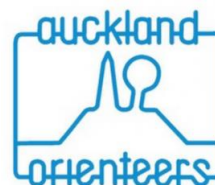


# Auckland Orienteering Club

## Auckland Orienteering Club - February 2023 - Newsletter

Welcome to the first AOC Newsletter of 2023 and a few things to update you all on. We have a number of upcoming events to make you aware of, a membership deal to announce with Shoe Science, a review of our recent events so far and a few requests for membership help.



## What's in this newsletter

- Presidents overview
- Upcoming events including Katoa Po (NZ's premier Night event)
- Volunteer help needed for Intermediate Zone days and Auckland Sprint Series
- Shoe Science – Members discount deal - 15% off all purchases
- Yearly Membership renewals
- New "Events Working Group" - request for members to join
- Mapping database - request for mappers
- Super City Sprints update
- Events Review

## President's overview

Firstly, it's been a difficult start to the year with the two large storm floods significantly impacting Auckland and then Hurricane Gabrielle causing widespread destruction across the North Island that we don't yet know the full extent of. The coastal Auckland committees of Piha and Muriwai have taken significant impacts that will likely change the nature of those

communities permanently as we start to see the true impact unfold. Our thoughts go out to our friends in Hawkes Bay who have a long journey ahead as they struggle to get even the basic utilities back to life.

We have seen significant impact to our SummerNav's which, by nature, venture in to urban forest areas that have been significantly impacted. The Waterview event earlier this month and the upcoming Auckland Domain event have had permanent changes etched in to their waterways and gullies.

We have seen numerous club members attend the successful South Island Champs and Waitangi Weekend events in Nelson and Christchurch this month and we also have seen the long overdue School Sprint Series in Auckland kick off after a 3 year Covid-induced Hiatus. We also see the start of our re-vamped 3 club calendar kick off with the NWOC Build up Sprint (19<sup>th</sup> Feb) and Forest (26<sup>th</sup> Feb) start.

Wishing you all well as we start the year.

## Upcoming Events

On the 5<sup>th</sup> March we were intending to host a Forest event at Grass Track Road in Muriwai. Due to the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle on the community as well as the lack of access to the area we have **decided to postpone the event until later in the year** – details to follow when we can assess the situation fully.

We are also assessing Cornwall Park and Auckland Domain for safety confirmation ahead of the upcoming SummerNav's – these are still planning to go ahead.

We also await news from ONZ regarding Nationals in Hawkes Bay over Easter.

## Upcoming Calendar

**Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb** – SummerNav – Cornwall Park (Green Lane entrance)

**Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Build Up Forest – Riverhead Forest (Robinson Road) – [Entry here](#) (Entries close – Thursday evening)

**Tue 28<sup>th</sup> Feb** – SummerNav – Lloyd Elsmore Park

**Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Mar** – SummerNav – Ambury Farm (Night Event – starts from 8:30pm)

**Tue 7<sup>th</sup> Mar** – SummerNav – Auckland Domain (Titoki Street)

**Sat/Sun 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Katoa Po – Taupo (details below)

**Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Mar** – SummerNav – Panmure Basin

**Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Build Up Sprint – Glendowie College

**Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar** – SummerNav – Western Springs (Stadium end)

## Katoa Po

The 2023 Katoa Po and explorer weekend in Taupo is going to be a blockbuster because for the Katoa Po night relay and Explorer we have a wide variety of terrain with typical Taupo farmland as well as Pine, Eucalypt and even some Manuka forest to suit all skill levels and we will also have one of the rounds of the National League Sprint series for 2023.

<https://www.orienteering.org.nz/events/katoa-po-night-relay-and-explorer/>

Auckland Orienteering Club pays for the Night Relays – all you need to do is Enter. Teams are made up of 5 or 7 orienteers, with the first leg going off at dusk. Camping is available at the event centre for all participants.

We require a **Club Captain role for the event who can attract club members to attend and manage the team selection**. [If you wish to take on this role then please click here](#)

**Help needed**

## Orienteering Zone Day – 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Auckland Orienteering Club runs the Orienteering Zone day for year 7/8 students for 3 zones each year. These are during school hours. **We are in need of volunteers to help run the Zone days.** . The first start is 10am and they are usually all finished by about 12.00.

We've always had a great team of club member helpers who have come along to these events for the last couple of years . Also this year we are running our 3 zones over a 10 day time period so most helpers are unlikely to be available for all events. If you have flexibility to volunteer some time on a weekday please could you let me know. We need about 8 people on the start and finish to do things like hand out the e cards, show the students how to use them, tell them how to orienteer, when to start, collect their e card off them at the finish and man the computers.

We also need quite a few people to stand out around the course to make sure there are no safety issues (students wandering off the map, getting anywhere near where cars are, undesirable members of the public etc, anyone hurt, and to give encouragement to any students who are looking lost and despondent. For many of these students it is the first time they have ever orienteered and it is meant to be a fun day for them so if they are not a top competitive orienteer we give them help to get around their course (a very simple one!)

The 3 zones events are all being run at Waiatarua Reserve, St Johns on **Tuesday 21st March, Tuesday 28th March and Friday 31st March.** The first start is 10am and they are usually all finished by about 12.00.

This year it is also AOC's turn to run the Championship Interzone event for the best teams from all the zone days. We are running this on Cornwall Park on Wednesday 10th May with the same sort of help needed. **If you think you might be able to assist at any of these events please email me (Joanna) at [auckoc@gmail.com](mailto:auckoc@gmail.com) or chat to me at an event.** It is a fun day seeing the enthusiasm of all these budding young orienteers and schools are extremely grateful for what we do. We have many club member families who first came to a club event because their yr 7/8 child came home enthusiastic about orienteering after attending a zone day.

## Auckland Sprint Series - Controllers needed

In 2023 we are introducing the Auckland Sprint Series, which is a combined Series of 5 races across Auckland with a big finale in August. Auckland are hosting 4 of these events, which need 4 Controllers to help. We have the 4 Setters confirmed and are working to confirm the locations.

Auckland Sprint Series 1 – St Kents – June 17<sup>th</sup> (Setter = Steve Oram)

Auckland Sprint Series 3 – Location TBC – July 1<sup>st</sup> (Setter = Alina Granger)

Auckland Sprint Series 5 – Location TBC- July 22<sup>nd</sup> (Setter = Kate Borton)

Auckland Sprint Series Final – Location TBC – August 5<sup>th</sup> (Setter = Jonty Oram)

If you are available to help control any of the following Sprint events please [email us here](#)

## Membership deal

### Sponsorship deal with Shoe Science in Mt Eden and Newmarket

Auckland Orienteering Club is pleased to announce a Sponsorship agreement with Shoe Science Newmarket and Shoe Science Mt Eden which started last week. All Auckland Orienteering Club members will get **15% discount off all purchases in both stores.**

As a result of the partnership **Shoe Science will also provide an investment into Auckland Orienteering Club** to support future events and coaching opportunities.

You will need to show your Membership Card on purchase - simply visit our Membership website - <https://www.revolutionise.com.au/aoc/> Click on Account then Membership Card.

Shoe Science Mt Eden hosts a Wednesday night run club which we have plans to

incorporate into our midweek training opportunities.

## AOC Membership renewal time

It is AOC membership renewal time again and renewal invoices will be emailed shortly. Please login to your account when you receive the invoice and update any details which have changed.

We would appreciate receiving your renewal as soon as possible. If you are attending JWOC trials and/or the NZ Orienteering Championships please ensure your membership is current.

If you are not renewing your membership in 2023 please advise us so you can be removed from our records and we don't send reminders.

# Working Groups

## Events Working Group

We are introducing the last of our 5 Working Groups that we are asking club members to get involved in. This Working Group will **organise all of the Event delivery for the club**, which is at the heart of what we do. We are highly regarded as producing High quality events that are organised exceptionally well and we are keen to have a group that can work together to keep that reputation upheld.

The scope of the Working Group is:

- Event Calendar management
- Event Delivery - Co-ordination

- Volunteer Management
  - Future Event Planning - Maps, Locations,
  - Event centre and Technology set up.
  - Training guides and processes for Events
  - Setter and Controller training and upskilling
  - Technology training and upskilling
- 
- If you wish to come and **join the group** then please [click here to register your interest](#)
  - The group will meet regularly to discuss upcoming events and ensure we are all lined up to deliver them

## Looking for Mappers

One of the projects the Mapping Working Group is working on is creating a database of all our maps, including notes where work is required to bring them up-to-date. This might be updates where tracks or vegetation have changed, extending a map to include new areas, or symbol set conversions to bring them into line with the latest IOF mapping standards. Some jobs are quite small, others a bit bigger, but in total it's quite a large schedule of work!

Therefore we're looking for mappers. Is this an area you're interested in? Don't worry if you're just learning, we can set you up with a simpler project to start with and guide you along the way. If you're interested in finding out more, get in touch with the Mapping Working Group ([mapping@orienteeingauuckland.org.nz](mailto:mapping@orienteeingauuckland.org.nz)) and we can talk about projects that match your experience and the time you have available.

# Super City Sprints

On Waitangi Weekend 2024 (5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> February) we will be hosting **Super City Sprints**. This event has also been selected as the inaugural **Oceania Sprint Championships** and will

include **2 World Ranking Events** and **2 WOC qualifying events** for the **WOC Sprint** and a **WOC Knockout** events in Switzerland 2024. The event will also have a cumulative time competition for all grades across 6 different Sprint events – **it's going to be a frother.**

We are starting to build the **media and marketing collateral** to advertise the event and will be asking for volunteers over the coming months to start preparing for the event. There will be a huge number of roles across the breadth of the club and would love for as many of our members to be available to host this event.

There is a strong contingent expected from the Northern Hemisphere as well as a huge following from across the Tasman.

## Events Review

### South Island Champs

For the Aucklanders that managed to get flights out to Nelson this was an excellent event of 3 races set over 2 days.

Saturday morning was a middle event held on the same Rabbit Island map as the ONZ Nationals, balancing intricate coastal strip complexity with vague rough forest and difficult control picking.

We then moved on to Nayland Schools in the afternoon and an exceptionally new map for us all on 3 connected schools. Was good to see the new multi-level mapping standards executed perfectly and incorporated in to the event ensuring extra caution was needed.

Sunday took us up to St Arnaud and West Bay - Oh boy. What a beast. There were casualties everywhere and long stories afterwards of huge mistakes and challenges in the patchy bush in the late control picking section. One control on a boulder the size of a Mini bus wasn't visible from 5 meters away in the dark forest areas.

Highlights came from Alex Jobbins in the Middle (3rd M20E). In the Sprint, Dave Stewart (2nd M50A), Zara Stewart (2nd W20E), Martin Crosby (1st – M60A). In the Long Martin Crosby ( 2<sup>nd</sup> – M60A)



# Waitangi Weekend

The following weekend the Waitangi Weekend was held in Christchurch with a Knockout day and Public Sprints at Lincoln Schools and Lincoln University, in blistering Christchurch heat. Then a Double Middle / Long at the ever complex Woodend and a scorching hot day at the open Canterbury Showgrounds for a Sprint relay.

The event introduced cash prizes for the 21E and 20E grades and brought the best of the best from around the World including a cameo from Tim Robertson, dropping in on the way to World X Country Champs in Bathurst. Highlight was the winning team in the Relay for the North Island of Tim Robertson, Duncan Morrison, Amber Morrison and Zara Stewart

## Results

### Individual Sprint 1

- Molly McGowan – W20E – 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Harry Borton – Red Men – 2<sup>nd</sup>
- David Stewart – Red Men – 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Debbie McGowan – Orange Women – 1<sup>st</sup>

### Individual Sprint 2

- Harry Borton – Red Men – 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Debbie McGowan – Orange Women – 1<sup>st</sup>

### Woodend Long

- Martin Crosby – Red Medium Men – 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Debbie McGowan – Orange Women – 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Woodend Chasing Middle

- Nathan Borton – M20E – 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### Sprint Relay

- 1<sup>st</sup> Team – Duncan Morrison, Zara Stewart
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Team – Kieran Woods, Molly McGowan

## SummerNav's

So far this year we've had 4 Summernav events at Eastern Beach, Epsom Campus, Waterview and Hamlins Hill all with fantastic elements.

- Eastern Beach introduced some exceptionally tricky route choice legs as well as intricate sprint detail in MacLeans college.
- Epsom Campus had a well-heralded Head-to-Head option.
- Waterview overcame the loss of most of the map to add a Memory course which caused loads of challenges (more below)
- Hamlins Hill produced some high quality courses that introduced some excellent Risk/reward legs through the ever growing undergrowth.

A big thank you

Every month we highlight club members who have gone over and beyond to help the club.

This month my special thanks goes to **Sharon Osman, Alina Granger and Tony Cooper**. After the first Auckland storms the Oakley Creek area of the Waterview map was simply washed away. In the 10 days they fundamentally changed all their courses and put on an exceptional event that saw over 100 course completions. Alina stepped in to help preparing the memory course cards as the team put on an exceptionally tricky additional test for the evening. **Amazing work team.**

Many thanks

Neill McGowan