Orienteering ACT Incorporated

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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

The Board 2025

President	Nina Davis
Secretary	Emily Stewart-Reed
Treasurer	Andrew Cheffers
Directors	Valerie Barker David Stocks Alison Inglis Tate Needham John Shelton Agar Ian Prosser

Officers 2025

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	Allison Jones
Blue Lightning Coach	
Schools Team Coach	David Stocks
Schools Team Manager	Peter Miller
Schools Team Assistance Manager	Sarah Bruce
Canberra Cockatoos Manager	Matthew Crane
Canberra Cockatoos Coach	Vacant
Technical Officers	Ann Scown

	Cath Chalmers
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	Andrew Cheffers
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)

President's Report – Nina Davis

We have wrapped up another year of training and competing around the world, across Australia and on Ngunnawal Country at home. Here are a few highlights for Orienteering ACT (OACT) in 2025.

ACT had strong representation in Australia's teams for major international events in 2025. A huge congratulations to all selected athletes! At the **World Orienteering Championships** in Finland: Grace Crane (Abominable O-Men), Justine Hobson (Bushflyers) and Caitlin Young (Bushflyers). David Stocks (Bushflyers) was also selected as a reserve. At the **Junior World Orienteering Championships** in Italy: Elye Dent (Red Roos) and Owen Radajewski (Parawanga). Ariadna Iskhakova (Red Roos) was a reserve. For the **European Youth Orienteering Championships** in Czechia: Hayden Dent (Red Roos), Elye Dent (Red Roos) and Ariadna Iskhakova (Red Roos). Aoife Rothery (Red Roos) was a reserve.

On the home front, our juniors dominated, with our ACT team convincingly winning the **Australian Schools Orienteering Championships** (over TAS and NSW who have wielded it for the past 6 years!) in Brisbane. They also became the only Australian team *ever* to get their name etched on the Southern Cross Junior Challenge Trophy (in a tie with NZ Harua).

At the **Australian Orienteering Championships** in Brisbane, our Canberra Cockatoos concluded their **National Orienteering League** competition and took out the win in the W21 class.

OACT ran 132 events in 2025, more than recent years, although overall participation numbers remained steady.

A major highlight was the **ACT Sprint Championships** held at the Australian National Botanic Gardens—a dream location that finally came to fruition. Our **ACT Middle Championships** took us to Pine Range in Cooma, treating competitors to highly challenging, premium new terrain as part of a great double-header weekend with the **ACT Long Championships** out at Highlands near Nimmitabel.

Our mapping footprint grew significantly this year thanks to dedicated mappers and good relationships with ACT Parks and local schools that allowed us access. Many new sprint maps debuted in our **Winter Sprint Series**: Fern Hill Park, Lennox Gardens, Swinger Hill, Kingston Wasteland, Collins Park and Giralang Pines. The start of the **Summer Sprint Series** also saw some new maps: Marist College, Telopea Park School and Queanbeyan High School. **Forest map extensions** included Googong Tin Hut, Pine Range and a complete remap of Narrabundah Hill. New and updated **MTBO** maps were also produced for the National Arboretum, Kowen Forest and Cotter Pines.

Behind the scenes, the Board works to ensure OACT remains sustainable and forward-looking. Financially, OACT is in a stable position, aided by the several grants including through the **ACT Government's Club Enhancement Program**. An operational success in 2025 was the rollout of our **digital enter-on-the-day system** for most local-level events, enabling both new and returning orienteers to enter without putting extra burden on volunteers. In governance, the Board formally endorsed the **2025–2030 OACT Strategic Plan** in March and conducted its first annual review of progress against the plan in October. The Board also focused on succession planning and volunteer load for 2026, particularly with the upcoming Oceania Championships.

Orienteering Australia (OA) continues to develop resources and programs targeted at new orienteers. A shout out to Susanne Harrysson for taking charge of the new **Learn to Orienteer** (L2O) program in 2025 and making full use of the 5 L2O grants from OA. **Discover Orienteering** is another new initiative from OA, and David Stocks led a very successful trial here in the ACT ahead of the initiative's full rollout across the country.

Most importantly, I want to acknowledge our incredible **volunteers**. Delivering 132 events is no mean feat. We are highly aware of the risk of volunteer fatigue, and moving forward, the Board has a firm focus on ensuring the quality of our events over the quantity.

As we look to 2026, we will be prioritising the sustainability of our local programming, nurturing the continued success of our junior squads, and hopefully firmly establishing the L2O program. Most notably, resources will be focused on delivering a smooth and successful Oceania Championships.

Thank you to our repeat volunteers, the Board and every member who ran, rode, skied or helped out in 2025, and happy 50th birthday to OACT's first club, Parawanga! Here's to an exciting and sustainable 2026.

Governance

The OACT Board held eight meetings in 2025: 3 February, 24 March, 28 April, 26 May, 30 June, 25 August, 13 October and 24 November. The outcomes of the meetings were published as news articles on the OACT website.
The Event Planning & Management Sub-Committee met twice in 2025 to develop the program of events for the second half of 2025 and for events to be held in 2026.

One of the long-term clubs, Weston Emus (WE-A) was closed due to declining numbers, with the remaining continuing members opting to join one of the other four clubs.

OACT Strategic Plan 2025–2030

This section of the Annual Report summarises the OACT Strategic Plan 2025-2030 and ACT's achievements against that Plan. The Plan has four overarching strategies with initiatives listed in two year slices. The strategic objectives are:

1. Participation and Community Growth
2. Volunteer Development and Event Excellence
3. Financial and Organisational Sustainability
4. Innovation and Awareness

2025 is the first year of the first two year cycle. Overall, OACT has achieved or is well on track to achieve all the initiatives listed for the first two year cycle. Details of progress as at end 2025 for achieving the strategic Initiatives are provided at Annex B.

Financial Summary

The 2025 audited Financial Reports are at Annex A. In summary;

- As at 31st December 2025; OACT's total current assets were $288,852, current Liabilities of $57,008 giving net assets of **$226,886**.
- OACT's overall profit and loss for 2025 was a loss of **$41,874.** The reason for the loss was a write-down of $48,358 for equipment assets. This was a decision taken at the OACT AGM held in April 2025, to better reflect the value of long held equipment.
- When not taking in account the write-down of equipment assets, OACT had a surplus of **$6,484**, which was similar to the 2024 surplus of $7,914.
- Prior to 2024, the previous year with a surplus was 2019, (pre-COVID).

The Auditor assessed that the Financial Report presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of Orienteering ACT incorporated as at 31st December 2025.

OACT's financial position is sound, with the forecast of a surplus in 2026 when OACT hosts a round of the National Orienteering League and the Oceania Championships.

Executive Officer's Report - Phil Walker

The main stakeholder and governance issues dealt with in 2025 were:

- Bidding for and being awarded ACT Government Sporting & Recreation (S&R) grants:
  - $16,706 for the OACT High Performance (Cockatoos) program for season 2025/26.
  - $8,000 for the 2025 Club Enhancement Program (CEP) for the purchase of Mesh-O radio units.
  - $32,380 for the 2025 State Organisation Support Program (SOSP), made up of $22,380 for purchase of a drone and LIDAR unit, and $10K for operational support.
- Bidding for and being awarded an ACT Government Event grant:
  - $7,500 for Oceania Championships for hire of temporary equipment
- Bidding for 2026 ACT Government (S&R) grants:
  - $1,600 in CEP funding for 100 new control flags.
  - $17,600 in SOSP funding, made up of $7,600 for Remote First Aid training and $10,000 for operational support.
  - Decisions on the 2026 grant applications are not yet known.
- Assisting with applications to Orienteering Australia (OA) for Moira Whiteside (MW) Bequest funding:
  - $20,000 for support to Oceania Championships. $14,000 paid in 2025 with remainder of funding to be provided after the Championships.
  - $18,404 to supplement funding obtained from ACT Government for purchase of a drone and LIDAR unit.
- 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) for continued access to Canberra Reserves and Nature Parks. 2025 was a 'steady-as-you-go' year with no issues impacting the availability of permitted locations for events.
- Development of the OACT Strategic Plan 2025-2030
- 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. 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.
- Published a guide on 'Where do my entry fees go' in response to a handful of questions from participants on the increase in cost for event entries.

2025 was a successful year: Membership numbers were the highest they have been since pre-COVID. Participation numbers are slightly down on previous years due to OACT not hosting a major Carnival in 2025. However, if participation numbers for Carnivals are not considered, the participation in 2025 is on par with the previous post COVID years. OACT offers a wide range of event types, with several types showing strong participation whereas there has been a fall-off in attendance at a couple of the other types of events. Details on memberships, events and participations are provided at Annex C.

OACT acknowledges and thanks 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.

2025 OACT Annual Awards

MIKE CASSELLS AWARD FOR SERVICES TO ORIENTEERING – Susanne Harryson

As the OACT President from April 2022 to April 2025 Susanne was prominent in promoting orienteering and strengthening OACT's governance. This was at a time when all community sports were needing to rebuild their membership and participation base after the COVID years, and at time when the Australia Sports Commission, Orienteering Australia and State Governments were raising the standards on what was required from sporting organisations to meet best practice for governance. As a result of Susanne's leadership, OACT achieved the higher governance standards and, although it took longer than expected, OACT's membership and participation numbers have increased getting closer to pre-COVID levels.

Susanne has been, and still is, the driving force behind the very successful Learn-to-Orienteering (L2O) programs. She has worked with Orienteering Australia to shape the L2O syllabus and has been the co-ordinator for running the L2O programs for OACT since inception. The value of the L2O program can be seen in the number of newcomers to the sport for both adults and juniors.

Susanne has also been the driving force behind the resurgence in the SC-ORE series of orienteering for the younger school students. She manages the series, liaises with schools for access to venues and promotes the sport. This is no simple task, having become more difficult to engage with schools post COVID, with many schools reluctant to have events or promote internally. Nevertheless, the Spring 2025 SC-ORE series was the best attended series since before COVID.

When not managing the L2O and SC-ORE programs, Susanne co-ordinates the Sprint series, once again liaising with schools for access to venues on Sunday mornings and arranging for course setters, with Susanne invariably the person on the computer/registration desk. When time permits she also helps out with pre-event coaching.

Susanne doesn't seek recognition or self-promotion. She just gets on and does what is required, which means much of what she does to promote the sport, run series of events and coaching goes unnoticed for most participants.

It is of no surprise, given this impressive list of achievements, that Susanne was nominated for this award by at least five separate OACT members. Every one of these spoke very highly of the enormous commitment and breadth of contributions made by her to OACT in the promotion of orienteering, and the enhancement of its reach across the ACT.

Well done, Susanne. You are a deserving winner of the award and OACT thanks you for all that you have achieved.

SERVICES TO COACHING AWARD – Stephen Goggs

Since 2017 Stephen has been the OACT Sporting Schools coordinator, administering and delivering programs to primary and secondary school students across Canberra and the nearby NSW region.

The program has been rolled out in one form or another to over 70 primary schools and 20 high schools and colleges, many of them happy repeat customers. Stephen makes proactive contact with school sports teachers throughout the ACT reminding them of the opportunities available to seek funding for orienteering coaching. When grants are announced he follows up with teachers who have logged an expression of interest in applying their funds to orienteering in order to identify suitable dates and times to deliver the coaching program. Stephen has developed a passion for delivering the coaching himself on many occasions, but he has also developed a cohort of other retirees and, increasingly, university student coaches to assist with the task, especially when schools book in up to eight classes per day for each of the four days of a typical program.

Stephen has also been OACT's representative on a number of OA-led national working parties and has contributed heavily to the development of a successful and respected Coaching Curriculum for orienteering and a Program Delivery Guide aligned to the learning outcomes of the National Education Framework, initially for years 3 to 6 and more recently extended to years 7 and 8. The national delivery guide includes many activities refined by OACT coaches and one devised by Stephen himself as a suitable introductory activity for new starters of all ages.

It is testament to Stephen's ongoing commitment to the work that our sport and our association have developed a strong reputation for providing students of all ages with valuable and enjoyable exposure to a sport that engages body and brain in a fun and non-competitive way.

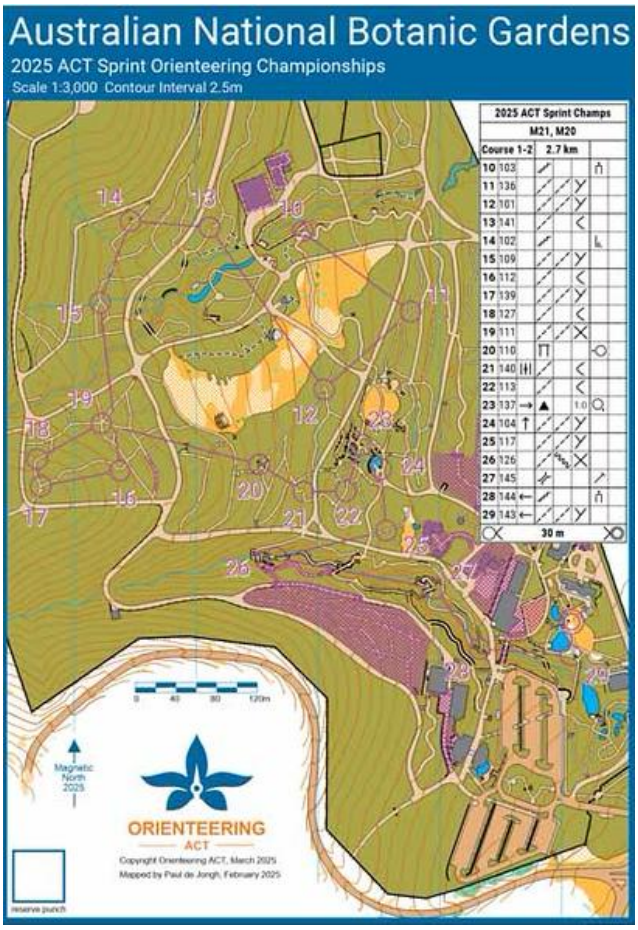
JIM SAWKINS AWARD FOR EVENT MANAGEMENT – Parawanga Club

The 2025 recipient of the ACT Jim Sawkins Award for Services to Event Management is Parawanga Orienteers. The Sprint Championships were held at the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) on Sunday 16th March 2025.

Engagement with the ANBG's management was initiated by the then OACT President, Susanne Harrysson in mid-2024 and continued throughout that year and into 2025. The ANBG's management set out clear guidelines for areas that could be used with strict conditions that no participants should enter the garden beds. This was entirely understandable given that the ANBG has the world's most comprehensive display of living Australian native plants.

Access to the ANBG for the event and setup was constrained with set times to not interfere with the maintenance activities or peak times for visitors to the Gardens. This required tight planning by the course setter (Bryant Allen), the controller (Phil Walker), the day organisers (Nat Smith & Andy Hogg), and Susanne Harrysson and Jill Walker who liaised with the ANBG's rangers and volunteer staff.

Forever in the minds of the event organisers was the risk of reputational damage if only one participant was seen running across a garden bed. To mitigate the risk the organisers provided numerous briefings on the need to stay out of out of bounds areas, and placed marshals at key points to monitor the runners. Pleasingly there were no reported cases of participants entering the out of bounds areas.

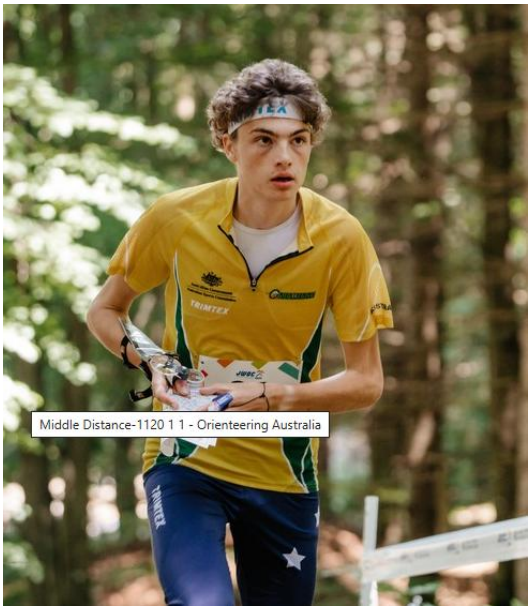


A lot of maintenance work goes on every week at the ANBG, with tracks being repaired, trimming of plants, clearing fallen trees after high winds and garden beds being replanted. Consequently, tracks were closed off or opened to the public at short notice necessitating changes to the map in the fortnight before the event with purple hatching added or removed. Paul de Jongh was called upon in the week before the event to make map changes as areas were closed off as out-of-bounds, and other areas open to access.

The event attracted 205 entries, with dozens travelling from interstate to experience a unique orienteering experience at an iconic location of national significance. The event was an outstanding success thanks to the effort of the organising team to obtain access to the ANBG, running the event in the narrow time period allocated to OACT by the ANBG and the thorough preparations in the months leading up to the event and the ongoing liaison with ANBG staff in the week before and on the day of the event.

Wehner Cup – The Orienteer of the Year Award for 2025

This is awarded to the person achieving the highest number of points in the ACT League competition. The winner for 2025 was David Stocks. The Table below shows the 20 top competing orienteers in the 2025 OACT League program.



Pl	Name	Club	16/3	5/4	6/4	18/5	31/5	22/6	3/8	23/8	24/8	21/9	Total
1	David Stocks	Bushflyers	131	132	135	(118)	(118)		125	136	136	(89)	795
2	Martin Dent	Red Roos	138	129	127	124	(115)	123	122			(102)	763
3	Matthew Stocks	Bushflyers	120	116	126				111	138	137	(110)	748
4	Rob Walter	Red Roos	123	131	134	110			120			112	730
5	Sanda Halpin	Parawanga Orienteers	117	123	(108)	(82)	(116)	117	(96)	118	130	121	726
6	Andy Hogg	Parawanga Orienteers	113	128	119	122	(113)	120	(112)			118	720
7	Cath Chalmers	Red Roos	107		123	(95)	119		124	130		106	709
8	Allison Jones	Red Roos	127	110	117	(81)		110	105			124	693
9	Elye Dent	Red Roos	135	104	116	100	122		115				692
10	Ella Hogg	Parawanga Orienteers	114	113	(97)	102	109	113		135			686
11	Marina Iskhakova	Red Roos	121	111	129	113	93	115				(84)	682
12	Tate Needham	Red Roos	90		107			112	108	126	135		678
13	Toni Brown	Red Roos		121	85	112		121	103	131			673
14	Mira Walter	Red Roos	108	(93)	100	(85)	111	101	119			123	662
15	Jon Glanville	Parawanga Orienteers		102	(84)		102		83	129	133	107	656
16	Matty Maundrell	Bushflyers	128	82	121		114	111				97	653
17	Liz Abbott	Parawanga Orienteers	106	101	114			102	101			125	649
18	Judy Allison	Red Roos	(71)	(84)	(84)	96	(47)	91	109	121	124	100	641
19	Toby Lang	Bushflyers	126	109	109		101	96	99			(90)	640
20	Jenny Bourne	Abominable O-Men	129	126	125	125	125						630

Audun Fristad Junior Encouragement Awards 2025
The recipients of the junior encouragement awards for 2025 were: Elyse Care, Ruth Morrison, William Charles, Joshua Maniti, Veronika Iskhakova, Arlo Foxlee and Tindra Helgstedt.

Orienteering Australia Awards

OACT members were recognised for their contribution to the sport at the annual Orienteering Australia awards. The following OACT members picked up the majority of the OA awards offered.

- Ann and John Scown were announced as the winners of Orienteering Australia's Silva Award for Services to Orienteering. This award recognises outstanding contribution to the sport at all levels over an extended period.

- Tara Melhuish who received the Silva Award for Services to Coaching. Tara's award recognises her work in coaching the Blue Lightning squad in recent years and the establishment of weekly Tuesday interval training open to all ACT orienteers.

- Marina Iskhakova and Fedor Iskhakov received the David Hogg Medal for Services to Event Management. Marina and Fedor are recognised particularly for their organisation of the 2024 Australian Mountain Bike Orienteering Carnival and also for their important contribution to MTBO generally and ski orienteering over many years.

- Valerie Barker received the award for Services to the Australian Schools Orienteering Championships (ASOC). While the formal criteria for this award recognise ten years of dedicated service, Valerie's contribution to orienteering stretches for more than two decades. She has been a constant and trusted presence in our volunteer community, particularly in junior development and as a cornerstone of Australia's high-performance pathway. Valerie has served as Manager of the Australian Junior World Orienteering Championships team on multiple occasions, providing stability, care and guidance that have helped our young athletes perform with confidence on the world stage. She has also played a key role in managing Australian junior teams during international competitions and exchanges with New Zealand, helping to grow skills, friendships and experience for our youngest competitors. Her commitment to juniors continues today through her ongoing mentoring roles.

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	David Stocks	Natalie Miller	David Stocks	Natalie Miller	Martin Dent	Justine Hobson
10A		Rui Bluett-Jones		Amalia Zapata		Rui Bluett-Jones
12A	Sam Dowe	Banjo Bluett-Jones	Sam Dowe	Elyse Care		Elyse Care
14A	Ben Mansell	Alma Walter	Ben Mansell	Alma Walter	Patrick Maundrell	Isobel Walter
16A	Hayden Dent	Ariadna Iskhakova	Mica Walter	Ariadna Iskhakova	Matty Maundrell	Ariadna Iskhakova
18A	Matty Maundrell		Oliver Bishop			
20A	Owen Radajewski	Ella Hogg	Owen Radajewski	Ella Hogg	Owen Radajewski	Ella Hogg
35A					David Penton	Mace Neve
40A	Matt Crane	Mace Neve	Matt Crane	Nicole Thomas		
45A	Rob Walter	Jo Allison	Martin Dent	Jo Allison	Ben Rattray	Allison Jones
50A	Grant Bluett	Deirdre Sharkey	Andy Hogg	Emily Walter		
55A	Eric Morris	Cath Chalmers	Eric Morris	Alison Inglis	Martin Wehner	Cath Chalmers
60A	John Shelton Agar	Toni Brown	John Shelton Agar	Toni Brown		
65A	Ian Prosser	Liz Abbott	Geoff Lawford	Jenny Bourne	Eoin Rothery	Mary McDonald
70A	Bruce Bowen	Jenny Bourne	Bruce Bowen	Valerie Barker		
75A	Bill Jones	Judy Allison	Keith Fifield	Pat Miethke	Bill Jones	Judy Allison
80A	Arthur Watson	Ann Ingwersen	Arthur Watson	Ann Ingwersen		
85A	John Sutton		John Sutton			

2024/25 Runners Shop Twilight Series Winners

The top placegetters in the 2024/25 Runners Shop Twilight Series were:

Pl	Name	Club	30/10	6/11	13/11	20/11	27/11	4/12	11/12	5/2	12/2	19/2	26/2	5/3	12/3	Total
1	Hayden Dent	Red Roos	125		124	124	125	125	125	125	(124)	(115)	(123)		(122)	873
2	Martin Dent	Red Roos	124	125	(121)	125	(123)		124	124	125	(122)	124	(124)	(124)	871
3	Matty Maundrell	Bushflyers	(107)	123	122	(116)	124	120	123	(117)	120	123	(119)	(104)	(114)	855
4	Ariadna Iskhakova	Red Roos	(112)	121	125	(115)	121	124	(118)	(109)	119	119	(117)	120	(119)	849
5	Shannon Jones	Abominable O-Men	121	122	120	118	(107)		121	119	122	(116)			(116)	843
6	Patrick Maundrell	Bushflyers	(108)	118	116	(109)	120	122	(116)	(114)	118	(92)	122	(101)	123	839
7	Matthew Stocks	Bushflyers	123	116			119		119	123	115	(109)	(114)	(114)	117	832
8	Naomi Penton	Bushflyers	(111)	(112)			115	118	(114)	116	116	121	(115)	125	118	829
9	Oscar Brown	Red Roos	120	119	115	120			120	122	110	(107)			(101)	826
9	David Stocks	Bushflyers	116	109	(105)	121		117	122	120	(98)		(105)	121	(75)	826
11	Elye Dent	Red Roos	115			(113)	114			118	123	114	125	(111)	115	824
12	Oliver Bishop	Parawanga Orienteers	118	(101)	119	122	122	123			112				105	821
13	Owen Radajewski	Parawanga Orienteers	117		123	123		119		121	104	(93)	(99)	113	(91)	820
14	Sanda Halpin	Parawanga Orienteers	119	117			108	112			(107)	110	121	(96)	120	807
15	Emily Walter	Red Roos	114	114	113		117	116	(111)				113		112	799
16	Mica Walter	Red Roos	(101)	(99)	118		118	115	112		117	(82)	(106)	107	109	796
17	Ben Mansell	Bushflyers	(97)	(75)	(89)	(85)	116		(88)	111	100	124	116	118	102	787
18	Tate Needham	Red Roos	(94)	(102)	106	114	109	108	115	115	(99)	(104)	112	(86)	(99)	779
19	Ken Mansell	Bushflyers	(71)	108	112	(102)	110			112	(105)	112	111	109	(89)	774
20	Phil Walker	Parawanga Orienteers	106		(100)	108	111	102	109			111	(96)	123	(97)	770

Coaching & Development

• Schools Coaching and Participants – Stephen Goggs

Unfortunately, 2025 was the slowest year for school bookings in the last decade. It is not clear why this has happened, but a likely significant contributor is the ever-expanding list of sports that schools can choose from when applying for Sporting Schools funding. Five years ago, there were 27 sports – now there are 45! 'Small sports' like ours tend to fall into the category of "let's try something different this time", so each time a new small sport gets added to the list of options, other small sports lose out. There were no jobs at all in term 2. It is doubly frustrating as our program is always very positively received when we deliver in schools and this year we have had two ready, willing and able overseas coaches-in-residence in town ready to meet the hoped for demand. In the end we delivered 13 programs – all of them to repeat customers, with 720 encounters involving 2731 participants (down from 20/958/3545 in 2024). Thanks go especially to Owen Radajewski for stepping up to the coaching plate in term 1, Hedda Kärner Grooss for covering almost all our jobs in terms 3 and 4, and to Toni Brown for her ongoing relationship and work with Girls Grammar Junior School.

If there are any orienteers interested to work with schools from time to time (mostly coaching years 3 to 6, with some opportunities for mapping as well), please contact the OACT Office.

Schools where we worked in 2025 were:

Fadden Primary School
Canberra Grammar School (holiday program)
CGGS Junior
Charles Weston Primary School
Lyneham Primary School (also a SC-ORE school this year)
Orana School
St Vincent's Primary School
Torrens Primary School
Trinity Christian School
Daramalan College
Radford College
ANU CBE

• SC-ORE and Learn to Orienteer (L2O) – Susanne Harrysson

SC-ORE: Spring SC-ORE 2025 went ahead with the highest number (116) of participants since COVID. Autumn SC-ORE 2025 wasn't as well attended but still had 64 participants. Autumn SC-ORE is usually harder to attract participants because it commences early in the new school year. New for the Sprint SC-ORE was that parents had the opportunity to try one course themselves before the kids went out on their courses. This was very appreciated both among parents and children. Many adults realised that it was harder than they thought. (22 parents tried it). This year we also offered membership to OACT to the participants, for the end of 2025 and 2026. 80 people opted in.

Prior to SC-ORE, in September, a Come & Try SC-ORE event was held for the first time, at Aranda PS. This was successful and the majority signed up to SC-ORE and one to L2O. Also new for this series was the introduction of QR-codes for entries, both for Come & Try and SC-ORE itself.

As always, orienteering events are not possible without volunteers, and SC-ORE is no exception. So, one more time, a big thank you to all SC-ORE volunteers, School staff and to Paul de Jongh (OACT Admin) for excellent support. Regular volunteers were: Bill Jones, Ken Mansell, Bryant Allen, Valerie Barker, Stephen Goggs, Cath Chalmers, Chris Stocks, David Stocks, Frank Ingwersen, Andrew Cheffers, Rosie Goggs, Hedda Groos, Julie Fomasi, Max Walter and Mike Radajewski. (Apologies if anyone has accidentally and unintentionally not been named.)

Learn to Orienteer: During 2025 OACT ran two 7-weeks Learn to Orienteer (L2O) programs, one in conjunction with the Saturday Metro Series and one in conjunction with the Wednesday Twilight series. Like previous years, adults (mostly parents) did not need to pay if accompanying a child(ren). (Juniors under 18 years need a responsible adult to be present.) We still encourage everyone to take an active part in the program. There were 21 paying participants for the first L2O program and 30 for the second program; (13 juniors/8 adults, 13 juniors/17 adults). Most of the participants also took part in the regular Metro/Twilight events after the L2O sessions, and some continued after completing the program.

In February-April OACT also ran three intensive L2O programs; (8, 8 and 10 participants respectively). The majority of these participants wanted to learn basic map reading skills including how to use a compass and initially had no intention of continuing with orienteering. However, a few people have continued on a regular basis after these sessions.

Reflection when looking back at the turn out from the L2O programs (first program was held end of 2023), many of the participants have not continued with orienteering in the ACT, however, there are several regular orienteers that started orienteering through L2O. L2O is a real success story, introducing newcomers to the sport even if it is an awareness for some and an ongoing sport for others.

Coaches in Residence: OACT has had the pleasure of welcoming two Coaches in Residence, Hedda Groos Kärner from Denmark and Julie Fomasi from Switzerland this year. They have both provided coaching, set up training sessions and alternative training exercises as well as being part of the coaching team for Learn to Orienteer and the Sporting School coaching program. For the Twilight series they have provided alternative training maps for the Moderate 1 and 2 courses, giving participants the opportunity to train specific navigation skills. Hedda also set courses for and ran a winter sprint series. Julie, who arrived later in the year has provided training maps and training opportunities for our members, as well as individual coaching. The first sessions of the Summer Sprint series, they ran welcoming initial coaching sessions for beginners to help them get started with sprint orienteering. All very appreciated.

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	3rd	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 2025, (Extracted from OA website).

Elite Men

Ranking	Name
6	David Stocks
17	Ryan Stocks
19	Oscar Brown
20	Martin Dent
21	Andrew Barnett
22	Paul de Jongh
24	Toby Lang

Elite Women

Ranking	Name
1	Grace Crane
2	Caitlin Young
4	Justine Hobson
13	Natalie Miller
25	Tara Melhuish

Elite Junior Men

Ranking	Name
3	Owen Radajewski
5	Elye Dent
9	Hayden Dent
21	Oliver Bishop

Elite Junior Women

Ranking	Name
10	Ella Hogg
11	Ariadna Iskhakova
14	Aoife Rothery
22	Katherine Maundrell

Canberra Cockatoos members selected to represent Australia at World Championships were:

- Grace Crane, Justine Hobson and Caitlin Young to compete at the 2025 World Orienteering Championships held in Kuopio, Finland from 7-12 July 2025. David Stocks was selected as a reserve for the team.
- Owen Radajewski and Elye Dent to compete at the 2025 Junior World Orienteering Championships held in Trentino, Italy from 26 June-4 July 2025. Ariadna Iskhakova was selected as a reserve.

Grace Crane awarded winner Women's Elite Orienteer 2025.

Australian Schools Orienteering Championship – ACT Schools

A strong ACT team of 20 students travelled to Brisbane to compete at the 2025 Australian Schools Championships, part of the 2025 Australian Championships Carnival which comprised seven races over nine days. The team was managed by Peter Miller and Sarah Bruce, and coached by David Stocks.

After challenging selection trials earlier this year, students were selected to compete in one of four Schools Championship classes: junior (12-15 yrs) and senior (16-19 yrs), boys and girls. Other teams represented each state and territory (except NT), and two New Zealand teams also competed against the Australian teams in the Southern Cross Junior Challenge.

JUNIOR GIRLS	JUNIOR BOYS	SENIOR GIRLS	SENIOR BOYS
Layla Dent	Hayden Dent	Sanda Halpin	Oliver Bishop
Naomi Penton	Benjamin Mansell	Ella Hogg (Captain)	Elye Dent
Tessa Radajewski	Patrick Maundrell	Katy Hogg	Matthew Maundrell
Alma Walter	Rajeev Tamhane	Katherine Maundrell	Joshua Mansell
Isobel Walter	Mica Walter	Mira Walter	Max Walter (Captain)

Always a highlight of the orienteering calendar, preparations and planning for ASOC began early. Map-geeking and lots of relevant training in the preceding months gave the students plenty of time to create ambitious goals both individually and for the team.
The ACT Team delivered upon these ambitions with a very successful 2025 Australian Championships campaign, winning the ASOC trophy (convincingly over TAS, and NSW who have wielded it for the past 6 years), and becoming the only Australian team ever to get their name etched on the Southern Cross Junior Challenge Trophy (in a tie with NZ Harua).

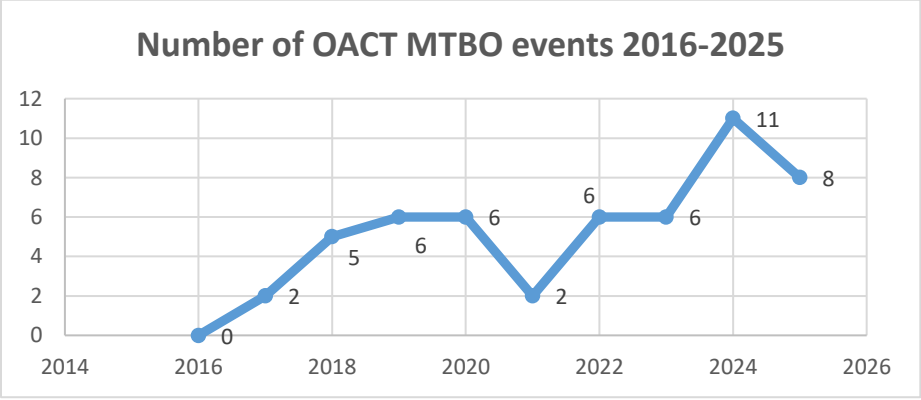
In addition, an astounding 7 of 16 Australian Schools Honour Team members were ACT Team members: congratulations to Hayden Dent, Matty Maundrell, Elye Dent, Mica Walter, Ella Hogg, Katherine Maundrell and Layla Dent.
Layla Dent also received the prestigious Rob Simson Memorial Shield for Best Newcomer.

Mountain Bike Orienteering (MTBO) – Marina Iskhakova

2025 was another busy year, following on from the huge effort in 2024 organising the Australian MTBO Championships. The OACT MTBO Team arranged 8 events in 2025. Two new MTBO maps were produced (Fadden Pines and Arboretum) and two MTBO maps at East Kowen were fully updated.

In total 10 OACT people worked on MTBO Courses as a Course Setter/Course Controller: 7 as Course Setters and 5 as Course Controllers. The list of events, locations and key personnel is below.

Date	Event	Participants	Location	Course Setter/Controller/
8 February	ACT MTBO Series, #1 & MTBO Come & Try	41	Bruce Ridge	CS: Andrew Cheffers
1 March	ACT MTBO Series, #2 & MTBO Come & Try	30	Cotter Pines	CS: Cathy Hogg
25 May	ACT MTBO Series, #3 & MTBO Come & Try	51	Fadden Pines	CS: Ann Scown and John Scown
14 September	ACT MTBO Series, #4 & MTBO Come & Try	31	Stringybark Hill	CS: Rohan Hyslop
18 October	ACT MTBO Championships SPRINT	64	Jerrabomberra Hill (flat part)	CS: Michael Reed CC: Cath Chalmers
18 October	ACT MTBO Championships MIDDLE	72	East Kowen	CS: Marina Iskhakova CC: Fedor Iskhakov
19 October	ACT MTBO Championships LONG	72	East Kowen (far part)	CS: Ken Young CC: Fedor Iskhakov
17 December	ACT MTBO Twilight	51	Arboretum	CS: Marina Iskhakova CC: Fedor Iskhakov



The highlights of the year were the ACT MTBO Championships and the first MTBO Event at the National Arboretum, where after two years of progress, the permit was finally been granted.

Main Priorities for Future Development of MTBO in ACT for 2026 - 2027

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, 25 MTBO maps in ACT by 2028).

4. To increase number of MTBO events per year from 8 in 2025 to 9-10 in 2027.

5. To increase number of female athletes in the sport by 2028.

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

7. 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 a long-term EOI is welcomed.

Ski Orienteering – Marina Iskhakova

The 2025 ACT & NSW Ski-Orienteering Championship was held at Perisher Valley on Sunday 17 August, organised by Red Roos, Big Foot, and Perisher X Country (XC). It was the 10th Championship, after Swedish ski-orienteering (ski-O) expert Patrik Gunnarsson brought the concept back to Perisher in 2014. There were no events in 2020-2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is the only ski-O event in Australia and among the only few in the Southern Hemisphere. This event is warmly supported by Perisher XC with the start in front of the beautiful, warm and special Nordic Shelter at Perisher.

Sam Wilson was the Course Setter for this year's Champs. Three excellent courses were designed: Long (13km); Middle (9km); Short (5km). Organisers Marina and Fedor Iskhakov provided assistance in planning and throughout the event. 27 entries was a great success for this year, as accommodation and logistics at Perisher complicates and gets less affordable year by year. On another side many avid downhill skiers consider switching to XC skiing, which is much more affordable and consistent through the short winter season.

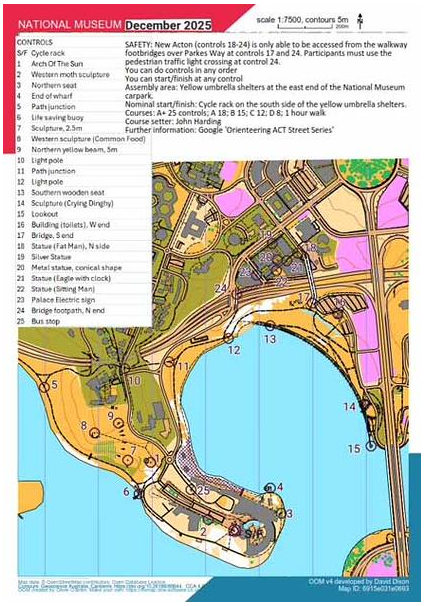
Tash Thackray came the whole way from Perth, WA to do this iconic O-event. She said that she simply couldn't miss this beautiful orienteering experience in the mountains and also is committed to improving her XC skiing skills.
This year a record number of Ski-O Beginners, people who have never tried XC skiing before entered the event. Many were very confident in Orienteering and took on a new learning experience and on a new outdoor adventure.

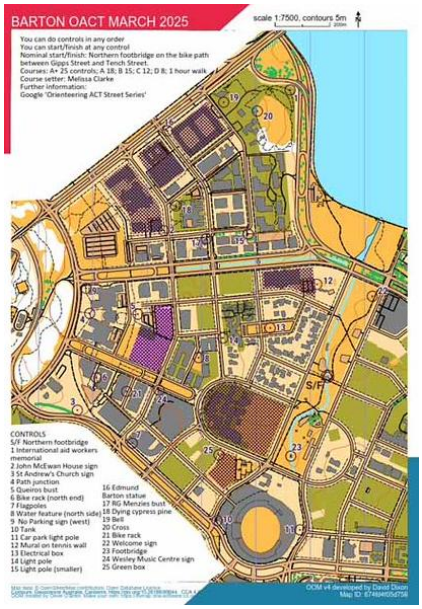
Street Orienteering – John Harding

A total of 45 street orienteering events were conducted in 2025, two fewer than in 2024. There were 1,896 participations from the 45 events, representing 19.6% of the total participations at OACT events in 2025. This represented a decline on the 2,345 participations in 2024 and was well down on the peak of 2,649 in 2022, in part due to the welcome popularity of both OACT's extended Sunday Sprint Series and the Learn to Orienteer programs at OACT bush events.

All street orienteering events were smartphone/smartwatch MapRun score events; 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. The manual backup was also used when participants using smartphones or smartwatches had technology failures while doing their events. Lawrie Brown contributed greatly to publishing the MapRun courses and setting courses himself, with Jon Glanville providing backup when Lawrie was away. Nikolaus Elz processed the combined MapRun and self-reported results for download to a template which John Harding uploaded to the national results database on Eventor.

To keep the street orienteering program refreshed, new maps were used by course setter John Harding at Strathnairn, the National Museum/New Acton, and Narrabundah East, and by Jennifer Webb at Taylor and Chris Andersen at Reid. 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 participation, 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 $1500 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

Independent Auditors Report to the members of the Association

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Orienteering ACT Incorporated (the association), which comprises the committee's report,the assets and liabilities statement as at 31 December 2025, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, cash flow statement, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

Orienteering ACT Incorporated
ABN: 13 411 591 285

Trading Statement
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Account	2025 $	2024 $
Income		
Members Subs, Donations, Fund Raising	17,465	20,619
Local Events Entry Fees	117,611	79,509
Regular National Events	-	55,905
Schools and Community	18,723	30,640
Sales - Maps & Merchandise	3,792	6,756
Coaching Activities	7,836	9,637
	165,428	**203,066**
Less: Cost of Sales		
Local Events Expenses	26,279	13,681
National Event Expenses	-	38,795
Special Events/ Fund Raising Costs	-	1,185
Sporting Schools	14,584	26,578
Costs of Other Activities	5,450	5,800
Purchases - Merchandise	6,362	4,749
	52,675	**90,788**
Gross Profit for the Year	**112,753**	**112,278**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Orienteering ACT Incorporated
ABN: 13 411 591 285

Income and Expenditure Statement
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Account	2025 $	2024 $
Gross Profit from Trading	**112,753**	**112,278**
Income		
ACT Government & OA Grants	84,441	32,500
Interest Income	9,124	8,147
Total Income	**206,318**	**152,925**
Expenses		
Administration Costs	60,969	52,643
Communications Expense	4,602	2,851
Depreciation	10,725	10,571
Expended Grants and Sponsorship	57,722	9,817
Equipment Write Off	48,358	-
High Performance	16,500	13,500
Orienteering Australia	31,725	31,253
Long Service Leave Expense	1,279	-
Support for Events	16,312	24,376
Total Expenses	**248,192**	**145,011**
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	**-41,874**	**7,914**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Orienteering ACT Incorporated
ABN: 13 411 591 285

Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2025

	Notes	31 Dec 2025	31 Dec 2024
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and bank accounts		61,120	63,665
Term deposits		205,137	200,757
Accrued Income		2,505	391
Accrued Interest		4,743	-
Inventories		3,464	4,986
Prepaid Expenses		8,828	397
Accounts Receivables- ASOC Team		3,055	6,324
Total Current Assets		**288,852**	**276,520**
Non-Current Assets			
General Equipment - at WDV		-	15,384
Coaching Equipment - at WDV		-	3,282
Office Equipment - at WDV		-	2,613
Mapwork - at WDV		-	23,760
Sport-Ident Equipment - at WDV		-	5,239
Computing Equipment - at WDV		-	2,184
Other Non-Current Assets		-	-
Total Non-Current Assets		-	52,462
Total Assets		**288,852**	**328,982**
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Member's Loans:			
Club Funds BS-A		3,730	2,230
Club Funds PO -A		2,991	3,689
Club Funds RR-A		3,606	2,544
Club Funds WE-A		2,556	3,549
Club Funds AO-A		2,503	2,340
ACT Team (C. Cockatoos)		168	168
ACT Blue Sparks		798	798
Blue Lightning		2,795	1,919
ATO Activity Statement Account		6,263	3,808
GST Payable		31	75
PAYG Payables		1,088	-
Trade Payables		18,317	4,545
Superannuation Payable		566	1,264
Prepaid Memberships & Event Income		3,590	2,921
Accrued Expenses		8,005	16,069
Total Current Liabilities		**57,008**	**45,919**

Orienteering ACT Incorporated
ABN: 13 411 591 285

Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2025

	Notes	31 Dec 2025	31 Dec 2024
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provision for Long Service Leave		4,958	3,679
Total Non-Current Liabilities		**4,958**	**3,679**
Total Liabilities		**61,966**	**49,598**
Net Assets		**226,886**	**279,384**
Equity			
Current Year Earnings		-41,874	7,914
Prior Year Adjustments		-	-
Unspent Grant Reserve		24,206	34,830
Retained Earnings		244,554	236,640
Rounding		-	-
Total Equity		**226,886**	**279,384**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Orienteering ACT Incorporated
ABN: 13 411 591 285

Statement of changes in equity
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Account	2025	2024
Equity		
Opening Balance	279,384.00	257,640.00
Increases		
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period	(41,873.97)	7,914.00
Unspent Grant Reserve	0.00	13,830.00
Other Increases	(0.30)	0.00
Total Increases	**(41,874.27)**	**21,744.00**
Decreases		
Unspent Grant Reserve	(10,624.00)	0.00
Total Decreases	**(10,624.00)**	**0.00**
Total Equity	**226,885.73**	**279,384.00**

Orienteering ACT Incorporated
ABN: 13 411 591 285

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Account	2025	2024
Operating Activities		
Profit for the year	(41,873.97)	7,914.00
Adjustments of Operatring Activities		
Accrued Income	(2,114.01)	(390.64)
Accrued Interest	(4,743.44)	0.00
Inventories	1,522.00	(2,639.00)
Prepaid Expenses	(8,430.53)	(336.01)
Accounts Receivables	3,268.95	3,685.00
Non-Current Assets	52,462.00	8,320.54
Member's Loan	1,910.19	421.64
ATO Activity Statement Account	2,455.00	(1,537.00)
GST Payable	(43.78)	(261.27)
PAYG Payables	1,088.00	0.00
Trade Payables	13,771.94	2,214.12
Superannuation Payable	(697.52)	104.04
Prepaid Memberships & Event Income	669.10	(2,617.34)
Accrued Expenses	(8,064.15)	7,798.52
Provision for Long Service Leave	1,278.84	3,678.78
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	**12,458.62**	**26,355.38**
Investing Activities		
Other cash items from investing activities	0.00	0.00
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	**0.00**	**0.00**
Financing Activities		
Unspent Grant Reserve	(10,624.00)	13,830.00
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	**(10,624.00)**	**13,830.00**
Net Cash Flows	**1,834.62**	**40,185.38**
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	264,422.00	224,236.62
Net change in cash for period	1,834.62	40,185.38
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	266,256.62	264,422.00

Annex B – Achievement against OACT Strategic Plan 2025-2030

The following assesses OACT's achievements to date against the strategic Initiatives.

Strategic Pillar	How to Win Strategy	Strategic Action	Foundation (Years 1-2)	Status as at end 2025
1. Participation and Community Growth	**1.a. Increase accessibility by promoting local events and reducing travel barriers, especially for children and youth.**	1.a.i. Host initial sprint series in partnership with schools	Run sprint series in suburban hubs and track attendance	Sprint series run winter 2025 & summer 2025/26, using school and community locations.
	1.b. Develop and implement pathways for newcomers, youth and high performance athletes to build skills and confidence, ensuring long-term engagement and group inclusivity.	1.b.i. Run after-school "Learn to Orienteer" sessions	Partner with 2 local schools, hold regular workshops	L2O sessions run in conjunction with regular series. Discover Orienteering session held
		1.b.ii. Establish structured coaching programs for junior and senior high-performance athletes by Year 2	Establish a mentorship program that pairs junior athletes with senior or elite competitors by Year 2	To be looked at in 2026, (Year 2)
	1.c. Rebrand orienteering as an adventurous, family-friendly activity, countering perceptions of the sport.	1.c.i. Engage with a wider community to raise awareness of the sport.	Deliver at least 3 Learn-to-Orienteer (L2O) programs each year at locations accessible to the wider community. Attend at least 2 community fairs each year, where orienteering can be demonstrated.	At least 3 L2O sessions held.
		1.c.ii. Host themed events with adventure focus, including creating an Annual Weekend of events on the March Canberra Day Long Weekend.	Nil for years 1-2 as focus will be on delivering the Oceania Championships in 2026 and a round of the National Orienteering League	Capital-O planned for March 2026
2. Volunteer Development and Event Excellence	**2.a. Create volunteer pipelines with clear roles and training, to alleviate workload on existing contributors and attract new helpers.**	2.a.i. Launch volunteer onboarding program with clear role descriptions targeting Controllers, Course Setters, Mappers, and Coaches	Hold annual introduction workshops for coaches, controllers, course setters and mappers	Workshop held for Controllers/Course Setters Procedure document for Organisers for Saturday Metro and Wednesday Twilight series updated.
		2.a.ii. Recognise volunteer contributions and work with OA to develop a volunteer recognition plan, that is applicable for OACT, sustainable	Year 1 - Develop, in conjunction with OA, the Orienteering Volunteer Recognition Plan Year 2- Implement the Plan and seek feedback	Awaiting action by OA.

Strategic Pillar	How to Win Strategy	Strategic Action	Foundation (Years 1-2)	Status as at end 2025
		and is practical to implement.		
	2.b. Simplify event organisation processes and use technology to support efficient delivery.	2.b.i. Implement digital tools to reduce time-consuming tasks	Implement electronic Entre-on-the-Day (EOD) registration at selected events	Electronic EOD implemented
		2.b.ii. Invest in mapping technology to ease volunteer workloads	Secure funding for technology based mapping tools and pilot the use of the tools.	Drone & LIDAR unit purchased. Pilots have been trained
	2.c. Enhance event appeal with diverse and modernised formats to better engage participants while ensuring safety and inclusiveness.	2.c.i. Deliver a variety of events catering for a range of participants from newcomers to elites in both Foot-O and MTBO	Review the annual program of events to determine the optimum number of events, ensuring event quality over quantity, offering variety and being resource and financially sustainable.	Variety of events provided. Budgets required for major events and cost of running event information made available. More work is required in 2026 to maintain the quality of events, particularly Saturday Metro and Wednesday Twilight events.
3. Financial and Organisational Sustainability	**3.a. Strengthen financial viability and diversify revenue streams by exploring sponsorships, partnerships, and innovative cost-recovery models.**	3.a.i. Develop diversified income strategy	In conjunction with OA seek sponsorship and/or partnership opportunities. Maintain eligibility for grants and actively pursue grant applications.	Successful in applying for grants from ACT Gov't. Grants obtained from Moira Whiteside Bequest for Oceania 2026 and supplementing the purchase of the drone and LIDAR unit. No other sponsorship
		3.a.ii. Strengthen partnerships with landowners and ACT Parks	Formalise consultation processes with mutual benefits	Ongoing, good relationship
	3.b. Implement and communicate governance practices that support sustainability and affordability.	3.b.i. Implement and document financial governance routines, and communicate to administration and management personnel	Establish an annual financial review and transparent budget updates	New auditor has been engaged who can give a new view on account management. Transaction reports tabled at every Board meeting
	3.c. Establish adaptive risk management frameworks for long-term sustainability.	3.c.i. Conduct risk assessment of factors that could impact our current and future ability to hold events and govern the organisation	Review organisational risks affecting capacity as well as including issues related to climate, urban growth, and demographics. Build mitigation plans	Board has assessed that a detailed Risk Management Plan is not required. Risks are being appropriately evaluated and managed.
		3.c.ii. Formalise a regular audit, risk and finance management routine	Year 1 - Establish a Finance, Audit & Risk Sub-Committee. Year 2- Implement 6 monthly reviews of Finance, Audit & Risks	A dedicated Finance, Risk & Audit Committee has been assessed as not required. To be overseen by the Board

Strategic Pillar	How to Win Strategy	Strategic Action	Foundation (Years 1-2)	Status as at end 2025
4. Innovation and Awareness	**4.a. Modernise through digital tools that enhance event administration, mapping and volunteer and participant experiences.**	4.a.i. Launch digital tools for event administration, safety of competitors, results display and mapping	Introduce a variety of technologies to increase the production of new maps and quality of existing maps. Implement radio tracking of athletes as they visit control sites, using the Mesh-O radio network, or similar system	Mesh-O equipment purchased and used at several types of events. Nil outcomes to date on new technology to produce maps
	4.b. Increase sport visibility by targeting schools, families, and outdoor enthusiasts.	4.b.i. Offer accredited teacher and scout leader workshops for Orienteering ACT	In conjunction OA develop and pilot a TQI-accredited workshop.	Not yet actioned. To be assessed as whether feasible.
		4.b.ii. Increase visibility through targeted outreach via social media.	Launch 3 campaigns promoting adventure, exploration, and fun	Social media campaigns commenced.
	4.c. Leverage partnerships with other States' orienteering organisations, and like-minded organisations.	4.c.i. Run combined events with Orienteering NSW (ONSW)	Hold 2 weekends of high quality events each year that are dual OACT / ONSW events. Share equipment with other States where it is beneficial to do so with no detriment to OACT's conduct of our event program.	2025 ACT LD & MD Champs were included as ONSW SL events. 2026 ACT LD Champs will be an ONSW event. In 2025 and 2026 a couple of ONSW events were also listed as OACT AL events

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 2025 were: Adult Member $75 pa and Junior Member $15 pa. Juniors born 2013 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.

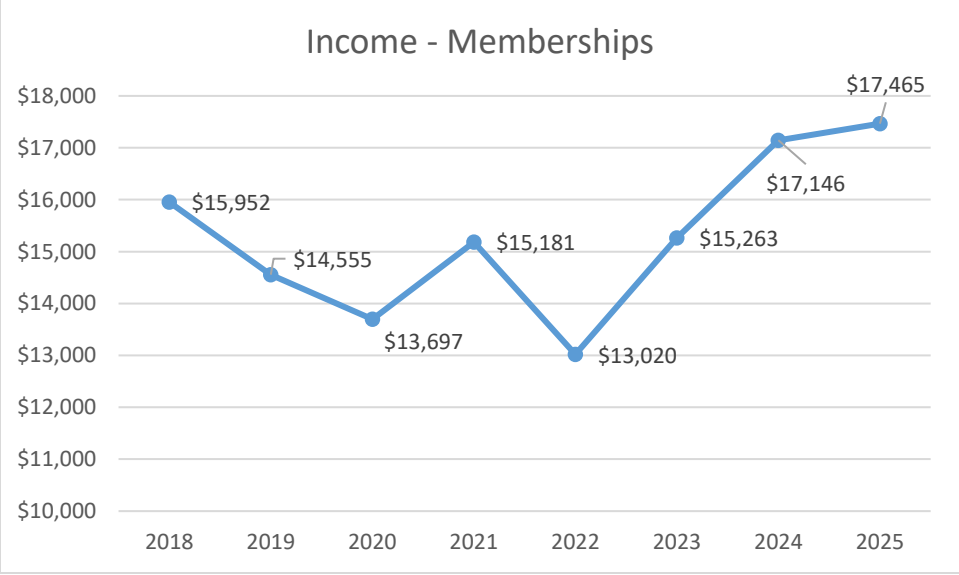
Number of Members

	Junior	Senior	Master	Veteran	Total 2025		Total 2024	Total 2023	Total 2022	Total 2021
AO-A	10	1	21	8	40		48	45	57	56
BS-A	60	21	69	15	165		139	126	155	168
PO-A	47	9	40	32	128		92	90	100	125
RR-A	82	15	62	15	174		141	141	146	133
WE-A							18	16	14	21
Total	**199**	**46**	**192**	**70**	**507**		**438**	**418**	**472**	**503**
CAS-A	27	26	43	5	101		36	105	61	20
Total	**212**	**72**	**235**	**75**	**608**		**474**	**523**	**533**	**523**

OACT's membership for 2025 was 47% Female and 53% Male.

Annual Income from Memberships

The income from memberships for 2025 was $17,465.



Events & Participations

The table below shows participations at OACT events for 2025 with comparisons to 2024 and 2023.

Event Type	Number of Events	Total Participations	Avg Participation per Event - 2025	Avg Participation per Event - 2024	Avg Participation per Event - 2023
ACT League	8	1267	158	141	134
ACT Relays	1	38	38	40	31
Saturday Metro	12	1498	125	113	127
Wednesday Twilight	14	1571	112	116	125
Sunday Sprint	20	1867	93	102	84
Wednesday Midday	15	319	21	20	17
Street-O, including MapRun	45	1896	42	50	52
MTBO	7	360	51	51	56
Ski-O	1	27	27	39	31
SC-ORE	8	712	89	75	80
Primary School Champs	1	61	61	29	26
TOTAL	**132**	**9654**	**73**		
Total 2024	**129**	**9881**	**77**		
Total 2023	**124**	**12063**	**97**		
Total 2022	**124**	**10090**	**82**		
Total 2021	**112**	**10791**	**96**		
Total 2020	**102**	**10530**	**103**		

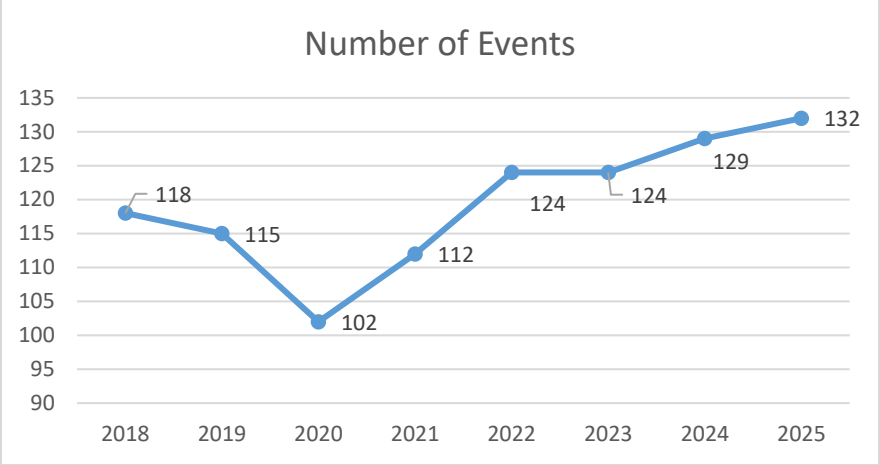
Notes:

a. Data sourced from Eventor.
b. Even though events were cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID restrictions, because people couldn't travel, when events could be held, the numbers attending were high.
c. 2023 Total Participations were boosted by OACT hosting the National Easter 3-Day Carnival.
d. 2024 Total Participations included 801 participations for the Australian MTBO Championship events.
e. Accurate data was not available from Eventor for the number of unique participants at the ACT Relays. Eventor records the number of teams. Participation numbers are 70 (2025), 87 (2024) and 62 (2023).

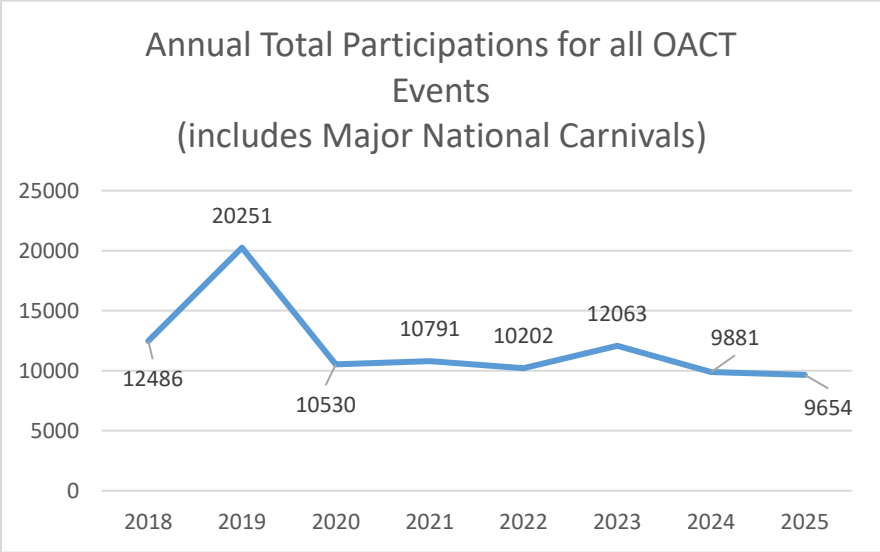
The Total Participations and Average Participations per event in 2025 are slightly down on previous years, due to OACT not hosting a major national Championship Carnival. When looking at events, other than major national Championships, participation numbers are similar to previous post-COVID years. The annual participations have settled around 9000-10000 as the post COVID norm. This is 20% down on pre-COVID numbers, particularly for the Saturday Metro and Wednesday Twilight series.

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 40% discount on event entry fees across a series of events.

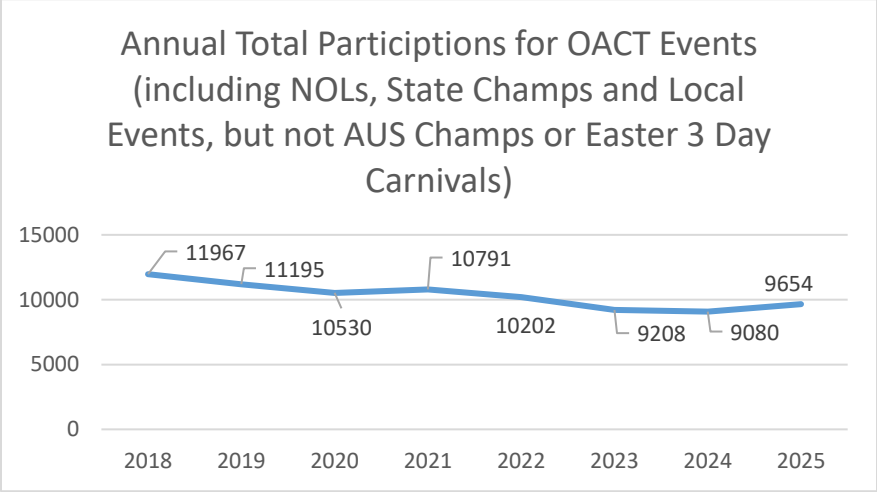
The following graphs show year by year trends for all of OACT's event types.



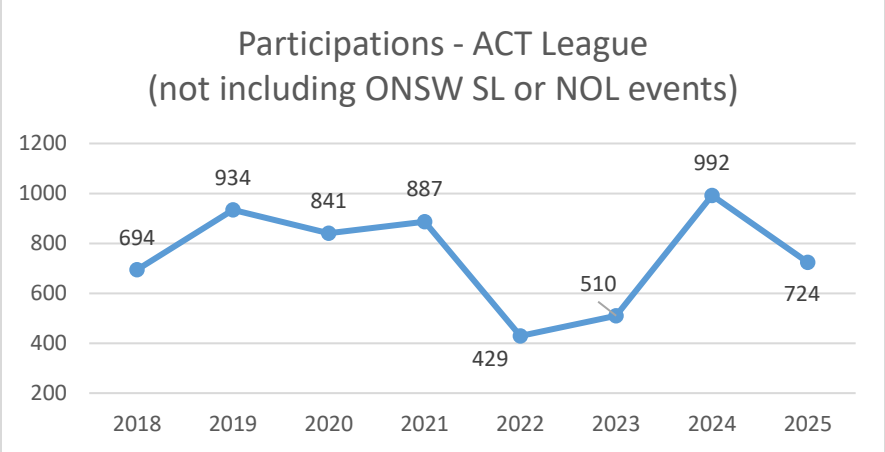
Note: At 132 events, this is the highest number of events ever held by OACT in a calendar year.

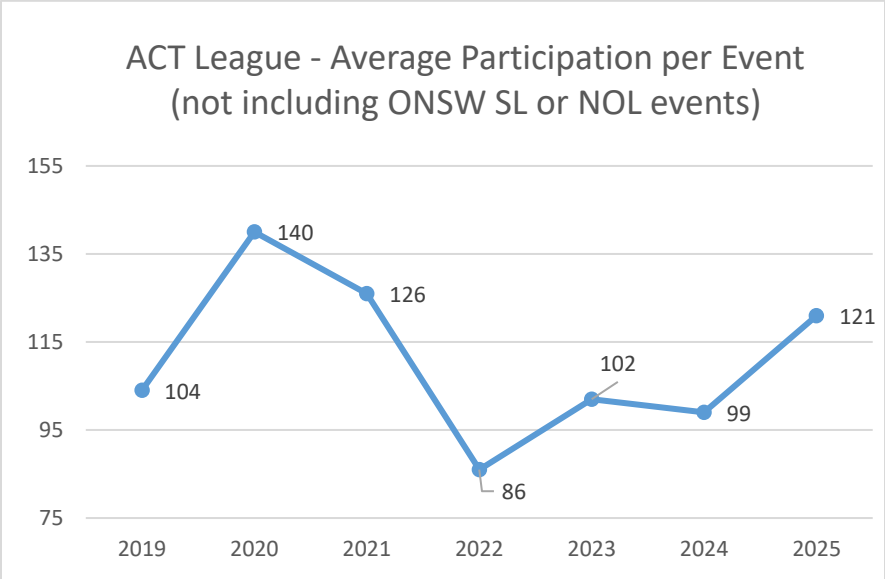


Note: Major Carnivals were held in 2019 (Oceania), 2023 (Easter 3-Day) & 2024 (AUS MTBO)

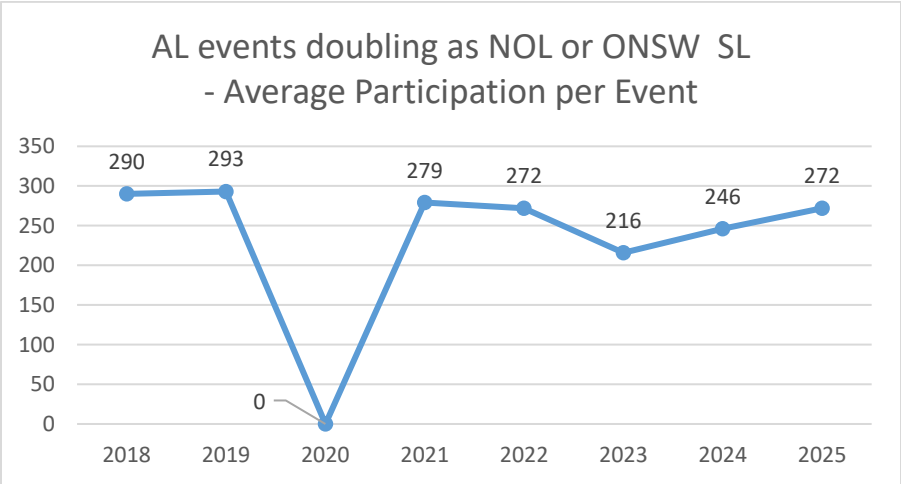


Note: 9654 participations for 2025 was in a year without a major Championship Carnival.

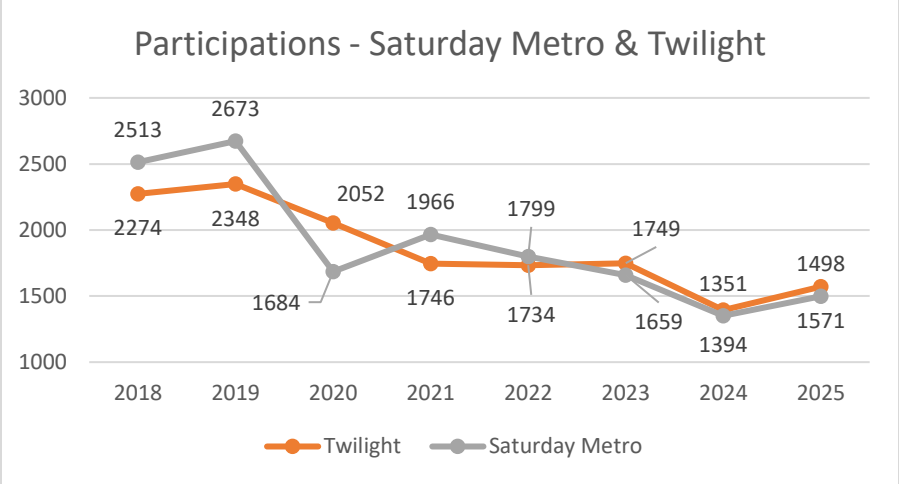


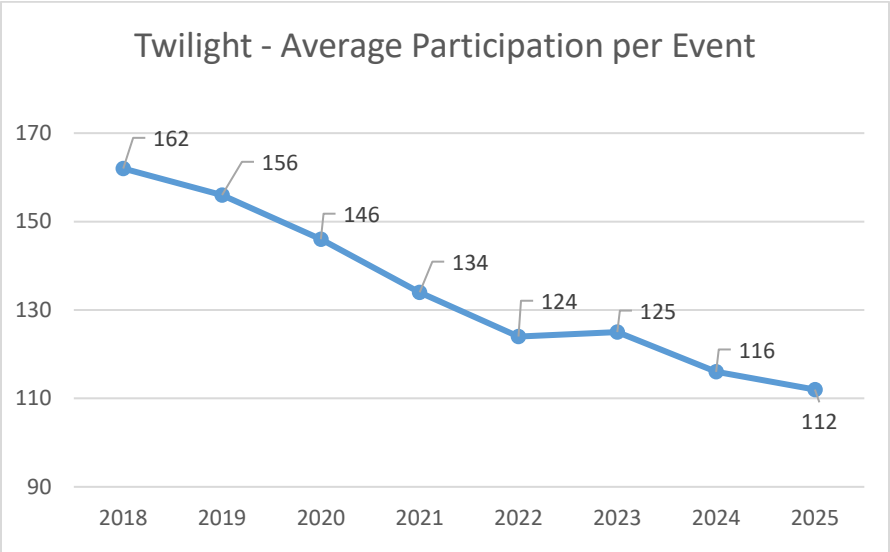


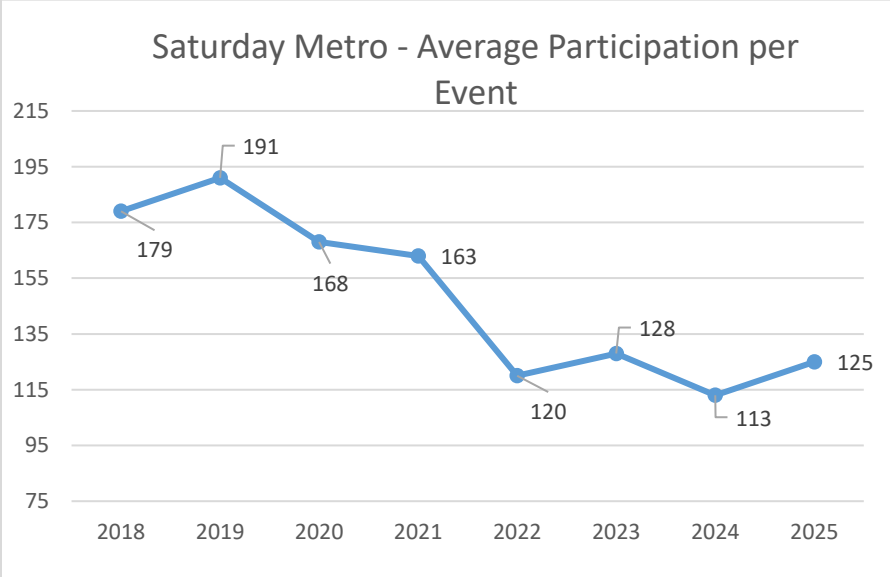
Note: Good quality ACT League events on new maps or in interesting locations attract participants. It takes considerable effort and time to organise ACT League events, but the total and average participations for these events remains strong; attracting the more experienced orienteers.



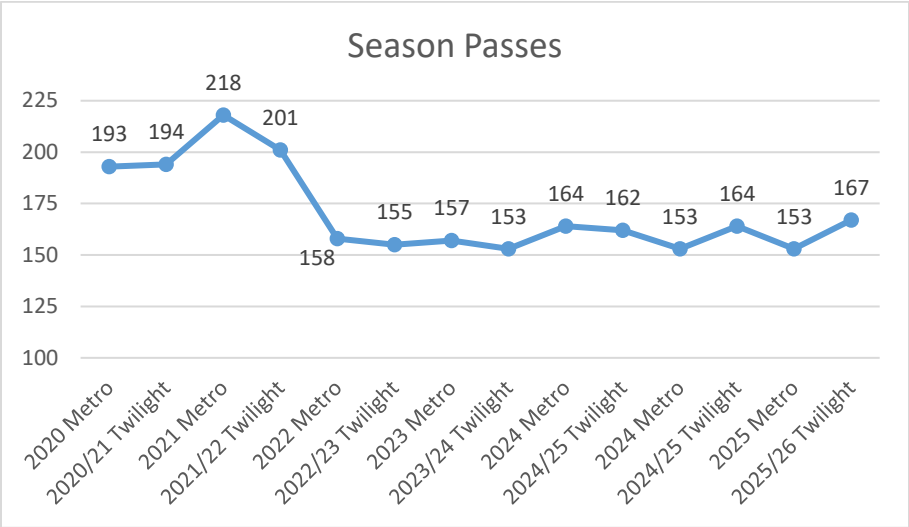
Note: Aside from major national Championship events, the best attended and most competitive events are those run by OACT in conjunction with the National Orienteering League or the ONSW State League.



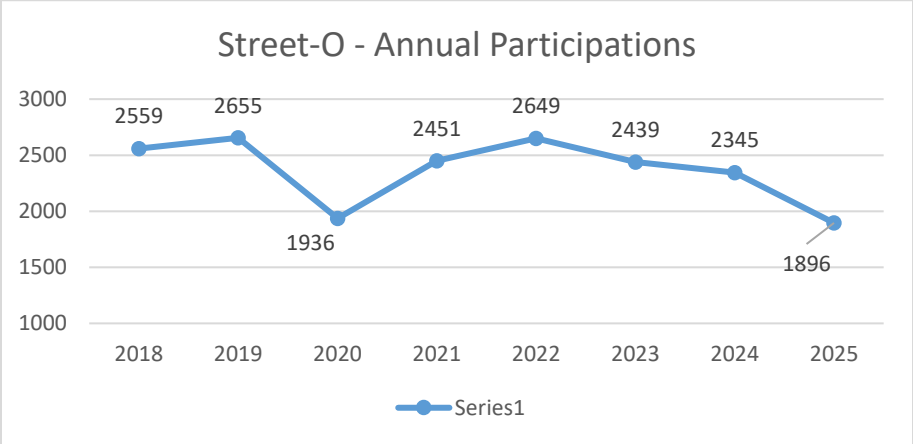


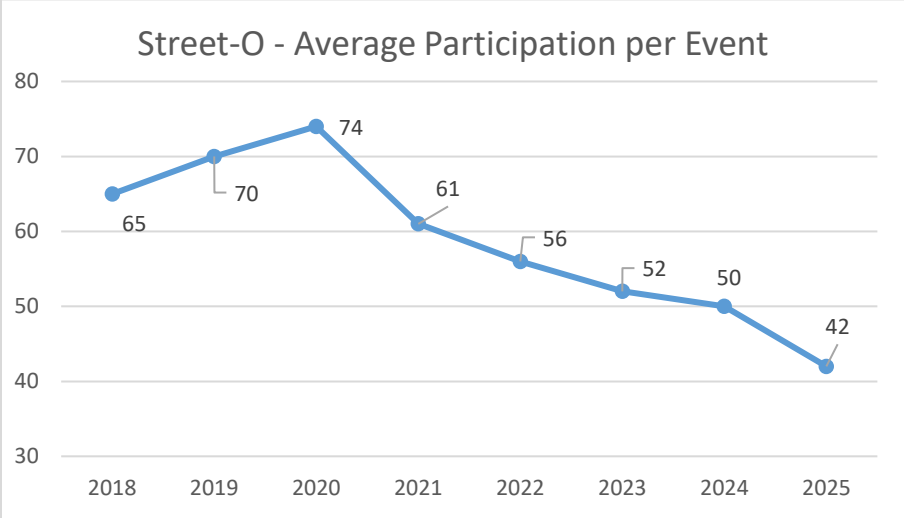


Note: The drop in participations for Saturday Metro is primarily a consequence of several schools dropping orienteering from their Saturday sports program. The drop in participations for Wednesday Twilight seems to be a combination of factors: hot weather, locations that have become less suitable for orienteering, overuse of locations, drop in quality of events, and time seems now to be less convenient for families.

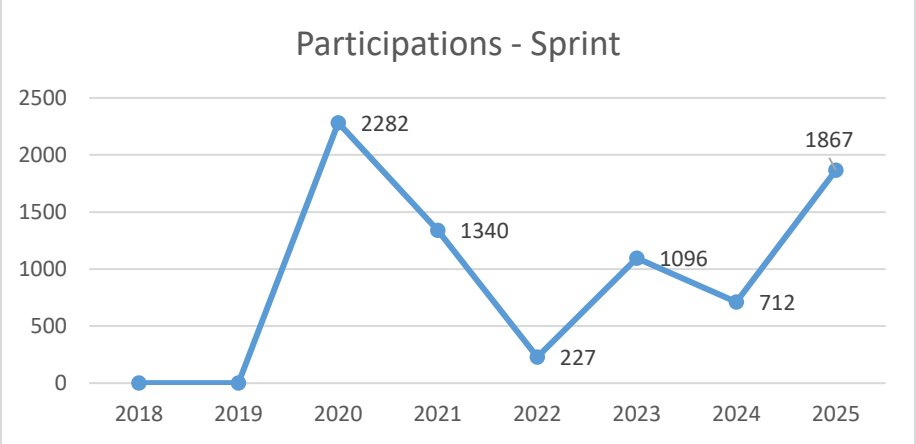


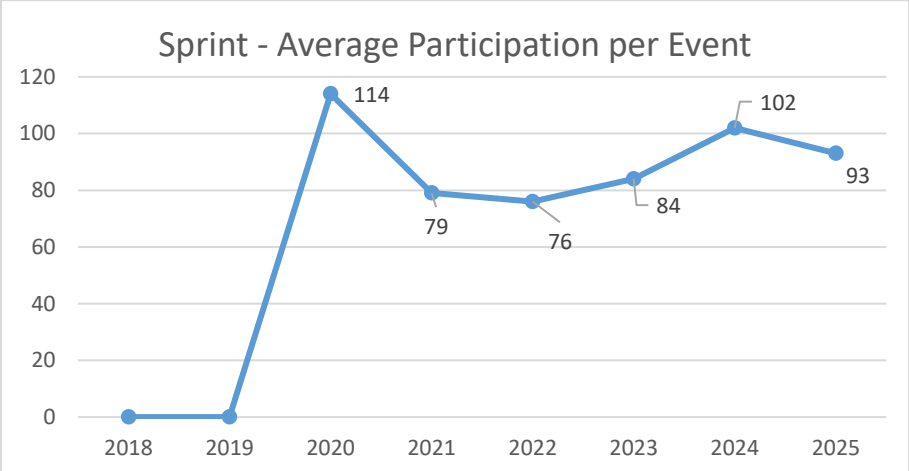
Note: Even though the average number of participations per event for Saturday Metro & Wednesday Twilight have dropped, the number of participants purchasing Season Passes, post COVID, is steady. Even though OACT is getting less people at events, it hasn't adversely affected the income from Season Passes.



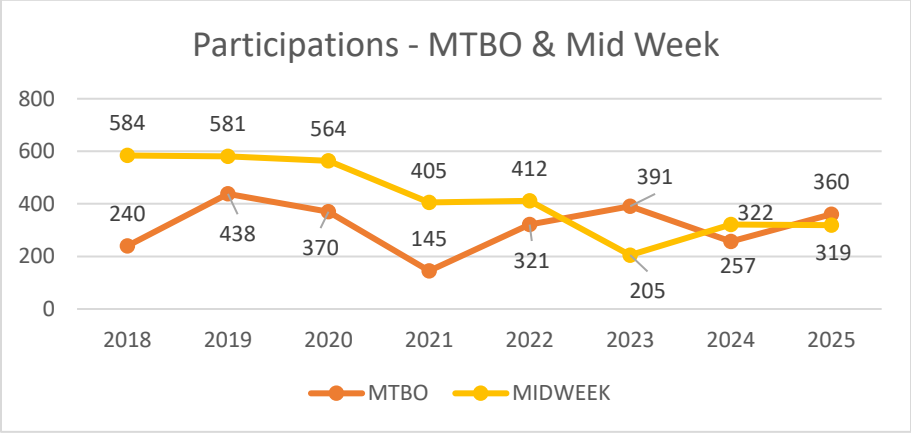


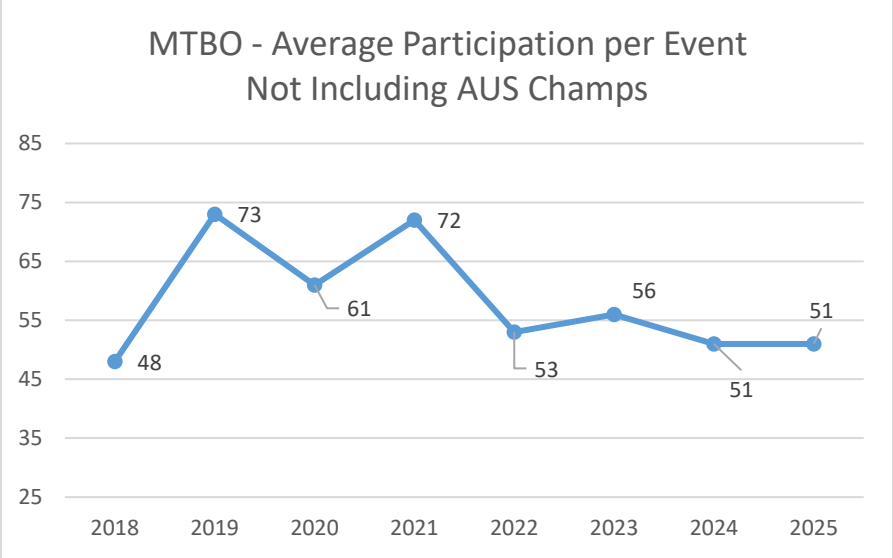
Note: Street-O remains popular for a small cohort of regular participants, however the year-on-year drop in average participations per event will need to be looked at in 2026, to revitalise this once very popular type of event.



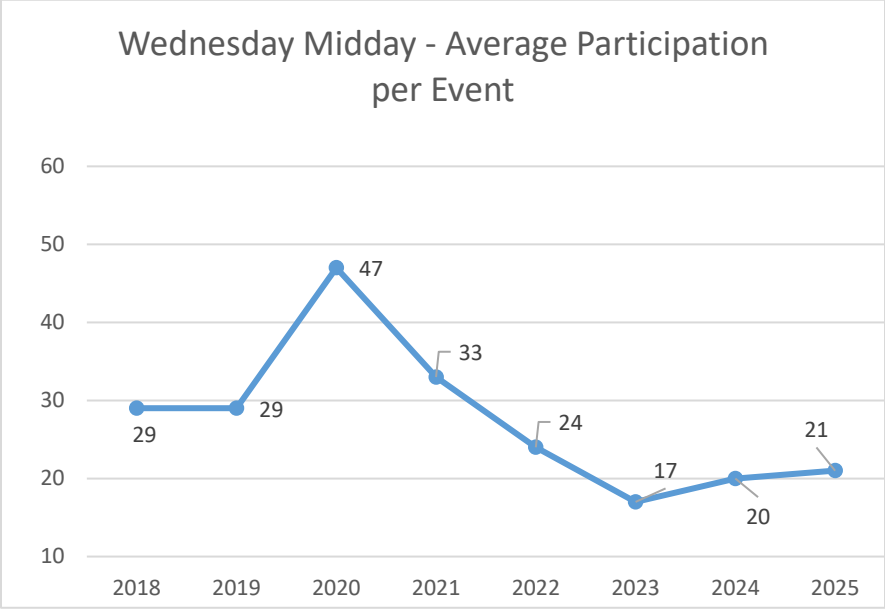


Note: In 2025 OACT held two Sunday morning sprint series: the usual summer sprints as well as a winter series. The events are popular as they are short duration, fixed time, within Canberra, safe for all ages, very competitive, especially for the school age and junior elite athletes, and given the day and time, many find these events a good time to socialise, rather than racing off home. The success of the sprints is dependent on continued access to schools, campuses and institutions.

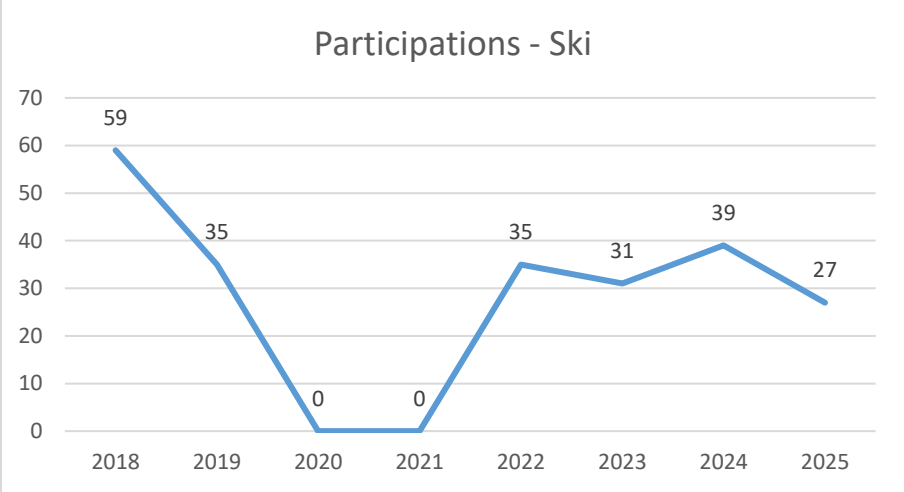




Note: Various initiatives to enhance MTBO have been used along with extensive marketing. Participation numbers post COVID remain steady at around 51-56, which seems to be the new baseline.



Note: Wednesday Midday events from May – September appeal to a small group, of mostly the older orienteers. There is a question mark on the viability of running these events as it does take effort and the numbers attending are low. The situation for the past couple of years has been if there are volunteers who want to run these events, at no detriment to resources and effort for other mainstream events, then the Wednesday midday series will continue.



Note: One event is held, usually in August coinciding with the Perisher Cross-Country Ski week. It is a novelty event, with low numbers participating. As with the Wednesday midday series, if there are volunteers who are keen to organise the Ski-O event and it is cost neutral for OACT, then the event will continue, snow permitting.

Participations by Individuals

The following table shows the top 20 individuals with the highest number of event participations in 2025.

1	Carol Harding	111		11	Valerie Barker	68
2	Michael Tedeschi	91		12	Pat Miethke	67
3	Michael Burt	77		13	Lawrie Brown	65
4	Liz Dunbar	86		14	Peter Antcliff	64
5	John Harding	80		15	Arthur Watson	61
6	Jon Glanville	79		16	Bill Jones	60
7	Jennifer Webb	76		17	Anthony Slatyer	58
8	Keith Fifield	73		= 18	Nicole Thomas	57
= 9	Nikolaus Elz	71		= 18	Bryant Allen	57
= 9	Tony Garr	71		20	Lisa McLaughlin	55

The Carol Harding's 111 participations is the highest number recorded in a calendar year.

Participations by Gender and Age

	Females	Males	Total
Overall	41.7%	58.3%	100%
Sub-Junior (<13)	5.6%	3.5%	9.1%
Junior (13-20)	5.5%	9.3%	14.8%
Senior (21-34)	2.9%	6.0%	8.9%
Master (35-64)	18.0%	20.4%	38.4%
Veteran (>64)	9.7%	19.1%	28.8%

The data on participations by Gender and Age came from 9654 participations where Gender and Age were recorded. There were 1238 participations where Age and/or Gender were not recorded, which is an improvement on previous years data. These participants are typically for events such as Street-O, SC-ORE and Come-and-Try.

There were 1287 names recorded for participation in OACT held events in 2025. This is not the same as unique participants because it includes teams where some team members may also be individual entrants for other events. The number of unique participants is difficult to determine with total accuracy, but it is estimated to be around 1100.

Of the 1287 entries, 425 did 5 or more events. It can be surmised that OACT had about 425 regular orienteers. The other 862 entrants were made up of interstate orienteers attending less than 5 OACT events plus casual orienteers who attended infrequently.

269 participants attended 10 or more events, compared to 264 for 2024. 148 attended 20 or more events; 95 attended 30 or more events; 45 attended 40 or more events, and 25 attended 50 or more events.

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 2025, the Sub-Committee members and Series Co-ordinators were:

Co-ordinator:	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:	Rob Walter & Sam Wilson
Street-O Series:	John Harding
Wednesday Midday:	vacant
MTBO & Ski-O:	Marina Iskhakova

Controllers

Controller accreditation is managed at two levels. OACT accredits controllers at Level 1 and 2 while OA manages accreditation at Level 3. During 2025, four evening workshops were held to cover requirements up to Controller Level 2 accreditation. 19 people attended the workshops with a view to accrediting at Level 1 or re-accrediting at a current or higher level.

At end 2025, OACT had six Level 1 controllers, sixteen Level 2 controllers and three Level 3 controllers. Fedor Iskhakov and Marina Iskhakova were accredited as Level 2 controllers for both Foot-O and MTBO. The list of accredited controllers is below.

Accreditation	Member name	Gender identity	State/Territory	Club	Expiry
Controller Accreditation: Level 1	Andrew Cheffers	M	ACT	Weston Emus	Tue 31 Dec 2030
Controller Accreditation: Level 1	Bryant Allen	M	ACT	Parawanga Orienteers	Fri 30 Nov 2029
Controller Accreditation: Level 1	Colleen Mock	F	ACT	Parawanga Orienteers	Tue 30 Jun 2026
Controller Accreditation: Level 1	David Stocks	M	ACT	Bushflyers	Sun 30 Sep 2029
Controller Accreditation: Level 1	Edith Gray	F	ACT	Abominable O-Men	Fri 30 Jun 2028
Controller Accreditation: Level 1	Valerie Barker	F	ACT	Bushflyers	Mon 31 Dec 2029
Controller Accreditation: Level 2	Cath Chalmers	F	ACT	Big Foot Orienteering Club	Fri 30 Nov 2029
Controller Accreditation: Level 2	Eoin Rothery	M	ACT	Big Foot Orienteering Club	Fri 31 Jul 2026
Controller Accreditation: Level 2	Fedor Iskhakov	M	ACT	Red Roos	Tue 31 Dec 2030
MTBO Controller Accreditation: MTBO 2	Fedor Iskhakov	M	ACT	Red Roos	Wed 31 Jan 2029
Controller Accreditation: Level 2	Grant McDonald	M	ACT	Abominable O-Men	Tue 31 Dec 2030
Controller Accreditation: Level 2	Jo Allison	F	ACT	Red Roos	Tue 31 Dec 2030
Controller Accreditation: Level 2	Jon Glanville	M	ACT	Parawanga Orienteers	Wed 31 Dec 2031
Controller Accreditation: Level 2	Keith Fifield	M	ACT	Red Roos	Fri 31 Jul 2026
Controller Accreditation: Level 2	Mace Neve	F	ACT	Red Roos	Tue 31 Dec 2030
Controller Accreditation: Level 2	Marina Iskhakova	F	ACT	Red Roos	Tue 31 Dec 2030
MTBO Controller Accreditation: MTBO 2	Marina Iskhakova	F	ACT	Red Roos	Wed 31 Jan 2029
Controller Accreditation: Level 2	Matthew Stocks	M	ACT	Bushflyers	Sun 31 Dec 2028
Controller Accreditation: Level 2	Michael Burt	M	ACT	Bayside Kangaroos Orienteering Club	Sun 31 Dec 2028
Controller Accreditation: Level 2	Phil Walker	M	ACT	Parawanga Orienteers	Fri 30 Nov 2029
Controller Accreditation: Level 2	Ross Stewart	M	ACT	Bushflyers	Sun 31 Mar 2030
Controller Accreditation: Level 2	Shannon Jones	F	ACT	Abominable O-Men	Tue 31 Dec 2030
Controller Accreditation: Level 2	Tate Needham	M	ACT	Red Roos	Fri 30 Nov 2029
Controller Accreditation: Level 2	Toni Brown	F	ACT	Bushflyers	Wed 31 Dec 2031
Controller Accreditation: Level 3	Ann Scown	F	ACT	Abominable O-Men	Mon 31 Dec 2029
Controller Accreditation: Level 3	David Hogg	M	ACT	Parawanga Orienteers	Mon 31 Dec 2029
Controller Accreditation: Level 3	John Scown	M	ACT	Abominable O-Men	Mon 31 Dec 2029

List dated 26th December 2025

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. All other events do benefit where an experienced orienteer, who may or may not be an accreditated controller, assists the course setter and oversees the event.

Course Setters, Organisers and Controllers

OACT members contribute what they can to the various roles involved in conducting events. This includes course setter, organiser, vetter/controller for events as well as set-up, registration, pack-up and control collecting for all types of events. The most time consuming and detailed events to course set, organise and control are the ACT League events hosted by OACT. OACT thanks the following members for their time, effort and knowledge in delivering the ACT League events for 2025.

Date	Location	Course Setter	Organiser	Controllers
16 March	Australian National Botanic Gardens – ACT Sprint Champs	Bryant Allen	Nat Smith & Andy Hogg	Phil Walker
5 April	Cooma – ACT Middle Distance Champs	Mace Neve & Ben Rattray	Phoebe Dent	Cath Chalmers
6 April	Nimittabel – ACT Long Distance Champs	Grant McDonald	Ann Scown	John Scown
18 May	Tidbinbilla	Rohan Hyslop	Andrew Cumming Thom	Jon Glanville
31 May	Tin Hut (Googong)	Michael Burt	Jonathon Ricks	vacant
22 Jun	Picaree Hill	Chris Stocks	Valerie Barker	Matt Stocks
3 Aug	The Gib	Natalie Miller	Alison Inglis	vacant
21 Sep	Glendale	David Penton	Chris Anderson	Ross Stewart

Coaches

Coach accreditation is managed at two levels. OACT accredits coaches for Orienteering Instructor (Community), and OA manages the accreditation for 'Learn to Play', 'Competition' and 'Performance'. Accredited coaches as at end 2025 were:

Accreditation Level	Name	Expiry
Orienteering Instructor (Community)	Andrew Cheffers	13 December 2029
Orienteering Instructor (Community)	Susanne Harrysson	20 January 2030
Orienteering Instructor (Community)	Ken Mansell	10 December 2028
Orienteering Instructor (Community)	David Stocks	6 December 2028
Learn & Play	David Poland	31 May 2030
Learn & Play	David Stocks	30 November 2029
Learn & Play	Paul de Jongh	29 February 2028
Competition	Kelvin Meng	31 August 2029
Performance	Marina Iskhakova	31 August 2029

Toni Brown was accredited as a Performance, Competition and Learn & Play coach for the majority of 2025.