

Birthplace Darlinghurst NSW



Occupation Retired fonctionnaire; current Man of Leisure

How long lived in ACT Not quite 57 years

First orienteering event 1973, as part of the original, pioneering CHAOS (Canberra High Association of Orienteering Students) group which included at least two future Australian open champions, me being the last remaining (and least-credentialled) member still active in Australia. It would have been on a black and white gestetner-produced paper map, perhaps Stromlo Forest or Bruce (Gossan Hill/Bruce Ridge) – I can't believe it didn't disintegrate in my sweaty hand (perhaps I didn't run very hard). I only did it for a year before returning to school rugby. When I gave club rugby away, I came back to orienteering in 1979 when I was looking for another sport to take up, where my first event was on the old 1:20,000 Kowen Scarp map on 9 September. Still trying to get it right; I'm nothing if not stubborn!

Most memorable The large-field, mass-start Long-O on the Mount Clear map in 1992 on the 12 km 'B' course which equated to at least 15 km because of the two obligatory big detours around the dominating peak in the centre of the map, and included a single 150 metre climb to get up to the granite plateau. I didn't win my class but I got immense satisfaction from my physical and technical performance, only making one minor mistake in an area where I had previously 'wandered lonely as a cloud' for extended periods at probably every previous event. 108.38 for an effective 15 km course in technical terrain? If only I could have reproduced that more often!

Worst orienteering mistake An impossible choice. There have been '90s', '180s', '360s' (!) probably even '720s', and everything in between. Everything up to 60 minutes errors. There were first control disasters (one easy and one hard) in my first two Australian Championships, (1983 & 1984). There was running off the map at the Aus Champs at Badja as recently as 2011. There was even going to the wrong start, because of the different way NSW courses used to be numbered, at the 1995 NSW Championships at Ellerslie, an extra distance of about 1.5 km each way, or picking up the wrong map on day 1 of the 2002 Easter 3-Day at nearby Inverary. Maybe, the simple but inexplicable decision to turn right on a track instead of left when I was having a very good run at the Aus Champs at Sappa Bulga in

distance of about 1.5 km each way, or picking up the wrong map on day 1 of the 2002 Easter 3-Day at nearby Inverary. Maybe, the simple but inexplicable decision to turn right on a track instead of left when I was having a very good run at the Aus Champs at Sappa Bulga in 2008. Even choosing the wrong shoes has several times had bitter consequences. Snatching defeat...

Best orienteering tip received I like Kevin Paine's sage words that "you can't gain time on short legs, only lose it". My oft-neglected advice to myself is to stay 'in the moment' - concentrate, concentrate, concentrate! And, at Championships, "find the first control"!

Favourite O area in ACT By which I take to mean OACT areas, so Yankee Jack's Hill because it combines spur-gully, linear clearings, and open and forest granite all on the one map, particularly in its original larger version. Also The Sandhills for similar reasons, and Badja, Boboyan Divide and the old Mount Clear. I also like areas which feature some complex erosion detail such as Foxlow/Woolcara and the area sometimes known as Atkinson's Trig. Least favourite (1979-2014): Orroral Crossing!

Favourite O area outside ACT I rather like runnable rock but it's hard to nominate one - Sappa Bulga (Dubbo), Yuruga, Limekiln Creek, Old Woman's Creek near Wyangala. Also Rowdy Flat for the sheer technical challenge.

Furthest I've travelled I'm a stay-at-home compared to many people so, depending whether you measure by straight line or by distance physically travelled, it would be Wilpena Creek SA in 1986 or Maryborough Qld in 2008 for respective Aus Champ carnivals. With the latter, I stayed with my sister near Maryborough but in so doing was badly bitten by sandflies on my last morning there for my trouble. Summed up my week, really.

Other sports or interests I played some first-class rugby in my early 20's in a team which boasted two Wallabies, then played Touch football until my early 50's which was why I rarely took part in Wednesday twilight events for many years as games were always on a Wednesday evening (though I did try to do both on the same night a few times, but invariably suffered for it with cramps in the Touch). I have an interest in all football codes. My main interests are music appreciation, gardening (particularly native plants), travel, photography and, as travelling companions will testify, food and wine

• [Toni Brown](#)

2014 ACT Secondary Schools Orienteering Championships

Friday, 27 June 2014

Congratulations to the 2014 ACT Secondary School students who competed in this year's ACT Secondary Schools Orienteering Championships last month. Fifty three students competed for their schools. Ten ACT Secondary Schools/Colleges were represented.



(Some runners in Women's Classes - Lucinda A - Lyneham HS, Miho Y and Tara M - Girls Grammar, Annabelle M - Lyneham HS)

As well as racing the ACT Secondary Schools Orienteering Championships and in the ACT Sprint Distance Championships, each runner's purpose was to get their school the best placing possible. The scoring system was designed to make the outcome as fair and as exciting as possible. To achieve this points were awarded only to the fastest representative from each school as follows: 1st 10pts, 2nd 7pts, 3rd 5pts, 4th 4 pts, 5th 3pts, 6th 2pts





(Top row from left- Men's classes: Jesse P – Marist College, Mark G – Canberra Grammar, Llew R – Radford College, Christian P - Marist College Bottom Row from left - Thomas H – Telopea Park, Stephen M and Tristan M – Canberra Grammar and Lyneham HS. Kieran I – Hawker College)

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Perpetual trophies were awarded to first place in each category and for the Champion Men's and Women's Schools and Colleges.

CHAMPION WOMENS HS – Lyneham HS 20 pts 2nd Canberra HS 17pts, 3rd Girls Grammar 12pts

CHAMPION WOMENS COLLEGE – Girls Grammar 10pts 2nd Dickson College 7pts

CHAMPION MENS HS – Canberra Grammar 17pts 2nd Marist College 14pts, =3rd Lyneham HS 10pts, Telopea Park 10 pts

CHAMPION MENS COLLEGE – Canberra Grammar 10pts 2nd Dickson College 7pts, 3rd Hawker College 5pts

Many of those pictured have gone on to be selected to represent ACT in WA later this year.

The full results are [here](#).

Focus on Girls

Tuesday, 13 May 2014

Focus on Girls - WEEK 2

More girls, more fun!



15 girls turned out to today's training. A-May-zing Autumn weather was perfect for a late afternoon trot around the War Memorial, and around the lower trails on Mt Ainslie. Some even took in some higher tracks as they hit the terrain loop up the side of Mt Ainslie.

FOG provides girls aged 10 to 15 years with experience from beginner to more technical, with the chance to meet other girls interested in orienteering.

Next session straight after school at Remembrance Park Wednesday 21 May where Shannon and Toni will take a mental walk through the preparation for a pre-entry start time event, and some further map development.

Interested??? Then email todavid@webone.com.au to ensure plenty of maps are available. Don't forget to bring a friend. Parents welcome.

interested. If you email leahna@wehnercupnsw.com.au to ensure plenty of maps are available. Don't forget to bring a friend. Parents welcome.

- [Toni Brown](#)

2014 Wehner Cup-ACT League Event 2 Sunday 6 April Picaree Hill

Tuesday, 1 April 2014

Allen

Organiser: Brown/Polands Course Setter: Pauli Piirionen Controller: Bryant

Follow Barton Highway past Hall to ACT/NSW border. It is only 18 minutes from Hall to the venue at [Picaree Hill](#). All ages welcome.

Be Cool - Car Pool - to be in the draw for some prizes.



Courses Available: 4 x Red (hard navigation); 2 x Orange (moderate navigation); Green (easy navigation); Blue (very easy navigation).

Enjoy a real bush event, great spectator controls, a small cave and even chocolate and coffee shops on the way home (Poachers Pantry etc).

Bushflyers suggestions

Thursday, 13 March 2014

2014 Bushflyers Suggestions Responses from Jan – March 2014

Men 8 (Juniors and Vets) Women (4 Vets)

Governance Questions – Should this be more formal?

COMMENTS

- *Current arrangement seems to work well.*
- *Yearly or 2 yearly, to give people a break and to bring in fresh blood/build understanding esp council rep positions to get people to understand OACT.*
- *Seems good already.*
- *Six month positions so people can try out and see if they enjoy it*
- *I don't think it is necessary*
- *No, I think adding extra formal elements limits the individuality of the different clubs. It also makes it harder for small clubs like the Emus which are probably struggling already with formalities. I think we need all our clubs and I think each club should have more scope to cater for different people. Eg Bushflyers has been very family and youth orientated in the recent years. W. Emus should be allowed to be the no frill quiet achiever club it is. Etc.*
- *I think that it is probably time to have a small committee, simply as a means of more formally acknowledging the work that a few of the club members are currently doing (and have been doing). It does not need to be called a committee, as that very word may suggest a more structured group than is necessary – perhaps a "Bushflyers Representative Group" or some more*

acknowledging the work that a few of the club members are currently doing (and have been doing). It does not need to be called a committee, as that very word may suggest a more structured group than is necessary – perhaps a ‘Bushflyers Representative Group’, or some more clever name might be considered!

- It would serve as a reminder to all club members that: there are a few core people who do lots for the group; these people cannot continue for ever; these are low key opportunities to do something for the club and have some say in its direction (without having to go to ‘boring meetings’; and that the input from all members is not only welcome but encouraged. We don’t need job titles (such as ‘secretary’ etc) but perhaps the group could be seen as having a role in the maintenance of membership, and the advocacy of the club across a range of areas (ie from having a uniform, to a focus at all events, to a voice in the formal OACT structures.
- I don't think we need a formal committee - it seems to me that we do well with a convenor and a general helper. I don't see why we need a Treasurer since we don't really handle money. We could get some other people to take on some of the general helper jobs and some of the experienced to do some writing jobs and could leave Toni to do wardrobe and social sec.
- Yes, should be an Annual Meeting, nominations called for position/jobs and elections, with committee on website.
- Could be a bit more structured but not if the result is that hands go up and nothing is done.
- Happy with the informal networking manner of things but I would like to know a bit more about how it all works.

Note only one person said they were willing to fill a position.

Use of Tithes – every year each club is provided with a modest amount of funds from the earnings of events

Question: What other things would people like to see the Club funds used for?

- Helping organise school activities, e.g., by producing training course maps for suitable locations near schools and paying a competent young adult orienteer to run a training activity.
- New maps, software/training for software (can't we pay someone to do this?)
- More of the same, love the new uniforms and great we could support JWOC reps.
- Other clubs pay for Badges for Badge events
- Uniforms and fun activities
- Running events, club trainings, Club equipment for training
- Use for things that directly benefit the club – its surprising how little the club has to play with considering the size of membership.
- I think the highest priorities are club awards and subsidies for uniforms. We only have small amount so have to be reasonably careful.
- I can think of many things which club funds could be put to but I think a better question would be should clubs receive more revenue than present I think they should and if the clubs had more money in the till, people would find answering this question easier. I would like to have special fun prizes for certain BS major events just to make them more interesting.
- Happy to use these to continue to subsidise uniforms a bit. I am expecting that if OACT supports JWOC/WOC participants this year and going forward, that we will begin to have a bit more in the bank, but it will take a year or so to really build up, maybe we could devote a little of this year's tithes to a particular SWARM.

Should we have a group to decide what?

- Yes if anyone is interested

Event organising/volunteering

Question: Is this approach reasonable way to deploy volunteers? Are there better ways to share the volunteer load?

- Maybe, but until we think of one let's keep going with the current one, and well done Toni for organising it!
- Needs to be a formal process so it doesn't fall on one person to cajole others in – make clear what expectations are and how people who are unsure can build confidence eg formal mentors
- Good at the moment
- I agree with the approach you are using at present. It spreads the load a lot more than asking for volunteers. With newcomers we need to ensure an experienced person is also available
- I'm happy with the way BSA are doing things.
- This seems to be working well – many people are willing ‘to help’ but without the responsibility of management etc. One related issue is always that of having someone who is comfortable with the computers...
- There is a need for careful and structured support and training (and more support) with the computer use. We have all become very used to having instant results, split times etc, so there is an ongoing need to have as many people as possible not only able, but willing to use the computers. Access to course designing software is also essential. This all points to the need for some specific training, and perhaps if this were at club level (with good accompanying manuals, etc), this club level of support might encourage an even better take-up of willing volunteers for all aspects of event organisation

some specific training, and perhaps if this were at club level (with good accompanying manuals, etc), this club level of support might encourage an even better take-up of willing volunteers for all aspects of event organisation.

- There is plenty of material available for event organisation etc – I've even presented a workshop on just this, and have a powerpoint presentation which I would be more than happy to share.
- There are multiple additional ways of volunteering.
- Would be good to share this job around a bit – knowing volunteers helps connect to the sport so much more.

Could there be an op-out option?

One response only No. If people can't or won't help, they can make that clear with the current roster arrangement.

Social get-togethers (SWARMS) – currently we do these on an ad-hoc basis.

Question: Does this approach suit? Is there a better way?

- Like family friendly approach
- Good idea to have in lead up to significant events
- Good having following an event and near an event
- I think 3 or 4 per year are good. We are happy to have another turn later this year.
- We could probably have some informal video nights as well of overseas orienteering carnivals or head cam videos of elite individuals just for coaching purposes. Can be done anywhere with today's smart TVs.
- It might be useful to be able to have perhaps 5/6 (?) over the year – planned and on the calendar **in advance**. They are better to be placed at events/strategic times through the year rather than on some arbitrary regular basis. It would be good to continue to develop get-togethers at all major events for a simple family meal at a pub or similar. It is essential that we continue to have family inclusive occasions.
- Stop calling them Swarms – not funny, beginners do not know what Swarm means, has connotations of swarm of blowflies descending on food.
- Seem as successful as any social functions I have ever experienced with the Club.
- Its about right – everyone has very busy lives.

Yankee Hat Bushflyers A Buzz at the recent Paddy Pallin Rogaine

Tuesday, 11 March 2014

ACT Bushflyer's Orienteering Club took out a number of the top positions as well as many placing's at the recent Paddy Pallin Rogaine.



Men (61 Teams)

Open and Mixed Vets Pauli Viljakainen/Paulli Piironen 1530 4th and 1st, Zac Zaharias/Bruce Barnett 1420 8th and 2nd, Peter Miller/David Poland 1420, Jonathan Miller/David Jenkins 1370 10th and 4th

Women (16 Teams)

Open and Mixed Vets Carol Harding/Toni Brown 1360 1st and 1st

Mixed Open (81 Teams)

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Keiran McDonnell/Claire Lonergan 1360 3rd, Dane Roberts/Kath Bell 1360 4th, Alison Inglis/Noah Poland/Patrick and Tristan Miller 1290 8th

Mixed Vets and Mixed Super Vets (14 teams)

John Harding/Monika Short 950 3rd and 3rd, Paul and Susan Archer 750 10th and 6th

Overall Family (8 Teams)

Alison Inglis/Noah Poland/Patrick and Tristan Miller 1290 1st, Lisa Cutfield, Nick Sophie and Henry Lhuende 640 3rd.

• [Toni Brown](#)

Toni Brown wins Ian Booth Award for 2013

Thursday, 6 February 2014

First Swarm for 2014 - plenty of Awards!



30 Bushflers swarmed around an Aranda pool after the 5 Feb Twilight. After a week of 37 degrees we should all have been overjoyed at the thought of sinking into the pool BUT.....



in true swarming fashion the weather changed and no rain or snow this time but certainly a long way off the heat of the previous days. Still a fun evening was had by all. The eventing superbly hosted by the Stocks family saw lots of fun in and out of the pool - and the usual fantastic array of food

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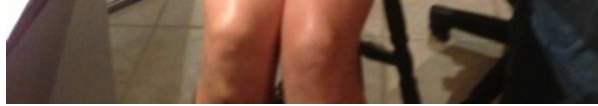
Club awards Bluebottle for services to the club and the Flyswat award for something a bit daft, were reinstated this year.

2013 Bluebottle Award was presented to Jenny Hawkins (in absentia) for her super event organising at the Australian Long Distance Championships.



2013 FlySwat award was presented to Alison Inglis who took an extended run to a farmhouse leaving the rest of OACT taking a circuitous route pick her up but to first work out who she was.





(Grapevine story "Alison Miller" had called to say she had run off the map. Organisers - something wrong with her.....we don't even have an Alison Miller in our event today!) Message mixed in translation as the call travelled through the farmhouse, to the dad in Canberra, a Miller, and back to the event where the Miller boys were patiently waiting.

Bush Flyer members who qualified for OA Merit Badges in 2013

45 members qualified for OA Merit badges including **16 Junior Bushflyers!!**

GOLD

Andrew Barnett M20 , Ewan Barnett M16 , Toni Brown W50 * , Lachlan Dow M21* , Patrick Miller M14, Tristan Miller M12, Kevin Paine M80* , Pauli Piiroinen M75* , David Poland M50, Noah Poland M12 * , Oliver Poland M21, Caitlin Young W12, Eino Meuronen M75 * , Paul de Jongh M20 *

SILVER

Valerie Barker W60 * , Andrew Blakers M55 * , Geoffrey Dabb M75, Robert D'Ascenzo M21, Ian de Jongh M20, Carol Harding W50 * , John Harding M60, Alison Inglis W45, David Jenkin M55 * , Ari Piiroinen M50, Alan Sargeant M65, Ross Stewart M50, Dennis Trewin M65*

BRONZE

Peter Antcliff M45* , Bruce Barnett M50, Nanette Bragg W20* , Carys Connick W14, Lynwen Connick W50, Michael D'Ascenzo M55* , Robyn D'Ascenzo W55* , Coral Dow W55* , Shea-Cara Hammond W20* , Natalie Miller W10, Peter Miller M40, Bryn Piiroinen M10, Jesse Piiroinen M16, Philip Purcell M21, Ryan Stocks M14, Ken Young M50, Jessica Zhang W16 , Bryce Anderson M20

*Means these members also achieved this level last year in this age category

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