, 2nd M55
Joanna Stewart, 2nd W65

2017 Auckland Champs Winners – Onewhero

Sprint

Harry Borton, 1st M10
Liam Buyck, 1st M12
Zara Stewart, 1st W14
Luke Clements, 1st M14
Martin Crosby, 1st M55
Annette Orchard, 1st W60
Alistair Stewart, 1st M65

Middle

Harry Borton, 1st M10
Liam Buyck, 1st M12
Zara Stewart, 1st W14
Campbell Syme, 1st M14
Liam Thompson, 1st M18
Kieran Woods, 1st M21A
Martin Crosby, 1st M55
Annette Orchard, 1st W60

Long

Grace Cory-Wright, 1st W10
Harry Borton, 1st M10
Kate Borton, 1st W12
Matthew Greenwood, 1st M12
Penelope Salmon, 1st W14
Campbell Syme, 1st M14
Liam Thompson, 1st M18
Eveline Husner, 1st W20
Kate Smirnova, 1st W20
Kieran Woods, 1st M21A
Martin Crosby, 1st M55
Annette Orchard, 1st W60

(Note: A number of the Ak Champs sprint courses were affected by wrongly placed controls, resulting in there being no official results for the classes on these courses)