

AUSTRALOPERS ORIENTEERING CLUB

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2020

GENERAL:

It is with great pleasure that I submit my report for Australopers Orienteering Club for the calendar year 2020. Given the unexpected arrival of Covid this year we seem to have survived relatively unscathed and it has generally been a good year.

The continued integration of Australopers and WROC has proceeded smoothly and our new Australopers logo, running shirts and wind jackets have been accepted and supported widely.

At the end of 2019 we had 236 financial members which increased to 246 members at the end of 2020 making us amongst Australia's top three clubs by membership. As a club we organised 34 Events, down on the 41 events last year due entirely to a 3 month period of Covid lockdown when no regular events were held. This is still a huge number of events for one club to organise given some mainland clubs are rostered to do 4 or 5 events each year. Our 34 events were made up by 11 Twilight events, 13 local events, 4 statewide events and 6 assorted other events.

During the Covid lockdown we provided "semi permanent" courses which competitors could do individually with results uploaded to Livelox or a spreadsheet of results. These courses were very popular and were downloaded by a very large number of competitors. The scheme was so successful that two additional courses were provided in December 2020, a traditionally quiet period for orienteering.

Some highlights of 2020 were:

- Our membership increased from 236 to 246 members
- At the start of the Covid lockdown we introduced 3 months of "semi permanent" do it yourself orienteering events utilising Livelox and a spreadsheet of results set up by Mike Calder.
- We offered additional "semi permanent" courses in December
- As well as running tops we introduced new running wind jackets
- WE moved all our equipment into the new storage shed at the regatta grounds
- Sadly Easter was postponed so no results there.
- Sadly Aus Champs was postponed so no results there
- We remain financially sound.

FINANCES:

Our Treasurer Julian Roscoe will table the club's financial report for the year separately. In summary, however, we are in an excellent financial position with solid cash reserves.

CLUB MEETINGS:

We held 9 club meetings during the year, all of which were well attended. We have continued the practice of having a guest speaker or subject to follow general business and continued to hold meetings at different members' homes. This year a monthly President's newsletter was continued to keep members informed of club activities and to circulate photos taken at events.

OFFICE BEARERS:

- President: Bert Elson
- Immediate Past President: Sally Wayte
- Secretary: Robyn Chapman
- Treasurer: Julian Roscoe
- Equipment: Martin Bicevskis and Jeff Dunn
- Social: Kim Enkelaar
- Selectors: Gayle West and Karen Wild-Allen
- Membership: Bert Elson
- Volunteer Co-ordinator: Miriam Palmer
- Event Advisor: Sally Wayte / Bert Elson
- Twilight Series Organisers: Mike and Jane Calder
- Results Processing: Jeff Dunn

OTHER PERSONNEL:

In addition to the office bearers I have many to thank.

- Firstly, all our volunteers who have run events and assisted at events.
- Mike and Jane for co-ordinating the twilight series.
- Those members who have welcomed us into their homes for club meetings.
- Cathy McComb and Clare Hawthorne for their efforts in logo design and managing the ordering and distribution of new uniforms.
- Jon McComb and other coaching volunteers.
- Ian Rathbone for improvements to Eventor
- Greg Hawthorne for Ocad, Sportident and Condes liaison.
- Martin Bicevskis and Jeff Dunn for always being on hand in or near the trailer to keep SI Download working
- And any others I may have overlooked.

THE YEAR AHEAD:

2021 will be another big year for Australopers. Tasmania is hosting the Australian Orienteering Championships in September (postponed from 2020) and this will involve input from many Australopers members not only during the carnival but also in the time leading up to the carnival.

I wish the incoming Committee all the best for the coming year.

As a final note I would express a minor concern and that is that now we are a club of over 200 members there is sometimes a feeling that “I don’t have to take on a responsibility – there are enough other people who can do it”. This leads to a battle to fill Club administrative positions. That said, as we go into the AGM I am pleased to advise many of our positions appear to be filled and I am very grateful to those members who have stepped up to support the club.

Notwithstanding this, it has long been my observation that Orienteering has the ability to take a simple concept and make it continually more complex. Given our ongoing battle to find sufficient volunteer organisers I believe we must always strive to stick to the basics and keep things as simple as possible.

In addition I have been concerned for a while that we start the new calendar year with many issues still outstanding and club positions unfilled. I believe we should consider moving the AGM from mid February, when it has traditionally been held, forward to December so that we start each new year with a new committee in place and a clear direction for the year established.

Bert Elson, President, Australopers Orienteering Club 2020