

AUSTRALOPERS ORIENTEERING CLUB

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2021

GENERAL:

It is with great pleasure that I submit my report for Australopers Orienteering Club for the calendar year 2021. Despite now 2 years under Covid limitations, as a club, we have coped and run an almost normal program of events during the past year.

Our membership increased to from 246 to 275 at the end of the year at which point we were the largest Orienteering club in Australia. As a club we organised 36 Events, 2 more than the previous year – though it must be noted that several events in the “Carnival That Never Will Be” replacing the Aus Champs, were largely run by Australopers personnel. 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.

Some highlights of 2021 were:

- Our membership increased from 246 to 275 members
- We arranged some “semi permanent” courses at the beginning and end of the year to offer training opportunities.
- We organised a range of additional training exercises during the year
- We were well represented in the results at the National Easter Carnival in Orange. Congratulations to the following Australopers placegetters:

M14A	2 nd	Eddie Stoner
W21A	1 st	Anna Dowling
W21AS	1 st	Nicola Marshall
W45AS	1 st	Clare Hawthorne
M50A	3 rd	Jon McComb
W50A	2 nd	Cathy McComb
M55A	3 rd	Jemery Day
W55A	1 st	Sue Hancock
W55A	3 rd	Christine Marshall
M55As	3 rd	Geoff Powell
M65A	3 rd	David Marshall
Womens Open B	1 st	Hermione Powell-Davies

- 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 10 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
- Secretary: Robyn Chapman
- Treasurer: Julian Roscoe
- SI Timing: Martin Bicevskis and Jeff Dunn
- Equipment: Bert Elson
- Social: Kim Enkelaar
- Selectors: Gayle West and Sue Hancock
- Membership: Geoff Powell
- Coaching and Development: Jon McComb and Anthony Stoner
- Volunteer Co-ordinator: Alison Stubbs
- Event Advisor: Jenny Sheridan / Simon Louis
- Twilight Series Organisers: Mike and Jane Calder
- Schools Liaison: Mike and Jane Calder
- Junior Rep: Zali McComb

OTHER PERSONNEL:

I have many members to thank for their work during the year.

- Firstly, all our volunteers who have run events and assisted at events.
- Julian Roscoe for his excellent handling of our finances
- Robyn Chapman for always having the agendas and minutes prepared promptly and accurately.
- Mike and Jane Calder for co-ordinating the twilight series.
- Those members who have welcomed us into their homes for club meetings.
- Cathy McComb for 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 the remaining office bearers and any others I may have overlooked.

THE YEAR AHEAD:

2022 will be another big year for Australopers. Tasmania is most likely hosting the Oceania Carnival in early 2023 and we will no doubt be providing much input to the planning of that carnival during the year.

As a large club with an extensive program of events, managing our volunteers continues to be a major job. As is common in many organisations most of the work is done by a small but dedicated minority of members. It is an ongoing struggle to spread the workload in this, a volunteer intensive activity, amongst all members.

An area of increasing workload in recent times involves gaining appropriate permissions prior to events. In the past, for example, we held events on council land without issue. Councils are now highly risk averse and require considerable documentation prior to any event. Clarence Council is a case in point where despite a broad agreement regarding conditions for holding events, we are still required to submit a detailed application for the year's events at the beginning of the year and then a risk assessment prior to every event.

Covid will likely remain a challenge for us in 2022 as it has over the last two years but hopefully we are now seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

A new challenge facing us follows advice from Hobart City Council that in 2023 the storage shed we are currently using will be demolished and replaced with a grandstand. Negotiations are currently underway to try and find an alternative equipment storage solution.

Nonetheless, 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. I expect 2022 to be another excellent year for the club. I thank all our members for their support over the 3 years I have been President and wish the new President well.

Bert Elson, President, Australopers Orienteering Club 2021