

Newcastle Orienteering Club

PRESIDENTS REPORT

MARCH 2010

**"I'm late, I'm late!
For a very important date!"**

White Rabbit - Alice in Wonderland

Yes another quote. Not sure if it's used in the much maligned, Tim Burton screen adaptation of the book, currently screening, but for me that important date is today, the day of our AGM and I'm yet to write this report. Here goes....now what's happened since last time I did this?

Recently I was asked by some newcomers if they were lucky they lived in Newcastle as they were taken aback by the number and quality of events we ran. Obviously even novices are aware of the efforts involved in undertaking this task and I think it is a credit to the club committee and members that this sort of observation can be so readily made. This typifies why Newcastle won the coveted **"OANSW Club of the Year"** award in 2009.

Our calendar of events is monstrous, and I'm sure in all of Australia only the Bendigo club in Victoria could challenge us in that area. Late 2009 saw this calendar extended even further with the introduction of the Bike Orienteering Summer Series or BOSS as it is now known. This series has had immediate success and has introduced many locals (and others) to this form of orienteering. Andrew Haigh and Malcolm Roberts have been instrumental in organising this inaugural season and deserve many thanks for doing so. Of course Denis Lyons has also heavily featured in assisting them.

Our participation rates also continue to steadily grow. Our recent Street series had very healthy numbers and this seems to have flowed on to our current Park series. Hopefully many of these competitors will be hooked enough to try some 'real' orienteering out in the wilds of the Australian bush.

Some of the outstanding performances of the 2009 season were....

2009 WMOC - Jenny Enderby picked up two podiums at the world masters orienteering championships, a silver in the sprint and bronze in the long distance. These and other performances throughout the season saw Jenny selected as the "Lake Macquarie Veteran Sportsperson of the Year".

2009 JWOC - Joshua Blatchford joined a select group of club members that have represented Australia at World Championship level, by gaining selection in the Australian team for the Junior World Orienteering Championships, contested in Trentino, Italy. A notoriously hard self marker he was a tad disappointed with his efforts but was consistently one of the best performed of the entire Australian team. Great effort Josh, we were very proud of you!!!!

"2009 OANSW Course-Setter of the Year" award went to Karen Blatchford for her "loop" courses at Kitchener on Day 1 of the Queens Birthday 3-Day event. It's great to see women getting involved in course setting and being so darn successful too.

"Darby Munro Award" - this new club award was presented to Mick Kavur who constantly demonstrates the kind of commitment in helping out, that Darby is so fondly remembered for. No doubt anybody attending a recent club event should be aware of the extra assistance Mick offers to any organiser on the day. He surely is a worthy first recipient.

2009 Newcastle Park Tour

A Grade: Josh Blatchford

B Grade: Leigh Hoy

C Grade: Elly Ross

D Grade: Scott Tayler

E Grade: Brock Smith

F Grade: Matt Hayes

2009 Hunter Schools

Male: Alex Massey

Female: Eleanor Ross

2009 NOY series

Men: Alex Massey

Women: Jenny Enderby

2009/10 BOSS Series

Men: Malcolm Roberts

Women: Mary Fein (BFN)

2009/10 Summer Street Series -

Men: Steven Todkill,

Women: Kim van Netten,

Men Rookie: Andrew Morris,

Women Rookie: Toy Martin

While the above mentioned performance are indeed meritorious, there is one performance that in my humble opinion tops them all. After 36 years and 210 editions, Allan Wright is retiring from the editor's chair of the club's newsletter, "Orienteering in Newcastle".

Allan was one of the founding members of this club and started producing the newsletter in 1974 using old gestetner stencils. Over that time he has overseen it's production change through many formats and has gathered a wealth of history on all things regarding Newcastle Orienteering. His ability to turn unintelligible dialogue into top quality print is amazing and I would personally like to thank him for bailing me out on many occasions. Of course he has been involved in every other aspect of club activities over that period as well. Bravo Allan, we salute you.

I'd also like to thank Carolyn and Russell Rigby for their involvement in promotion to both ends of the age spectrum, schools and U3A and for continued representation of our club at Sydney based meetings.

In closing I'd just like to mention a recent club equipment purchase. Two new style EPIRB units are now available to members carrying out club activities. They should be used any time somebody ventures alone into the bush on a non-competition day, be it to map, set events or place controls. Please be responsible and utilise these safety devices. Hopefully you'll never have need to switch it on, but it could save your life in an emergency.

Geoff Peel 11 March, 2010