



# A.C.T. ORIENTEERING NEWS

Circular of the A.C.T. Orienteering Association, Inc.

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## THE PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

"What will I do with my Sundays if I don't have an orienteering event to go to?" was a statement I recently heard from an orienteer, who then went on to question why there are a few gaps in the events calendar this year. Before jumping to the conclusion that there has been a mistake in the planning of this year's calendar it is worth pondering what would the optimal calendar look like. From my point of view the ideal calendar would consist of events on world standard maps, in Swedish type terrain, in walking distance from my house, each weekend of the season, except when I was injured (so that I did not miss out on any fun), and in which I could run while never having to organise or help at an event.

In the 'real world' of orienteering here in Canberra - as well as elsewhere - this is, of course, not possible. As a result, the event calendar for the year must reflect the availability of maps and human resources we have at our disposal. The calendar has also been planned to offer local orienteers maximum use of nearby NSW events (in which we do not have to organise or help, although sometimes NSW shifts an event we had included in our plans - i.e. 22 May), and to provide training days for orienteers of different standards. In addition, to ensure that, this year, plenty of orienteers were willing to help at the Australian 3-Days at Easter, the schedule was structured so that helpers were not overworked leading up to this national event. Finally, and

more importantly, the number of events must reflect the number of volunteers in clubs who are willing to take on the roles of organiser, course setter and controller and who are willing to help to run events.

Having some gaps in the calendar can also have other advantages. First, it provides clubs with an opportunity to organise their own low key club training days for their members; second, it potentially increases the number of entrants and their enthusiasm at each event; and, finally, it allows time to catch up on those other tasks and hobbies that get put off over the orienteering season. Those who still feel the need to run in an event each weekend (and perhaps also do not want to travel to NSW events) are welcome to run in the Junior Orienteering Program events that are held on most Saturday mornings (these events are now also listed in the Coming Events pages of our Newsletter). If this option does not suit, then the next course of action is to let your club representative know by November that you are willing to organise an event next season. If sufficient orienteers come forward I am sure the Technical and Competition Committee members would be delighted and certainly willing to modify the approach that they had adopted in setting the events for this season.

Bruce Bowen

## A LITTLE BIT OF A RECORD

Orienteers may have noticed that this is the 250th issue of the 'ACT Orienteering News'. The Editors wonder how many ACTOA members there are who can remember issue #1?

Orienteering has changed a lot since those early days and so has the Newsletter, the first 49 issues of which were churned out on the Observatory's duplicator (with permission!) after which the services of a commercial printer were thought to be more appropriate. The present editors (Claire and Hermann Wehner) have a collection of Newsletters from #7 on, that being the first time one of us (Hermann) started orienteering (16 July, 1972). Claire soon took over the production of the Newsletter, and she is still partner in the production team.

In memory of these early days, here follows an article which appeared in 'The Canberra Times' of Thursday, December 6, 1973.

### Testing course for orienteers

Sunday's orienteering event at the Kowen pine forest was the last competitive run for 1973 and produced the toughest course for a long time.

A feature event, over 13 km, was set for the senior men and tested those who participated to the fullest.

Only five orienteers attempted the course, with only three finishing, the other two withdrawing after completing about three-quarters of the course.

The winner was David Hogg in a time of 2hr 53.30.

This was a creditable performance as the navigation needed precision, and the terrain was physically demanding.

The high temperatures added to the discomfort of all competitors. Second was Luciana Quadraccia, followed by John Jarvis.

In the normal senior men's event, Bob Stobie was a clear winner by almost 30 minutes from Roger Rose with John Foster a further 20 minutes behind in third place.

Ingrid Foster completed a family double by winning the intermediate women's event in 1hr 41 min.

The veteran men's event was well supported, with Hermann Wehner winning in 1hr 46.10. Second was Audun Fristad with Jon Dunsmore third. Ross Gilby was fourth, a few minutes in front of Jack Pennington.

The strength of the veteran competitors has been a feature of ACT orienteering this year. The recruitment of Pennington has added interest to what has always been an interesting competition and further improvement is expected during 1974 as Fristad, Dunsmore and Gilby attempt to match the fitness and skill of Wehner.

With the departure of Bob and Mary Stobie, who are returning to Scotland in the New Year, the senior men's and senior

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**Closing Date for next Newsletter: Friday, 1 July, 1994**