



# Presidents report: August 2019 - July 2020

Last file update: 02.03.2020

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Peninsula and Plains Orienteers

## PAPO President's Report (August 2019- July 2020)

The 2019-2020 was as we all know a year of two halves! Since there was a good chunk of 6 weeks where no events were able to happen, one might have thought the total number of PAPO events was down this year. However, you would be mistaken, in the previous twelve months PAPO has held 29 events when compared with the 26 we held last year. The calendar for 2020 has been based around a different looking OY series, with the aim of finding the best all round Orienteer. Covid-19 has forced the competition and rules to be revisited but we will continue for at least the rest of this year in this format as a trial. Feedback so far has largely been positive, so thanks go to Alan and Iona for instigating this idea.

PAPO has been fairly resilient to the challenges presented by Covid-19. However, one major issue we are facing is the availability of charitable grants. Typically, we rely on Funding Grants to help pay for Map's and Equipment, and maintain a good financial base for a "rainy day". This year it has been raining quite a bit and means that we have had to dip into our cash reserves to keep creating maps and opportunities to play our sport with a view to Oceania.

Oceania was scheduled for January 2021, however given the events of the last two months in Victoria and now Auckland, the Oceania organizing committee has recommended that in consultation with PAPO, that we seek to push the Oceania Champs out until January 2022. The decision at this stage is with ONZ, OA and the IOF. Whatever the final decision is, it is highly unlikely Oceania will go ahead next

year. PAPO has suggested that we will hold some local events in the absence, but this is in the very early discussion stages at this point.

So the last 12 months has actually been quite busy and although it may not look like it on the outside, there has been a lot going on in the background and behind the scenes. I am proud to be part of a club that (even despite differences of opinions) we all work well together to make sure that PAPO is functioning well and full of enthusiasm for the future.

### National Champs

In the 12 months to now there has not been the National Champs yet... These have been postponed (at this stage) until Labour Weekend. The traditional Easter National Champs ended up in the middle of lockdown so with a 4 day staycation instore, Club Captain Briana stepped up to the plate and provided a fantastic set of Orienteering related challenges to keep us all busy! We probably don't need to let everyone know who was the ultimate winner of the 4 day competition was, do we??

### Heights of Winter

It was PAPO's turn to hold Heights of Winter this year and based on the full moon requirements meant that it was pushed into July this year. As we headed into lock down at the end of March, all bets were off as to whether it would happen or not...however taking the optimistic approach,



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the event was able to run in Covid Level 1 restrictions and not even the Level 2 which was planned for. So huge thanks goes to that team of Volunteers who made that happen!

## Equipment

As of yet we have not made any major equipment purchases, in the lead up to Oceania we did plan to increase the number of SI Boxes and Cards. Again, it's pretty obvious why this is still yet to happen. In the past year we had at least heard about less equipment being lost or damaged. So thank you to everyone who has taken that extra little bit of care when handling the club gear.

## International representation

This year there was no international representation for obvious reasons

## Other Happenings

The Smithsons, Farrants, Scotts (and others?) continue to grow our younger Membership base with some new arrivals.

Unfortunately, former PAPO Member Sue McGowen, (wife to Andrew) passed away.

## Membership

PAPO's membership has remained relatively stable with a base of around 250 members. We remain one of the larger clubs in NZ and the South Island.

ONZ has finally got the Nation-wide membership database up and running. We were set to be the first club to use it last year, but ongoing delays at ONZ's end meant that we are now one of the last to uptake it given our different financial year. Again Sport Canterbury has been telling us we are doing a good job – Quote from report: "Orienteering has a good product proposition; it is a year around sport, available to the whole family and very affordable."

## Committee and Non-Committee officers

The PAPO Committee had a number of changes in the last year, but has remained a relatively stable group of 7 or 8. Alan Moore took on the events coordinator role and has done an outstanding job juggling everything, which has been particularly challenging in the last 6 months. Emma Jenkins, while not on the committee itself has been liaising with all of the various landowners in a similar capacity as Alan.

Without these two many of the 30-odd events over the past year would not have been possible, thank you for being on top of things.

Briana Steven has jumped into the role of Club Captain, after Jenni Adams had held the position for a number of years. While the position is technically non-committee, she has become a valuable addition to monthly Committee meetings. Sarah Wright, who did a fantastic job in getting the newsletter up and running has handed over the role after a great couple of years, and Joycelyn Thrower as Membership secretary for as long as I can remember has decided to



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step away from the position, now it's gone digital. George Richardson has also handed over the reins on the OY stats. He is also probably relieved that the membership database is now cloud based and not on the old computer under his desk at home.

## Future

The future is quite fluid at the moment, Oceania may still reside on the horizon, we have committed to a Queens Birthday carnival next year and there are plans in motion for some summer events to come. It's been about 3 and half years since I was dropped in the deep end as President of PAPO. I had only been on the committee for about 2 or 3 meetings before that! I have learned quite a bit in the last few years. I have gained some new skills, and jumped outside my comfort zone (potentially more times than I would have liked!) and had a relatively enjoyable time of it. I said I would be president until we got rid of the paper registration system, which actually happened quite painlessly and quite quickly so I am happy to step aside to allow for a new President next year.

I would like to especially thank Iona as Treasurer and Fiona as Secretary for being the steady hands at the wheel in the background, thanks for your hard work! And one final round of thanks to everyone who helped out and was a part of PAPO this year. Everyone juggles all sorts of different priorities, but you have all taken time to make a contribution to the sport we all love, so that we can all be challenged and enjoy it together. It really is what makes a club such a great community to be a part of.

*Tane Cambridge*

President, Peninsula and Plains Orienteers