

ACT CHAMPIONSHIPS

"The Sandhills"? Even the name of the map was puzzling. What could that wily pair of Red Kangaroos, Ian Johnson and Bob Allison be thinking of? Everyone knows that Canberra's native terrain is rolling granite hills studded with eucalyptus and its man-made terrain is pine plantations with some trees growing amongst them. Perhaps it was this slight air of mystery that attracted over 440 competitors to the event, with 150 of those coming from interstate, mainly Victoria and NSW.

Nobody was disappointed. Sandhills there were... perhaps not in the profusion we will expect in October, but the eucalypts were there, and yes, the pine plantations and attendant trees were there; and the longer courses took in all the varied types of terrain. The map was excellent, a painstakingly accurate rendering of an interesting and varied area.

27 courses were run, including 2 novice courses and places were spread between ACT, Victoria, NSW and Queensland with, approximately, a large proportion of ACT victories, particularly for the women, where ACT won seven of the nine divisions. Another notable feature of the day was the number of family successes of which more below.

With the WM teams overseas, close tussles were expected in both the Men's and Women's 21A events and a number of younger runners entered, hoping to make a kill.

In M21A Neil Hooper from Victoria

demonstrated the winning combination of fitness and the cunning of long experience to finish nearly three minutes ahead of Ian Prosser from NSW. Neil's fitness was particularly important in this course which had been cunningly calculated to take advantage of every steep climb on the map. Full marks to Johnson and Allison for Nastiness here! Third and fourth place went to ACT orienteers, Anthony Cox; better known in the ACT as a member of the very successful Canberra Cannons NBL Basketball team, and Peter Garran, one of the top younger orienteers from ACT.

In W21A Louise Fairfax won her first major championship — very appropriately in Canberra since she really took up the sport seriously since arriving in ACT earlier this year and has been improving dramatically throughout the year. Second place went to W19 Nicole de Mestre of NSW. ACT's Anne Scown put in a determined effort to narrowly beat Anne Darvodelsky of NSW for third place.

The clearest win of the day went to Kathy Saw who won W43A by 10 mins from another of Australia's first veteran orienteers, Monica Blomstedt.

This was part of a magnificent trifecta for the Saw family, as sons Andrew and Peter also won their divisions. Andrew Saw won by 3 mins from Victorian Eddie Wymer. Peter Saw won from Sydney's Anthony Bunnett by 24 secs.

Three other outstanding family successes were the Campbell family of Ballarat, who

gained 2nd in W35A, 2nd in W12B, 3rd in W13 and 4th in M35A; the Hoopers of Yarra Valley with Neil's win in M21A, and Lindsay's in M56; and the Wehners of ACT with Martin running very strongly to beat fellow ACT runners Tariq Holdich and Peter Lyon in M19, and father Herman coming 3rd in M56.

The narrowest margin of the day was in W11A which was won by Julie Calder aged 9 of ACT by just 14 secs.

The junior boy's was also very close with Richard Brownlee, Michael Foster and Tate Trewin only being 37 secs apart.

The M35A division is probably Australia's most strongly contested division. 47 competitors ran, with Dennis Lyons coming 1st in 80.40. Peter Rose (ACT) was 2nd, 2 mins behind. John Colls and Andrew Campbell of Victoria came in 3rd and 4th.

In W35A Jitka Kopriva (NSW) had a clean win from Rose Campbell and Helen Dent of Victoria with ACT's Judith Allison in 4th place.

Graham Moon, having only just returned from the World Veteran's Cup took out M43A by 1 min from fellow ACT'er Jim Sawkins. Frank Anderson (NSW) was 3rd.

Overall, the event was a great success. Courses were interesting and challenging with plenty of opportunity for route choice. The weather, also, was magnificent — sunny but not hot, and no wind. Ian Johnson and Bob Allison, the mappers and course setters, and Bob Poole with his team of Red Kangaroos who organised the event should all be congratulated.

— Bruce Fairfax.

TOP PLACES

W21A 7.4 km

1. Louise Fairfax	ACT	73.27
2. Nicole de Mestre	NSW	79.47
3. Ann Scown	ACT	82.10
4. Anne Darvodelsky	NSW	82.38
5. Sheila Colls	Vic	94.19
6. Deborah Stokes	ACT	119.58

M21A 12.1 km

1. Neil Hooper	Vic	80.47
2. Ian Prosser	NSW	83.29
3. Anthony Cox	ACT	90.22
4. Peter Garran	ACT	95.10
5. Paul Darvodelsky	NSW	98.20
6. Arnold Simson	NSW	98.34

W15 4.4 km

1. Kathy Weir	ACT	56.05
2. Jacinta Wilmott	NSW	57.31
3. Karen Barbey	ACT	59.03

M15 6.7 km

1. Andrew Saw	ACT	57.11
2. Eddie Wymer	Vic	60.28
3. Graham Cassells	ACT	67.28

W17 5.2 km

1. Jenni Robbie	NSW	72.18
2. Nicole Quantock	ACT	73.50
3. Jacqueline McIver	ACT	82.25

M17 8.2 km

1. Donald Staudte	Vic	69.10
2. Bernard Ions	ACT	81.26
3. Peter O'Loughlin	Vic	94.34

M19 9.7 km

1. Martin Wehner	ACT	79.22
2. Tariq Holdich	ACT	80.46
3. Peter Lyon	ACT	86.24

W21A 7.4 km

1. Louise Fairfax	ACT	73.27
2. Nicole Demestre	NSW	79.47
3. Ann Scown	ACT	82.10

W21B 5.6 km

1. Jane O'Brien	ACT	82.29
2. Mary McDonald	NSW	85.08
3. Faye Hill	ACT	92.48

W21C 4.4 km

1. Sheona Webster	ACT	70.39
2. Alison Wright	NSW	88.53
3. Elizabeth Lamont	ACT	95.19

M21A 12.1 km

1. Neil Hooper	Vic	80.47
2. Ian Prosser	NSW	83.29
3. Anthony Cox	ACT	90.22

M21B 9.7 km

1. Phil Creaser	ACT	90.05
2. Glenn Flack	NSW	118.57
3. Allan Bowditch	NSW	123.06

M21C 6.7 km

1. Paul Frylink	ACT	70.35
2. Marc Hodge	ACT	72.20
3. Ben Harvey	ACT	75.28

W35A 5.6 km

1. Jitka Kopriva	NSW	68.55
2. Rose Campbell	Vic	77.34
3. Helen Dent	Vic	83.04

W35B 4.4 km

1. Pam Christensen	ACT	56.16
2. Deirdre Macken	ACT	66.50
3. Christa Schafer	NSW	72.18

M35A 9.5 km

1. Dennis Lyons	NSW	80.40
2. Peter Rose	ACT	82.53
3. John Colls	Vic	86.47

M35B 6.7 km

1. David Stitt	NSW	69.31
2. Terry Simpson	ACT	72.55
3. Brian Stoyles	ACT	76.02

W43 5.2 km

1. Kathy Saw	ACT	60.25
2. Monica Blomstedt	NSW	70.26
3. Lenore McKinnon	ACT	80.20

M43A 7.4 km

1. Graham Moon	ACT	66.26
2. Jim Sawkins	ACT	67.22
3. Frank Anderson	NSW	68.07