

Presidents Report 2015

2015 saw the club run 42 events, which is a considerable increase on previous year (there's nothing like running 8 events in 3 days as the club did for Tour de Peninsula at Waitangi Weekend to bump up the statistics). Other events of major significance were the South Island Schools Championships, 6 OYs (Apollo Hill, Tuhaitara, Spencerville, Mount Vernon, Paramanui and Humpy Bumpy – in conjunction with Dunedin Orienteering Club).

On the national and international stage PAPO members once again performed at a high level.

At the nationals the relay team of Chris Forne, Sophie Harrison and Nick Smith won, keeping the trophy in PAPO hands for the 3rd year running.

This was the first year the Regional Inter-School Challenge held at Queens Birthday has included a team from the South Island, named Southern Tempest. They won with the help of a strong contingent of PAPO members.

Internationally 5 PAPO members were part of the JWOC team to compete in Norway (Katie Cory-Wright, Sonia Hollands, Sophie Harrison, Ed Cory-Wright and Nick Smith) and 7 members were in the NZ Secondary Schools Orienteering Team to represent NZ at the Southern Cross Challenge against Australia (Ed Cory-Wright, Stephen Harding, Katie Cory-Wright, Dominic Cleary, Tom Harding, Briana Steven and Marisol Hunter). It is a reflection on the strength of PAPO that such a high percentage of these teams are made up of PAPO members.

Some of the older members have also proved themselves worthy navigators in longer versions of "orienteering":

- Vivian Prince – 2nd mixed super veteran at the World Rogaining Championships in Finland.
- Georgia Whitla and Greig Hamilton - 3rd overall and 1st mixed team at the Australasian Rogaining Championships.
- Chris Forne – navigator for the winning team at the World Adventure Racing Championships in Brazil.

In October there was a controllers clinic here in Christchurch run by Orienteering NZ. It was pleasing to see a number of PAPO members taking the opportunity to learn/refresh their skills in this area.

New initiatives from the club in 2015 were:

- **Kiwisport Schools Program.** The club gained a grant from Kiwisport and invested some of its own money in a kiwisport program for schools. The program reached over 1800 children at 15 schools. The work included mapping 11 schools (giving 5 junior club members mapping experience) and training 8 club members as intermediate coaches. Thanks to Jean Cory-Wright for coordinating this.
- **Year 5-8 Camp.** Jenni Adams and Carsten Jorgensen saw a need for a training camp for children that are too young for the existing National Junior Camp. They advertised and after expecting about 15 takers, ended up with over 40 taking part, some travelling from the North Island.
- **Electronic Newsletter.** The club has not had a regular newsletter for a number of years, but this year Jan Harrison has offered to edit a newsletter to aid communications with members.

- **New Website.** A new website has just been launched which makes it easier to separate news and event information, as well as a more modern look and feel. Thanks for Katie Bolt and Michael Smithson for the work getting this up and running.

2015 has also seen activity on the clubs involvement in permanent courses with Trish Faulkner taking a lead in ensuring the projects to get the permanent courses at The Groynes and Tekapo fully operational and advertised. She is also very much involved with Mike Marra in the Halswell Quarry permanent course, which should be up and running in the next few months. The committee has agreed to make permanent course maps available on the website where possible to encourage usage.

Looking forward to 2016 the committee has been working on updating the clubs strategic plan. The following 3 areas have been identified to focus on:

- Events, providing orienteering events for members.
- Social, providing members with a chance to connect with others through orienteering
- Development, providing members with opportunities to develop their skills

The change to the committee structure to include roles for Social and Development Coordinators reflects this. More details of specific actions and goals, with opportunities for feedback, will be forthcoming later in the year.

The committee this year had a few changes and people filling in when others were overseas. Thanks to Jenny Calder, Clem Rolin, Boris De Bouck, Keith Unsworth, Chris Forne, Nick Smith, Alister Metherell, Jocelyn Thrower, Jan Harrison, Mike Marra and Vivien Bloor, who have all appeared at committee meetings (and done a great deal of work between meetings).

I would also like to thank those officers outside the committee who have also helped tremendously this year. John Calder (Grants), Sue Cooke (Trophies), Katie Bolt (Webmaster), Jean Cory-Wright (Schools & Junior Liaison), Frances Wall (Volunteer Coordinator), Josie Boland (VIP Scheme Coordinator and MTBO Liaison), Mike Harding (Landowner Liaison), William MacManus (Traffic Management), Linley Earnshaw/Richard Hensby (OCAD Map File Librarian), Val Rogers (Physical Map Files), David Pugh-Williams (Permanent Course Liaison), Jenni Adams (Club Captain), Jan Harrison (Coaching Coordinator and Junior Coaching), George Richardson (OY Statistician) and Dave Armstrong and Graeme Read (Equipment).

A special thanks to those who are retiring from their roles. Alister Metherell from PAPO Technical Coordinator, but will continue to be involved as a representative on the Orienteering NZ Council. Josie Boland as VIP Scheme Coordinator and Frances Wall as Volunteer Coordinator.

There are a lot of people outside the committee and officers that contribute to ensure orienteering events happen. I would like to thank you all and look forward to working with you all in 2016.

Richard Smith
PAPO President