

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION OF SA INC. 1976

November 29th 1976

Re-typed from faded original by Ken Thompson Oct 2021.

I have great pleasure in presenting the third annual report of the Council of Management who with its Executive have presided over a most successful season during which there have been changes which have had a major impact on the organisation of the sport.

During the year, there were sixteen events, with an average of almost 180 competitors for the major Sunday events. At Kuitpo and Kersbrook there were for the first time over two hundred participants. The five clubs Lone, Onkaparinga, Tintookies, Tjuringa and Western Scramblers have become well established, and total memberships 102 with over 180 members not including "family" groups of Schools and country members. The State Championships reflected the more systematic and thorough approach. There were double the numbers of 1975 competitors and there was a much, higher percentage of completed courses. Colour maps made their long-awaited appearance at the Mt Crawford and the Alamanda Hill events and the overall standard of cartography and course setting has improved enormously. Over twenty people acted as organisers/course setters/cartographers during the season and the number of officials at events has increased markedly. The workload has at last been shared and the excellent work of the clubs, with many new and active members has resulted in higher standards, improved organization and has added, the spark of friendly rivalry, both in the competition and the organisation of events.

The Council has tried to guide the Association through the problem problems which occurred during the year in which Council members did a prodigious amount of work. Twelve of the sixteen events were, in fact, organised by Council members. There were during the season, three secretaries and three editors of the newsletter. Naturally this had an unsettling effect on the administration but due to the sterling work of the relatively small numbers of people a great deal of encouraging things were achieved.

In the 1976 season encouraging progress has been made in the following areas:

1. ORGANISERS: For the Education Day at Shepherds Hill Reserve, there were twenty-six organisers Two black and white maps were prepared and two practice events were arranged. At most events four to six officials have been the norm.
2. OFF-SEASON ORIENTEERING: The season has not terminated with the State Championships in October but to maintain interest and continuity six events have been programmed (four have already been held)
3. CLUBS: The clubs have worked extremely well this year and only two events were run by the Association. Several schools and country groups have taken up membership this year.
4. EQUIPMENT: We have acquired 22 new control markers, 2 clocks, a tent and ten steel brackets on which control markers and punches can be fixed.
5. RESULTS: Finish ladder equipment (courtesy David Miller) has made a big difference this year giving instant feedback on one's performance. Fully tabulated results have generally been available at the next event and then in the newsletter.
6. PLANNING: Many events were planned well in advance, e.g. six to nine months with the result that there was better cartography, event organization and communication about start location, map scale, and type of terrain etc. This is a feature that needs to be improved. Having clubs has made a major difference and we have an almost full programme of events for 1977.
7. NEWSLETTER: Four editions were produced this year. The editorship has been separated from other administrative functions and the latest newsletter was produced by off-set. The quality of the newsletter will continue to improve and

costs can be kept down by advertising. Clubs and individual members must realise that the newsletter is to a great extent what they make it.

8. COMMITTEES: As the Association grows, so too must there be a devolution of work to small groups who advise the Council of management. In 1977 there will probably be a Technical, Selection Rules committees. This year an Affiliation Committee convener, John Hicks, worked to unravel the complex problem of our joining the C.F.A.

9. COMMUNITY AWARENESS An increasing number of people are becoming aware of orienteering as an ideal form of outdoor activity. The Education Department, individual schools and community organizations look increasingly to the O.A.S.A. for guidance, maps and expertise. Our events have been regularly previewed in the Advertiser and radio. Increased media interest is inevitable.

I want to thank the Council and my fellow members of the Executive for their efforts during the year. The executives of the five clubs are to be thanked. They have in only their first season set a precedent of efficiency and industry. I wish to thank Dave Miller, recently awarded the title of S.A. Orienteer of the Year, for his unstinting work on equipment, cartography and in particular for his fine work on the State Championships. Thanks go to John Hicks who has contributed a great deal as convener of the Affiliation Committee, event organiser and editor of the newsletter. Also his barbeques have been greatly appreciated! Bob MacKenzie's name has become almost synonymous with orienteering in S.A. - his services have been invaluable and although he resigned from the secretaryship in May this year he still makes a major contribution as President of the Lone Orienteers.

We are pleased to note the numbers of women taking up the sport. 1977 will be "the" year when several events are being planned by them. Cynthia Rathjen and Bronwyn Williams deserve a special mention both for their work as club secretaries and for their typing without which publication of newsletters and results would have been rather difficult.

The growth of orienteering naturally brings further challenge for the 1977 season.

- a) Affiliation; If the O.A.S.A. affiliates there will be increased relations with the eastern states and administrative, statistical and the financial issues will demand more work from the new executive. Some of our orienteers may become eligible for Australian representation.
- b) Organisation of events: Can we cope with fortnightly events and 200 to 300 competitors?
- c) Quality before quantity: The O.A.S.A membership will increase but how much expertise and how many committed active orienteers will we be able to attract?
- d) Statistics: A statistical system needs to be devised and operated to decide Orienteer of the Year, Club of the Year and aid selection for state teams.
- e) The Council of Management and clubs: The good working relationship between the Council and Clubs needs to continue as the organization of our growing state body becomes more difficult and more time-consuming. The establishment of committees, which report to Council, should assist in sharing the work load.

John H. Williams

President O.A.S.A Inc
November 29th 1976