Orienteering ACT Incorporated

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Orienteering ACT is supported by ACT Government Sport and Recreation

Runners Shop
76 Dundas Court Phillip

ORIENTEERING ACT (OACT) INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

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Office Location: Upstairs, Building 3, Jamison Centre Macquarie.

ABN 13 411 591 285
Incorporation: A00509 dated 8 July 1977

The Board 2024

President	Susanne Harrysson
Secretary	Stephen Goggs
Treasurer	Andrew Cheffers
Directors	Valerie Barker David Stocks Alison Inglis Tate Needham Nina Davis John Shelton Agar

Officers 2024

Executive Officer	Phil Walker
Office Administration	Paul de Jongh
Development Officer	Vacant
Public Officer	John Sutton
Member Protection and Information officer	Valerie Barker
Coaching Administration	Stephen Goggs
Blue Lightning Managers	Deirdre Sharkey Mike Radajewski
Blue Lightning Coach	Tara Melhuish
Schools Team Coach	David Stocks
Schools Team Manager	Ken Mansell
Schools Team Assistance Manager	Sarah Bruce
Canberra Cockatoos Manager	Matthew Crane
Canberra Cockatoos Coach	Vacant
Technical Officers	Ann Scown

	Bill Jones David Hogg
Mapping Committee	Tate Needham Paul de Jongh David Stocks
Sporting Schools Coordinator	Stephen Goggs
Secondary Schools Liaison	Stephen Goggs
SC-ORE Coordinator	Susanne Harrysson
Learn to Orienteer Coordinator	Susanne Harrysson
Street-O Coordinator	John Harding
Sprint Series Coordinators	Susanne Harrysson
Winter Mid-Week Coord	Vacant
Saturday Program Coord	David Hogg
MTBO Coordinator	Marina Iskhakova
Ski-O Coordinator	Marina Iskhakova
Equipment Officers	Ann & John Scown

Affiliated Clubs

Abominable O-Men (AO-A)
Bushflyers (BS-A)
Parawanga Orienteers (PO-A)
Red Roos (RR-A)
Weston Emus (WE-A)

OACT Strategic Plan 2021 - 2024

This section of the Annual Report summarises the OACT Strategic Plan 2021-2024 and OACT's achievements against that Plan.

Vision:
ACT orienteering will be a well-managed, inclusive and growing sport and recreation activity which provides wide opportunities for participation by people of all ages and abilities.

Objectives:
1. To promote interest in the sport of orienteering in the Australian Capital Territory and surrounding areas.
2. To conduct events for those interested in orienteering.
3. To educate, train, coach and encourage people in the sport of orienteering.

Strategies:
1. Make it more attractive to participate:

   Our participants range in age from under 10 to over 90, and include world champions, club members, school groups and families. We want it to be more attractive for people to start and to continue all forms of orienteering.

2. Organise events more efficiently:

   Our events range from permanent courses, virtual courses and inter-club events, to major state and national events. Our events are run by volunteers and we want to make it easier for them to organise great events.

3. Streamline our administration:

   Orienteering is administered at three levels (club, state and national), mostly by volunteers. We want to ease their workload by streamlining our administrative processes.

4. Communicate effectively:

   New participants, current members and stakeholders need relevant and timely communication about orienteering. We want to listen, collaborate and communicate with those within and those outside our orienteering community.

5. Perform at our best:

   Our participants range from novices to aspiring champions in a range of orienteering disciplines and age classes. We want every orienteer to realise their potential, regardless of their age, ability or chosen form of orienteering.

Achievements to Date against the Strategic Plan:
Progress against the Strategic Initiatives have been assessed as follows:

	Achievements are Satisfactory or better.
	Satisfactory achievements but could improve; dependent on OACT personnel resources available or input required from external stakeholders, (ie Orienteering Australia).
	Achievements have degraded, and actions required to reach a Satisfactory level.

Of the 20 Strategic Initiatives; 14 have a status of Green and 6 at Amber. Initiative 3.5, 'Ensure our sport is financially sustainable and financially attractive for participants to attend events and take up memberships', was rated Red at the end of 2023. The financial position has improved but it remains 'At Risk'.

Details of progress as at end 2024 for achieving the Strategic Initiatives are provided at Annex B.

President's Report - Susanne Harrysson

In 2024 Orienteering ACT (OACT) delivered as many as 129 individual events, likely a new record number! At the same time OACT worked on activities to further streamline administration and event organisation as well as attract newcomers and develop pathways into the sport.

The events span a wide range of formats and disciplines to satisfy our members as well as newcomers to the sport. They included Street-O, Wednesday Midday, ACT League, Saturday Metro, Wednesday Twilight, MTBO, Sprint, SC-ORE, ACT Relays and Ski-O. (Specific number including participations numbers are found inside the annual report.)

2024 was a big year for Mountain Bike Orienteering (MTBO) here in the ACT. Marina and Fedor Iskhakova and their fellow MTBOs worked hard and successfully delivered the Australian MTBO Carnival and Championships in October, consisting of 6 unique events. Apart from the MTBO Carnival additional MTBO events were held during the year - a Development Weekend and several Come & Try events – for skill development and to get more and new people into the sport. Marina and Fedor have worked hard for several years to get MTBO where it is today in the ACT. Hopefully the collective learnings and experiences from delivering the MTBO carnival will encourage more people to participate as well as to share the workload so we can keep the MTBO momentum up into the future.

Blue Lightning with coaches Tara Melhuish and David Stocks plus managers Deirdre Sharkey and Mike Radajewski was successfully run this year again, attracting many of our aspiring juniors to the trainings, week after week. Australian School Championships in Armidale showed that their work with our juniors' has paid off e.g. with OACT reaching a third place in total only a few points after Queensland and NSW. In September Blue Lightning organised a fundraising fun Sprint relay which was well received by the participants. 2025 is looking promising.

In December OACT also successfully hosted and ran the Australian Junior Development Camp which saw 69 promising juniors from all over Australia take part supported by a number of coaches, lecturers, organisers and helpers. Special thank you to co-ordinator Mike Radajewski and all volunteers for making it happen!

Furthermore, we were pleased that Owen Radajewski and Natalie Miller were selected to represent Australia in JWOC (in Czech Republic) and Caitlin Young in WOC Sprint (in Edinburgh, UK). Well done all of you!

Orienteering Australia have initiated several projects on a national level. From ACT we have representation in David Stocks as Project Leader for Introduction to Orienteering, David Poland in the development of the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), Stephen Goggs around Updates to the OA constitution, Toni Brown as ASOC Co-ordinator and Marina Iskhakova on the MTBO Committee.

In 2024 OACT received a grant from the ACT Government to improve our Planning and Governance in line with the Australian Sports Commission's guidelines. The money was used to improve and facilitate the work of the Strategic Plan for 2025-2030 to better target our wants and needs including better alignment with expectations from external stakeholders. This is an important tool to further strengthen our sport with focus on the ACT – to attract and retain newcomers, to provide training and development opportunities for participants and volunteers, to help us prioritise and to secure long term sustainable finances and more.

This year we have also ventured out on social media with paid advertisement to investigate the channel for attracting new people into orienteering. This turned out to be a successful tool. Next step is to fine tune the advertisement to reach specific targeted groups with customised messages.

Another area worth a special mentioning is the so-called Mesh-O equipment, which has been introduced in 2024. It allows us to track runners in real time at specific controls along the course as well as at the finish. This helps both with live results and safety. We are planning to further expand the network and use of Mesh-O during 2025.

Finally, I want to thank all our members for your various contributions in making orienteering in the ACT and OACT as an organisation what it is. Orienteering would not be the same without you. Thank you!!!

Financial Summary

The 2024 audited Financial Reports are at Annex A. In summary;

- As at 31st December 2024, OACT's financial balance was **$328,982** with total current assets of **$276,520**. Compared to the end 2023 financial balance of $296,076 and total current assets of $235,292.
- OACT's overall profit and loss for 2024 was a profit of **$7,914.** This is an improvement on the deficit of **$31,140** in 2023**.** The turn-around is attributed to:
    - High attendances at three double-header event weekends, including National Orienteering League events, attracting competitors from interstate.
    - The decision not to engage anyone to fill the vacant Development Officer position – a paid role that was filled for 5 months in 2023.
    - Modest surpluses from coaching activities, mechanise sales the MTBO Carnival and the Australian Junior Development Camp.
    - Increase in memberships.
    - Fundraising activities.
    - Improvements to the process for approving unusual or non-budgeted expenditure.
- Payment to Orienteering Australia of $10,074 (exc GST) for the event levies for the MTBO Carnival and other 2024 2nd half year event levies, were not paid in 2024. To be paid in 2025. This is not unusual having to pay the 2nd half year levies in the following year, however to be noted that the amount is higher than normal as it includes $4,967 (exc GST) owing for the MTBO Carnival.

Prior to 2024, the last time that OACT made a profit was 2019 on the back of hosting the Oceania Championships. Losses of less than $10,000 occurred in 2020 and 2021, largely due to a drop in participation numbers as many events had to be cancelled due to COVID restrictions. Losses of just over $31,000 occurred in 2022 and 2023, this was despite OACT hosting the 2023 Easter 3 Day Carnival, that returned a lower than planned surplus due to the greater than predicted increases in expenses.

The factor most impacting the financial position is participation numbers attending events. Costs such as Office expenses, salaries, mapping and Orienteering Australia State Registration Fees are largely fixed regardless of participation numbers.

The Auditor assessed that the Financial Report presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of OACT as at 31st December 2024. The Auditor noted that the true value the Non-Current Assets could not be ascertained, with the values reported as arbitrary at best.

OACT's financial position has stabilised, with the forecast of a surplus in 2026 when OACT once again host the Oceania Championships.

Governance

The OACT Board held eight meetings in 2024: 5th February, 18th March, 19th April, 29th May, 2nd July, 26th August, 14th October and 25th November. The outcomes of the meetings were published as news articles on the OACT website. The Event Planning & Management Sub-Committee met twice in 2024 to develop the program of events for the second half of 2024 and for events to be held in 2025.

Executive Officer's Report - Phil Walker

The main stakeholder and governance issues dealt with in 2024 were:

- In early 2024, OACT received notification that the organisation was assessed as a Category 3 State Sporting Organisation (SSO) for the purposes of eligibility to apply for ACT Government Operational Support Grants in 2024-2026.
- Bidding for and being awarded ACT Government Sporting & Recreation grants:
    - $16,500 for the OACT High Performance (Cockatoos) program for season 2024/25.
    - $9,000 for the 2024 Club Enhancement Program (CEP) for the purchase of event timing and computer equipment.
    - $19,180 for the 2024 State Organisation Support Program (SOSP), made up of $9.1K to obtain assistance to develop the next OACT Strategic Plan, and $10K for operational support.
- Bidding for:
    - $8,087 in 2025 CEP funding for Mesh-O radio control and tracking equipment.
    - $32,380 in 2025 SOSP funding for a drone and lidar unit for mapping and operational support.
- Representing OACT at CEO forums held by ACT Sport & Recreation, to discuss the changing demographics and what makes a sport attractive for participants, and the challenges and opportunities for community based sports.
- Working with ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) to compile a library of detailed maps showing the areas within the Canberra Nature Parks that are accessible for orienteering events. The availability of these maps has improved the access application approval process. OACT will continue to work with the ACT PCS to refine the maps and adjust if conditions change.
- Co-ordination of event planning and management; to offer a full and varied program of events for all levels. Taking into account the need to attract and retain newcomers, grow participations, improve finances, offer competitive challenges to the more experienced or elite orienteers, and not over-stretch our volunteer workforce.
- Representing OACT at workshops held by Orienteering Australia (OA) and providing input on a range of topics including budgeting and cost of OA's levies to be paid by the States, policies and plans, and initiatives such as improvements to Eventor and the OA website.
- Submitting applications to OA for Moira Whiteside (MW) Bequest funding. In 2024, OACT received $7,000 as MW Bequest funding to support the 2024 Australian MTBO Championships, with funding used for promotion and initiatives to encourage participation.

OACT is dependent on the Clubs and Series Co-ordinators to conduct events. A special thanks to the Event Planning & Management Sub-Committee members and the Series Co-ordinators. Names of key people are listed at Annex C.

Our sport relies on volunteers to set courses, control and organise events. Our members continue to be the backbone of our sport, most contributing what they can when they can. To all the volunteers, OACT thanks you.

OACT would also like to acknowledge and thank the ACT Government Sport and Recreation Department for their continued financial and specialised administration support.

OACT also acknowledges the ongoing support of the Runners Shop, 76 Dundas Court Phillip through its sponsorship of the summer twilight series and through its discount scheme for members who purchase items from the Runners Shop.

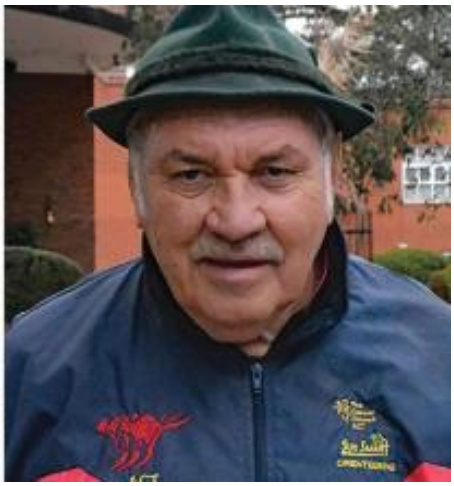
Details on memberships, events and participations are provided at Annex C.

Vale Bob Mouatt & Bob Allison

Sadly, OACT and Orienteering Australia lost two stalwarts of our sport with the passing of Bob Mouatt and Bob Allison.

Bob Mouatt

Bob was a true icon of our sport. He was a leader, promoter, communicator, manager, organiser, planner, controller, competitor, and mentor. Bob gave so much to our sport as a passionate member of Orienteering ACT and with Orienteering Australia.



Bob started orienteering in 1977 and was elected to the ACT Orienteering Association Board in 1986. He remained on the Board or Council for the next 11 years, holding the positions of Publicity Officer, Event Officer club representative. In 1997 he was appointed Executive Director for ACTOA/OACT, and held that position until 2004.

In February 1997 he was appointed by the Orienteering Federation of Australia as National Development Officer, then was elected Director (Development) in 2001 and President from 2006 to 2008. He continued as a voluntary media person for Orienteering Australia until 2011.

Bob's combined interests in media, sponsorship, event technology and general event organisation saw him take on key roles in several national and international events conducted by Orienteering ACT, including the 2000 World Cup races, the Australian Three-Days Carnivals in 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2016, and the 2007 and 2011 Oceania Championships.

Bob's personal efforts led to the receipt by Orienteering ACT of the ACT Chief Minister's Award for Excellence in the Sport and Recreation Industry in 1997 and 1998 and the Sport and Recreation Award for Marketing and Promotion in 2001. Bob's service to orienteering was recognised through his award of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2010 Australia Day Honours list and through induction as an Associate Member into the ACT Sport Hall of Fame in 2013. Bob was inducted into the Orienteering Australia Hall of Fame – General Division in 2018.

Bob Allison

Australian orienteering lost one of its most accomplished and popular participants with the passing of Bob Allison on 21 September, following a long illness. After being introduced to orienteering in Victoria in the mid-1970s through Yarra Valley Orienteers, Bob moved to Canberra with his family in late 1979, joining Canberra's Red Kangaroos club (now known as Red Roos).

The following decades saw Bob rise as a formidable masters-level competitor and contribute to the sport as a mapper, event organiser, course planner, controller and administrator at the local, national and international levels. His significant contribution to Australian orienteering was recognised through his induction into the General Division of the Orienteering Australia Hall of Fame. Bob served as the Public Officer for Orienteering Australia for many years.

2024 OACT Annual Awards

MIKE CASSELLS AWARD FOR SERVICES TO ORIENTEERING – Deirdre Sharkey & Mike Radajewski

Deirdre Sharkey and Mike Radajewski are nominated for the 2024 OACT Mike Cassells Award for Services to Orienteering.

Deirdre and Mike have contributed to orienteering in ACT through their leadership and contributions to a range of activities, primarily over the past 5 years. At the forefront of these activities is their management of the ACT Blue Lightning squad, in particular managing the fund raising and co-ordinating the work of other volunteers to support junior development. The outcome of the fund raising has been to reduce the cost for participants attending the Australian School Orienteering Championships and at the same time enhancing the social aspects and participants' experience at events through the cake stalls.

Deirdre and Mike are strong contributors to the organising and course setting events run by the Parawanga Club for OACT. Mike has recently attained accreditation as an event controller, furthering his contribution to OACT. When not organising the Blue Lightning fund raising or organising and course setting events, Deirdre and Mike are regular and competitive participants at events, locally, nationally and international.

SERVICES TO COACHING AWARD – David Stocks

David was the coach of the ACT ASOC team in 2024 and his effort and commitment was amazing. He was always positive, always inspiring team members to improve; at the same time he was not focused on individual results but was always focused on team members as people. Even the other states were somewhat jealous of our amazing coach. He was always available and prepared team members so that all were confidently and eagerly ready for all the events. The whole team were very lucky to have him as their coach.

JIM SAWKINS AWARD FOR EVENT MANAGEMENT –Mike Radajewski

Mike Radajewski is nominated for the 2024 OACT Jim Sawkins Award for Event Management as the co-ordinator for the OA National Junior Development Camp held in Canberra in December 2024.

This role required Mike to put together a team, which ended up to be 47 volunteers, to provide the coaching, organising and assisting over five days for 70 of Australia's best and promising junior orienteers.

Despite the hot weather, the junior orienteers got to experience a variety of event types and locations from urban sprints in the Parliamentary Triangle, complex technical rock navigation in areas of Canberra Nature Parks, and venturing into Namadgi National Park for longer courses.

Mike oversaw the coaching and social programs, arranged accommodation, produced the budget and managed the finances. The camp was a tremendous success, achieved through the time and energy that Mike put into managing the camp.

Wehner Cup – The Orienteer of the Year Award for 2024

This is awarded to the person achieving the highest number of points in the ACT League competition. The winner for 2024 was Grace Crane, repeating her success from 2023.

The Table below shows the 20 top competing orienteers in the 2024 OACT League program.

1	Grace Crane	AO-A	945	11	David Stocks	BS-A	888
2	Grant Bluett	AO-A	924	11	Owen Radajewski	PO-A	888
3	Martin Dent	RR-A	922	13	Mira Walter	RR-A	868
4	Geoff Lawford	AO-A	907	14	Eoin Rothery	RR-A	864
5	Jenny Bourne	AO-A	901	15	Arthur Watson	PO-A	863
6	Natalie Miller	BS-A	900	16	Matt Crane	AO-A	860
7	Andy Hogg	PO-A	897	16	Emily Walter	RR-A	860
8	Shannon Jones	AO-A	893	18	Matt Stocks	BS-A	859
9	Paul de Jongh	BS-A	891	19	Cath Chalmers	RR-A	846
10	Ryan Stocks	BS-A	889	20	Oscar Brown	RR-A	843
				20	Allison Jones	RR-A	843

President's Awards

OACT President, Susanne Harrysson made two extra special awards to Mary Ann Kuhl and John Harding.

- Mary Ann Kuhl for abandoning her course to apply critical responder care for a competitor in the King's Birthday Weekend 2024 event, Golden Bay, New Zealand. She demonstrated selflessness, concern and care throughout the incident.
- John Harding for his long-term and sustained commitment to managing the Street Orienteering program, and for his consistent and comprehensive photographic recording of all OACT orienteering events.

Audun Fristad Junior Encouragement Awards 2024

The recipients of the junior encouragement awards for 2024 were: Susannah White, Gregor Dowe, Oliver Gladwin, Rajeev Tamhane and Leo Dunbar.

ACT Championship Winners

The table below lists the top placed OACT orienteers in the three ACT Championship events. The entries highlighted in blue indicate that the competitor was not only the top placed OACT orienteer but that they also won that age class. In other cases, the event winner came from outside the ACT.

	Long Distance		Middle Distance		Sprint Distance	
	Male	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**
21A	Paul de Jongh	Grace Crane	David Stocks	Grace Crane	Martin Dent	Grace Crane
10A		Elyse Care		Elyse Care		Elyse Care
12A		Tessa Radajewski		Tessa Radajewski	Angus Bishop	Layla Dent
14A	Hayden Dent	Naomi Penton	Hayden Dent	Naomi Penton	Hayden Dent	Naomi Penton
16A	Matty Maundrell	Sanda Halpin	Oliver Bishop	Katy Hogg	Oliver Bishop	Mira Walter
20A	Oscar Brown	Natalie Miller	Oscar Brown	Natalie Miller	Owen Radajewski	
35A					Andrew Slattery	Mace Neve
40A	Matt Crane	Mace Neve	Sam Wilson	Mace Neve		
45A	Gareth Candy	Marine Iskhakova	Gareth Candy	Kathie Dent	Andy Hogg	Kathie Dent
50A	Grant Bluett	Emily Walter	Andy Hogg	Emily Walter		
55A	John Shelton Agar	Cath Chalmers	John Shelton Agar	Cath Chalmers	Martin Wehner	Ana Herceg
60A	Ross Stewart		Chris Anderson	Ana Herceg		
65A	David Poland	Mary McDonald	Grant McDonald	Mary McDonald	Geoff Lawford	Valerie Barker
70A		Valerie Barker	Bill Jones	Valerie Barker		
75A	Hugh Moore	Pat Miethke	Eric Wainwright		Darryl Erbacher	Pat Miethke
80A	Arthur Watson		Arthur Watson			
85A						
90A						
95A						

2023/24 Runners Shop Twilight Series Winners

The top placegetters in the 2023/24 Runners Shop Twilight Series were:

1	Martin Dent	RR-A	875	11	Matt Stocks	BS-A	797
2	Hayden Dent	RR-A	868	12	Alison Inglis	BS-A	793
3	Owen Radajewski	PO-A	851	13	Ariadna Iskhakova	RR-A	791
4	Matty Maundrell	BS-A	848	14	Oliver Bishop	PO-A	789
5	Oscar Brown	RR-A	836	15	Ken Mansell	BS-A	786
6	Naomi Penton	BS-A	819	16	Isobel Walter	RR-A	782
7	Phil Walker	PO-A	810	17	Arthur Watson	PO-A	777
8	Patrick Maundrell	BS-A	809	18	Valerie Barker	BS-A	770
9	David Stocks	BS-A	806	19	Tate Needham	RR-A	748
10	Kathie Dent	RR-A	800	20	Judy Allison	RR-A	738

Mapping Report

The past year has seen significant mapping activity and strategic planning by the newly formed OACT Foot-O Mapping Subcommittee. Efforts have focused on expanding the availability of high-quality maps for local and national events, improving the sustainability of mapping efforts, and preparing for the 2026 Oceania Championships.

Several mapping projects were completed over the past year, addressing both event requirements and long-term sustainability. These include:

- Googong Foreshores – Tate Needham: Used in a successful event in 2024 and subsequently extended, with new section yet to be used in competition. ($1000 + $500).
- McQuoid's Hill – Jon Glanville: Used in a successful event in 2024. (Did not charge).
- Cooma (Stage 1) – Tate Needham and Hugh Moore: Scheduled for use in the 2025 ACT Middle Distance Championships. The remaining portion (final quarter) is expected to be completed within the next 12 months. ($1770 + travel expenses to Tate, $3745 to Hugh).
- Botanic Gardens – Paul de Jongh: Used in the recent ACT Sprint Championships. ($1000).
- Radford College Update – David Stocks: To be scheduled into the 2026 NOL season. ($600, $300 coming from Radford College)
- Metro Areas – Martin Wehner: Stromlo Observatory, Narrabundah Hill, Fadden Pines, and Black Mountain Peninsula have been mapped or significantly updated to maintain reasonable standard. (Did not charge. Martin to be reimbursed for mapping tablet).

In addition to the above completed projects, exploration has been conducted into new mapping opportunities. Investigations have been conducted into the feasibility of mapping the following areas, among others:

- Bogong Creek
- Corin Forest
- Pierces Creek
- East Bombay
- Bullen Range
- Tuggeranong Pines

These areas are being assessed for terrain suitability, accessibility, and long-term event potential.

OACT has received in-principal approval for funding to acquire a mapping drone, which will be managed by the Mapping Subcommittee. This tool, along with the anticipated release of new LIDAR data in June 2025, is expected to improve mapping efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance the accuracy of new and updated maps.

Looking ahead, the Mapping Subcommittee aims to deliver at least one new ACT League map and one new Metro League map in the upcoming calendar year. Preparations are also underway for mapping requirements tied to the 2026 Oceania Championships. The following mapping projects are prioritized:

Oceania Carnival:

- Bogong Creek (Mapper: Tate Needham)
- Stromlo Forest Park (Mapper: Martin Wehner)
- Honeysuckle Creek (Mapper: TBC)
- Pine Island (Mapper: Jon Glanville)
- Ainslie (Mappers: John Shelton-Agar, Rohan Hyslop)

Other:

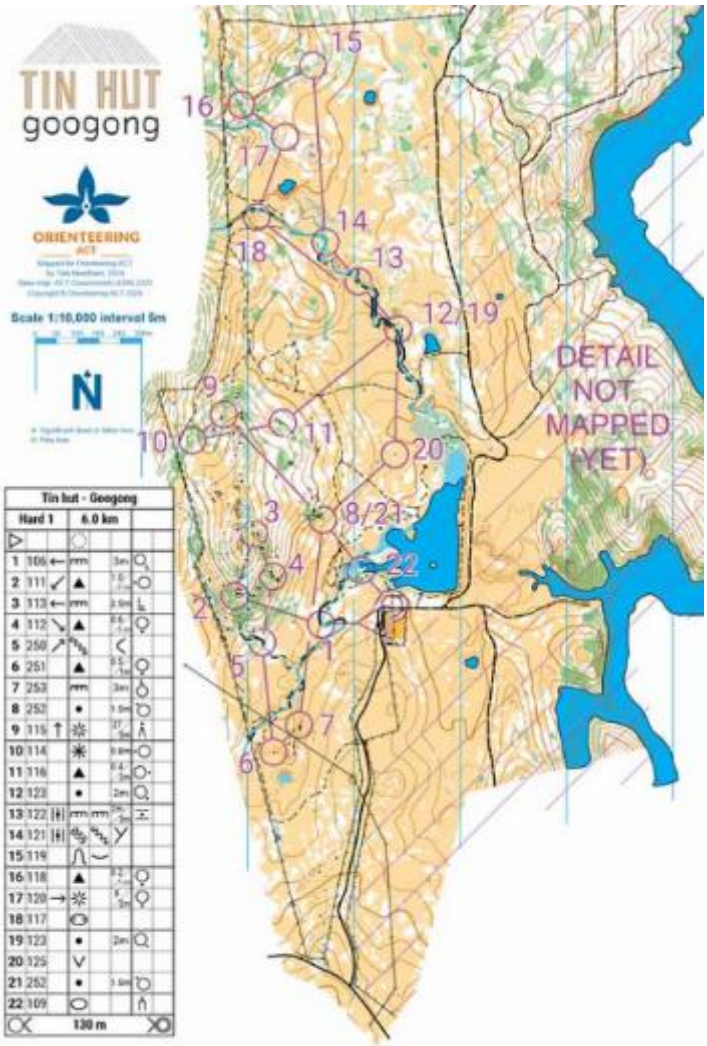
- Pierces Creek (Mapper: Hugh Moore)
- Molonglo Pines (Mapper: Paul de Jongh)
- Mt Painter (Mapper: David Stocks)
- University of Canberra (Mapper: TBC)

Mapping efforts continue to be shaped by a range of external factors, including:

- Land access permissions: Negotiating with ACT Parks and private landholders remains an ongoing task.
- Vegetation and terrain changes: Bushfire regrowth and seasonal shifts impact map viability.
- Availability of skilled mappers: Recruiting and training new mappers remains a high priority to ensure long-term sustainability.

OACT will continue to invest in training younger members, leveraging new technologies, and maintaining strong relationships with land management authorities.

The OACT Mapping Subcommittee has made substantial progress since its conception last year. With strategic planning, OACT remains well-positioned to deliver high quality maps, particularly in preparation for the 2026 Oceania Championships. The Mapping Subcommittee extends its gratitude to all those who have contributed to this year's mapping efforts and looks forward to another productive year ahead.



Coaching & Development

- ## Schools Coaching and Participants – Stephen Goggs

Sporting Schools programs were delivered at 20 locations, to 958 participants with 3545 encounters. Over the year 22 coaches were engaged to deliver the programs. Locations and number of participants were:

Term 1	
Dickson College	38
Marist College	90
Layon High School	75
ANU CBE	15
Term 2	
Blue Gum Community School	50
Army	12
Holy Trinity Primary School	44
Trinity Christian School	24
Active Inclusion	16

Term 3	
Daramalan College	22
St Francis Xavier College	12
St Francis of Assisi Primary School	72
Stg Vincent's Primary School	154
Telopea Park School	88
Term 4	
ANU CBE	15
Sts Peter and Paul Primary School	91
Ainslie Primary School	108
Trinity Christian School	25
Radford College	22

- ## SC-ORE and Learn to Orienteer – Susanne Harrysson

SC-ORE - Autumn and Spring SC-ORE 2024 went ahead. The numbers were not up to Pre-COVID numbers, but enough to successfully run the series. Ideally there would be around 150 children participating, with a maximum of 200.

Autumn SC-ORE had a deliberate break of a week due to Easter, with the last event being in April. That turned out to work well, and the change from Daylight Saving helped avoid having to set up in the dark. The third event was held in a public park, Eddison Park rather than in a school. This reduced the workload on the organizer, due to easier access and less coordination: The park is always open, while many schools are now enclosed with fences, which limits the access times to the school grounds for map updates and course setting and requires co-ordination with the schools. Autumn SC-ORE had 58 participants and 15 teams, made up of 37 girls and 21 boys. Venues used were; Hughes Primary School, Curtin Primary School, Eddison Park and Forrest Primary School.

Spring SC-ORE only had 47 entries a few days before the communicated entry closure, one week before the event. This, despite an early start to the advertisement followed by regular reminders. Some schools ran the advertisement in their Newsletters, but we suspect many did not. For SC-ORE the School's Newsletter is the most efficient way to attract participants. Due to the few entries a decision was made to postpone the series by two weeks and combine the delay with social media advertisement. A questionnaire at the end of the series confirmed that the most common way to heard about SC-ORE is through the school's Newsletter followed by hearing about it from a friend or word of mouth. Only one person said that they had seen the advertisement on social media. The delayed start and efforts to get more participants paid off, and at the end there were 94 participants and 23 teams, made up of 54 girls and 40 boys. Venues used were; Rosary Primary School, Lyneham Primary School, St Joseph's Primary School and Ainslie School (Braddon).

As always, orienteering events are not possible without volunteers, and SC-ORE is no exception. A big thank you to all SC-ORE volunteers, School staff and to Paul de Jongh for excellent support and admin in and from the office. Regular

volunteers were; Bill Jones, Ken Mansell, Bryant Allen, Valerie Barker, Stephen Goggs, Cath Chalmers, Chris Stocks, David Stocks, Frank Ingwersen, Max Walter and Aoife Rothery.

Learn to Orienteer (L2O) – Following the success of the Learn an Orienteer program in 2023, OACT ran another two programs in 2024 - one in winter and one in spring/summer. The ages of the participants span all ages from young children and parents to teenagers and adults. Some want to learn about and explore orienteering as a sport, others are more interested in learning the basic navigation skills for other reasons; (how to read a map and how to use a compass for navigation).

The program was purposely run in parallel with regular orienteering events (ACT Metro and Twilight series). This gave the participants the opportunity to try out orienteering and practice their newly learnt skills on their own there and then. Many took this opportunity during the program. The last session, graduation, included getting around a regular course. After the program, some of the participants continued attending regular events.

Advertisement for the program was through the normal website - under “news” and as distinct programs in the event calendar – and through targeted Facebook adds. The latter was the most common way for the participants to find out about the program, otherwise through own web search or recommendations from friends.

Participants:

- There were 31 people registered for Autumn/Winter LTO; made up of 4 Sub-Junior Females, 4 Sub-Junior Males, 2 Junior Males, 1 Senior Male, 7 Masters Male & 13 Masters Females. Eight additional parents were also involved.
- There were 21 people registered for Spring LTO; made up of 2 Sub-Junior Females, 5 Sub-Junior Males, 2 Junior Females, 2 Senior Males, 2 Senior Females, 3 Masters Male & 5 Masters Females. Five additional parents were also involved.

In 2025, the plan is to continue the Learn to Orienteering programs in conjunction with ACT Metro series in Winter and the Twilight series in Spring/Summer., as well as offering shorter options at different geographical areas with the aim to reach new groups.

Canberra Cockatoos

The Canberra Cockatoos is OACT's elite team of orienteers and participate in the National Orienteering League (NOL) series of events in a national competition against other state orienteering associations.

TEAMS – National Orienteering League Placings

Senior Women		1st
Senior Men	2nd	Winner NSW
Junior Women		2nd Winner NSW
Junior Men	2nd	Winner NSW

Grace Crane	1st	Senior Women
Caitlin Young	2nd	Senior Women

National Rankings. The table below lists the top OACT athletes from the OA list of elite athletes as at the end of the 2024, (Extracted from OA website).

Elite Men

Ranking	Name
6	David Stocks
12	Toby Lang
15	Paul de Jongh
22	Martin Dent
25	Owen Radajewski
58	Ryan Stocks
59	Hamish Prosser
62	Tristan Miller
64	Grant Bluett
72	Andrew Barnett

Elite Women

Ranking	Name
2	Grace Crane
4	Caitlin Young
10	Shannon Jones
15	Justin Hobson
32	Natalie Miller
75	Monique Jeacocke

Elite Junior Men

Ranking	Name
4	Owen Radajewski
11	Oscar Brown
32	Max Walter
33	Oliver Bishop
39	Elye Dent
43	Max Johnson
47	Joshua Mansell
48	Matty Maundrell

Elite Junior Women

Ranking	Name
2	Natalie Miller
6	Justine Hobson
15	Ella Hogg
21	Aoife Rothery
23	Mia Kluth
33	Katherine Maundrell
39	Alice Radajewski

Canberra Cockatoos members selected to represent Australia at World Championships were: Caitlin Young (WOC-Edinburgh); Natalie Miller & Owen Radajewski (JWOC-Czechia) and Justin Hobson, David Stocks & Caitlin Young (WUOC-Bulgaria)

Australian Schools Orienteering Championship – ACT Schools

The 2024 Australian Schools Orienteering Championships (ASOC) were held in the Armidale, NSW region in early October. ASOC consisted of three events set during the week days between the Australian Orienteering Championship events. Over 180 students competed and comprised students representing their home state in the official ASOC competition. OACT was represented by:

SENIOR GIRLS	JUNIOR GIRLS	SENIOR BOYS	JUNIOR BOYS
Ella Hogg	Sanda Halpin	Oliver Bishop	Hayden Dent
Mia Kluth	Katy Hogg	Max Johnson	Benjamin Mansell
Katherine Maundrell	Ariadna Iskhakova	Joshua Mansell	Matthew Maundrell
Alice Radajewski	Naomi Penton	Owen Radajewski	Patrick Maundrell
Aoife Rothery	Mira Walter	Max Walter	Mica Walter

The final scores across the three events were: NSW 65, Queensland 61, ACT 59, Victoria 32, Tasmania 32, SA 31 and WA 23. Third place for the ACT team was an excellent result, close to second and not far behind the very strong team from NSW.

ACT athletes selected in the 2024 ASOC Honour Team were: Owen Radajewski, Matty Maundrell and Ariadna Iskhakova.

Australian Junior Development Camp

OACT hosted the 2024 Australian Junior Development Camp (AJDC) held over five days in mid December. The Camp attracted 69 of Australia's most promising junior orienteers from all over Australia, supported by 47 coaches, guest lecturers, organisers and helpers. Despite the hot weather, the junior orienteers got to experience a variety of event types and locations from urban sprints in the Parliamentary Triangle, complex technical rock navigation in areas of Canberra Nature Parks, and venturing into Namadgi National Park for longer courses.

Thanks to Mike Radajewski as the co-ordinator for the Camp plus all the volunteers who contributed to make the 2024 AJDC a success.

Australian Mountain Bike Orienteering (MTBO) Carnival

OACT hosted the 2024 Australian MTBO Carnival from 17-20 October, which was the largest event of its type ever held in Australia.

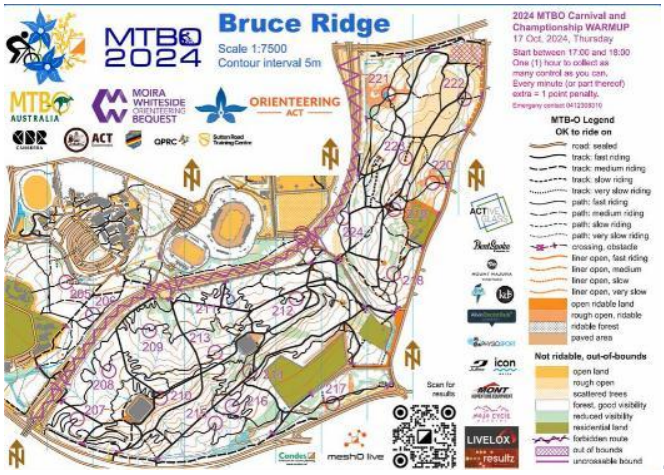
It took 12 months of preparation, required a Team of 60 tireless skilled and committed Orienteering ACT volunteers to deliver 5 quality events over 4 days across 5 different locations. The Carnival attracted 213 individual participants, including 41 from New Zealand MTBO and 2 from the UK MTBO riders, ranging in age from 12 to 80, competing in 4 formats; Spring, Middle, Long and Mass Start.

The Australia-New Zealand Challenge was held during the competition with NZ narrowly winning 18 points to 17.

Key event officials were:

Event Director	Marina Iskhakova
Technical Director	Fedor Iskhakov
IOF Advisor	Sandor Talas
Equipment	Ann & John Scown
Course Setters	Jim Anderson, Cathy Hogg, Michael Reed, Cath Chalmers & Fedor Iskhakov,
Controllers	Fedor Iskhakov, Belinda Allison, Emily Walter, Tom Walter, Eoin Rothery & Marina Iskhakova.
Mapper	Andrew Slattery

Overall, the events were very successful, developing a strong team of capable MTBO organisers and course setters/controllers, aided by expertise through IOF Advisor workshops. The aim for 2025 is to build on the success of the Championships to grow the sport in the ACT, with more participants and a wider pool of volunteers skilled to run MTBO events.



Mountain Bike Orienteering

The OACT MTBO Team arranged 11 events in 2024, including the 5 events for the Australian MTBO Carnival. Total participation for 2024 was 1069, made up of 801 for the Carnival and 268 for local events and Come-and-Try days.

One new MTBO map was produced (Stringybark Hill) and 5 maps were updated; (Green Hills, Bruce Ridge, West Stromlo, Sutton Road , Kowen Homestead and Gossan Hill).

In total 14 OACT people worked on setter or controlling MTBO courses in 2024. Details are below:

Date	Event	People	Location	Course Setter/Controller
7 FEB	Twilight MTBO & MTBO Come & Try	60	Bruce Ridge	Marina Iskhakova/Fedor Iskhakov
17-18 FEB	ACT MTBO Developmental Weekend	21	Bruce Ridge & CIT	Raynie McNee/Emily Stewart-Reed/Marina Iskhakova
24 FEB	ACT MTBO Series, #1 & MTBO Come & Try	53	Majura Pines	Marina Iskhakova/Fedor Iskhakov
26 MAY	ACT MTBO Series, #2 & MTBO Come & Try	51	Cooleman Ridge	Seb Dunne
15 SEP	ACT MTBO Series, #3 & MTBO Come & Try	49	Green Hills/Zoo	Ariadna Iskhakova
17 OCT	Australian MTBO Carnival and Championships – WARM-UP/SCORE	123	Bruce Ridge	Marina and Fedor Iskhakov
18 OCT	Australian MTBO Carnival and Championships - MASS	164	West Stromlo	Cathy Hogg/Belinda Allison
19 OCT	Australian MTBO Carnival and Championships - MIDDLE	178	Stringybark Hill	Michael Reed/Emily Walter & Tom Walter
19 OCT	Australian MTBO Carnival and Championships - SPRINT	167	Sutton Road	Cath Chalmers/Eoin Rothery
20 OCT	Australian MTBO Carnival and Championships - LONG	163	Kowen Homestead	Fedor Iskhakov/Marina Iskhakova
18 DEC	Twilight MTBO & MTBO Come & Try	40	Gossan Hill	Fedor Iskhakov/Marina Iskhakova

Main Priorities for Future Development of MTBO in ACT for 2025 – 2026

1. To bring more Juniors (12-20) to the sport

2. To continue increasing number of MTBO Course Setters/Controllers (2-3 new people per year)

3. To continue increasing number of MTBO maps (1-2 new maps per year, 20 MTBO maps in ACT by 2026).

4. To increase number of MTBO events per year from 8 in 2025 to 9-10 in 2026.

5. To increase number of female athletes in the sport by 2025.

6. To reach a stable number of 50-60 MTBO participants per event by 2026 with 10 regular events per year.

7. Start of development of succession planning: Marina has been coordinating MTBO since 2017 in Canberra, so the plan is to prepare a new skilled MTBO Coordinator by 2027-2030, so any long-term EoI is welcomed.

Ski Orienteering

The 2024 ACT/NSW Ski Orienteering Championships were held in August at Perisher attracting 39 participants; 21 of whom are not regular orienteers. The event was co-ordinated by Marina Iskhakova, supported by Fedor Iskhakov and course setter, Sam Wilson.

Full coverage of the event was published in the December 2024 Australian Orienteer magazine, promoting the sport to the orienteering community.

The 2025 Ski-O event will once again be held at Perisher, with the date set as 10th August.

The Ski-O team is keen to continue holding this once a year event, however it is challenging given the uncertainty of snow conditions and the cost to participants for travel and accommodation.

A summary of the history of Ski-O organisers and winners is below.

Year	Total #	Organisers	LONG winner	MEDIUM winner	SHORT winner	SNOGAINE winner	TREASURE-HUNT winner
2014	24	Patrik Gunnarsson	Alasdair TUTT	Toni BROWN	Phoebe DENT	---	---
2015	25	Patrik Gunnarsson	Ben RATTRAY	Mace NEVE	Wendy HUGHES	---	---
2016	35	Andy Simpson	Michael BRENNAN	Peter HEELEY	Wendy HOPKINS	David POLAND	---
2017	49	Fedor & Marina Iskhakov	Christoph GASCHE	Carys CONNICK	Alan SARGEANT	Julie and Sean SUNLEY	Nigel, Blake, Amber MCDONALD
2018	47	Fedor & Marina Iskhakov	Virpi KOMULAINEN	Carys CONNICK	Jodie COLVIN	Ella and Mark PORTER	Ariadna ISKHAKOVA
2019	37	Fedor & Marina Iskhakov	Tom LANDON-SMITH	Albert *THE MOOSE*	Nicole STRACHAN	---	----
2020	COVID						
2021	COVID						
2022	35	Fedor & Marina Iskhakova	SCORE - M Iain Roberts	SCORE – F Jenny McLeod	SCORE – JNR Aoife Rothery	SCORE – teams Monika Binder Bruce Barnett	----
2023	31	Fedor & Marina Iskhakova	Angus Shedden Long M Maria Plyashechko Long F	Greg Terrill Middle M Nicole Clark Middle F	Rory Shedden Short M Tash Thackray Short F	----	----
2024	39	Fedor & Marina Iskhakova, Sam Wilson	Khristoph Gasche, Long M Maria Plyashechko, Long F	Rory Shedden, Middle M Monika Binder Middle F	Garry Fry, Short M Veronika Iskhakova, Short F	----	----

Street Orienteering – John Harding

A record total of 47 street orienteering events were conducted in 2024, the same as in 2023 and 2022 but an increase on the 40 in 2021 and 26 in covid-lockdown affected 2020. All were smartphone/smartwatch MapRun score events to maximise covid safety and reduce organiser workload; a small number of orienteers without MapRun-compliant phones were still able to participate using an honesty system to visit controls and self report their results. Lawrie Brown contributed greatly to publishing the MapRun courses and processing the combined MapRun and self-reported results for upload to the national results database on Eventor.

There were 2,345 participations from the 47 events, representing 23.7% of the total participations at OACT events in 2024. This represented a small decline on the 2,439 participations in 2023 and 2,649 in 2022, in part due to the popularity of OACT's summer-period Sunday Sprint Series and Short Series.

To keep the street orienteering program refreshed, fun new maps with shorter courses were used by course setter John Harding at Hall Village, North Lyneham, Wright and the Kingston Foreshore and new maps were also produced for events at McKellar (Pat Miethke), Evatt (Nikolaus Elz), Higgins (Arthur Watson), Ngunnawal (Jennifer Webb) and Dunlop Ponds (John Harding).

Most suitable Canberra suburbs now have Street O maps and provide a year-round schedule of events; a Thursday to Monday start time window was used for each event to maximise both participation and covid-safety, with beginners and orienteers seeking social engagement encouraged to participate on Monday afternoons during a 5pm to 6.15pm start window. A Street O enewsletter is produced after nearly every event to encourage participation, both in Street O but also in other OACT events. With the high ACT usage of MapRun, OACT contributed $1300 to the running costs of the national MapRun database.

Photos used in this report were provided by John Harding and Tom De Jongh

Annex A – Financial Reports: Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet

Orienteering ACT Incorporated
Trading Statement
For the Year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 $	2023 $
Income		
Members Subs, Donations, Fund Raising	20,619	15,097
Local Events Entry Fees	79,509	67,551
Regular National Events	55,905	95,913
Schools and Community	30,640	28,487
Sales - Maps & Merchandise	6,756	3,674
Coaching Activities	9,637	3,226
	203,066	213,948
Less Cost of Sales		
Local Events Expenses	13,681	21,768
National Event Expenses	38,795	90,321
Special Events/ Fund Raising Costs	1,185	-
Sporting Schools	26,578	22,746
Costs of Other Activities	5,800	5,300
Purchases - Merchandise	4,749	1,469
	90,788	141,604
Gross Profit	**112,278**	**72,344**

Orienteering ACT Incorporated
Profit and Loss Statement
For the Year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 $	2023 $
Income		
ACT Government & OA Grants	32,500	41,000
Interest Received	8,147	4,384
Gross Profit from Trading	112,278	72,344
	152,925	117,728
Expenditure		
Administration Costs	63,214	67,345
Communications	2,851	1,562
Expended Grants and Sponsorship	9,817	-
High Performance	13,500	14,825
Orienteering Australia	31,253	39,234
Support for Events	24,376	25,902
	145,011	148,868
Profit/(Loss)	**7,914**	**(31,140)**
Opening Retained Profits	236,640	267,780
Unappropriated Profit at 31 December 2024	**244,554**	**236,640**

Orienteering ACT Incorporated
Balance Sheet
As at 31 December 2024

	2024 $	2023 $
Equity		
Unspent Grant Reserve	34,830	21,000
Retained Profits	244,554	236,640
Total Equity	**279,384**	**257,640**
Current Assets		
Cheque Account	53,857	21,818
Term Deposit #2728	200,757	192,610
Oceania Cheque Account	9,808	9,808
Debtors	6,324	8,648
Accrued Income	391	-
Inventory	4,986	2,347
Prepaid Expenses	397	61
Total Current Assets	276,520	235,292
Non-Current Assets		
General Equipment - at WDV	15,384	17,342
Coaching Equipment - at WDV	3,282	3,647
Office Equipment - at WDV	2,613	2,903
Mapwork - at WDV	23,760	27,505
Sport-Ident Equipment - at WDV	5,239	5,239
Computing Equipment - at WDV	2,184	4,148
	52,462	60,784
	52,462	**60,784**
Total Assets	**328,982**	**296,076**
Current Liabilities		
Members Loans		
- Club Funds BS-A	2,230	2,304
- Club Funds PO -A	3,689	3,805
- Club Funds RR-A	2,544	2,429
- Club Funds WE-A	3,549	3,328
- Club Funds AOA	2,340	1,803
- ACT Team	168	168
- ACT Blue Sparks	798	798
- Blue Lightning	1,919	931
ATO Activity Statement Account	3,808	5,345
Superannuation Payable	1,264	1,159
Creditors	4,545	2,221
Provision for Long Service Leave		
Provision for Long Service Leave	3,679	-
GST Payable	75	337
Prepaid Memberships & Event Income	2,921	5,538
Accrued Expenses	16,069	8,270
Total Current Liabilities	49,598	38,436
Total Liabilities	**49,598**	**38,436**
Net Assets	**279,384**	**257,640**

Annex B – Achievement against OACT Strategic Plan 2021-2024

The following assesses OACT's achievements to date against the Strategic Initiatives. Progress is indicated as traffic lights with narrative added for each initiative.

Legend – Assessment as at December 2024

	Achievements are Satisfactory or better.
	Satisfactory achievements but could improve; dependent on OACT personnel resources available or input required from external stakeholders, (ie Orienteering Australia).
	Achievements have degraded, and actions required to reach a Satisfactory level.

STRATEGY 1:

Make it more attractive to participate

Our participants range in age from under 10 to late 80s, and include world champions, club members, school groups and families. We want it to be more attractive for people to start and to continue all forms of orienteering.

Strategic Initiatives

1.1	Increase the attractiveness of orienteering to new and current participants and club members, through offering a diverse and innovative program of events, including through the use of emerging technologies.	
1.2	Increase youth involvement in orienteering, including by continuing to support the Sporting Schools program and junior development pathways.	
1.3	Make orienteering more time and cost effective for participants and organisers through simplified administrative process and event management.	
1.4	Continue to encourage and acknowledge volunteering in orienteering and aim to increase the number of participants volunteering to support orienteering.	

1.4 OACT has a shrinking volunteer workforce for most of the key roles, which is the reason for the Amber rating. There doesn't seem to be a shortage of volunteers to do the on-the-day event roles, but when it comes to Coaching, Mapping and Controlling major events the onus tends to fall to a small group of experienced volunteers to do most of the work.

STRATEGY 2:

Organise events more efficiently

Our events range from permanent courses, virtual courses and inter-club events, to major state and national events. Our events are run by volunteers and we want to make it easier for them to organise great events.

Strategic Initiatives

2.1	Encourage and reward our workforce: volunteers, paid officials, and those who innovate to improve our events, event software and resource material.	

2.2	Improve access to and information available about suitable terrain, maps, environment and risk management, and approvals required by landowners, including ACT Government for Public Use Land Access.	
2.3	Maintain technical standards for events and—through training, mentoring, event controller accreditations and maintaining up-to-date reference material—improve our workforce's capability and capacity to meet them.	
2.4	Increase the numbers and quality of accredited coaches, course setters and controllers.	
2.5	Seek opportunities to collaborate with other associations, especially Orienteering NSW, in the running of events in the region.	

2.3/2.4 Orienteering is a highly rules bound sport and daunting for less experienced orienteers to step up to course setting and organising. Both of which are requirements to move on to become a controller. Some progress was made in 2023 to increase the number of accredited controllers and coaches and to mentor new course setters. 2024 saw several first time course setters and a handful of controllers being accredited or updating their accreditation. The number of accredited coaches remained steady, but below what is ideally required.

STRATEGY 3:

Streamline our administration

Orienteering is administered at three levels (club, state and national), mostly by volunteers. We want to ease their workload by streamlining our administrative processes.

Strategic Initiatives

3.1	Maintain a high level of governance and regulatory compliance, including through appropriate consistency with the governance arrangements of Orienteering Australia.	
3.2	Support a safe and inclusive sport and strive for a balance of ability, gender and experience across all levels of orienteering participation and administration.	
3.3	Have the best information available, supported by improved ICT systems, for the management of our sport, including by improving membership and participation data and reporting.	
3.4	Engage with Orienteering Australia and the other State Associations to develop a unified approach to event and resource administration.	
3.5	Ensure our sport is financially sustainable and financially attractive for participants to attend events and take up memberships.	At Risk

3.5 This initiative was rated Red at the end of 2023. The financial position has improved slightly but remains at risk due to increasing expenses and the drop in participation numbers compared to pre-COVID years, although it appears that the decline in participation numbers has stabilised to a new post COVID norm. OACT remains dependent on financial support from ACT Government and any changes in the grant structure could impact adversely OACT's financial position.

STRATEGY 4:

Communicate effectively

New participants, current members and stakeholders need relevant and timely communication about orienteering. We want to listen, collaborate and communicate to those within and those outside our orienteering community.

Strategic Initiatives

4.1	Maintain a web presence, regular e-bulletins, social media and connections with mainstream media.	
4.2	Consolidate document management and make materials accessible to participants, event organisers and administrators.	
4.3	Use our communications infrastructure effectively to communicate with our members, interested parties and stakeholders, including ACT Government and media.	
4.4	Look for opportunities to better promote our sport, especially to school age children and families.	
4.5	Support Orienteering Australia's communication to members and interested parties.	

4.4 Promotion has continued to occur but has tended to be piecemeal with insufficient priorities of what we need to promote, how, when, where, who and costs involved. Similar to the situation at the end of 2023, we haven't evaluated fully the effectiveness of our promotion – are we preaching to the current OACT population, are we promoting to seek broader community general awareness or is it targeted to get active engagement.

STRATEGY 5:

Perform at our best

Our participants range from novices to aspiring champions in a range of orienteering disciplines and age classes. We want every orienteer to realise their potential, regardless of their age, ability or chosen form of orienteering.

Strategic Initiatives

5.1	Maintain strong programs to support ACT teams and squads.	
5.2	Encourage every orienteer to enjoy improving their performance through a strong coaching infrastructure, training and providing high quality events.	

5.2 OACT is unlike other States. Other States have active Clubs, where the Clubs do provide coaching for their members. Meaning services like coaching tend to be seen by our Clubs and members as an OACT responsibility. It may not be possible for all Clubs to achieve, but encouraging the larger Clubs to have a social and coaching program could bring coaching closer to the people.

Annex C – Memberships, Events & Participation Statistics

Members

Orienteering ACT (OACT) provides for the following types of members for which different fees apply. The fees for 2024 were: Adult Member $65 pa and Junior Member $10 pa. Juniors born 2012 and later have free membership. Life Members are granted membership at zero cost.

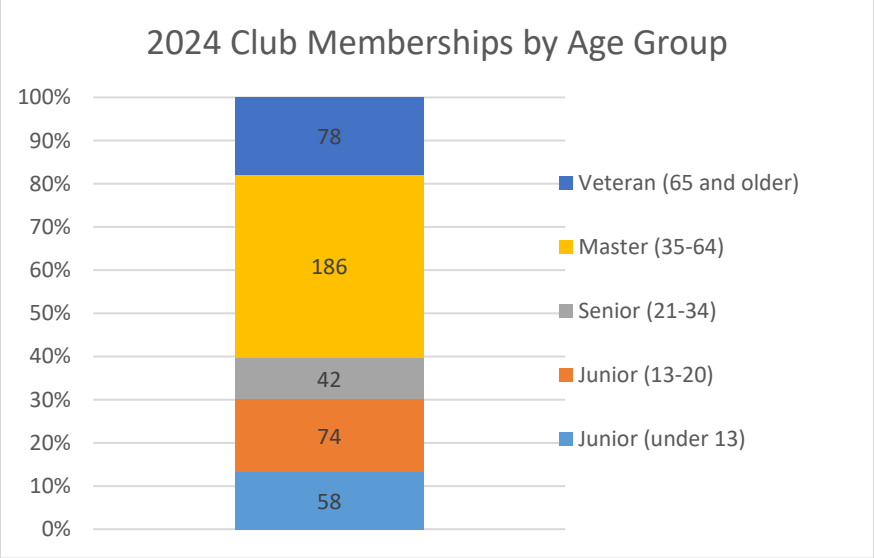
Casuals (CAS-A) are event participants, who register their details with OACT, creating a login to the corporate database but don't join a club.

Family memberships ceased at the end of 2022, in line with Orienteering Australia's revised and simplified membership structure. This result saw the membership numbers more accurately representing the number of active orienteers, rather than non-active members of families.

Number of Members

	Junior	Senior	Master	Veteran	Total 2024		Total 2023	Total 2022	Total 2021
AO-A	14	2	25	7	48		45	57	56
BS-A	39	24	57	19	139		126	155	168
PO-A	20	7	36	29	92		90	100	125
RR-A	52	9	61	19	141		141	146	133
WE-A	7	0	7	4	18		16	14	21
Total	**132**	**42**	**186**	**78**	**438**		**418**	**472**	**503**
CAS-A	15	4	17	0	36		105	61	20
Total	**147**	**46**	**203**	**78**	**474**		**523**	**533**	**523**

OACT's membership for 2024 was 46% Female and 54% Male.



Annual Income from Memberships

The income from memberships for 2024 was $17,146.

Events & Participations

The table below shows participations at OACT events for 2024 with comparisons to 2023 and 2022.

Event Type	Number of Events	Total Participations	Avg Participation per Event - 2024	Avg Participation per Event - 2023	Avg Participation per Event - 2022
ACT League, including NOL	14	1976	141	134	195
ACT Relays	2	80	40	31	112
Saturday Metro	12	1351	113	127	120
Wednesday Twilight	12	1394	116	125	124
Sunday Sprint	7	712	102	84	76
Wednesday Midday	16	322	20	17	24
Street-O, including MapRun	47	2345	50	52	56
MTBO	5	257	51	56	53
Ski-O	1	39	39	31	35
SC-ORE	8	604	75	80	68
Primary School Champs	-	-		26	38
Total Local / State 2024	**124**	**9080**	**73**	**74**	**82**
MTBO Australian Champs	**5**	**801**			
TOTAL 2024	**129**	**9881**			
Total 2023	**124**	**12063**		**97**	
Total 2022	**124**	**10090**		**82**	
Total 2021	**112**	**10791**		**96**	
Total 2020	**102**	**10530**		**103**	

Notes:

a. 2024 Primary School Champs were held in conjunction with a Saturday metro event.
b. Accurate data was not available for the number of unique participants at the ACT Relays. The reported numbers are a mix of teams and individuals.

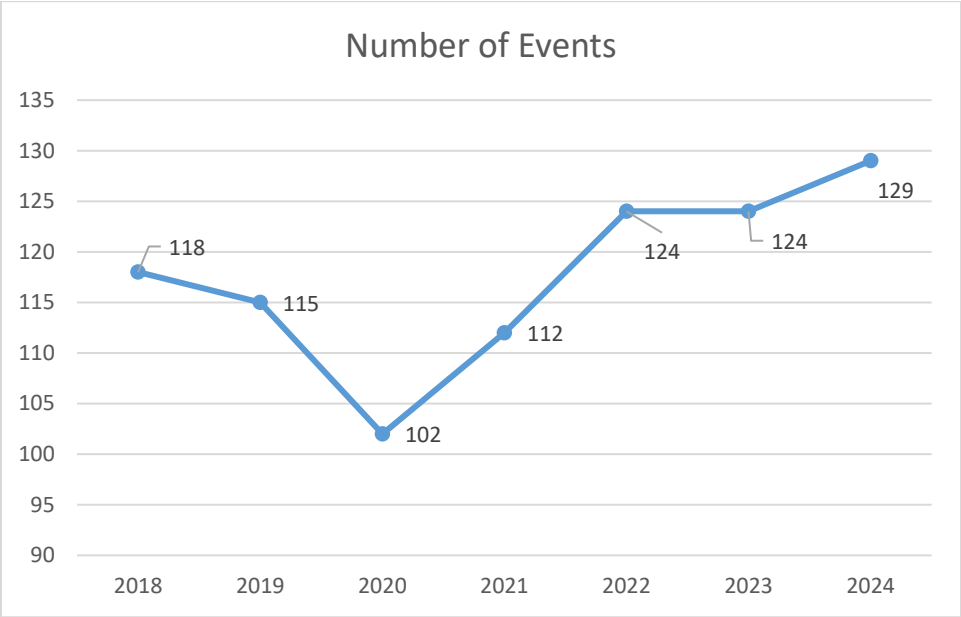
Participations were boosted the MTBO Australian Champs in October and three high quality double-header weekends for ACT League and National Orienteering League (NOL) events. The three weekends were Broulee in early May, the NOL rounds at Wee Jasper and Awoonga in mid May and the ACT Middle and Long Distance Champs at Wild Deer Sands / Birkenburn Farm in August.

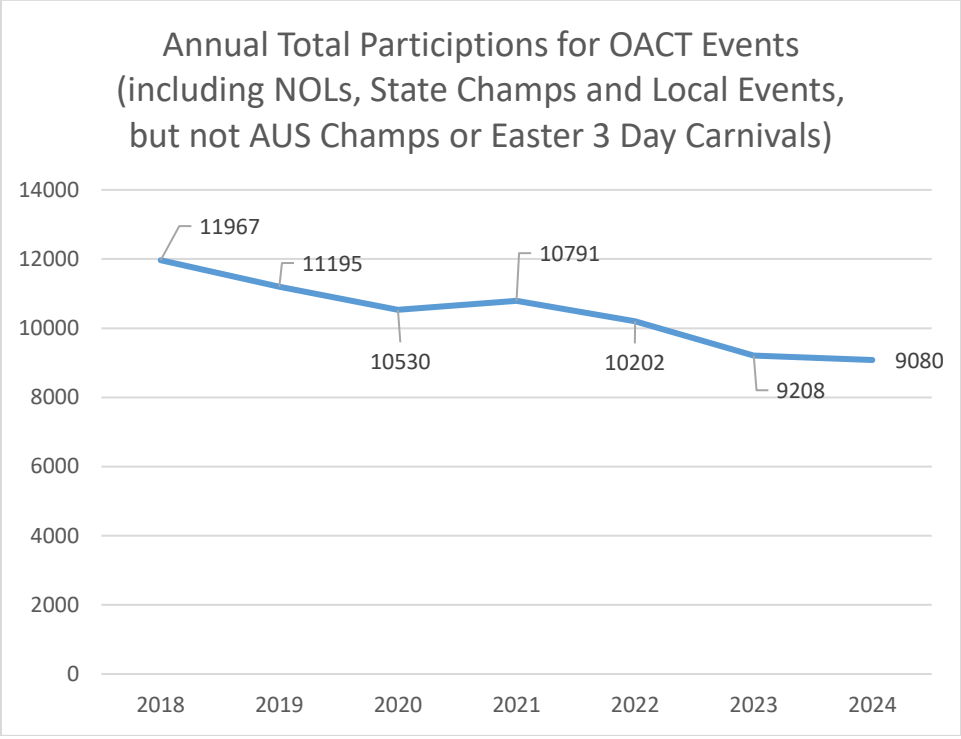
2024 saw a slight drop in participations at the Saturday Metro and Wednesday Twilight events, with most other formats having participation numbers similar to 2023.

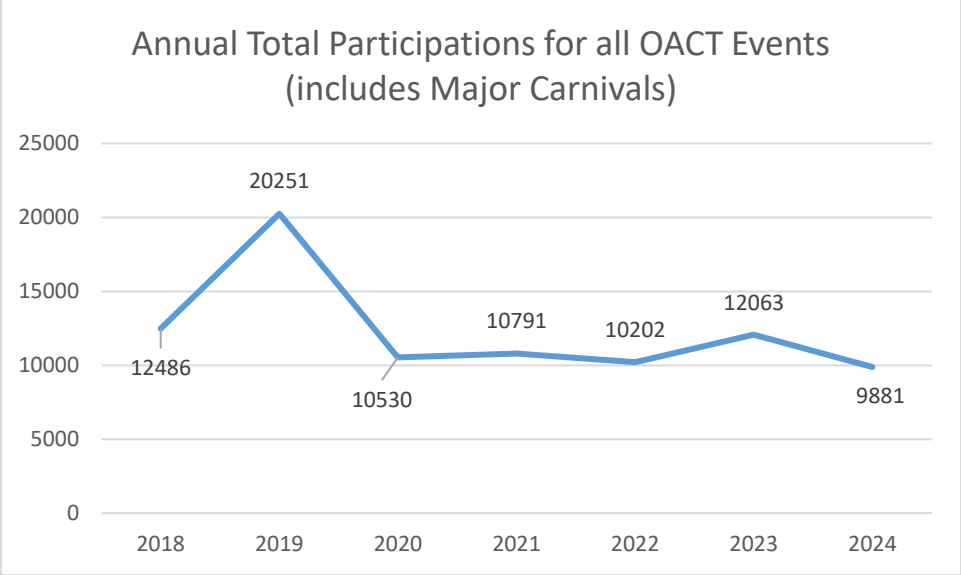
Once again there has been excellent take-up by members purchasing Season Passes across the program of events. This eases the day-to-day administration for event organisers and offers up to 50% discount on event entry fees across a series of events.

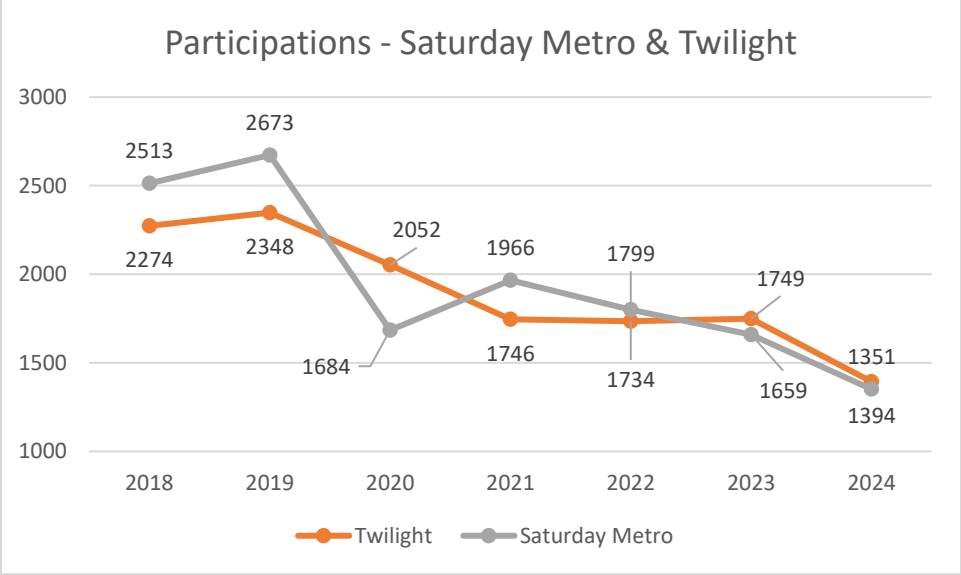
The following graphs show the:

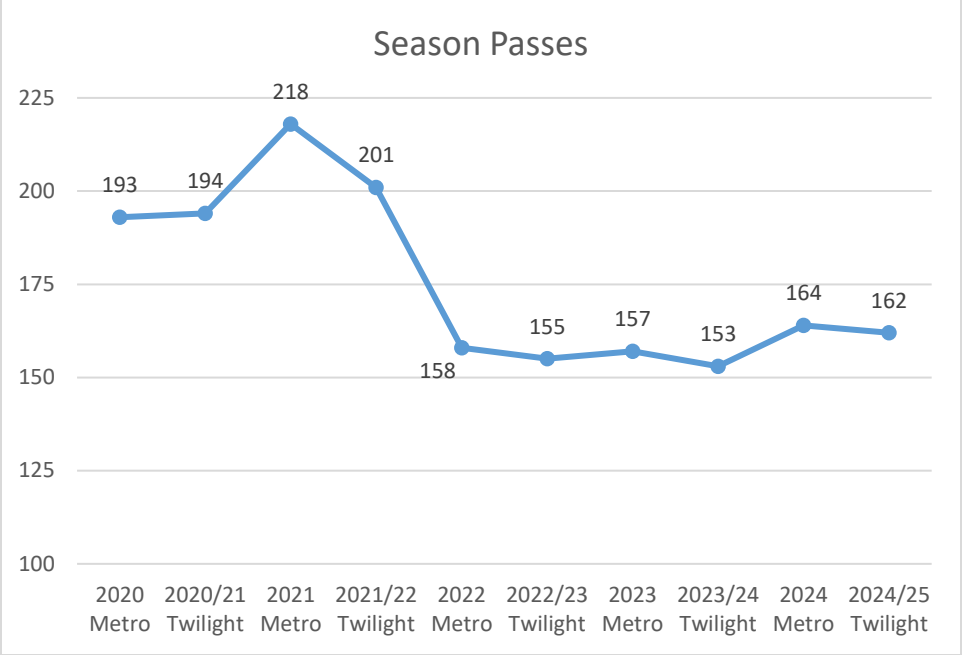
- Number of Events per year, 2018-2024
- Annual Total Participations per year, 2018-2024, excluding major National Carnivals
- Annual Total Participations per year, 2018-2024, including major National Carnivals
- Annual participations per year, 2018-2024 for Saturday Metro and Wednesday Twilight series.
- Season Passes, 2020-2024


Number of Events
135
130
125
120
115
110
105
100
95
90
118
115
102
112
124
124
129
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024


Annual Total Participtions for OACT Events
(including NOLs, State Champs and Local Events,
but not AUS Champs or Easter 3 Day Carnivals)
14000
12000
10000
8000
6000
4000
2000
0
11967
11195
10530
10791
10202
9208
9080
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024


Annual Total Participations for all OACT Events
(includes Major Carnivals)
25000
20000
15000
10000
5000
0
20251
12486
10530
10791
10202
12063
9881
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024


Participations - Saturday Metro & Twilight
3000
2500
2000
1500
1000
2513
2673
2274
2348
2052
1684
1966
1746
1799
1734
1749
1659
1351
1394
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
Twilight
Saturday Metro


Season Passes
225
200
175
150
125
100
193
194
218
201
158
155
157
153
164
162
2020 Metro
2020/21 Twilight
2021 Metro
2021/22 Twilight
2022 Metro
2022/23 Twilight
2023 Metro
2023/24 Twilight
2024 Metro
2024/25 Twilight

Participations by Individuals

The following table shows the top 20 individuals with the highest number of event participations in 2024.

1	Michael Burt	82		=10	Michael Tedeschi	60
2	Valerie Barker	81		12	Jonathon Ricks	58
3	Jon Glanville	77		13	Nikolaus Elz	57
4	Liz Dunbar	76		14	Xander Phillips	54
5	Pat Miethke	70		15	Tim Cochrane	54
6	Carol Harding	67		16	Jennifer Webb	53
7	John Harding	65		17	David Hogg	52
8	Arthur Watson	63		18	Laurie Brown	51
9	Zaf Bluett-Jones	62		=19	Sam Wilson	50
=10	Shannon Jones	60		=19	Michelle Cochrane	50

Participations by Gender and Age

	Females	**Males**	**Total**
Overall	41.3%	58.7%	100%
Sub-Junior (<13)	4.7%	2.4%	7.1%
Junior (13-20)	5.0%	8.8%	13.8%
Senior (21-34)	3.1%	4.8%	7.9%
Master (35-64)	20.5%	24.7%	45.2%
Veteran (>64)	8.0%	17.9%	25.9%

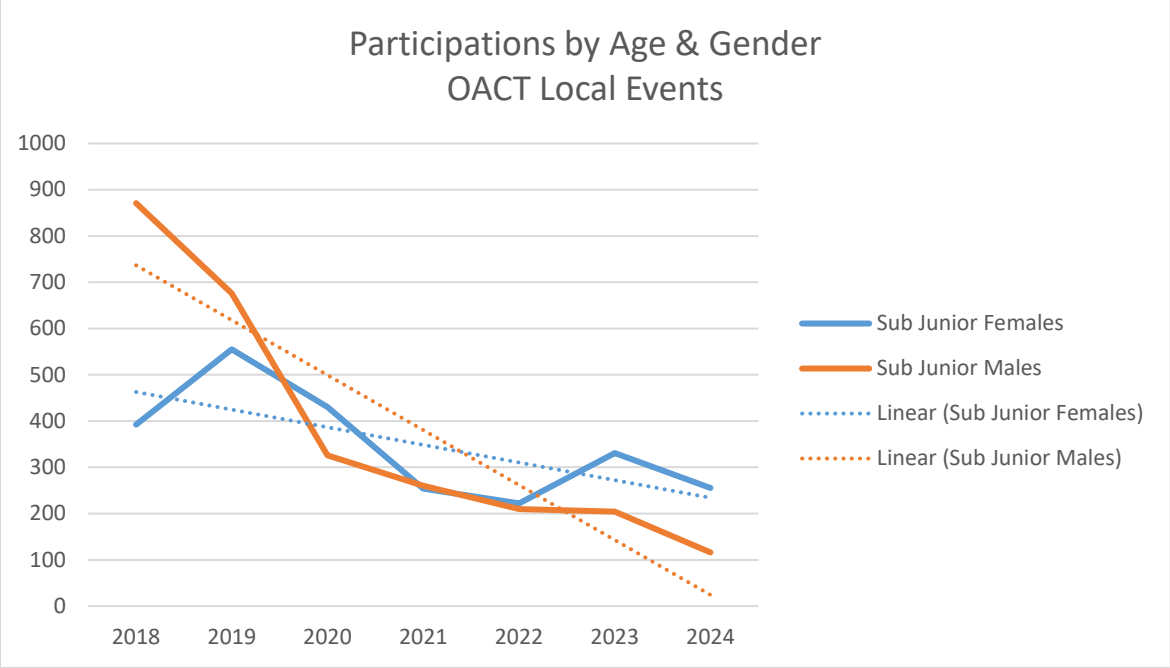
The data on participations by Gender and Age came from 9881 participations where Gender and Age were recorded. There were 1417 participations where Age and/or Gender were not recorded. These are typically events such as Street-O, Come-and-Try events.

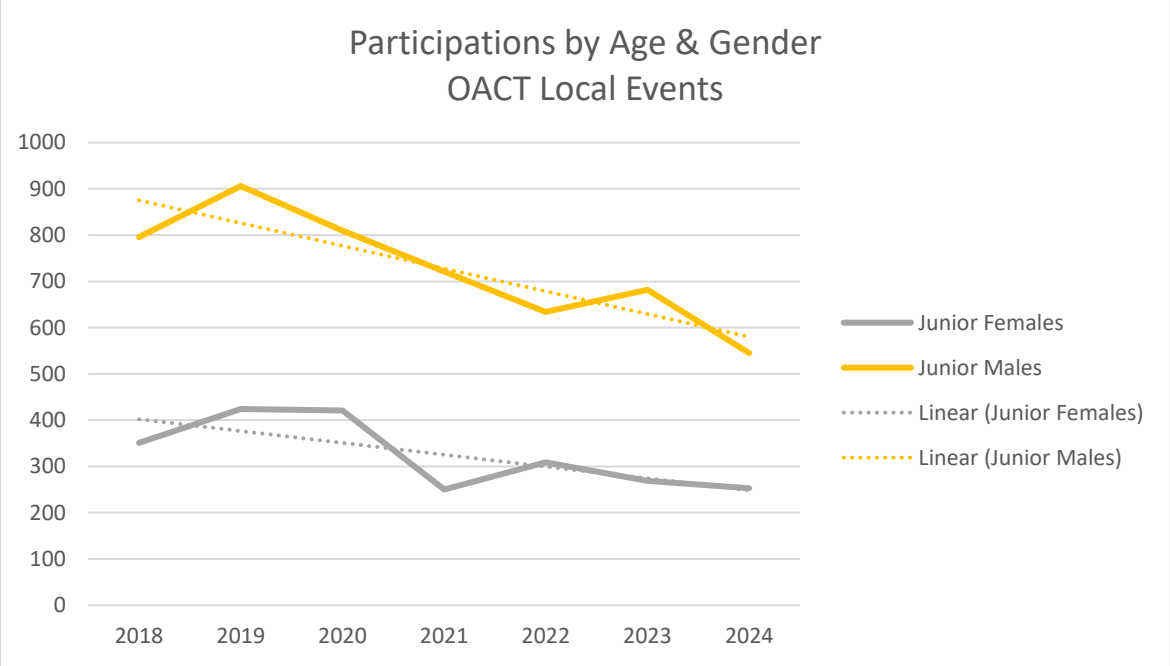
There were 1436 unique entries for events in 2024. This is not the same as unique participants because entries include teams where some team members may also be individual entrants for other events.

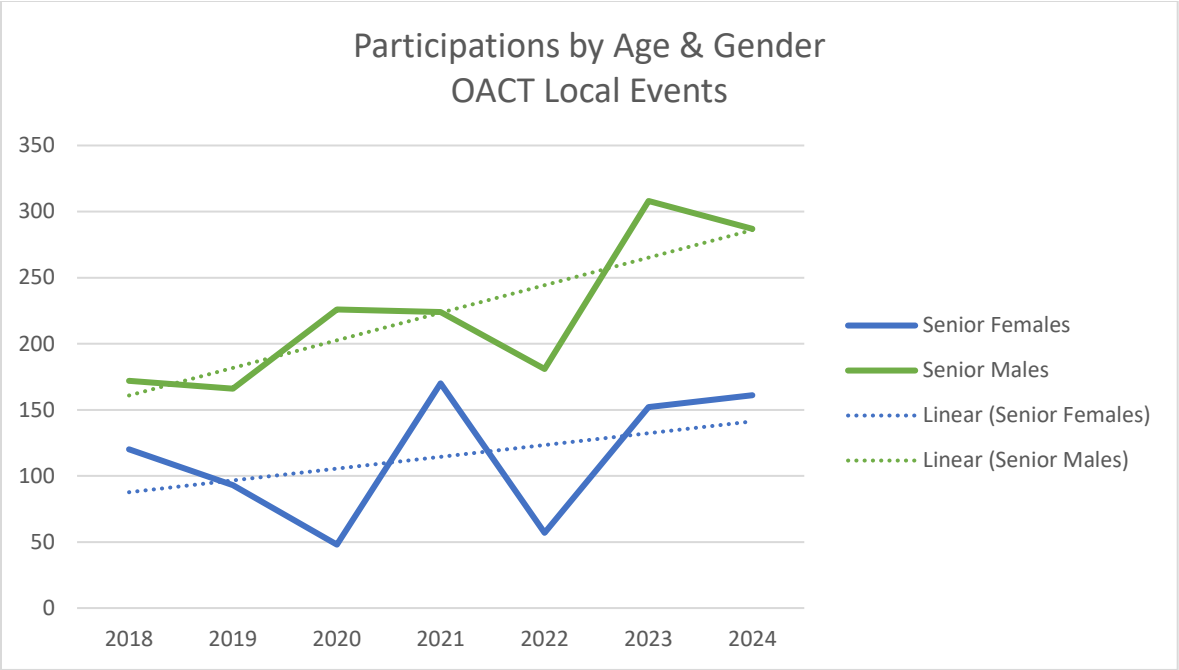
Of the 1436 unique entrants, 545 did 5 or more events. This is similar to the figure from 2023, when 523 unique entrants did 5 or more events. It can be surmised that OACT had about 545 regular orienteers. The other 900 entrants were made up of interstate orienteers attending the Oceania MTBO Championships, the National Orienteering League and the ONSW State League events conducted by OACT, plus casual orienteers who attended infrequently.

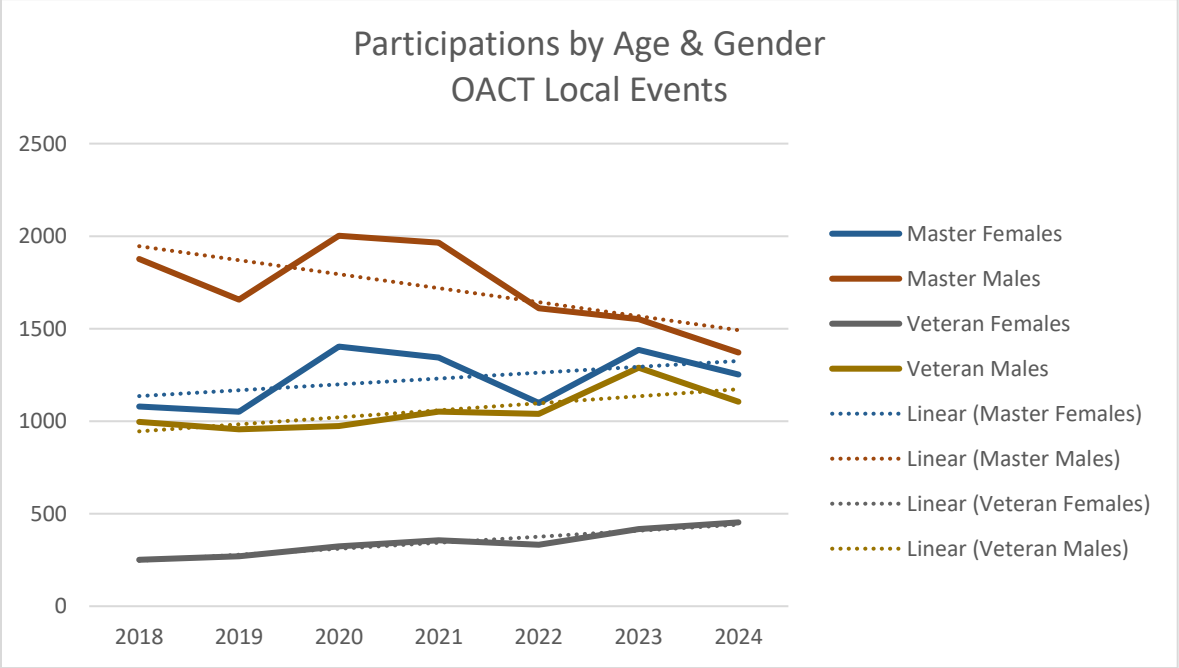
264 participants attended 10 or more events; 134 attended 20 or more events; 70 attended 30 or more events; and 36 attended 40 or more events.

The following graphs show the age and gender for participations at OACT local events from 2028-2024. Local events do not include Championship or National Orienteering League events. The trendlines show an increase in participations in the Seniors, Masters and Veteran age groups; with decreases in Sub-Junior (<13) and Junior (13-20) age classes.


Participations by Age & Gender
OACT Local Events
1000
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
Sub Junior Females
Sub Junior Males
Linear (Sub Junior Females)
Linear (Sub Junior Males)


Participations by Age & Gender
OACT Local Events
1000
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
Junior Females
Junior Males
Linear (Junior Females)
Linear (Junior Males)


Participations by Age & Gender
OACT Local Events
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
Senior Females
Senior Males
Linear (Senior Females)
Linear (Senior Males)


Participations by Age & Gender
OACT Local Events
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
Master Females
Master Males
Veteran Females
Veteran Males
Linear (Master Females)
Linear (Master Males)
Linear (Veteran Females)
Linear (Veteran Males)

Event Planning & Management Sub-Committee & Series Co-ordinators

OACT's program of events and the delivery of those events is developed and overseen by the Event Planning & Management Sub-Committee and the Series Co-ordinators. For 2024, the Sub-Committee members and Series Co-ordinators were:

Chair:	Phil Walker
AO-A Club reps:	Ann Scown & Mary McDonald
BS-A Club rep:	Matt Stocks
PO-A Club reps:	Mike Radajewski & Jon Glanville
RR-A Club reps:	Bill Jones & Rob Walter
WE-A Club rep:	Andrew Cheffers
Street-O Series:	John Harding
Wednesday Midday:	vacant
MTBO & Ski-O:	Marina Iskhakova

Controllers

As at end 2024, OACT had for Foot-O; eight Level 1 controllers, nine Level 2 controllers and four Level 3 controllers. Plus two Level 2 controllers for MTBO. The list of accredited controllers is below.

Accreditation	Member name	Gender	State	Club	Expiry
Controller Accreditation - Level 1	Allen, Bryant	M	ACT	Parawanga Orienteers	30-Nov-29
Controller Accreditation - Level 1	Barker, Valerie	F	ACT	Bushflyers	31-Dec-24
Controller Accreditation - Level 1	Brown, Toni	F	ACT	Bushflyers	31-Dec-29
Controller Accreditation - Level 1	Glanville, Jon	M	ACT	Parawanga Orienteers	31-Mar-29
Controller Accreditation - Level 1	Gray, Edith	F	ACT	Abominable O-Men	30-Jun-28
Controller Accreditation - Level 1	Iskhakova, Marina	F	ACT	Red Roos	31-Dec-24
Controller Accreditation - Level 1	Mock, Colleen	F	ACT	Parawanga Orienteers	30-Jun-26
Controller Accreditation - Level 1	Stocks, David	M	ACT	Bushflyers	30-Sep-29
Controller Accreditation - Level 2	Burt, Michael	M	ACT	Bayside Kangaroos Orienteering Club	31-Dec-28
Controller Accreditation - Level 2	Chalmers, Cath	F	ACT	Big Foot Orienteering Club	30-Nov-29
Controller Accreditation - Level 2	Fifield, Keith	M	ACT	Red Roos	31-Jul-26
MTBO Controller Accreditation - MTBO 2	Iskhakov, Fedor	M	ACT	Red Roos	31-Jan-29
MTBO Controller Accreditation - MTBO 2	Iskhakova, Marina	F	ACT	Red Roos	31-Jan-29
Controller Accreditation - Level 2	McDonald, Grant	M	ACT	Abominable O-Men	31-Dec-24
Controller Accreditation - Level 2	Needham, Tate	M	ACT	Red Roos	30-Nov-29
Controller Accreditation - Level 2	Rothery, Eoin	M	ACT	Big Foot Orienteering Club	31-Jul-26
Controller Accreditation - Level 2	Stewart, Ross	M	ACT	Bushflyers	31-Dec-24
Controller Accreditation - Level 2	Stocks, Matthew	M	ACT	Bushflyers	31-Dec-28
Controller Accreditation - Level 2	Walker, Phil	M	ACT	Parawanga Orienteers	30-Nov-29
Controller Accreditation - Level 3	Hogg, David	M	ACT	Parawanga Orienteers	31-Dec-29
Controller Accreditation - Level 3	Jones, Bill	M	ACT	Red Roos	31-Dec-24
Controller Accreditation - Level 3	Scown, Ann	F	ACT	Abominable O-Men	31-Dec-29
Controller Accreditation - Level 3	Scown, John	M	ACT	Abominable O-Men	31-Dec-29

Controllers work with event organisers and course setters to ensure that events are run correctly with no errors and things are not overlooked. It is OACT's policy that all events at Group C1 (that is, League events) level and above (such as championship events) should have an accredited controller.

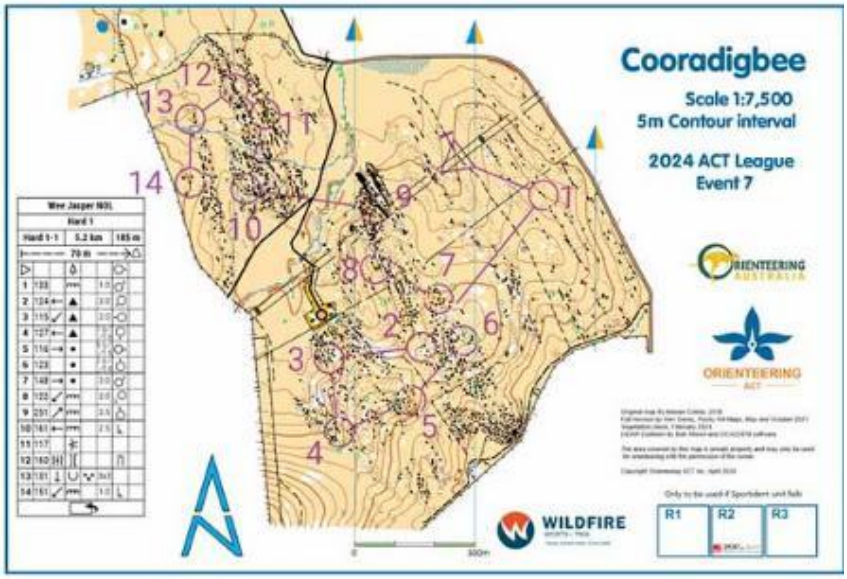
Course Setters, Organisers and Controllers for ACT League Events

The most time consuming and detailed events to course set, organise and control are the ACT League and the National Orienteering League (NOL) events hosted by OACT. OACT thanks the following members for their time, effort and knowledge in delivering the ACT League and NOL events for 2024.

Date	Location	Course Setter	Organiser	Controllers
3 March	Amaroo Schools – ACT Sprint Champs	Edith Gray	Ann Scown	John Shelton Agar
21 April	Ballinafad Creek	Rohan Hyslop	Ann & Frank Ingwersen	Tate Needham
28 April	Mt Taylor	Paul de Jongh	Nina Davis	David Stocks
4 May	Broulee	Rob Walter	Tate Needham	Allison Jones
5 May	Broulee	Rob Walter	Tate Needham	Allison Jones
18 May	Wee Jasper (AL & NOL)	Matt Crane	Ann Scown	Cath Chalmers & John Scown
19 May	Awoonga (AL & NOL)	David Stocks	Alison Inglis	Matt Stocks, Ann & John Scown
16 June	Orroral	Jon Glanville	Mike Radajewski	Rohan Hyslop
29 June	Stringybark East	Tate Needham	Jo Allison	
24 August	Wild deer Sands – ACT Middle Distance Champs	Toby Lang	Valerie Barker	Ross Stewart
25 August	Birkenburn Farm – ACT Long Distance Champs	Phil Walker	Jill Walker	Tony Garr, Bruce Bowen & Liz Abbott
1 Sep	Tin Hut (Googong)	Tate Needham	Hind Needham	

Course Setters, Organisers and Vetters/Controllers for other OACT Events

OACT members, in the main, contribute what they can to the various roles involved in conducting events. For 2024, over 50 people took on a role as course setter, organiser, vetter/controller for non ACT League events. Many of these people contributed on multiple occasions to the conduct of events. In addition to the primary event management roles, many events require 5-8 other volunteers to assist with set-up, registration, pack-up and control collecting.



Coaches

OACT based accredited coaches for 2024 were:

- Carys Connick - Orienteering Instructor
- Mark Gregson – Orienteering Instructor
- Tom de Jongh - Orienteering Instructor
- Ken Mansell - Orienteering Instructor
- David Stocks – Orienteering Instructor
- Stephen Goggs - Orienteering Instructor
- Susanne Harrysson - Orienteering Instructor
- Toby Lang - Orienteering Instructor
- Hannah Vardy - Orienteering Instructor
-
- Toni Brown – Learn & Play, Competition and Performance
- Marina Iskhakova – Performance
- Kelvin Meng - Competition
- Paul de Jongh – Learn & Play
- David Poland – Learn & Play

Other members of OACT who contributed significantly to coaching orienteering in 2024 were; Tara Melhuish, Libby Gerner, Patrick Miller, Natalie Miller and Rosie Goggs.