



The NTOC

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The Newsletter of the Northern Tablelands Orienteering Club

Number 103

March 2006

<http://www.ntoc.asn.au>

Dear Reader!

Welcome to another edition of our Newsletter. Being early in the season, we don't have many events to report on; hence this newsletter is quite short. It serves merely as a reminder that there are many exciting events coming up for you to take part in. Use the enclosed lift-out calendar sheet as your reference for the coming months.

Our major date this year is the Queen's Birthday weekend state orienteering event. We anticipate over two hundred keen orienteers to take part in the three day event. Naturally we count on all our regulars to lend a hand be it either with the preparation or on the days. If you are willing to help contact Narelle on 6772 2785.

See you at the next event!

Felix

Upcoming Events

March 19 - Avondale Forest

Organiser: Maurice Anker (phone: 6772 9604)

Start time: 10-12 am

Courses: Blue (1.8 km), green (2.4 km), short orange (2.8 km), long orange (4.5 km), short red (3.6 km), long red (5.4 km)

Avondale is a much more challenging area both physically and navigationally than the areas used so far this year, so you may like to be not too ambitious in your choice of course for this event. For example if you have done the orange course on the twilight events, you may consider doing green for this one. Given the general lack of features on the map, the main navigational challenge - especially on the longer courses - is route choice, route choice, route choice.

The vegetation in Avondale is mostly open eucalypt forest typical of the New England area. The map is crossed by numerous steep-sided gullies and is known for its lack of point features, other than the odd termite mound or rock face along the gullies.

Directions

Take the Rockvale Road from the northern traffic lights in Marsh Street. At 36 km from the lights, just after crossing the Wollomombi River, turn right into Lyndhurst Road. After another 5 km, take the left fork and continue a further 2 km to the forest entrance.

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Upcoming Events (continued)

April 1 & 2, Stanthorpe (QLD)

To celebrate April Fool's Day, the BBB club on Queensland's Southern Downs is offering a weekend of fun and frivolity for the fit and foolish.

First up, for the foolhardy, on Saturday 1 April there will be a mountain bike orienteering event in Passchendaele State Forest, outside Stanthorpe, with starts from 10am to noon. There will be four courses offered Long (34 km); Medium (25km); Short (16km) and Beginner's (11km). This will be a great way to enjoy the gravel tracks of this forest with plenty of spectacular granite scenery to distract you from navigating. Pre-entry is required for this event by 29 March. See the QOA web site for details about how to enter.

Then, for those who still have some energy left, there will be a foot event that afternoon in Amiens Forest with some shorter than normal courses being offered (Red 2 (5.1km); Red 4 (3.5km); Red 5 (2.4km); Orange (2.4km). Starts will be from 3 – 4pm and the assembly area will be signposted off Amiens Road.

On Sunday, we will be hosting our second OY event for the year at "The Cascades". This flat, open forest devoid of rocks (sorry, only fooling – it is really full of granite boulders and is steepish in parts) is in the southern, natural section of the Amiens Forest, with challenging courses for those on the harder courses while the Green and Blue courses will be set in the adjacent pine forest.

For further details check the web site: www.qoa.asn.au/events or contact Eric and Liz on batmaps@halenet.com.au or (07) 4683 6374. Basic bush camping will be available at their place on the Saturday night but please contact them first if you want to stay.

April 14-17, Castlemaine, Victoria

Easter 3-day Orienteering Carnival, but better make it a 10 day holiday. Further information can be found on the organiser's web site at: <http://bendigo.orienteering.com.au>

April 23 - Boorolong Nature Reserve

Organiser: Allinta & Peter Merotsy
(phone: 6771 2726)
Start time: 10-12 am
Courses: Blue, Green, Orange, Red

Directions

Take Boorolong Road (head West past UNE on Queen Elizabeth Drive) for approximately 18 km. Turn right onto Tom's Gully Road, and then almost immediately take the left fork (towards

Black Mountain & Guyra). Follow Tom's Gully Road for about 6km watching for O signs off to the left.

May 7 – Dumaresq Dam

Organiser: David Clayton (phone: 0413 307 382)
Start time: 10-12 am
Courses: Blue, Green, Orange, Red

Directions

Take Boorolong Road (head West past UNE on Queen Elizabeth Drive) for approximately 6 km. turn right into Dumaresq Dam Road. After another 4.5 km look for "O" signs at the entrance to the recreation area

June 10 & 11 – Banalasta

Part of the Queens Birthday 3 Day event (QBIII) and NSW State League. Closing date for entries is 12 May 2006. Short Orange, Green and Blue are available for entry on the day.

Organiser: Narelle Clayton,
Planners: Don Barker & Felix Burkhard
Controller: Maurice Anker
Start times:

Saturday: after 1 pm, check startlist
Sunday: after 10 am, check startlist
Courses: Blue, Green, 2x Orange, 9x Red

Directions

Green Valley Road, near Bendemeer. From Armidale, travel south along the New England Highway to Uralla, then continue a further 35 km southwest on the highway. Turn right into Green Valley Road, then proceed 10 km north along Green Valley Rd. Turn left through a farm gate (this will be signposted) and follow signs to the parking area.

For detailed information check our website at: <http://www.ntoc.asn.au/>

June 12 – Pine Forrest

Relays - Part of the Queens Birthday 3 Day event (QBIII) and NSW State League. Relay teams comprise three eligible runners. Unofficial teams (eg members from different clubs, other than buddy clubs, or from ineligible classes) will be accepted but not count for awards.

Organiser: Narelle Clayton,
Planner: Alec Watt
Controller: Eric Baker
Start time: 9:15am
Courses: Blue, 5x Orange

Even if you don't want to run in any of the QBIII events you should come and check out the action as hundreds of Orienteers compete!

Annual General Meeting

On 7th February the clubs AGM was held. Judy Coleman's president report highlighted the activities of the past year. Maurice tabled the financial report for 2005, which resulted in a surplus of \$4756, thanks to good income from the 2004 Xmas 5 day and the schools event. All who worked tirelessly for the smooth running of the club were thanked. New office bearers for 2006 were elected as follows:

President:	Graeme Cooper
Vice President:	Peter Merrotsy
Secretary:	Narelle Clayton
Treasurer:	Maurice Anker
Mapping Officer:	Felix Burkhard
Newsletter Editor:	Felix Burkhard
Event Co-ordinator:	Don Barker
Coaching Co-ordinator:	Eric Baker
Junior Development:	Eric Baker
Publicity Officer:	Alec Watt
Web Master:	Maurice Anker
Public Officer:	Maurice Anker

Membership fees were discussed and it was decided to leave them the same for this year as in 2005. Please use the blue form that was included in the January NSW Orienteering magazine to submit your annual fee, or contact the treasurer directly to arrange payment of your dues.

Reports & Results

Booralong Creek - 11 December 05

The Christmas event at Booralong Creek was well attended. With the emphasis on fun, teams of two competed in a relay, with each runner having to complete two legs of a course of their usual standard. Apart from some experienced European visitors, Alinta and Peter Merrotsy blitzed the field. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a barbeque under the sheoaks on the banks of the creek, with the more adventurous swimming or boating on the water.

Erica & Lloyd Barker

Gudbrand Lienand Ingrid Roeoele	Orange/Blue	64
Peter and Alinta Merrotsy	Orange/Blue	81
Jane Watt and Eric Baker	Blue/Orange	85
Felix Burkhard and Maddy Doeppel-Sharp/Lloyd Barker-Smith	Orange/Blue	99
Maurice Anker and Nathan Jeffries	Orange/Orange	101
Don Barker, Felicity and Zoe Barker-Smith	Orange/Blue	107
Alec Watt and Elsie Baker	O / Short O	113
Cherene and family	Blue	115
Sandy and Family	Blue	116
David Clayton & Stefanie Miller	Orange/Blue	138

Bruce Haigh and Stephen	Orange/Orange	142
Graeme Cooper and Narelle Clayton	Orange/Short Orange	170
Judy Colman	Short Orange	53

Arboretum – 8 February 2006

Organised by Sue Gregory & family

Blue course	Time (min)
Nicholas Degotadi	22:20
Nicola Watson & Jackson Doak	26:00
Green course	
Rowena Childs	12:36
Sally, Scott, Brad. Adam Lucas	13:00
Felicity Barker Smith	18:08
Nicholas Degotadi & Karin Lenfer	23:52
James Poole	25:28
Michael Smart, Torsten & Disa	26:14
Zoe Barker Smith	33:01
Sandy Nicola and Sam Watson	38:11
Cherene, Jackson, Riley & Hamish Doak	38:11
Orange course	
Eric Barker	08:16
Peter Merrotsy	08:34
Don Barker	09:20
Maurice Anker	09:30
Garry Slocombe	10:20
David Clayton	14:00
Narelle Clayton	16:48
Nathan Jeffery	17:02
Lloyd Barker Smith	18:19
Jane Watt (Missed one control)	23:11

Drummond Park – 15 February 2006

The second event in the NTOC twilight series at Drummond Park gave the red and green course runners some problems. The first red control was not marked correctly and another common control became difficult to find when a small clearing which was the clue didn't show up on the map. The map covers Drummond Park and the Snow Gums Reserve. Both are complex areas where the detail changes every year making map corrections necessary. Couple this to not enough time spent in preparation and you have one apologetic course setter.

Graeme Cooper

Blue	Time (min)
Nicholas Degotardi	14
Stephen & Luke O'Donoghue	26
Nicola Watson & Jackson Doak	32
Green	
Nicholas Degotardi	31
James Poole	38
Ros Willmott & Narelle Clayton	42
Sandy & Sam Watson, Cherene, Riley, & Hamish Doak	53
Nicola Watson & Jackson Doak	54
Alinta Merrotsy	54
Orange	
Peter Merrotsy	27

Maurice Anker	27
Boahdan Gregory	28
Nathan Jeffery	32
Elsie & Eric Baker	35

Dumaresq Dam - February 22, 2006

The final 2006 Twilight Orienteering event was held at Dumaresq Dam on February 22nd. The most notable feature of the evening was the enthusiasm of the junior brigade, some of whom ran three courses and then went swimming and canoing! The family of black swans currently resident on the lake did not seem to be particularly upset by the intruders, but quietly moved to another part of the lake.

James Poole decided that the time had come to try his first solo Orange course. The fact that he was the only starter only made it harder, as there was no one to follow, and no one coming up behind to reassure him he was still on the right track. His time of 70 minutes was very good for a first "solo" Orange course..

All the experienced orienteers competed in the short red course (the hardest class), and the pressure was really on. Peter Merrotsy finished in 25:42, but Nathan Jeffery caught him after giving him three minute start. When Maurice Anker took 26 minutes after a couple of minor navigational mishaps it looked as if Nathan may have broken through for his first ever Red course win in Armidale. However, the Barker-Smith family finally arrived, and Don and his son Lloyd took up the challenge. Lloyd started after his father, but comfortably beat him home, finishing in 21:41 to to set the fastest time. Nathan was close behind with 22:37, with Don a very close 3rd in 23:55.

A few die-hards stayed for the barbeque - the electric barbeques and lights make it very easy these days. The stand-in organiser disgraced himself by ripping open the wrong blue esky and helping himself to the Anker's bananas, but apart from that everyone behaved themselves!

Alec Watt

Orange course	
James Poole	70:20
Red course	
Lloyd Barker-Smith	21:41
Nathan Jeffery	22:37
Don Barker	23:55
Peter Merrotsy	25:42
Maurice Anker	26:55
Felix Burkhard	33:29
Jane Watt	DNF

Blue course	Time
Emma Lankester	11:05 **
Nicholas Degotadi	11:58 **
Emma, Kelly & Stacie Lankester & Iesha Clarke	15:04
Iesha Clarke	19:33 **
Zoe Barker-Smith	34:00
Green course	
Nicholas Degotadi	25:19
Felicity Barker-Smith	32:20
Steve, Luke & Emma O'Donoghue	34:40
Michael, Torsten & Disa Smart	34:55
Nicola, Sam & Sandy Watson	46:02
Scott, Brad, Adam & Sally Lucas	46:02



Event Calendar 2006

Date	Start time	What	Where	Organiser	Phone
Mar 19	10-12 am	Club event	Avondale	Maurice Anker	6772 9604
Apr 1		Warmup	Amiens	QOA	
Apr 2		Q-OY2	Cascades	QOA	
Apr 14-17		Easter 3 Day	Castlemaine	Victorian OA	03 5439 3175
Apr 23	10-12 am	Club event	Boorolong	Peter&Alinta Merrotsy	6771 2726
May 7	10-12 am	Club event	Dumaresq Dam	David Clayton	0413 307 382
Jun 10-11		QBIII individual	Banalasta	Narelle Clayton	6772 2785
Jun 12		QBIII relays	Pine Forest	Narelle Clayton	6772 2785
Jul 23	10-12 am	Club event	Dangar Falls	Nathan Jeffries	
Aug 13	10-12 am	Club event	Blue Hole	Joakim Ho	6775 3945
Aug 19-20		Qld Championships			
Sep 2-3		NSW Championships			
Sep 17	10-12 am	Club event	To be announced		
Oct 7-8		Aus Championships			
Oct 27		Friday night event	Archery Field	Eric Baker	6771 1070
Nov 3	10-12 am	School Orienteering Championships	Sunnyside TSR	Everyone!	6772 3584
Nov 19	10-12 am	Club event	Long Point	Bob Hawkins	
Dec 10	10-12 am	Xmas event	To be announced		

Event Fees

Individuals or Small Groups

	Members	Non Member (after 1 event)
Adult	\$6.00	\$8.00
Junior	\$3.00	\$4.00
Extra Maps	\$1.00	\$2.00
Family Maximum	\$15.00	\$20.00
Large Groups (each person)	\$3.00	\$3.00

Membership Fees

Family*	\$65.00
Senior*	\$55.00
Junior/Student*	\$37.00
Family Associate	\$30.00
Individual Associate	\$25.00

*Includes subscription to the Australian Orienteer.

Colour Codes for Orienteering Courses

Blue:

Very easy navigation with the course following very distinct linear features (handrails such as roads, tracks, fences and well defined watercourses. A compass is not required. Controls are easy to see, frequent and placed at changes in direction. Length approximately 2km.

Green:

Easy navigation with the option to take a direct cross country route, or to follow a more indirect route using handrails. Controls are on large obvious features close to handrails. Use is made of contour handrails such as spurs and gullies. Limited use of compass. Length approximately 3 km.

Orange:

Medium level navigation with route choice to control points that have good attack points (a big feature close to the control point) and catching features (a feature such as a fence or road that 'pulls you up' when you have gone to far). A compass is essential. Length 3 to 5 km.

Red:

Difficult navigation with controls on small point features with no obvious attack points or catching features. A compass is essential. Length depends on age and fitness - 3 to 8 km.

Northern Tablelands Orienteering Club Newsletter

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