



## Auckland Orienteering Club President's report 2016

While on the face of it the 2015/16 year of the Auckland Orienteering Club appeared to be business as usual, it's been a very challenging year.

Nothing prepared us at the start of the year for the tragic loss of Club member and friend, Gergo Verhas. Gergo died in a tragic accident, but doing one of the things he liked best, mountain climbing in the South Island. Gergo received an award posthumously at the ONZ AGM in April for his volunteer service to the Club helping plan the SummerNav and organising our on-line database. I like to think Gergo is still looking down on us, watching our progress, and perhaps suggesting a few improvements. I remember him saying 'if it's not worth doing right, it's not worth doing at all'.

The ongoing challenge has been the escalating demands of hosting next year's Oceania and World Masters Orienteering Champs. I have every confidence both of these events will be a resounding success, but that doesn't come without a lot of hard work put in by a lot of Club members during the year, who I wish to acknowledge in this report.

It's equally important however for me to acknowledge all the Club members who have helped out, as with many of our normal "go to" members consumed by Oceania/WMOC commitments, others have stepped up to help so we can continue to deliver a wide range of quality events, valuable coaching sessions, and attend to all the other things that keep the Club running, be it finance, administration, maintaining the website and Club equipment, and maintaining relationships with our key stakeholders.

It has meant we haven't always been able to do as much as we would like in 2015/16 developing some of the areas we've identified as important, such as more coaching opportunities, Club nights, improved communication, etc., but we haven't lost sight of these goals and have continued to make incremental improvements, or developed plans to roll out new initiatives next year, once we have the capacity to do so.

### Club Officers

The Club officers for the 2015/16 year were:

President:	Martin Crosby	
Secretary:	Alina Smirnova	
Treasurer:	Gillian Magerkorth	
Club Captain:	Dwayne Smith	
Committee:	Mike Ashmore	Guy Cory-Wright
	Aiden Ellmers	Mervyn Paitry
	Selwyn Palmer	Joanna Stewart
	Karen Woods	

I wish to thank the committee for their help during the year and sound judgement in making decisions that are in the best interests of members and the Club. Committee meetings have been without conflict as everyone is aligned in their thinking and have worked in a collegial way to get things done. Alas, there has been no improvement in shortening the length of the committee meetings.

As a result of moving away from Auckland, work or other commitments, Aiden Ellmers, Alina Smirnova and Mervyn Paistry elected to stand down from the committee. A special thanks to them all for the contribution they have made during their term.

## Membership

We are growing. Membership increased 23% over the year with an 18% increase in the number of seniors and junior numbers increasing by 28%, with the Club now almost equally split between the juniors and seniors. Since 2008 the Club has doubled in size, now tipping over the 300 mark.

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	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	153

Earlier this year I floated a goal of growing the Club to 500 members. If you recall the maths, in Sweden close to 1% of the total population belongs to an orienteering club. Sweden is the home of orienteering, so 1% might be too ambitious, but if we achieve just 10% of this number: Auckland's population is close to 1.5 million, so 1% would be 15,000. Take 10% of that, divide by the three Auckland clubs (AOC, NWOC & CMOC) and you end up with 500 apiece.

What does membership growth mean for the Club? A larger Club means more people to lend a hand, meaning we can continue to put on lots of events. I'm not sure if we double in size we will have twice as many events - we're already running into difficulty getting enough maps to run on, but 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. Income for 2016 was higher than the previous year, mainly from more event fees from hosting the Auckland Champs, together with increased membership dues from an increase in member numbers.

We have been building up the Club's cash reserves over recent years to fund an asset renewal programme, plus expand our equipment base. Some of this new equipment will be useful for Oceania and WMOC, but the main purpose is to give us improved capability going forward to hold large multi-day events, for example the NZ Champs which the Club is provisionally scheduled to host in 2018.

Recent purchases include a new laptop, 2 new TV screens, new splits printer, and 2 new Club tents as the current ones are tired and starting to leak. Planned purchases include another complete set of Sportident controls and forest stands, 40 freestanding sprint controls and two start clocks. We are combining with Northwest OC to purchase a set of O-Lynx radio controls, and also investigating a PA system. We've also agreed to purchase another set of the clever freestanding SummerNav controls Mike Ashmore designed, which will mean we then have sufficient to run a full event. As well as being popular with runners this may help obtain landowner permissions on some of the more sensitive maps.

We're continuing to look at options for the replacement of our trusty Camp-o-Matic, which is now pretty long in the tooth. Meanwhile John Parsons is doing a remarkable job looking after it to extend it's life and extract the maximum value from it we can.

An opportunity developed during the year of having a Club sponsor, which the committee is excited about but at the same time careful to do the right thing, not only for the Club but also the sponsor. We recognise a sponsorship deal is a two-way arrangement and both parties need to get good value out of it for it to be successful. Another thing we have to be careful about is our relationship with landowners, and that any sponsor endorsements and the more commercial image that brings doesn't jeopardise the generosity they extend to us by allowing us to have events on their land for a modest or no fee. This is an area we are continuing to explore.

We did not receive any applications for funding from the Junior Training Fund this year but were pleased the Nicholls Fund was able to support Jonty Oram representing NZ in the World University Orienteering Champs in Hungary by paying some of his entry fees for events as a build up to this competition.

## Events

AOC Events		
year	events	participants
2012	43	6,101
2013	35	5,008
2014	39	4,913
2015	37	4,688
2016	37	4,957

In the 2015/2016 year we held 37 events, the same number as the previous year, and more than any other club according to the ONZ Annual Report. Compare this to smaller clubs who typically hold about 20 events a year or less.

This year saw a reversal in what has been a decline in participant numbers over recent years, and while a more in-depth analysis is required, there is anecdotal evidence to suggest our events are starting to attract larger numbers. An example was the first of our Saturday sprint events, which the previous year attracted about 60-70 participants. This year we were caught by surprise when double that number turned up! And at our recent SummerNav in Western Springs, it must have been the most popular attraction in town with an estimated 300 or more participants involved.

John Parsons continues to do a sterling job organising the SummerNav series, also taking over from me this year as permissions officer, working with Council and various landowners to gain access for our events. Next year's 2017/18 season will be our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of running this series in Auckland parks so will be a bumper year. How many Club members remember getting their early experience of orienteering in these events, and experienced orienteers still regularly use them to keep fit over summer and hone their orienteering skills, so we will start thinking how we should celebrate this occasion. It would be fun to run on the original map from 30 years ago, if it can be found. Maybe Council will give us one-off permission to run on some of the maunga, or is this too wishful thinking?

We hosted the Auckland Champs in May this year which featured a tricky middle distance event set by Scott Vennell and Dwayne Smith in Beautiful Hills, catching most people out at some point on the course. And for something different, a night sprint through Western Springs set by Tommy Hayes and the Stewarts, which we weren't sure how it would go but everyone seemed to think was a blast!

We've continued to run our OY events in Woodhill forest and as we did last year, mixed it up a bit by having a double-sprint, this time in Avondale schools. Woodhill is our mainstay for these events and if you think some of the forest is becoming a bit too familiar, that will all soon change, because this time next year it's likely most of our southern maps will no longer be runnable, with felling of the forest scheduled to start from 1 July onwards. There will be an opportunity next year for a final blast through some of these maps, but then expect to have to drive a little further north in future years.

## Results

Attached to this report is a summary of Club members' major placings at the National Champs 2016 and the titleholders from the Auckland Champs. Congratulations to all the Club members who had success during the year.

Other highlights of the year included:

- Tommy Hayes being selected for the 2016 JWOC Team, competing in Switzerland in July. Tommy finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the sprint, and 8<sup>th</sup> as part of the 3-man relay. In the sprint race only 3 seconds separated 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> place, so Tommy only narrowly missing being on the podium.
- Congratulations also to Jonty Oram, who represented New Zealand in the World University Orienteering Championships for 2016 held in Miskolc, Hungary.
- Club members were well represented in the Auckland Schools Sprint Series final held in April, with Ryan Williams taking out Senior Boys, Michael McCormack Junior Boys, Anna Duston Junior Girls and Campbell Syme won Year 7-8 Boys.

- In the NZSS Champs Anna Duston won the Junior Girls sprint and came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Long and Ryan Williams won the Senior Boys Long, with Lucy Burrell, Campbell Syme, Hayden Williams, Juliet Frater, Andrei Popovici and Emily Hayes all placing.
- Andrei Popovici, Meghan Drew, Imogene Scott and Tommy Hayes were selected for the NZ Pinestars team to compete against the Australian Bushrangers at the Australian Champs, Andrei also selected for NZ Secondary Schools team.

## Coaching

We've got some very talented junior orienteers in the Club, and some very talented junior coaches. This was demonstrated at the NZ Secondary School Champs where consistency from the Baradene College junior girls and Mt Albert Grammar School junior boys saw these two schools selected to represent New Zealand at the World Schools Orienteering Championship in Italy in 2017, a tribute to Hayley Smith and Lyn Stanton respectively who have expertly coached them this year.

As a Club we have been discussing how we can better support school coaching programmes, including integrating Club events as part of the training, creating templates and coaching resources on the Club website, and networking with other coaches/schools for joint training sessions to share the load. More information on this will roll out over coming months.

We also trialed this year the use of model maps before AOS events (the President managing to get himself hopelessly lost on the model maps on more than one occasion) and at a school gym ran our first ever indoor orienteering event! Both of these initiatives have been successful and well received, not just by juniors but seniors too, so we wish to build on these in 2017. Ali Comer and Lyn have already started work on an exciting programme of mid-winter Club coaching nights that will kick off in June.

At the start of the Club year we hosted the NZ Junior Training Camp, with over 100 of the country's best secondary school orienteers attending. Lynda Smith was the chief operations manager for this huge undertaking, accommodating and training a large group of children, plus organising coaches and being responsible for their welfare. Transport alone was a logistical nightmare requiring hiring of 12 mini-vans to shuttle the students around. Lynda received a thoroughly well-deserved commendation from ONZ at the AGM this year for her service to the sport.

I'm not sure how Jeff Greenwood found the time amidst his WMOC commitments, but he also organised our coaching days for sprint and forest orienteering this year. These events are a lot of work to pull together, more so than putting on an orienteering event, but are incredibly valuable days for Club members. Everyone who attends comes away with some new skill or technique they have learned to improve their orienteering.

## Oceania/WMOC

We now look ahead to 2017 as the build-up continues for next year's mega events, being Oceania and World Masters Orienteering Champs 2017.

A number of our Club members have dedicated an enormous amount of time to mapping, course setting and controlling, and putting in place the technology, organisation and financial planning required to run these two large events. Guy Cory-Wright is our Club representative in the Oceania/WMOC planning group, a task made more difficult than the planning of an ordinary Carnival due to the involvement of

World Masters Games, and the extra layer of complexity and red tape this brings. Guy will deserve a medal for diplomacy at the end of this.

There are many Club members involved but I would particularly like to mention:

### **Oceania**

Sprint planner: Dwayne Smith

Finance manager: Tracey Syme

### **WMOC**

Sprint final planner: Dave Crofts

Sprint qualification and final controllers: Joanna and Alistair Stewart

Long final planner: Guy Cory-Wright

Long final controller: Jeff Greenwood

Entries coordinator Oceania and WMOC: Ali Comer

Chief mapper for Oceania and WMOC: Selwyn Palmer

Dwayne Smith is also on the technology working group. More recently John Parsons, Elizabeth Parsons, David Scott and yours truly have volunteered their time as Arena Managers for the model event, Oceania Sprint, WMOC Sprint final and Sprint Qualifier respectively.

We should also acknowledge again Selwyn receiving the Silva Award for services to NZ Orienteering at the NZ Orienteering AGM in Nelson. This is ONZ's premier service award, honouring an individual who has contributed in a most deserving manner to the development of orienteering in NZ.

For many years Selwyn has been the main point of contact on behalf of both Auckland and North West Clubs with Woodhill Forest, arranging year-long contracts and permissions, a process that has become increasingly more difficult in recent years with harvesting of trees, competing forest users, health & safety restrictions and new owners unfamiliar with orienteering. It is of huge significance that Selwyn has built a relationship with Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara which has allowed orienteering to continue in Woodhill Forest.

But as I said at the start of this report, singling anyone out for special mention is always a dangerous thing when we have a Club of 300+ members, all who are happy to lend a hand and help out where required, which makes the job of putting on over 40 events and training days a year manageable.

Recognising how busy everyone is, one of my failings as a President is shying away from asking people for help. I don't know why I worry, as anytime I've asked anyone for anything, everyone has always been willing and generous with their time. So a huge thank you to you all.

Martin Crosby

President

**Auckland Orienteering Club**

# NZ Champs 2016 Results

## Sprint

Matthew Greenwood, 1st M10  
Emily Hayes, 1st W12  
Rebecca Greenwood, 2nd W14  
Anna Cory-Wright, 3rd W14  
Anna Parsons, 1st W18  
Anna Crosby, 2nd= W18  
Tommy Hayes, 1st M20  
Lyn Stanton, 1st W50  
Jeff Greenwood, 2nd M50  
Guy Cory-Wright, 3rd M50  
Annette Orchard, 3rd W55  
Martin Crosby, 1st= M55  
Joanna Stewart, 3rd W65  
Alistair Stewart, 2nd M65

## Middle

Matthew Greenwood, 1st M10  
Emily Hayes, 2nd W12  
Rebecca Greenwood, 3rd W14  
Anna Crosby, 1st W18  
Anna Parsons, 2nd W18  
William Hayes, 2nd M18  
Aiden Ellmers, 3rd M21A  
Karen Woods, 3rd W40AS  
Bronwyn Rosie, 3rd W40B  
Dave Crofts, 2nd M45  
Lyn Stanton, 2nd W50  
Leo McCormack, 1st M50B  
Martin Crosby, 2nd M55

## Long

Matthew Greenwood, 1st M10  
Emily Hayes, 2nd W12  
Anna Cory-Wright, 3rd W14  
Meghan Drew, 2nd W16  
Anna Crosby, 1st W18  
Anna Parsons, 2nd W18  
Kieran Woods, 2nd M21A  
Aiden Ellmers, 1st M21AS  
Bronwyn Rosie, 1st W40B  
Lyn Stanton, 3rd W50  
Jeff Greenwood, 3rd M50  
Leo McCormack, 1st M50B  
Alistair Stewart, 3rd M65

# Auckland Champs 2016 Results

## Sprint

Grace Cory-Wright, 1st W10  
Charlie Frater, 1st M10  
Juliet Frater, 1st W12  
Liam Buyck, 1st M12  
Anna Cory-Wright, 1st W14  
Meghan Drew, 1st W16  
Hayley Smith, 1st W18  
Alison Comer, 1st W40  
Dave Crofts, 1st M40  
Lyn Stanton, 1st W50  
Dwayne Smith, 1st M50  
Bronwyn Holcombe, 1st W60  
David Scott, 1st M60  
Bruce Cassey, 1st M70

## Middle

Grace Cory-Wright, 1st W10  
Charlie Frater, 1st M10  
Juliet Frater, 1st W12  
Matthew Greenwood, 1st M12  
Sylvie Frater, 1st W14  
James Crosby, 1st M20  
Alina Smirnova, 1st W21A  
Dave Crofts, 1st M40  
Jeff Greenwood, 1st M50  
Bronwyn Holcombe, 1st W60  
Peter King, 1st M60

## Long

Grace Cory-Wright, 1st W10  
Charlie Frater, 1st M10  
Matthew Greenwood, 1st M12  
Anna Cory-Wright, 1st W14  
Kieran Woods, 1st M21A  
Alison Comer, 1st W40  
Jeff Greenwood, 1st M50