

2022-2023 PAPO President's report

It's hard to start the annual report any other way than, as last year, by saying what a busy and successful year PAPO has had!

We remain one of the largest clubs in New Zealand with around 290 members and healthy participation numbers.

A testament to our success is that PAPO has contributed, once again, significant numbers to New Zealand representative teams selected over the last year. In particular, with six representatives PAPO members made up half of the Junior World Championships team this year. JWOC was in July in Romania, and the New Zealand team had their best ever all-round team performance. There were also three PAPO members in the World Orienteering Championships held in Switzerland. This is the largest number of PAPO members in that team for some time, and the club was proud to see them all performing well in the steep Swiss forests. And in a good sign for the future, the New Zealand secondary school team, which will travel to Perth in September, includes twelve PAPO members in the total team of forty.

The New Zealand foot orienteering championships have been postponed from Easter until October due to the cyclone damage in the Hawkes Bay earlier this year. At this stage there are 55 PAPO members entered, the second highest number of any of the clubs entered. We wish all club members best wishes for a fun and successful competition and look forward to next years' report reporting on PAPO results from two New Zealand Championships.

The New Zealand mountain bike orienteering championships, however, were held this year, and hosted by PAPO. It was a fantastic club performance in staging a very successful event as well as PAPO members winning the majority of the titles, and over half of the medals awarded. Nine age classes are contested in men's and women's categories at the NZMTBO Championships and the three competition distances, sprint, middle and long were held over the weekend. Of the 18 titles available, PAPO members took out 11, 11 and 10 in the sprint, middle and long respectively and a further 55 medals in total. It is also great to see that some of those successful on the domestic scene will be competing internationally, with five PAPO members selected in the New Zealand mountain bike orienteering team which will compete against Australia in Queensland in September.

In total we staged 35 events over the last twelve months, with a varied offering of event types once again including mountain bike, rogaine night and sprint events along with many regular forest orienteering events. Although we didn't hold any events with quite as large participation numbers as those we have held in recent years, we have hosted several national events over the last year. Along with the NZ mountain bike championships mentioned already, the club held the South Island Orienteering Championships in Geraldine and Tekapo, a popular series of events over Waitangi weekend and the JWOC trials weekend. The Waitangi weekend events included a knockout sprint, mixed sprint relay and also some high-quality forest events. It was notable that almost all of the planner and controller positions for the weekend's events were performed by members under the age of 30.

Our club training officer, Tane Cambridge, has ensured that there continues to be a varied range of training events for all orienteering levels. Tane has also this year driven the introduction of the Coach in Residence scheme. Our first coach, Ewan Musgrave provided excellent coaching and training events in the early part of the year and planning is currently underway for one or more coaches to help the club over the upcoming summer. Our former club training officer, Briana Steven

was awarded the 2023 Orienteering New Zealand Coach of the Year award in recognition of the quality, and volume, of coaching she has delivered for PAPO and for national teams and camps.

On a sad note, the club farewelled two long-standing club members this year, with the passing of Rainer Goltzsche and Josie Boland. We will treasure our memories of Rainer and Josie and miss them both greatly. The club offers its sincere support to their partners and families.

I would also like to once again this year acknowledge, and sincerely thank, all of the club members for their volunteer hours in mapping, planning, controlling, pre-event and on the day event organisation, land-owner liaison and its associated paperwork, equipment maintenance and development, timing and results systems, webpage and email communication and publicity, financial reconciliations, payments and accounting... There is a lot of beyond the scenes organisation required in running the club and ensuring events happen; a huge thanks to all of the committee for all of their mahi.

Jenni Adams,

President, Peninsula and Plains Orienteers

NZSS team members

Nicholas Freeman, Felix Hunt, Luke Jansen, Jacob Knoef, Thomas Zinzan, Anna Babington, Katherine Babington, Juliet Freeman, Phoebe Hunt, Torun Joergensen, Greta Prince, Anna Wright

JWOC team members

Felix Hunt, Ryan Moore, Fergus O'Neill, Anna Babington, Katherine Babington, Kaia Joergensen

WOC team members

Kaia Joergensen, Joseph Lynch, Briana Steven