

Auckland Orienteering Club Inc.

Presidents report 2014

Club Officers

Treasurer – Gillian Magerkorth

Secretary – Alina Smirnova

Membership – Karen Woods

Club Captain – Dwayne Smith

AOC had a quiet year in event delivery terms. We had no major events but the year felt far from a quiet.

While being light on major events I'm very proud that AOC has a massive depth of talent is and well set up to take on big and great quality events. Big events are coming our way if you're looking for a challenge. These take the form of World Masters Games and Oceania.

We've had many highlights to celebrate and I'll try to focus on some of these.

There's been the usual big volunteer effort from many of you to deliver great events so thank you. As we know event organisation can be a challenge but that never seems to faze the many of you that take on. The planning and technical considerations are a fun challenge for a lot of us. We also have the challenge of negotiating access to land and gaining access permits. Sometimes this is a drag but inevitably a necessary part of our planning.

AOC hosted events

| Events | Number |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| SummerNav | 19 |
| A series | 3 |
| OY series | 3 |
| Night street series – May | 4 |
| Winter short course events – Aug | 4 |
| Spring street series – Sept | 3 |
| AOA club relays – June | 1 |
| Total | 37 |

Our year started with our 26th Summer series in parks. We put on 19 events one more than in 2012/13. Participant numbers increased by 6% over the 2 years. Average per event was 143 compared to 135 in 2012/13. Maximum attendance at a single event was 215 in 2014 (Western Springs) and coincidentally we had the same maximum in 2013 (Domain).

A series highlight for me was getting access back to Self's Farm after some tension a few years ago with the landowner. This event was planned by Alistair Landels sitting at his screen in Sweden. People who went may remember an oddly contorted portion of the course that completely stumped even the best and brightest!

The new SummerNav committee did a fantastic job in 2014 of organising the current series. They've been able to deliver a full programme again for 2015 despite some debate earlier in the year that we

should perhaps run a reduced series. The team made some great improvements particularly on the necessary process and paperwork side which is not always where we want to invest our time. But this does help set us up well for new H&S legislation that affects us and comes into being in April. We need to cover ourselves in this area.

In June AOC hosted the Auckland relay champs at the University Epsom Campus. Dwayne and Mervyn planned some challenging courses on the map that always trips a lot of people up. The relay sprint format which has been running for a few years now was a winner for those who made it. We added a young'un category this year meaning that under 12's were not competing with the older highly talented juniors and this was well received. The result was a draw with NW but we generously awarded the trophy to NW (they had the fastest overall time for counting teams). 150 competed in 50 teams.

Our OY's and A series attracted good numbers. We're still able to offer a good level of challenge and variety at our Woodhill Forest events despite our maps seeing a lot of use over the last few years. We bolted on a Rogaine format to OY2. This was an interesting experiment, added to the workload for Jeff and the Parsons Family but was well received by those who ran.

Our planned OY2 date was met with a forced forest closure 3 days before the event due to a storm and tree-fall. I cannot remember the last time we had to cancel an event but communications appeared to get through successfully. Thanks to Selwyn who generously drove to the forest to bring bad news to anyone who didn't get the message. Fortunately, no one turned up and the event was rescheduled successfully.

Each year we're thrown new challenges in Woodhill. In 2014 each vehicle entering the forest had to pay a road maintenance fee of \$5. This is on top of access and security fees of several thousand each year. We've managed to keep event fees at the same level however this is likely to change in the coming year.

During the colder months we also delivered 2 rounds of street series. We got a bit more social this year with some members offering up their houses/garages and turning them into event centres. This was a much welcomed warmer and more secure offering than the back street car parks we frequented in previous years.

Our winter short course events attracted record numbers, a sign of the growing popularity of sprint events.

Member results

We had some impressive member performances at National and regional events through the year. Many members achieved podium places at events around the country.

- Sprint the Bay – last outing for this popular event
- Nationals in Wellington – Ohakea Air Base, Manga Pirau (coastal), Fusilier plus a night event at Mt Lees
- Wellington Champs – hosted by Red Kiwis
- Auckland Champs in Thames, Maramarua and Kawakawa Bay
- South Island champs – Geraldine and surrounds
- Joanna and Alistair travelled to the World Masters in Brazil. This was their 13th consecutive World Masters.

The NW club hosted TONIC on a new map in Riverhead in March. The thought of running on a steep and mostly green map had a few people quivering. But recollections from this event were all positive. Many members ran cleanly but I think what a lot of people took away was the quality of the mapping. A

sense of awe took over when we found that the entire fieldwork took only a total of 72 hours (Nick Hann legend)

TONIC was also a trial for the JWOC team. Several of our juniors trialled for the team and put in very competitive performances against a very strong pool of juniors nation-wide. Congratulations to Jonty Oram, James Crosby, Tommy Hayes, Kieran Woods, Andrei Popovici.

The junior scene has changed immensely in the last few years and it's great to see so many of ours getting involved. Their organised activity is very visible in social media circles with the creation of the AOTC. Barely a week goes by without some organised training by any number of juniors. The junior programme is too big to mention here particularly when thinking of the number of school events in the programme. AOC has had some success in the last year attracting new families as a result of the schools programmes and this is reflected in our membership which is great to see.

Training

In September we organised our training weekend in Woodhill. Since previous organisers, Toby and Imogene have moved to other parts we asked Michael Adams (PAPO but based in Auckland) to design the training. He was supported by Gene Beveridge and Imogene Scott who we flew up from Nelson for the weekend plus another 10 local orienteers assisted with coaching. For the first time we invited yellow and near yellow grade orienteers to the training. This was a well-received addition as most other opportunities for these orienteers had only been in parks and schools. Credit to Jeff who organised a great weekend and achieved a good ratio of coach to trainee. We had some great feedback from the 80+ orienteers who participated. As a result, next year we'll put on 3 training days through the year with NW rather than one training weekend.

Once again AOC supported the weekend and subsidised members attending 50% of the cost. This was the club's biggest membership related cost but a worthwhile investment in our future.

NW hosted more forest training in October which AOC also paid for members attending.

We ended the year with multiple training opportunities, a lot of these provided by juniors with passion and high energy levels. I know some of you took good advantage of these free casual but high quality training opportunities.

Other trainings took place as well:

- Jeff added popular weekly run training sessions to the calendar on Tuesdays.
- Jeff and Dwayne organised a white and yellow level training afternoon in Cornwall Park.
- Dwayne also organised other trainings in parks.

Club financials

The club is generally in good shape financially.

With no major events in 2014 our income was lower but so were the associated event costs and mapping expenses. Our expenses exceeded our income in 2014 mainly due to increased depreciation on our equipment (Sport Ident particularly) and the 50% subsidy we gave to members for the training weekend in September.

Some major purchases during the year were 2 new laptops plus a new tunnel tent. We'll likely be buying more club tents in the next year or two as our older tents are getting a bit tired and we need to gear up for big events to come. We tossed up buying the new tunnel tent from Europe but taxes and freight and our decision to use a local supplier out-weighed the advantages of getting a tried and tested product widely used by O clubs in Europe. A big consideration for us is portability so the new tent is quarter of the weight of the ezi-ups.

Our trusty campermatic is our most problematic piece of equipment now (mainly because it leaks and risks damaging equipment and supplies inside). We'll be looking at possible replacement options this year having already established that repair is not economic.

We haven't applied for any grants in the last couple of years so I'm keen to look at opportunities for funding 2015. In 2014 an AUT lecturer gave us an opportunity to have grant applications produced for us. It was part of a University paper so I presented to a class on what our sport was and some opportunities we saw for potential grant monies. Some written applications have been sent so we'll look at opportunities this year

We had several Junior Training Fund applications during the year and paid out \$1700 to our juniors. After promoting the fund existence in the last 2 years we've had a run of applications. It's great that we can support our juniors in this way. And remember there are easy ways to donate to the fund by requesting your planner or controller fee is donated to the fund.

Membership growth in the last year

| As at 31/10/.. end of financial year | AOC Member Numbers | | | Types of AOC Memberships | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------|-------|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| | seniors | juniors | total | senior individual | junior individual | family | total memberships |
| 2008 | 111 (includes 2 schools) | 40 | 151 | 54 (includes 2 schools) | 2 | 25 | 81 |
| 2009 | 113 (includes 1 school) | 48 | 161 | 46 (includes 1 school) | 4 | 36 | 86 |
| 2010 | 127 (includes 3 schools) | 54 | 181 | 55 (includes 2 schools) | 5 | 37 (includes 1 school) | 97 |
| 2011 | 134 (includes 2 schools) | 69 | 203 | 59 (includes 2 schools) | 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 |

The club has seen more than 20% membership growth in the last year

2012 includes SummerNav memberships taken out up until the date of the AGM that year rather the end of our membership year (31 October). So it's an inflated figure. We expect a more accurate year on year comparison is to the 237 members we had in 2012.

Other highlights

- At a national level Rob Jessop (AOC life member) was the coach for our highly successful JWOC team in Bulgaria. The team achieved a gold medal in the sprint (Tim Robertson) and a podium placing in the relay plus other high places in a world class field.
- Also at a National level 3 AOC members received ONZ awards – Alistair Stewart, Pete Swanson and Roger Woodroffe.

- 16 AOC juniors were selected to go to the Junior Training Camp north of Wellington. This was great representation from our club considering only 100 can go nationwide. Thanks to Linda and Dwayne who supported these juniors at the camp and drove the "AOC bus" for the week.
- Hayley and Dwayne planned a highly successful and entertaining ultra-sprint in Cornwall Park
- Tommy and James were finalists and Tommy won the Boys Orienteering Award in the ASB College Sport Young Sportsperson of the Year 2014 Awards
- Stu Lynch was part of the winning Seagate team in the Godzone adventure race. Tune into the latest edition next month where Stu is again part of the same team.
- We sourced some smart new uniform stock during the year
- Former President Pete Swanson and wife Erin had a second child, Monty

Acknowledgements

I'd like to acknowledge the committee for their help during the year and their passion that results in AOC putting on great quality events. Whilst we didn't organise any major events this year there was no shortage of planning. Thank you to Dwayne, Roger, Mervyn, Joanna, Selwyn and Jeff for bringing your ideas, your innovative thinking and your technical knowhow and technology skills to the club. A big thanks also to Gillian, Alina and Karen who do a huge amount of work behind the scenes which is vital for the successful running of the club. Thanks also to Steve Oram for his financial review. Without you guys we simply wouldn't have a working club.

A special thanks also to investing time in our monthly committee meetings. I'm told by some I hold the record for the longest running committee meeting but this is not true!

The Summer series committee has also put in a massive effort to get the current series off the ground. Thanks especially to John and Elizabeth (and Anna and Lucy) for consistently being there in the evening after each event getting in controls and packing gear away. Martin for leading the Auckland Council permits effort and also Gergo and Steve and Roger for all your great support too. You've done a very thorough job and have taken a big weight off the club committee in the process.

Every year we organise close to 40 events. This means we need to find about 100 planners, controllers and coordinators every year which is a big proportion of our membership. Thank you to so many of you for volunteering to take on these roles during the year and I hope you found the experience rewarding.

Looking to the future

We have a few exciting years ahead with World Masters Games and Oceania. Planning for these large events is already underway with a World Masters orienteering steering committee set up reporting to Orienteering NZ. Auckland Council are throwing millions at the World Masters Games 2017 and have taken positive steps to allow us to showcase at least our sprint events in prominent public places in Auckland.

Our recent foray to Tasmania was a good opportunity to again observe some major event workings. We generally thought they ran a well organised carnival but could also see opportunities for improvement.

We face challenges dealing with other parts of Auckland Council especially in respect of events in parks. We're trying to work constructively with them and present orienteering in a positive light i.e. minimal impact on landform. The North West club share our challenges so are helping with negotiations. The latest correspondence from the Council proposes charging us for all events held in parks.

Access to our premier terrain in Woodhill forest is another area of negotiation with the owners Ngati Whatua o Kaipara. We and the North west club have a strong desire to build a relationship with them to secure access for the future. They're aware that we want to showcase the world-class terrain as part of the World Masters Games in 2017.

We expect to host Nationals in 2018 so this will be an exciting planning time for the club and we should have some quality areas and maps to run on.

2015 will be busy year too with our offering of another series of forest and park events. We also have on the cards:

- Host for the Auckland Secondary school champs in May
- An opportunity to host the junior training camp in December
- Gearing up for new health and safety regulations which come into play in April.

Finally, a request to please consider volunteering for a planning role at one of our events in the coming year. I'm keen to continue a "buddy" system we've tried where a planner with not so much experience is paired with a more experienced planner. This reduces the size of the task and hopefully makes it fun and challenging for both. It's also a great way to improve technical O skills. Please come and talk to us about how you can help this year.

Guy Cory-Wright

AOC President