



Peninsula and Plains Orienteers – The 4th decade in review

Although this talk is about the last decade, I was interested to check out my first PAPO event just over 36 years ago. In November 1980, 12 members of the Dunedin Orienteering Club travelled north to the Canterbury Champs at Orton Bradley. I was 5th in M21A, beaten by Graham Frith who had represented NZ at WOC in 1978, Dave Laurie, Graham Boniface and Andy Buchanan. Eileen Frith also a NZ rep at WOC won W21A. There were 72 competitors. Of those who were there that day, I believe that only Dave, Andy, myself and Ken Dowling, also from DOC, but now in Australia, are still active orienteers, although Ross Stanton and Graham Frith both showed up at an event last year.

In 2007 orienteering in Christchurch was still using clip cards and master maps for most events. The club trailer was the orange and white vinyl top trailer which lived at Dave Armstrong's house along with a garage full of club canvas tents and other gear. I had already been president for a couple of years. The Bottle Lake / Spencerville / Pegasus map, recently revised by Michael Wood, was a cornerstone of PAPO activity. While PAPO already made good use of a club website, we still received a monthly hardcopy PAPO newsletter, including results, event reports, details of forthcoming events, club news and a little humour.

The Smith, Harding and Cleary families were yet to join PAPO, but some familiar faces were doing well. Michael Smithson won M21E and Georgia Whitla won W21E in the Canterbury Champs Long distance. Ed and Katie Cory-Wright won M10 and W10.

Major change was about to happen though with the purchase of SportIdent and computer equipment funded by the Canterbury Community Trust and Mainland Foundation. It arrived just in time for the NZ Secondary Schools Championships held on the Pines Beach and Woodend maps. Chrissie Williams was the lead organiser for the event. Tim Farrant, Conal Boland-Bristow, David Wright were running in the Senior Boys grade

It was a typically busy year for PAPO. We held 7 OY events, 11 club events, 4 twilight score events, 5 MTBO events, the CCC Bottle Lake fun day, the New Zealand Secondary Schools Orienteering Championship and Relays, the Canterbury Schools Championship, the South Island Schools Championship, the Canterbury Championships, the Heights of Winter Rogaine, and a family training camp. We also hosted the national junior and development squad training camps.



In fact 2007's 38 events was surpassed in the next 3 years with 44, 45 and 42 events. We hit 42 events again in 2015. Over 10 years we organised about 374 events. There was a degree of burnout though. The Canterbury champs had to be cancelled in 2008 because we could not get an event controller.

In 2008 the committee decided that SportIdent would be used for all OY and championship events and some club events. OCad and Condes would be used to produce pre-printed courses. PAPO membership peaked at 287 in 2008.

For small group lead by Stuart Payne 2008 was dominated by preparation for the Oceania carnival held in January 2009. The carnival had 10 events on 7 maps in 9 days with over 1000 km between locations from Caanan Downs on Takaha Hill to Naseby. PAPO ran events on 3 new maps, Lincoln University, Craigieburn Cutting and Kairaki, and PAPO members had major roles in most of the other events too.

In 2009 Richard Hensby took over as club President and we had the Event Centre Caravan built, again with major funding from the Canterbury Community Trust.

2010 saw the first of the twilight sprint series; follow-up events to the Central Otago nationals with events on the Pukaki, Tekapo and Craigieburn maps; the Canterbury Champs on a new McQueens Pass map; and the Harding family begin orienteering.

2011 started with 1609 participants at the CCC Fun Day on February 20th. Unfortunately after the devastating February 22nd earthquake we lost access to most of our Port Hills maps and much of Bottle Lake Forest. I stood in as acting club president and we still managed to hold 35 events, including 7 at McLeans Island! With fewer sporting options available in Christchurch most events were well attended and the Smith family became keen orienteers. In September the serious injury to and helicopter evacuation of Graeme Garden from Acheron raised awareness of Health and Safety and emergency plans.

In January 2012 PAPO played a lead role in the Otago MTBO carnival, incorporating an Australia New Zealand MTBO challenge, and the warmup MTBO events in Christchurch. Bryan Jenkins became PAPO president.

2013 was the year of the NZ champs, with organisation spearheaded by Jan Harrison. We held the sprint at Ferrymead, middle distance at Tuhaitara, long distance on an extended Dalethorpe ++, and a spectacular relay among the rocks on the Kura Tawhiti map at Castle Hill. Disaster struck again in September when the windstorm made many forests unsafe and required postponement of the school champs and a hastily reorganised programme.



In 2014 Richard Smith stepped up as President and at the end of the year we held the NZ MTBO champs at Hanmer Springs.

Tour de Peninsula, instigated by Chris Forne with 8 events in 3 days over Waitangi weekend was the highlight of 2015, but we will be wary of taking on anything as logistically challenging again. Introducing orienteering and developing skills in younger children was a focus in 2015. The Kiwisport Schools program, led by Jean Cory-Wright reached 1800 children at 15 schools and the Year 5-8 camp instigated by Jenni and Carsten was very popular.

A significant development in 2016 was the new gear shed and home for the caravan on Suzanne Whyte and Justin Corey's property on Marshland Road. The highlight of the year was the Alpine O weekend and the first use of the long awaited Hogsback map. PAPO also hosted the NZ Secondary Schools Rogaine, the ONZ Junior camp, U23 squad camp and another Year 5-8 camp.

I would also like to note with sadness the passing of prominent club members Tom Barnfield in 2007, Wayne Osmers in 2010, Gaye-Lynn Dowling (Boniface) in 2011, John Davies in 2014, and Gordon Smith in 2016.

Throughout the decade many PAPO members have had many international and national successes. At the NZ champs, PAPO teams have won the Mixed Long relay 5 times, and the Mixed Short relay 6 times along with numerous individual titles. PAPO orienteers have regularly been represented in WOC, JWOC, Schools and ANZ challenge teams. In the World Rogaining Championships we have had multiple gold medalists and placings. Chris Forne has been the standout orienteer with multiple NZ championship wins, good results at WOC (at the time higher than any other NZ male in sprint, middle and long), along with World Rogaining and Adventure Racing Championship and has been a finalist at the Canterbury Sports Awards multiple times.

Timeline 2007 - 2016

2007

Clip cards and master maps.

New committee structure with portfolios.

Purchase of SportIdent funded by Canterbury community Trust and Mainland Foundation.



NZ Secondary Schools Champs in July at Pines Beach and Woodend Beach – organisation lead by Chrissie Williams. Tim Farrant, Conal B-B, David Wright running Senior Boys.

7 OY events, 11 club events, 4 twilight score events, 5 MTBO events, the CCC Bottle Lake fun day, the New Zealand Secondary Schools Orienteering Championship and Relays, the Canterbury Schools Championship, the South Island Schools Championship, the Canterbury Championships, the Heights of Winter Rogaine, and a family training camp. We have also hosted the national junior and development squad training camps.

Bottle Lake / Spencerville / Pegasus was a cornerstone of PAPO activity revised by Michael Wood.

Michael Smithson won Canterbury Champs (no womens champ). Ed and Katie Cory-Wright winning M10 and W10.

2008

SportIdent used for all OY and championship events and some club events. OCad and Condes used to produce pre-printed courses.

Lots of other events, but Canterbury champs were cancelled.

Membership peaked at 280.

Planning for Oceania lead by Stuart Payne. 3 new maps.

NZ Short relay

2009

Oceania in January with over 500 participants. In all 10 events on 7 maps in 9 days with over 1000 km between locations from Caanan Downs (Nelson) to Naseby. New maps – Craigieburn Cutting, Lincoln University, Kairaki.

Richard Hensby President.

Caravan built – again with major funding from the Canterbury Community Trust.

Curletts Road sprint map.

NZ Short relay

2010



Twilight Sprints

McQueens Pass map

Harding family join PAPO

2011

Earthquake. Lost access to much of Bottle Lake and most Port Hills maps.

AKM president again.

35 events in total 7 events at McLeans Island! Helicopter evac of Graeme Garden from Acheron raised awareness of Health and Safety and emergency plans.

All events, except street events to use SportIdent

New website and newsletter delivered by email.

Smith family join PAPO

NZ Long relay

2012

PAPO played a lead role in the Otago MTBO carnival and warmup events ANZ MTBO challenge events.

Bryan Jenkins president.

2013

NZ champs organisation spearheaded by Jan Harrison Ferrymead, Tuhaitara, Dalethorpe ++, Kura Tawhiti.

Windstorms in September reorganised programme.

NZ Long and Short relay

2014

Richard Smith president



NZ MTBO champs at Hanmer Springs.

NZ Long and Short relays

2015

Tour de Peninsula – 8 events in 3 days!

Kiwisport Schools program reached 1800 children at 15 schools.

Year 5-8 camp instigated by Jenni and Carsten.

New website

NZ Long and Short relay

2016

NZ Secondary Schools Rogaine

Hogsback map and Alpine O weekend.

ONZ Junior camp, U23 squad camp and another yr 5-8 camp.

Gear shed and new home for the caravan.

NZ Long and Short relays

Approx 374 events in 10 years

Throughout the decade many International and National successes. Chris Forne standout orienteer with good results at WOC (at the time higher than any other NZ male in sprint, middle and long), and World Rogaining Champion

Passing of Tom Barnfield 2007, Wayne Osmer 2010, Gaye-Lynn Dowling (Boniface) 2011, John Davies 2014, Gordon Smith 2016