

# Auckland Orienteering Club – 2025 President's Report

I wasn't entirely sure what to expect stepping into the President role at the AGM in 2024. At the time, I was only temporarily back in New Zealand to get a visa before heading back to Boston, USA. That soon became Europe as I moved between events during the European summer, before attending the Australian Orienteering Championships and ultimately settling in Adelaide.

Being remote has its challenges, mainly managing time zones, not being present at events and not being fully immersed with club members. I want to acknowledge the committee for their willingness to work with me. They, along with all the volunteers, are the backbone of the club. Without their ongoing support and eyes on the ground, being a remote president would have been impossible.

It has been another exceptional year for our club, filled with achievements, quality events and opportunities that continue to strengthen both the club and the sport of orienteering. As always, the end of the year brings a time for reflection on what we do well as a club, what we can improve and the direction we want to head in.

## A Year of International Representation

2025 was another successful year for AOC athletes on the world stage. Our juniors and seniors represented New Zealand with distinction at events including the World Orienteering Championships in Finland, the World Games in China, World Cup 1 in Sweden, World Cup 2 in Belgium, the Junior World Orienteering Championships in Italy, the European Youth Orienteering Championships in Czechia and the Southern Cross Junior Challenge in Australia.

Special congratulations to our club members selected for national teams. These selections reflect the time and effort invested in developing your orienteering ability.

## Domestic Competitions and Club Achievements

At home, AOC members had strong showings across the New Zealand Orienteering Championships, King's Birthday Championships and Oceania Championships. High participation across all age groups was impressive, with 92, 118 and 80 club members attending respectively. AOC athletes achieved multiple podium finishes in both individual and relay events, demonstrating depth across age groups and experience levels.

The Forest Cup returned with five races across familiar and new venues, and the AOC Club Champs at Woodhill provided close competition for club glory. The Winter Sprint Series,



SummerNav and Night Street events continued to engage the Auckland orienteering community, promoting skill development and accessible competition.

## Volunteer Contribution and Club Culture

Our club thrives thanks to volunteers who plan, control and support events. This year we introduced a policy to recognise those in key roles with expense reimbursements and incentives, including additional support for juniors. This acknowledges the time and commitment required to keep our club running smoothly.

Special thanks to our planners, controllers, event coordinators and all members who assisted at events. Your efforts ensure that Auckland Orienteering Club remains welcoming, well-run and vibrant. A special mention goes to everyone involved in organising the 2025 New Zealand Secondary Schools Orienteering Championships. Hosting a major event takes significant time to ensure everything runs smoothly. Despite some less than ideal weather, the event was a success, the courses were excellent and the club once again demonstrated that we can consistently deliver high-quality competitions.

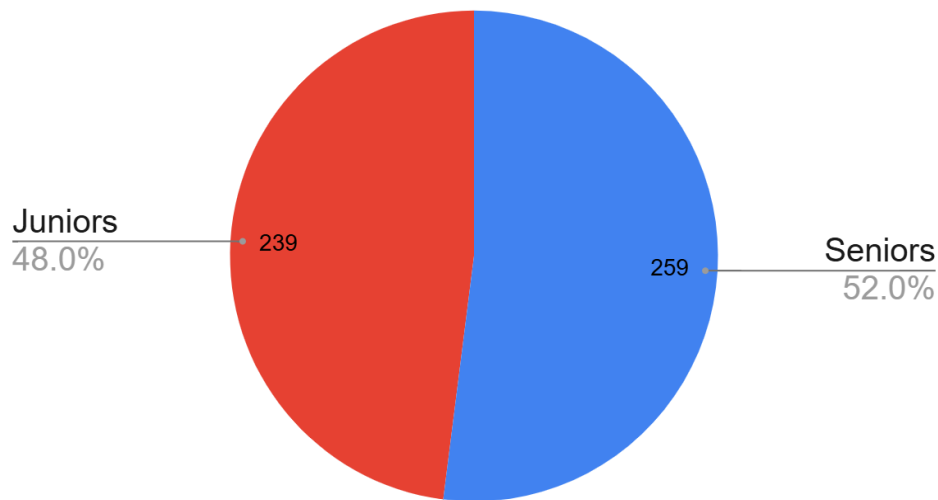
Looking ahead to 2026, I would like the club to explore ways to strengthen our community and enhance the member experience by fostering a positive, inclusive and sustainable club culture. This could include initiatives such as social nights, club trips and volunteer recognition while gathering member feedback to guide activities. It may also involve improving communication and onboarding for new members, supporting member retention and engagement, creating pathways for key roles and ensuring long-term sustainability, all while valuing and supporting our members.

## Membership

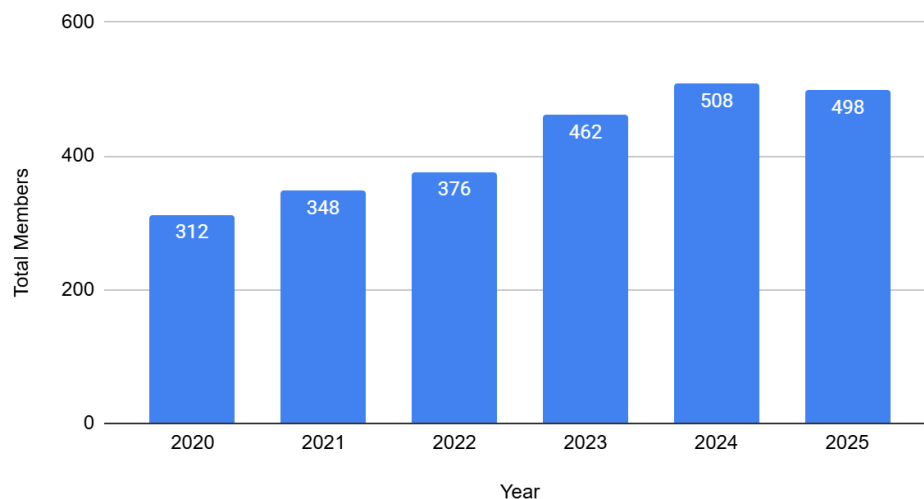
Overall, club membership is similar to 2024, with total members slightly down by 2%. Membership types have shifted, with more individuals joining rather than families.

As at 30/Sep/.. end of financial year	AOC Member Numbers			Types of AOC Memberships			
	Seniors	Juniors	Total	Senior	Junior	Family	Total Memberships
				Individual	Individual		
2020	161	151	312	57	62	61	180
2021	181	167	348	65	59	66	190
2022	196	180	376	67	69	68	204
2023	242	220	462	82	76	83	241
2024	272	236	508	99	96	86	281
2025	259	239	498	118	117	75	310

## 2025 AOC Member Numbers



## Total Club Members



## Life Membership and Club Recognition

At the 2024 AGM, we proudly awarded Life Membership to Leon McGivern in recognition of his outstanding service to the club over many years. Leon's dedication, particularly to intermediate school orienteering, has been invaluable. He played a major role in running the Year 7/8 zone events for numerous years and led the KiwiSport programme, introducing orienteering to countless children across Auckland. It was a pleasure to acknowledge Leon's achievement with his family and fellow club members at a celebration in March. Thank you to everyone who attended to support Leon's contributions, making the occasion truly special.

Life Membership is an exceptional honour. Seven members have received this recognition:



- Tony Nicholls (deceased)
- John Rix
- Joanna Stewart
- Alistair Stewart
- Rob Jessop
- Selwyn Palmer
- Leon McGivern

## In Memorium

The club lost two long-standing members in 2025, Nicholas Oram and Vyacheslav (Vee) Smirnov. Both contributed greatly to the club and will be missed.

### Nicholas Oram

Nicholas was a dedicated member who contributed quietly and consistently over many years, from setting events to volunteering and introducing orienteering to schools. His efforts made a lasting impact on our club and the wider orienteering community.

### Vyacheslav (Vee) Smirnov

Vee began orienteering in 1962 in Ukraine and went on to found an orienteering sport school, serve as president of the Ukraine Orienteering Federation and author a book on orienteering. After moving to New Zealand, Vee continued to give tirelessly, supporting school map development and KiwiSport programmes alongside Irene Smirnova and Leon McGivern.

### Mattia Debertolis

I would also like to acknowledge Italian athlete Mattia Debertolis, 29, who collapsed during the men's middle distance at the World Games in August, passing away a few days later. His death is a sobering reminder of the challenges athletes face in extreme conditions and to make the most of life while you can.

Following this incident the IOF has reviewed and updated specific rules related to heat conditions at future events.

## Looking Ahead to 2026

Next year promises to be just as exciting.

AOC will host the 2026 Team Trials Weekend for athletes vying for selection on the EYOC, JWOC and WUOC teams. The Auckland Triple Crown will return over King's Birthday weekend, with World Ranking status.

Members will continue to represent the club domestically and internationally. Locally, Club Nights, forest events and sprint competitions offer opportunities to develop skills, meet fellow orienteers and enjoy the sport in a supportive environment.

The working groups, in place for a few years now, will be reviewed at the start of 2026 to ensure they remain fit for purpose and provide the necessary support for the club, keeping members happy, engaged and ensuring high-quality events.

As always, I encourage everyone to get involved, whether racing, volunteering or supporting the club in other ways. Our strength lies in our community and together we can ensure that 2026 is another remarkable year for Auckland Orienteering Club.

Thank you to all members for your dedication, energy and passion for orienteering.

# Appendix A: 2025 International Selections

## World Orienteering Championships

Toby Scott, Lara Molloy

## The World Games

Zara Stewart

## Junior World Orienteering Championships

Sam Carryer, Georgia Lindroos

## European Youth Orienteering Championships

Adam Landels, Xavier White, Charlotte Dalziel, Cerys Findlow, Dora Slavich, Matthew Greenwood, Georgia Lindroos, Zara Toes

## World Cup 1

Toby Scott, Kieran Woods, Lara Molloy

## World Cup 2

Kieran Woods, Niamh Corbett (Ireland)

## Southern Cross Junior Challenge

Solomon Randerson, Anna Batcheler, Ami McGowan, Kate Robinson, Zara Toes, Xavier White, Tristan Jayasuriya, Sophie Herde, Maggie Bauzon, Emily Reeves

## Appendix B: 2025 AOC Club Champions

Grade	Women	Men
10	Adela Slavich	Sam Sheehan
12	Abbie To	Dexter Connor
14	Cheverny Jayasuriya	Finlay Connor
16	Sophie Herd	Charlie Milne
18	Alicia Wu	Solomon Randerson
20	Anna Batcheler	Matthew Greenwood
21	Emma Carruthers*	Nathan Borton
40	Jasmine Zhang	-
50	Diana Purvis	Dave Crofts
60	Annette Orchard	Jeff Greenwood
70	Helen Bolt	Alistair Stewart

*\*Special mention to the overall winner of W21, Ane Marlene Kolstad, an exchange student from Norway.*

# Appendix C: Event Medallists

## Oceania Orienteering Championships

### Sprint – Massey University, Palmerston North

🏆 Martin Crosby (M65A), Sophie Herde (W16A), Zara Toes (W18A), Alicia Wu (W20A), Imogene Scott (W21A)

🥈 Xavier White (M16A)

🥉 Ami McGowan (W18A), Bronwyn Holcombe (W70A)

### Middle – Koitiata, Santoft Forest

🏆 Dexter Connor (OE), Stella Tanner (W14B), Alicia Wu (W20A), Imogene Scott (W21A), Sandra Hutchison (W40B)

🥈 Toby Gribble (OE), Debbie McGowan (W40B)

🥉 David Findlow (M40B), Martin Crosby (M65A), Petra Slavich (W14A), Sophie Herde (W16A), Rebecca Greenwood (W21A)

### Long – Knottingly, Santoft Forest

🏆 Eoin Cooke (M21B), Maurice Toes (M55AS), Dexter Connor (OE), Zara Toes (W18A), Debbie McGowan (W40B)

🥈 Alicia Wu (W20A), Imogene Scott (W21A), Sofia Toes (W21AS), Sandra Hutchison (W40B)

🥉 Jeff Greenwood (M60A), Martin Crosby (M65A), Diana Purvis (W40B)

## New Zealand Orienteering Championships

### Sprint – Central Christchurch

🏆 Tristan Jayasuriya (M14A), Charlie Milne (M16A), David Stewart (M55A), Martin Crosby (M65A), Alistair Stewart (M75A), Sophie Herde (W16A), Zara Toes (W18A), Talyn Stanton (W60A)

🥈 Xavier White (M16A), Cody Carter (M18A), Maggie Bauzon (W14A)

🥉 Reuben Adye (M18A), Nathan Borton (M21E), Gavin Milne (M55A), Guy Cory-Wright (M60A), Zara Stewart (W21E)



## Middle – Waikuku

🏆 Xavier White (M16A), Martin Crosby (M65A), Alistair Stewart (M75A), Zara Toes (W18A), Annette Orchard (W65A)

🥈 Charlie Milne (M16A), Harshan Jayasuriya (OE)

🏆 Jeff Greenwood (M60A), Madeline Bell (W18A), Katelin Toes (W21A), Zara Stewart (W21E), Alison Comer (W55AS)

## Long – Mt Cass

🏆 Tristan Jayasuriya (M14A), Xavier White (M16A), Michael McCormack (M21A), James McCormack (M21AS), Zara Toes (W18A), Telyn Stanton (W60A)

🥈 Callum Wishart (M21A), Guy Cory-Wright (M60A)

🏆 Reuben Adye (M18A), Eoin Cooke (M21AS), Leo McCormack (M55AS), Cheverny Jayasuriya (W12A), Sophie Herde (W16A), Sarah Stewart (W40AS), Karen Woods (W55AS)

## Relay – Woodend

🏆 Mixed Short - Xavier White, Cheverny Jayasuriya, Tristan Jayasuriya

🏆 Mixed Veteran - Martin Crosby, Elizabeth Parson, Steve Oram

🥈 Mixed Open - Sam Carryer, Zara Stewart, Nathan Borton

## King's Birthday

### Sprint – IONA College and Keirunga Gardens

🏆 Zara Stewart (W21E), Zara Toes (SGA), Xavier White (JBA), Jacqui Wade (JGB), Ben Green (Rec Orange)

🥈 Toby Shoolbread (M12A), Sam Carryer (M20E), Madeline Bell (W20E), Nathan Borton (M21E), Sophie Herde (JGA), Dexter Connor (JBB), Tom Green (Rec Yellow)

🏆 Lara Molloy (W21E), Solomon Randerson (SBA)

### Middle – Smedley Station

🏆 Toby Shoolbread (M12A), Sam Carryer (M20E), Lara Molloy (W21E), Guy Cory-Wright (M60A), Zara Toes (SGA), Tristan Jayasuriya (JBA), Luciana Ramos (JGB), Debbie McGowan (Rec Orange), Ryan Morgan (Rec White)

🏆 Madeline Bell (W20E), Anna Parsons (M21A), Zara Stewart (W21E), Martin Crosby (M60A), Jacqui Wade (JGB), Tonia Mortell (Rec Yellow)

🏆 Cheverny Jayasuriya (W12A), Ami McGowan (SGA), Dexter Connor (JBB), Maia Ashcroft (MW10N), Harshan Jayasuriya (Rec Orange)

## Long – Maraetotara

🏆 Toby Shoolbread (M12A), Jonty Oram (M21A), Madeline Bell (W21AS), Kate Robinson (SGA), Xavier White (JBA), Sophie Herde (JGA), Victoria Cartwright (Rec Orange)

🏆 Sam Carryer (M20E), Lara Molloy (W21E), Guy Cory-Wright (M60A), Debbie McGowan (Rec Orange), Ryan Morgan (Rec White)

🏆 Anna Parsons (W21A), Sarah Stewart (W40AS), Solomon Randerson (SBA), Zara Toes (SGA), Dexter Connor (JBB), Adela Slavich (MW10N), Sandra Hutchison (Rec Orange)

## Australian Orienteering Championships

### Sprint – University of Queensland

🏆 Cheverny Jayasuriya (W12A), Maggie Bauzon (W14A), Ami McGowan (W18A), Benji White (M12A), Solomon Randerson (M18A), Matthew Bell (M50A)

🏆 Sophie Herde (W16A), Zara Toes (W20E), James Milne (M18A), Gavin Milne (M55A)

### Long – Platypus Cliffs

🏆 Anna Batcheler (W18A)

🏆 Sophie Herde (W16A)

🏆 Kate Robinson (W18A)

### Relay – Logan Inlet

🏆 Lara Molloy (W21E), Xavier White (M16)

🏆 Maggie Bauzon (W14), Sophie Herde (W16)

🏆 Dexter Connor | Cheverny Jayasuriya | Benji White (M/W12), Charlotte Ashcroft | Petra Slavich (W14), Zara Toes (W20E), Shelley Mackinlay-Milne | Anna Parsons (W Open B), Martin Crosby (M65)

## Middle – Sandstone Gardens

- 🏆 Benji White (M12A)
- 🥈 Solomon Randerson (M18A)

## Southern Cross Junior Challenge

### Sprint – Forest Lake State High School + St John's Anglican College

- 🏆 Zara Toes (Senior Girls)
- 🥈 Sophie Herde (Junior Girls)

### Long – Old Hidden Vale

- 🏆 Zara Toes (Senior Girls)
- 🥈 Anna Batcheler (Senior Girls), Xavier White (Junior Boys)

### Relay – Deebling Creek

- 🏆 Zara Toes (Senior Girls)
- 🥈 Sophie Herde (Junior Girls)

## Tūāraiki Northern Regional Champs

### Sprint – Toi Ohomai

- 🏆 Sam Carryer (M20E), Nathan Borton (M21E), Annette Orchard (W60A)
- 🥈 Xavier White (M20E), Imogene Scott (W21E), Maggie Bauzon (W16A), Jeff Greenwood (M60A), Bronwyn Holcombe (W60A), Alistair Stewart (M70A), Joanna Stewart (W70A)
- 🥉 Emily Reeves (W16A), Charlotte Ashcroft (W14A), Guy Cory-Wright (M60A), Benji White (M21A)

### Middle – Okataina

- 🏆 Sam Carryer (M20E), Lara Molloy (W21E), Xavier White (M16A), Mitchell Cooper (M21A), Guy Cory-Wright (M60A)
- 🥈 Matthew Bell (M50A), Maggie Bauzon (W16A), Anna Parsons (W21A), Jeff Greenwood (M60A), Bronwyn Holcombe (W60A), Benji White (M12A), Matthew Shoolbread (OR)

🏆 Nathan Borton (M21E), Ionel Popovici (M50A), Imogene Scott (W21E), Charlotte Dalziel (W16A), Rebecca Grant (W21A), Felicity Mortell (W14A), Debbie McGowan (OR), Sonja Herrmann (W40AS)

## Long – Opepe

🏆 Xavier White (M16A), Leo McCormack (M40AS), Stella Tanner (W14A), Imogene Scott (W21A), Sarah Stewart (W40AS)

🥈 Benji White (M12A), Jeff Greenwood (M60A), Charlotte Dalziel (W16A), Emma Carruthers (W21A), Lara Molloy (W21E), Sonja Herrmann (W40AS), Annette Orchard (W60A)

🏆 James McCormack (M21A), Sam Carryer (M21E), Guy Cory-Wright (M60A), Debbie McGowan (OR), Maggie Bauzon (W16A), Rebecca Grant (W21A)