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Orienteering Tasmania Inc

Annual Report 2013

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2013 Community Organisation Award
Premier's Physical Activity Council

Orienteering Tasmania Incorporated

The Board

President	Warwick Moore
Vice Presidents	Ian Rathbone Bernard Walker
Secretary and Public officer	David Marshall
Director Finance	Andrea Schiwy
Director Development	Bert Elson
Director Performance	Jan Hardy
Director Technical	Roger Harlow

Officers

eBulletin Editor	Jane Cusick
Mapping	Greg Hawthorne
Membership	Bert Elson
OKnow Editor	Mary Hawthorne
Public Courses	Martin Bicevskis
Results and Statistician	Karl Bicevskis
Website	Ian Rathbone
OA Annual Conference delegates	Ian Rathbone Warwick Moore

President's Report

2013 was a successful year for orienteering in Tasmania and a busy one for your Board. Highlights include a full calendar of events for the year; high achievements for our representative teams and for many individuals at the national level; an active Board continuing to improve its operations and constantly working to increase the opportunities for Tasmanians to enjoy orienteering; preparations for the Oceania Championships and Round 1 of the World Cup in January next year gathering pace; and some very successful new initiatives such as the Saturday Winter Warmup Series in Hobart.

Full membership has remained stable, while both casual membership and participation have increased substantially. Our financial position is sound. Competition for places in our junior teams is encouraging and augurs well for the future. Altogether, I believe Orienteering in Tasmania is doing well.

The Board

The 2013 Annual General Meeting saw a number of changes to the Board. Martin Bicevskis stepped down as President and the position was not filled at the meeting. I would like to thank Martin for his leadership and work on the Board during his four years as a Vice President and one as President. He indicated his desire to step down in order to devote his time to more practical matters and he has done just that in many ways, including looking after the SI Units and assisting event organisers with the technical tasks, such as the use of Autodownload. During the year he completed a comprehensive inventory of all equipment that is held by the clubs.

Christine Brown completed four years as Director Technical, and the Board appreciated her contribution and her depth of knowledge, especially, but not only, in technical matters. Of course her knowledge and skills gained as an IOF Senior Event Advisor are not lost to Tasmanian orienteering as she has taken on the Technical Director position for the Oceania Carnival.

Roger Harlow stepped down as Vice President after one year, following his two years as Director Development. However, his valuable input to the Board continued, with his election to the Director Technical position.

At the AGM, Ian Rathbone was elected for the first time to the Board as a Vice President and he has made a very valuable contribution to the Board during the year. When I accepted the Presidency it was on the understanding that I would be away for three and half months during the busy part of the orienteering year so I would like to thank Ian, who took on much of my role while I was away.

The Director Performance remained vacant again until Jan Hardy was appointed to the position late in the year. The Board is fortunate to have Jan in this position as she has an intimate knowledge of the high performance area through her involvement on the state and national selection panels.

David Marshall, Andrea Schiwy, Bernard Walker, Bert Elson and Roger Harlow have formed the core of the Board for the past few years. It is important and valuable to have a number of continuing members who bring the corporate knowledge of past Board deliberations to the table and who provide the necessary stability over time. I thank them for their continuing contributions to our sport.

Board meetings, through 2013, have been long and wide-ranging, with robust debate and considered decision-making. Thanks to Bernard Walker, meeting agendas and briefing papers are shared through an online website allowing preparation for meetings to be very thorough. I would like to thank all Board members for their valuable and extensive contributions to the orienteering community through their work on the Board.

Finance

It is my belief that orienteering is in a strong financial position. Orienteering Tasmania's activities are supported by solid reserves, and club finances are also strong. During the year the Board reviewed the fiscal agreement between the clubs and Orienteering Tasmania and decided that there was no reason to change to the policy in this area.

Orienteering Tasmania was again successful in obtaining a grant from the Department of Sport and Recreation. There are many strings attached to these grants. Applying for, and acquitting, the grants is very time-consuming. Funds must be matched by at least equal funding from our own resources; grant funds are tied to specific programs which must be completed or the money paid back; and we must maintain clubs in the three regions of the state. During the year the Board gave some thought to the possibility of not applying for funds in future, but the application and acquittal process does bring a degree of discipline to our activities, and there are other benefits to be gained by maintaining links with the Department of Sport and Recreation that make the overall process worthwhile. We have subsequently obtained a further grant to underpin some programs during 2014.

Major expenditure for Orienteering Tasmania has continued to be map production. For the first time, as far as I am aware, the Department of Sport and Recreation has accepted that maps are an integral part of our sport and have permitted us to apply for funding for maps. In my opinion, the acknowledgement that maps are our "playing fields" is a major breakthrough.

Other major items supported by Sport and Recreation during 2013 have included the junior training camps, an expensive upgrade to our OCAD licenses and a new versions of Condes, and the upgrade of three laptop computers. 150 PCards were purchased to support the LSSSA schools program in Launceston.

The Board is fortunate to have Andrea Schiwy as Treasurer and I thank her for her invaluable work and guidance during the year. She will have more to say about finances and accounts in her report.

Participation and Events

The 2013 Orienteering program included a total of 80 formally organised events. This is a huge number for a small organisation, with only four clubs and 290 full members. Given the intricacies of organising and running an orienteering event, it indicates the dedication of many of our members to see so many events on the calendar. I thank every member who has been involved in ensuring the success of these events, in whatever way, and I wish the organisers of the 87 events planned for 2014 every success.

2013 saw the introduction of the Southern Saturday Winter Warmup Series in Hobart. This was supported through a grant from the Australian Sports Commission, through Orienteering Australia,

and was designed to increase participation. It was an undoubted success and I thank Bert Elson, Mike Calder, Sally Wayte and Martin Bicevskis and their team from Australopers for their initiative and hard work to ensure its success and to attract a number of new participants to experience our sport. As a result of their efforts, they received, on behalf of Orienteering Tasmania, the *2013 Community Organisation Award* from the Premier's Physical Activity Council.

The extension of the Corporate Challenge and Schools events in the South has also been well-accepted and, while corporate participation has declined, this has been matched by an increase in schools participation, contributing to an overall increase in participation.

Thanks must be extended to Valerie and John Brammall and their team in Launceston who continue to conduct the very successful, popular and award-winning Launceston State Schools Sports Association (LSSSA) series in the north. In addition, both Valerie and John have also devoted considerable time and effort on the East Coast promoting orienteering, particularly in Bicheno and Swansea, where their efforts should enable us to build on the forthcoming Oceania events in this area. Valerie has completed 10 years as coordinator of the LSSSA series and, as she will be relinquishing her position after the first term program comes to an end this year, I extend our thanks to Valerie for her wonderful and sustained contribution.

I would like to highlight the fact that we now run all our events using our electronic systems, SportIdent, Autodownload, and SI or P cards. I believe that we are the first state to conduct all our events, local and state-wide, using this technology, which provides such an improved experience for participants.

There has been some concern expressed about the lower than usual attendances at the Tasmanian Orienteering Series (TOS) events during 2013 (average attendance 79) with one theory being that the plethora of local events has attracted people away from the "bush" events. There is no direct evidence that this has been the case and the popularity of participation in quick, local events, is consistent with a CSIRO study which emphasises the growing trend towards participants as "consumers" of sport. Weather conditions, the cost of travel, and the absence of some of our JNOL and NOL team members at their events on the mainland may also have contributed. However, the Board, through the consultative process that Ross Kelly conducted again this year, has tried to ensure that there are no clashes between Local or Saturday events and our traditional bush events. The Board believes that traditional "bush" orienteering is the most enjoyable form of our sport and have decided to undertake some initiatives to try to coax new participants to try bush events.

The Board continues to support orienteering on the Northwest Coast and has decided to conduct the Tasmanian Sprint Championships there this year. This will be done on the Saturday of the Northern Classic in the hope that southern based orienteers will travel north for the whole weekend and will boost numbers at both events. I would urge all orienteers to support this initiative.

Technical

The Board has been concerned about the need to maintain the highest standards of course design and event organisation. During 2013, Director, Technical, Roger Harlow, organised and conducted courses for Controllers to enable them to become accredited under the National Accreditation Scheme for

officials that is managed by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC). He is also preparing an online course that will be the first in Australia that covers the fundamentals of Event Control.

While the ASC accredits controllers, there is no similar accreditation, or formal training, provided for course planners and event organisers. This deficiency was recognised by the Board and was also commented on by other states at OA Annual Conference. During 2013, Christine Brown independently recognised this need and conducted a course for members of EVOC covering event organisation and course planning and the Board intends to conduct similar courses during the coming year. I would urge all orienteers, experienced or otherwise, to attend these courses when they are made available. Not only will it improve your skills in course planning and help maintain our high standard of event organisation, but the knowledge acquired will improve your orienteering through a better understanding of the way course planners think.

Governance

Orienteering Tasmania continues to be highly-regarded for its management and governance practices and processes. The Australian Sports Commission expects state sporting organisations to be well-aligned with their national bodies, and Orienteering Tasmania's plans are consistent with the aims and objectives of Orienteering Australia.

During the year we updated our three year Strategic Plan and in our grant application we have aligned the strategic plan with our key performance indicators. For 2013, we met all our performance indicators, except for the conduct of a mapping workshop which had to be delayed until early this year when Alex Tarr was available. The workshop has been completed successfully and I extend our thanks to Roger Harlow for organising the workshop and to Alex for his invaluable contribution.

We continue to update our policies and our Operational Manual. In 2013, emphasis was on updating policies relating to Selection, and support for our representative teams, including a revised uniform policy. The Board also approved a new policy on expenditure authorisation. Martin Bicevskis continued to update the Event Organiser's Toolkit which is also published on the website and is essential reading for event organisers.

Risk Management continues to be an important function of the Board under the expert guidance of our Secretary, David Marshall, who has recently completed an upgrade and rationalisation of the Risk Management Policy and the associated Risk Register. A large and varied list of events have been identified that, if they should occur, would prove damaging to the future of our sport. Board members have individually and collectively developed plans to mitigate these risks. The Board regularly reviews the risks and develops appropriate plans accordingly. The more obvious risks relate to the safety of competitors at events, and the Board has expressed concerns that all participants must sign the waiver form when they become a member or tick the appropriate acknowledgement box when renewing their membership online. The Board has also instituted a rule that organisers must prominently display the waiver at all events.

Less obvious risks include such things as a significant decline in membership and/or participation, a loss of expertise at Board and/or club level, and, of more recent relevance, a loss of access to good orienteering terrain.

All orienteers are invited to look through the Risk Register and to contribute possible risks that they identify to the Register, so that actions can be taken to mitigate them.

Maps are our most precious physical resource. Formerly large quantities were printed and stored for future use, but with the advent of digital mapping, map data is now stored digitally. One of the major projects undertaken by the Board during 2013 has been to develop an online store and inventory of our digital map files. This ensures they are not lost and that they are regularly backed up. I thank Bernard Walker for establishing the online store and Mapping Officer, Greg Hawthorne, and the community of mappers, for ensuring that the latest version of the maps are now safely stored in the system. The Board has also requested that those involved in mapping devise a policy and process for correcting and updating maps in an appropriate manner, and to a high standard, while providing version control and due recognition of the intellectual property contained in the maps.

Marketing our sport to the general public has always presented difficulties. However, our website, with its regularly updated news items and information about events is beautifully maintained by Ian Rathbone and provides the central source of information for the sport. Jane Cusick and Mary Hawthorne, our weekly eBulletin and bi-monthly OKnow editors, provide a sterling service and a constant flow of information to over 600 interested casual or full members.

It continues to be difficult to interest the major newspapers enough to run stories, with the Examiner being much more receptive than the Mercury. The Examiner has shown an interest in being our major newspaper for the upcoming Oceania Championships and World Cup. The advent of online media has provided an alternative to the traditional press and we are looking to increase our presence in the social media through Facebook, Twitter and UTube.

Bert Elson has begun work on a marketing plan and has produced an outline which was recently approved by the Board. It is particularly appropriate at the moment as the Australian Sports Commission has recently released a Market Segmentation Study which analyses the involvement of Australians in sport, and details ways of approaching and attracting new participants and new club members.

Links with Orienteering Australia

Orienteering Tasmania is entitled to run the sport of Orienteering in Tasmania because of our affiliation with Orienteering Australia. To maintain our affiliation, we are required to pay certain fees and levies to help fund the work of Orienteering Australia, and in return for specific items such as the national magazine. In return we are entitled to be represented at the Orienteering Australia AGM and on the various committees, as well as to send delegates to the Orienteering Australia Annual Conference.

During 2013 a number of Orienteering Australia initiatives have caused some concern for Tasmania. During the Annual Conference, held in December, a motion, put by NSW and passed by the conference, gave the right of the Board of Orienteering Australia the sole right to set the level of fees and charges that will be levied on states. These fees and charges have, in the past, been subject to a vote at the AGM. In future they will be subject only to "consultation with the states", the process for

which has not yet been specified. Fees and levies usually rise each year, which is understandable, but there is a chance that we will lose the level of control over the fee rises that we once held.

The second concern is that the new High Performance program appears to require more trips by our juniors, in particular, to the mainland for specified competitions to allow them to be eligible for selection in the high performance squads and JWOC or WOC. This has the potential to place an increasing financial burden on Tasmanians because of the problem of crossing Bass Strait and hiring vehicles on the mainland. The cost of the new High Performance program itself is likely to be significant and may well result in higher state levies.

The third concern relates to the move towards the use of Eventor as the Australia-wide event entry system, membership system and results database. The use of Eventor is subject to an expensive five year contract. The Annual Conference moved to ratify what had become the reality through poor or non-existent decision making in the previous years. The upshot of the decision is that all entries and results will be entered into Eventor and there will be a levy for each entry or result entered. The Eventor contract will be funded through state levies on membership which means Tasmania will pay whether or not we use the system. In addition there will be levies on each event entry or result. Tasmania is unique in that every event we run produces digital results which will go into the system and, therefore, will attract levies. By contrast, all the local events in the ACT, for example, are run with the old punch card system and will not attract levies unless the ACT agrees to enter the results manually into Eventor. This is not a level playing field.

Disregarding these issues for Tasmania, it must be said that Eventor is a robust system that provides many excellent features. There are many advantages of using a single system throughout Australia with which every orienteer, eventually, will become a competent user. The associated results database will provide many advantages over our current system of storing results.

Tasmania effectively has little choice other than to move to the use of Eventor. For the time being we will continue to use our own online Membership system, as the Eventor system has significant deficiencies in this area. At an appropriate time in the future we will move to using Eventor for event entry and results.

At this stage, I would like to thank Ian Rathbone for the huge amount of time he has spent analysing the functionality within Eventor, becoming familiar with its idiosyncracies and, more recently, establishing whether or not we should use it for the Oceania Championships. He is currently busy setting up the system ready for the opening of Oceania entries later this month.

The Board will continue working to ensure that Tasmania is not unduly and adversely affected by these concerns that I have highlighted here.

On the other hand, the Executive of Orienteering Australia has been very understanding in coming to a favourable set of conditions for the conduct of the Oceania Championships and World Cup to ensure that Tasmania does not lose out financially as a result of hosting the World Cup races, which incur increased expenses.

High Performance

Tasmanian orienteers continued to perform exceptionally well at national and international level during 2013.

Hanny Allston represented Australia at the World Orienteering Championships in Finland in July, achieving the best results of any Australian, while Grace Crane achieved three top 20 placings in the Middle Distance and Sprint World Cup races in New Zealand, with only two other Australians featuring in the top 30. Hanny (Long) and Grace (Middle) took out first placings at the Australian Championships, and at the end of 2013, they were ranked first and second respectively in W21E in Australia.

We continued to have representation at the Junior World Orienteering Championships, with Brodie Nankervis representing Australia in the Czech Republic. Brodie is currently ranked second in Australia in Junior men, with brother, Ashley, ranked at number eight.

Tom Goddard and Callum Fagg represented Australia in the MTBO World Championships in Estonia.

Tasmania again performed well in the National Orienteering League with the Junior Men placed second, and both the Junior and Senior Women placed third. Thanks are due to Dirk Nankervis for the extensive, ongoing support he has delivered to the teams as NOL/JNOL Manager.

Tasmania's success at the Schools level continued with our Schools Team finishing in second place. Three Tasmanians, Anna and Zoe Dowling and Brodie Nankervis, were selected in the Australian Schools Honour Team.

The success of the junior program in Tasmania is outstanding and is due in no small part to the hard work of the junior team Manager, Kim Nankervis, and her team, and to our team coaches, Sue Hancock and Mike Dowling. It is a difficult and demanding task to prepare and manage a team of enthusiastic teenagers on an extended interstate trip and the managers and coaches deserve our thanks for a job well done.

There is increasing competition for places in the Schools Team and I would like to thank the selection panel, Jan Hardy, Judy Davis and Dirk Nankervis for completing their onerous task so well.

One long term indicator of the success of the junior program in Tasmania is our representation at JWOC. Over the last ten years Tasmania has provided over 20 percent of the total number of representatives in the Australian JWOC Teams. Full credit must go to our current and past team managers and coaches, and all those who have contributed to the camps, fund-raising, transport, management and coaching.

Apart from those elite performances mentioned above we had a number of winners at national level events.

Australian Sprint Distance Championships Will Fleming (M10)

Australian Middle Distance Championships Christine Brown (W50)
Grace Crane (W21E)

	Will Fleming (M10)
Australian Long Distance Championships	Hanny Allston (W21E) Conrad Elson (M21AS) Will Fleming (M10)
Australian Three Days	Hannah Goddard (W16) Clare Hawthorne (W40) Imogen Scott (W10)

Congratulations to our winners, to our place getters, and to all those who represented Tasmania at these national events.

Following this Annual General Meeting we will be presenting our awards. Many of these awards are based on the detailed statistical data for which our sport is renowned! I would like to express our thanks to Karl Bicevskis, our Statistician who has done a wonderful job in recording the data and coming up with the winners according to the, often complicated, formulae.

International Contributions

During 2013, Tasmanian orienteers continued to contribute to the sport at large.

Mike Dowling continued to serve as Vice President of the International Orienteering Federation (IOF), the peak body of the sport.

Christine Brown oversaw the World Cup events in New Zealand as the IOF Senior Event Advisor. She also held the same position for the World Games held in Cali, Columbia. Paul Pacqué's skills as a mapper were also on display internationally, in Cali, as he prepared the map for the World Games, and Mike Dowling planned the courses. Having three Tasmanians invited to carry out such important roles on the international stage brings great credit to Australia and especially to Tasmania.

These contributions make it easier for Tasmania to garner support for hosting international events, such as the forthcoming Oceania Championships and World Cup Round. Event Director, Bernard Walker, reports that preparation for Oceania 2015 is progressing well with a large number of Tasmanian orienteers working hard to help make the carnival a success. Oceania 2015 provides a great opportunity to compete on new maps and in high class events, without spending a fortune on travel. Although the best orienteers in the world will be present, this is a carnival for all-comers and anyone can enter regardless of their abilities or aspirations. So visit the Oceania 2015 website and make sure you arrange your accommodation as soon as possible.

The Future

Looking to the future, I believe that the sport is in a strong position, at least in the short term, as I indicated in my introduction.

However, I would like to mention some emerging issues that will need attention in future. As I reported above, our membership remains stable. When I look at the key people in orienteering today I see many who were around in 1977 when I first started orienteering, or who joined during the 1980s.

The laws of nature will ensure that this core group cannot go on forever! What then? Where are the administrators and event organizers of tomorrow?

A recently released, Australia-wide study by the CSIRO for the Australian Sports Commission, (*The Future of Australian Sport*, CSIRO, 2013) identified 6 megatrends affecting the future of sport. A megatrend is defined as an important pattern of social, economic and environmental change that has implications for government policy and investment, and for community organisations.

Two of the megatrends identified are relevant to us. One is the increasing number of people taking up individual sporting activities in order to keep fit. They have limited time and don't want to be involved in the organization of formal sport. For us this partly explains the interest in new local orienteering activities such as the successful Saturday Series. These "clients" are willing to pay for the activity, participate when it suits them, and then leave.

The second megatrend, I would like to highlight, is related to the growing corporatization and commercialization of sport, where funding is more and more likely to go to commercially self-sustaining sporting activities. At the OA AGM this aspect was emphasized by keynote speaker, Andrew Ramsay, from the Australian Sports Commission, which provides much of the funding for Orienteering Australia. He noted that the ASC will be looking for projects that will increase participation and that will, at the same time, eventually become self-sustaining on a commercial basis. Submissions for grants will be sought as early as April this year.

The limited resources we have available, the likely loss of experience in coming years, referred to above, and the need to offer a greater variety of activities to a sporting public that is happy to participate as purchaser of services, the decline of traditional club-based sport and the rise of more social sport, all will provide challenges to our way of doing things. I believe we must face a future where we will have insufficient volunteers and where we will need to consider payment for people to provide specific services.

In many ways, Orienteering is suited to these emerging trends. If we are agile enough and flexible enough to accept the challenges of new ways of doing things, I believe opportunities will arise for us to use our sport's unique qualities to exploit the opportunities that will be on offer.

Conclusion

Throughout this report I have mentioned the particular contributions of a number of people. The following Directors' reports will mention many more.

However, it is always a risk mentioning individuals, as so many others willingly contribute to our sport in all manner of voluntary activities that make our unique sport so enjoyable and enable it to function so efficiently. Club committees, social event organisers, event planners and controllers, mappers, coaches, team managers, BBQ chefs, uniform designers, all come to mind. To everyone who has made a contribution, however small, I pass on to you the sincere and grateful thanks of the Board and the orienteering community.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board for their on-going work, support and guidance, and extend our thanks to you, the members, for the support we have received during the year.

I wish everyone a successful 2014.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Moore', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Warwick Moore
President

Secretary's Report

During the year the OT Board of Management and the Executive met regularly to manage the business of the association. The Board met 4 times and the Executive 3 times since the last AGM. Meetings were held mainly at the homes of various Board members with others joining in via telephone or Skype. Two of the Board meetings were held in Ross.

Since the previous AGM, Warwick Moore has been appointed to the Board as President and Jan Hardy as Director Performance. The position of President was vacant for just two weeks but the Performance Director position had been vacant for 2012 and much of 2013 with Jan Hardy's appointment being confirmed in November.

The Board meetings focused mainly on strategic planning (often related to increasing participation and membership), a complete review of high level risks, the grant application and acquittal processes, reviewing finances, and discussing reports from the directors. Event and membership software, and the Oceania 2015 Carnival were key agenda items. The minutes of previous meetings are available to all members on request, while a summary of the main outcomes of each meeting is posted on the website shortly after the meeting.

My thanks to the other members of the Board for their support and assistance. In particular, on behalf of all the Board, I would like to thank Warwick Moore for taking on the very demanding role of President shortly after the 2013 AGM and also to thank Jan Hardy for recently picking up the Performance Director position. Warwick has shown himself to be an extremely hard working and effective president to date and we are fortunate to have him. Jan has thrown herself enthusiastically into the Performance Directorship and making good progress in bringing some portfolio matters up to date.

David Marshall
Secretary

Development Report

Development is a broad portfolio which requires contributions from a large number of volunteers. At the outset I would like to thank all those volunteers, not only the ones named in this report but everyone who has given time to development matters in Orienteering in Tasmania.

The year 2013 was one of consolidation with the new website and membership system both being bedded down. While full club membership numbers show a decrease (below) this may be a function of moving from the old membership system to the new one. We are now taking a monthly membership snapshot from the new system and in future will be able to monitor membership trends more accurately. Nonetheless we did pick up a number of new club members from the southern

winter and twilight series – helped by the fact that over a 10 week series the cost of membership almost equals the difference between the member and non-member rate – a fact promoted during these series.

Participation certainly increased from the previous year (discounting the contribution of the Aus Champs carnival in 2012) – many additional participants arising from the new southern winter series and the extension of the southern schools and corporate challenge series to 6 weeks for the autumn series and then 8 weeks for the spring series. The continuation of the LSSSA series has also been a boost to involvement.

Special mention must also be made of the great work done by the Brammalls and others in increasing involvement in orienteering in East Coast towns particularly Bicheno and Swansea.

MEMBERSHIP:

MEMBERS	2012	2013
FULL MEMBERS	295 *	281
CASUAL MEMBERS	389	454
TOTAL	684	735

PARTICIPATION	2012	2013
	5030 (+3054 Aus Champs)	6322

* This figure came from the old system – the old system was carrying a number of members who had retired from the sport, left the state or passed away!

The new membership system is now largely bedded in and functioning well although only a small percentage of casual members actually go online to register – preferring to turn up at events and complete a casual registration form.

Board members are monitoring developments involving the EVENTOR system which is currently limited to an event registration and results system but is ultimately anticipated to offer a national membership database capability.

WEBSITE:

The website continues to be our principal contact with members and the wider public. We are particularly indebted to Ian Rathbone as webmaster for his ongoing development work and for posting news and other information on a regular basis. The website regularly receives positive feedback from users.

PUBLICATIONS:

O Know: I am indebted to Mary Hawthorne who has continued to edit our bimonthly magazine, O Know. We now distribute this predominantly by email but still print a limited number of copies for those requesting these.

Australian Orienteer: During the year we received and distributed 4 editions of Australian Orienteer.

Email Bulletin: The weekly email bulletin remains a key means of communication with members and casual orienteers. The bulletin goes to everyone on our circulation list, both full and casual members, and is currently sent out to over 600 people each week. Our thanks to Jane Cusick who edits the bulletin each week.

MEDIA:

The Hobart Mercury continues to be difficult to get articles published in though EVOC members have more success with the Examiner. During the year we also had success with radio broadcasts – generally on ABC local radio.

OTHER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES:

Many other jurisdictions have full time (paid) development officers. As all our Development work is done on a voluntary basis we tend to take opportunities as they arise on an ad-hoc basis. In many cases these are driven on a local level and again I am indebted to Launceston orienteers who continue to be proactive in this respect.

Some of the southern initiatives commenced in 2013 include:

- **Southern Winter Saturday Series:** 2013 saw the commencement of the southern winter street orienteering series. Despite sometimes inclement weather (including snow at New Town) the series attracted 874 participants in total, or an average of 87 per week.
- **Hobart City Council Bushventures:** Hobart City Council holds regular Saturday bushventures events to encourage use of city parks. Orienteering Tasmania continued to be involved in this program.

Hobart Regatta / Botanical Gardens events. Demonstration events were again held at the Botanical gardens during 2013 to introduce newcomers to orienteering. This was organised by Martin Bicevskis and attracted participants in large numbers to short, simple courses which nonetheless demonstrated the basics of orienteering.

THE FUTURE:

As was stated last year there are just so many things we would like to do if we had sufficient funding and manpower. In reality it is a juggling act to achieve what we can and to constantly prioritise opportunities.

Objectives for the following year include:

- Develop our media profile
- Improve the professional appearance of orienteering – eg better event signs, etc.
- Develop links with other bodies to promote Orienteering

Bert Elson
Director, Development

Technical Report

A major focus of the Technical portfolio this year has been Officials Development.

Level 1 Controllers. Following the well-attended workshop run in 2012 there was a disappointing completion rate by participants. The onerous post-course assessment tasks were seen as the major barrier, since some participants went on to control successful events under mentorship. This led to the development of an online course for this qualification, using MOODLE and CourseLab2.4 implemented on the OA web server. The course is half completed and is expected to be launched in 2014. The Australian Sports Commission favours development of online courses for Level 1 officials and OA has expressed an interest in it.

Level 2 Controllers

A level 2 Workshop was well supported with one new controller accredited and one re-accredited. A further five participants are at various stages of accreditation. We hope that an increase in Level 2 Controller resources will help us to improve technical compliance and event quality at Badge and Championship events which require this level of official oversight. Personnel levels are tight for us but we need to maintain our credibility and reputation at this level and to fill these roles carefully and early in planning.

Level 3 Controllers

With our major commitment to running Oceania and World Cup in 2015, the supply of Level 3 officials is just adequate, with five in the State. Accreditation at this level sits with OA and a workshop will run at Easter 2014 for re-accreditations and Level 2 Officials seeking to upgrade.

Course Planners and Event Management

The Board is actively pursuing a recognition process for Course Planners, who do most of the actual work in organising events and are often unsung and unrecorded. Addition of the names of officials to the results record archive is an aim for 2014. An upgrade to version 9 of the event management software CONDES was purchased and rolled out to Clubs and the Board is planning to run Event Organisation workshops to assist officials with this software and with SportIdent and Autodownload. Extra download stations for Sportident were purchased to secure results entry at events in both North and South. Martin Bicevskis has continued to be the key manager for all this equipment and completed a full inventory of all OT and Club equipment for the Board. Ross Kelly is also to be thanked for his skill in coordinating the preparation of the Events Calendar for 2013 and Karl Bicevskis continued his important role in maintaining our event statistics.

Mapping

Greg Hawthorne has continued his sterling work as Mapping Officer with initiatives including the establishment of a digital archive of our maps in collaboration with VP Bernard Walker. The map drawing software **OCAD** was upgraded to version 11 as single licences in the hands of our experienced and developing mappers. Open Orienteering Mapper has been recognised as a viable and free alternative to OCAD, especially for novice mappers. A workshop to be run by experienced national mapper, Alex Tarr, will run early in 2014. The Board is also working on a protocol for official map corrections. New maps are being prepared for the Oceania and World Cup events at Avoca, St Helens

and Swansea. The Board is considering an injection of funds into mapping upgrades and new maps as a foundation for expanding participation in the sport.

I gratefully acknowledge the strong support I have received as novice Technical Director, from previous Director Christine Brown, event officials, Board Members, and our managers in this portfolio.

Tasmania can now boast that almost all events are run using electronic timing. Not all other states have embraced this concept. Autodownload has facilitated this. Gone are the days of processing control cards on the evening of the event.

Roger Harlow
Director, Technical

Performance Report

For much of 2013 the position of Director, Performance on the OT Board remained vacant, with Jan Hardy taking on the role at the end of the active orienteering year in November 2013.

Fortunately, though, in the absence of a Director of High Performance, people continued to step up and help out in this area. Coaching happened, training camps were organised, teams were selected and managed and our elite athletes put in some stellar performances.

Indeed Tasmania has continued to punch above its weight in elite competition. We have a lot of good athletes in junior ranks, fewer in seniors (but the ones we have are doing us proud!) and we continue to have a very supportive and active membership, from whose ranks people continue to volunteer their precious time and considerable energy to coach, manage, organise, assist and cheer on our representatives.

Good on you! Take a bow, all who have contributed to this, because it's been another great year for Tasmanian orienteers at the Elite level (and indeed at the local level – but that's another story.)

Let me just highlight some of the achievements of our representative Tasmanian orienteers:

Schools Team

Our schools team continued an excellent tradition in again performing very well in the 2013 Australian Schools Champs to achieve a second placing in the National competition, just a whisker behind Victoria.

Many of you may not realise this, but an analysis of results over the past 7 years establishes Tassie as the leading State in Schools competition, with three 1st placings, two 2nd, one 3rd and one 4th.

Congratulations to the athletes, and particular thanks to their management/coaching team of Kim Nankervis, Gayle West, Mike Dowling & Sue Hancock. Thanks also to our State selectors – Judy Davis,

Dirk Nankervis and Jan Hardy. It's rarely an easy job, and the greater the depth of talent, the harder it becomes.

Several of our athletes performed sufficiently well to be named as members of the 2013 Australian Schools Honour Team – they were Anna Dowling, Brodie Nankervis and Zoe Dowling. Well done!

National Orienteering League

Here again we had some excellent results.

In the **Senior Women**, Grace Crane was 2nd overall and Hanny Allston 5th. With contributions from Claire Butler, Sarah & Amy Buckerfield & Ainsley Cavanagh, our Senior Women came 3rd overall.

In **Senior Men**, alas, we have few. But Stuart Lawrie, Jemery Day, Conrad Elson and Dirk Nankervis all did a race or two in State colours. Keep it up, guys, your numbers will grow!

Our **Junior Men** also did well with an overall 2nd. Well done Brodie Nankervis (3rd JNOL men), Ashley Nankervis (9th JNOL men), Jarrah Day and Shaun McDonough.

And our **Junior Women** placed 3rd. Congratulations to Anna Dowling (6th JNOL Women), Nicola Marshall & Bec Butler.

Thanks also to Dirk Nankervis who provided great ongoing support as the 2013 NOL/JNOL Team Manager.

International Representation

January 2013 saw 3 **World Cup** races in New Zealand. Grace Crane achieved a top Australian result with an 18th in the Sprint and a 16th and an 18th in the two WC Middle Distance races. (To put this in perspective, only 2 other Australians – Julian Dent in the Sprint and Kathryn Preston in the chasing Middle – achieved any top-30 placing.)

Hanny Allston represented Australia in the 2013 **World Orienteering Championships** in Finland in July. She achieved a 22nd placing in the Long, a 33rd in the Middle and 13th in the Relay – again the best result of all the Australians.

At the end of 2013 Hanny and Grace were ranked 1st and 2nd respectively W21E in Australia, with World Rankings of 57th and 61st.

In the **Junior World Championships** in Czech Republic in July, Brodie Nankervis represented Australia in M20. Brodie came 91st in the Long and just missed qualification in the Middle Final.

In MTBO Tasmania also had contenders selected to ride in the **MTBO World Championships** in Estonia in August – Callum Fagg (M21) and Tom Goddard (M20). Tom did particularly well in the junior races, finishing 12th in the Long, 15th in both the Middle & Sprint races and 8th in the Relay.

The Australia-New Zealand Challenge held over the Oceania Carnival in NZ in January also provided the chance for national representation in non-open classes. The following Tasmanians are to be congratulated for their selection to the Australian team:

Hannah Goddard (W16)	Jarrah Day (M16)
Anna Dowling (W18)	Ashley Nankervis (M18)
Sue Hancock (W45)	Brodie Nankervis, Shaun McDonough (M20)
Christine Marshall (W50)	Jemery Day, Mike Dowling (M50)
Jan Hardy (W60)	Paul Pacque (M55)
Sally Salier (W65)	David Marshall, Bert Elson (M60)
Val Brammall (W70)	John Brammall (M70)

Particularly good Oceania results were achieved by Grace Crane, Bert Elson, Paul Pacque, Brodie & Ashley Nankervis. (Note: [website no longer available, so no further details here.](#))

Tasmanians also competed internationally in the Aus-NZ Schools Challenge, with the Bushrangers in NZ and at the World Masters Orienteering Championships in Italy.

Coaching and Training

While Tasmania currently has relatively few accredited coaches, we are fortunate that the ones we do have, and others, are active in providing coaching and training opportunities. These occur during formal training camps (three were held in 2013, with excellent numbers attending), in conjunction with regular events and as separate training sessions during breaks in the calendar. We'd like to see further opportunities for attaining and upgrading coaching accreditation available in 2014, but meanwhile would like to thank those contributing at all levels.

In Summary

2013 has been an excellent year for High Performance Orienteering in Tasmania and we look forward to building on that in 2014 and beyond.

Jan Hardy
Director, Performance