



The NTOC

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The Newsletter of the Northern Tablelands Orienteering Club

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

Dear Reader!

Happy New Year and welcome to our first newsletter for 2007!

Over the last years electronic communication methods have become very dominant and your club is no exception. Our club website is an excellent place to check for current information and obtain further information on Orienteering. Also, if you can be contacted by e-mail we can put your address on our list and you will always be informed of upcoming events. We will keep publishing the newsletter at least twice a year for those of you who have no access to the Internet. If you need more information about an upcoming event, call the organisers by phone using the details on our lift-out calendar.

With the twilight training events scheduled for the next three weeks, the season is well on its way and we hope you can join us. See you there!

Felix

From the Newsroom

Aussie nominated "Best orienteer 2006"

From the web...

Two women have dominated the "Best of Orienteering 2006" Poll staged by the two major sources for international orienteering news - the website World of O and the magazine Orienteering Today. Simone Niggli-Luder from Switzerland and the Australian Hanny Allston completely dominated in the Poll in which voted over 1500 readers of the World of O website and the Orienteering Today magazine. Both Niggli and Allston are gold medalists from the last year's World Championships in Denmark.

Ski Orienteering in trouble

Just as we are enjoying our warm summer months spare some thoughts for our friends from the Northern Hemisphere: This week sees the start of the championship ski orienteering season, with the World Masters Championships being staged in Sweden. But lack of snow at the original venue, Asarna, has forced the organisers to make a last-minute change and the whole package of races, which includes the Swedish Ski-O Cup for elite ski orienteers, had to be moved about 160 km north.

The same troubles caused organisers in Switzerland and Northern Italy to cancel Ski Orienteering events. Unseasonable warm weather left large parts of the alps green.

The World Ski Orienteering Championships are held in Moscow between 23/2 and 5/3/2007. They are hoping for a lot more snow...

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Committee News

As mentioned in the last newsletter, our club has offered to run the Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC) model event, and this offer was accepted by the organisers. The Model event is designed to allow the participants (particularly from overseas, about 250 expected) to familiarise themselves with the area and the type of country the World Championships are to be run on a few days later.

However, this clashes with the NSW State Championships. Graeme pointed out that only a small team should be needed to run the event, as the job appears to consist solely of registering people who use the area, and making sure that they all leave again. Putting out flags, and even pulling in flags, will be done by the course setting team. Equipment (tents, furniture etc.) will be supplied, but we may be required to erect (and pull down) tents etc.

The NSW championships are held on the same day about 100 km away. If you are thinking of travelling to Dubbo in July and can help out, let Graeme Cooper (6772 3584) know.



Eric reported that we have acquired aerial photos of Saddleback Mountain (near Yarrowyck), and of a further part of Oakview. The committee is looking into mapping these areas in the next 2 years, with Don Barker volunteering to be an apprentice in the map making process.



The Annual General Meeting for 2007 will be held on Wednesday 28 February following the Twilight Event at the Pine Forest. The AGM will commence at 7.30pm at the Medieval Village. In the event of it being wet the meeting will be at Alec & Jane Watt's at 33 Edward Drive Armidale.

Please give serious consideration to taking a position on the committee for 2007. Remember: Many hands make light work.

Upcoming Events

February 14, 21 and 28 Summer Twilight Events

We kick off the season with our traditional Wednesday twilight events. These events are designed to get you back into the swing and brush up on particular skills. They are also a great opportunity to bring along any friends or family members, who want to see what our sport is all about. Seasoned club members will be

available to answer your questions and tutor you in essential map reading and navigation skills.

All events start between 5:30 and 6:30 pm and anticipated running time is less than an hour. The events run at a special introduction price of \$3, with extra maps charged at \$1.

February 14

Organiser: Gregory Family (6772 6157)
Venue: Moran Oval

Directions: Take Kentucky street past NERAM and the Keeping Place and turn right into the southern end of Taylor street. The start is signposted near the Tafe Rural Campus.

February 21

Organiser: Don Barker (6775 5560)
Venue: UNE Campus, Northern Carpark

Directions: Take the ring road around the northern side of the campus. The start is signposted near the old boiler building.

February 28

Organiser: Eric Baker (6771 1070)
Venue: Pine Forest (EAST)

Directions: Follow the Rockvale Road North for about 5km beyond the northern traffic lights. Do **not** turn right into the first Pine forest turn-off. Go straight ahead past Charleston Willows on the left and cross the river. Turn right about 1.5 km after the bridge into Pine Forest Road. Follow signs to parking area

There will be a BYO BBQ after this event and our Annual General Meeting. This is very low-key and all members are welcome to listen, make suggestions on the running of the club and of course volunteer for a position in the committee.

March 10, Stanthorpe (Qld)

Organiser: Burrill family (Phone 07 4661 8961)
Start time: 3:00 to 4:00 pm
Courses: 3 Red; 1 Orange; Green and Blue
Cost: Members - \$10 for adults; \$5 for juniors; Family \$25. Non-members - \$15 for adults; \$8 for juniors

Cost: Adult Members \$10 ; Juniors \$5; Families: \$25; Novices \$5 ; Non-member adults: \$15; juniors \$8

Venue: Cherrabah Homestead Resort, SE of Warwick. Terrain is undulating semi-open to open grazing land with some areas of open forest; areas of scattered and complex granite. Map: Cherrabah North (2005), 1:10000, 6 colour

Facilities: Bush toilet; drinks for sale

Directions:

From Stanthorpe, take either the New England Hway to Warwick and turn right at Bracker Road on the southern outskirts of the town, or take the Old Stanthorpe Rd from Dalveen and follow 19km through to O'Dea's Road. Turn right and follow for 4km to right hand turn into the road to Cherrabah. At the entrance to Cherrabah, follow road up hill towards the resort and look for orienteering signs.

March 11, Stanthorpe (Qld)

Organiser: Liz Bourne (07 4683 6374)

Controller: Eric Andrews

Starts: 9:00 to 11:00, Close: 13:00

Courses: Red 1- 5; Orange 1 and 2; Green; Blue

Cost: Members - \$10 for adults; \$5 for juniors; Family \$25. Non-members - \$15 for adults; \$8 for juniors

Venue: Brooklands , North of Dalveen, between Warwick and Stanthorpe. Undulating terrain, semi-open to open grazing land and forest. Some areas of scattered granite. Map: Brooklands (2000), 1:10,000.

Facilities: Bush toilet; drinks for sale

Directions:

From Stanthorpe take the New England Highway north and travel for 20km. Turn left and follow sign to Dalveen village. Turn at first right and then left into Old Stanthorpe-Warwick road. Follow for approx 10km and turn right into paddock, just after passing under the railway bridge.

March 18, 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

May 19 & 20, Molong and Eugowra

Organiser: Frank Assenza, (phone 9438 4339)

Starts: 1 to 3 pm (Sat), 8-10 am (Sun)

This is the Junior Worlds trial event, as well as the NSW Middle Distance Championships.

Note that Pre-entry is required; contact the organiser now, if you want to enter!

June 9-11, Southern Highlands

This is the traditional Queens Birthday weekend event, held somewhere south of Sydney at a location called Bigga and Reid's Flat.

Details are very sketchy for this year's event, so if you plan to attend, contact the organisers, either Maureen Fitzpatrick on 4739 0721 (day 1) or Peter Meyer on 4681 8182 (days 2 & 3).

June 24, Oakview

Organiser: Felix Burkhard (6772 8233)

Start time: 10-12 am

Courses: Blue, Green, Orange, Red

Directions

Take the Bundarra Road (past the saleyards), travel straight ahead past the Invergowrie turnoff and over the Pinnacle (steep climb). Watch for O signs indicating a turn-off to the left at the western end of the windy section.

July 7 – 15, Dubbo Western Plains Carnival

You are invited to attend the Australian Orienteering Championships, Western Plains Carnival, incorporating the Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC) and the Australian School Championships. This is the first time JWOC has been held in the southern hemisphere. Come and take this opportunity to see the future world orienteering champions in action and to compete in the carnival on the very same maps, crafted by Australia's top mappers.

Entries are performed using an online form at

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

If you don't have access to credit card payments please email westernplains2007@pacific.net.au to request a print and post form Early bird entries close on 30th April 2007. Standard entries close 18th May. Late entries will be costed at Standard rates

July 29 – Blue Hole

Organiser: Joakim Ho (phone: 6775 3945)

Controller: Felix Burkhard (phone: 6772 8233)

Start time: 10-12 am

Courses: Blue, Green, Orange, Red

Blue Hole is one of our loveliest Orienteering areas, it offers not just challenges for the seasoned orienteers (and course setters!) due to complex boulder country, but has a network of scenic tracks that offer safe walking for the whole family. After your run, you may enjoy a picnic at a lookout, scramble over the rocks on the river or enjoy the a nice winter day (we booked sunshine for the day).

Directions

Take the Grafton Road east out of town. Turn right into Castledoyle Road and travel for approx 12 km to it's junction with Blue Hole Road. Proceed left onto the Blue Hole Rd. (gravel) for a couple of km to the recreation area and look for O signs on entering the picnic area

Reports & Results

Blue Hole – 13 August 2006



Andrew Grigg on the finish of the green course at Blue Hole. Photo by Alec Watt.

Results:

Blue course	Time
Sam Colbran	36:05
Jack Parker	50:00
Benjamin Wales	52:02
Nicola & Sam Watson	53:00
Rachel & Lizzy Colbran, Hannah Grigg	65:27
Green course	
Andrew Grigg	34:00
John Dennis	44:25
Sandy Watson	58:15
Kirsty & Christy	65:00
Wales family	73:10
Short Orange course	

Alinta Merrotsy, Kelly Lankester, Leisha Clark	120:13
Kyrill Ho	135:00
Susanna Grigg	166:44
Louise & Christie Kelly	DNF
Long Orange course	
Sue Gregory	76:15
Judy Coleman	109:01
Andreas Tillman	169:05
Daniel ?	DNF
Short Red course	
Kas Gregory	39:05
Bohdan Gregory	41:10
Brent Gregory	57:00
Michael Dennis	79:10
Long Red course	
Alec Watt	56:10
Don Barker	65:54
Maurice Anker	75:30
Nathan Jeffery	84:05
Bob Hawkins	92:00
Greame Cooper	200:15

Tarago, 3 Sept 2006

Jenny and Bob Hawkins carried the torch for the club at the NSW Championships near Tarago.

Jenny came first in W60, by beating Anna Booth (ACT) by 12 seconds. Bob came third in M55 class finishing in 74 minutes, 16 minutes behind the winner. This makes Bob the resident NSW champion, since both the first two place getters were from the ACT.

Well done!

Oakview, 17 Sept 2006

By Alec Watt (from an article in the Armidale Independent)

The most recent local Orienteering event was held at "Oakview" on the Bundarra Road on September 17th. This is an area with a tricky mixture of undulating open paddocks and steep hills covered in rocks and thick forest. Sometimes the local orienteers can be a perverse lot - there were 2 courses in each division (easy, moderate & difficult), and in each case most people chose the long option!

This was particularly obvious in the Red (difficult) course section, where there were 3 starters on the short course and 11 on the long course! Jenny Hawkins, who now lives in Dorrigo but honed her skills while living in the ACT, won the Short Red in 84:23. Graeme Cooper, who was 2nd in 136:50, is actually a roganier and finds orienteering events ridiculously short (to a roganier, even an eight-hour event is short!). Orienteering is cruel - if you don't find every control (and in the right order) you are simply marked as "DNF" (Did Not Finish). This was the fate of Brent Gregory, who found every flag but

the last one, despite repeated efforts to make sense of the complex maze of clearings and little gullies. He was somewhat vindicated by Maurice, who noticed that there were two similar rocks in that area, only one of which was marked on the map; it is entirely possible that the course planner hung the flag on the wrong rock! The fact that everyone else found that flag does not prove anything - it is possible that only Brent read his map correctly!

One of the key skills of orienteering is choosing the best route - you must visit each control site in the correct order, but how you get from one to the next is entirely up to you. In the Long Red course, the course planner set a subtle trap. He set a leg which led people through the steepest & roughest area on the map - if they tried to go in a straight line from control to control. The alternative, skirting around the steep, rough area, looked so much further on the map that few bothered with it. This turned out to be a critical mistake, as the first 3 finishers all went the long way round! Eric Baker won in 62:08, but Lloyd Barker-Smith (69:40) could have been much quicker - he was the last competitor, and got the job of collecting the control flags as he visited each control. Felix Burkhard was 3rd in 74:40 - an excellent result given that he is relatively new to this level. The next 4, Maurice Anker, Terry Cooke, Nathan Jeffery, and Keith Power, all finished 2 to 3 minutes behind Felix, and all had chosen to navigate straight through the rough section!

In other results, Narelle Clayton (79:55) was first in the Short Orange (moderate) course, with Kyrill Ho (88:40) second, and Christy & Anna (123:35) third. The Long Orange saw David Clayton (100:35) more than half an hour ahead of his nearest rival Sue Gregory (133:35). Felicity Barker-Smith & Erica Smith were third in 155:35, with Ben Wales & Sai (162:40) fourth. The Green (Easy) course was won by Ramona & Felix Burkhard in the excellent time of 38:08. Nicola, Sam & Sandy Watson (62:50) were second, with Matty Ho (64:20) third and Jackson Doak (68:10) fourth. Finally on the Blue (very easy) course, Zoe Barker-Smith & Erica Smith were first in 40:55, with Riley Doak (41:30) second.

Archery Fields , 27 October 2006

By Eric Baker

25 owls turned out for this event with setter Eric Baker promising a good challenge despite the short courses. The times showed this was the case. Peter Merrotsy's, Erica Smith and Felicity all had battery failures which slowed their progress. Some Red course runners especially Graeme Cooper also had the problem of 2 wrong flag numbers to contend with, but fortunately this only affected the early red coursers. Maurice

Anker was setting a good time after the first leg only to be nearly scratched from the course by falling into a deep depression containing a blackberry bush. To add insult to injury the blackberry pulled his pants down as he got up preventing him from running anywhere. The good news for Maurie was that it was dark.

There was a good turnout of the younger brigade, most of whom were doing their first night event. Jackson Doak especially was able to overcome getting lost in the dark to get back just behind his brother and dad on the Blue Course while the teenage trio of Alinta Merrotsy, India Winiger and Mona Sajeev were fastest on the Green.

Jane Watt and Don Barker orienteered accurately in the dark to be quickest over the orange and Red courses respectively. Don's fancy headlight probably gave him the edge over Joakim Ho and Nathan Jeffrey who were both within 2 mins

Results:

Blue 0.8km	Time
Riley (and Dad) Doak	19 min
Jackson Doak	23
Zoe and Lloyd Barker-Smith	26
Alinta, India, Mona (unofficial)	14
Green 1.0km	
Alinta Merrotsy, India Winiger, and Mona Sajeev	25 min
Sandy and Nicola Watson	30
Louise and Christy Kelly	37
Orange 1.4km	
Jane Watt	48 min
Narelle Clayton	59
Anna Hansson and Kirsty Hawson	67
Erica and Felicity Smith	67
Malcolm and Susan McPhee	70
Red 1.6km	
Don Barker	29 min
Joakim Ho	30
Nathan Jeffrey	31
Felix Burkhard	45
Maurice Anker	47
Peter Merrotsy	50
Graeme Cooper	85

Long Point, 19 November 2006

By Bob and Jenny Hawkins

Early starters on the red courses were slightly inconvenienced by a misplaced control #2. The lesson I draw is that one cannot trust one's efforts at 7 a.m. on the morning of the event after a night spent in a tent. However, Maurice still managed to beat Don Barker, whom we slowed with (A) a late start in the heat, and (B) a request that he bring in some of the controls.

Overall, we found our first time organising an event for NTOC an enjoyable experience. The number of participants was not large, but

covered all the courses. Everyone was notably friendly (many thanks) and the weather perfect. It was good to see three parties include people who had never been orienteering before

Results:

Blue course	Time
Zoe & Felicity Barker-Smith	51:35
Green course	
Jane Tearle	49:05
Mark Tearle	34:40
Diana Helmrich	41:49
Eleanor Brazier + Alinta Merrotsy	58:20
Ann Helmrich	97:40

Orange course	
David Clayton	92:04
Tani Cooper	107:40
Anna Hanson + Nathan Jeffrey	140:25
Short red course	
Jenny Hawkins (unofficial)	55:54
Sue, Brent, Kas Gregory	67:32
Narelle Clayton	120:15
Judy Colman	154:28
Long red course	
Maurice Anker	88:02
Don Barker (collected some controls)	97:16

UNE Campus, 10 December 2006

By Felix Burkhard

Our last event for the year was not that well attended, but everyone who came had a good time. Being the Christmas event there was some cheer in the course setting and scoring. Two courses were on offer: a long score event with 25 controls to collect within 1 ½ hour or a short score course with a limit of 45 minutes. On the latter 15 points were awarded for each control. The exact formula on the long event was a secret and to crack it would have awarded extra points. It caused lots of debate, but no one guessed it right.

In hindsight I set the time for the long course too long, with the winner Lloyd Barker-Smith coming in with all controls in about 67 minutes. Don

Barker and Peter Merrotsy were about 5 and 10 minutes behind but still well within the time limit. Maurice Anker was within the time but missed a control (they were all well hidden, to avoid being pinched!). Greame Cooper, Sue & Benjamin, Louise Kelly and Diana Helmrich exceeded the time limit which penalised their score. The short course saw Jane Watt and the Barker-Smith girls score well. Judy Coleman, Ramona and Chiara came third and fourth; Alec Watt had lots of controls, but came in over the time limit and was badly penalised.

There were probably some other participants, but I can't re-call them and can't produce the detailed results. A swift family member did put the control cards in the recycling the next day...

Northern Tablelands Orienteering Club Newsletter

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