

Name	points	time
Felicity & Zoe Barker Smith	2	31:15
Elissa Manley	7	35:00
Helen, Terry & Elissa Manley	10	27:50
Ramona Burkhard	11	28:20
Lloyd Barker Smith	25	28:23
Alec Watt	32	29:50

1 hour score course

Name	points	time
Charles, Nathalie, Laura, Alex, Ebony Williams	13	55:28
Brent & Sue Gregory	24	57:37
Graeme Cooper	28	65:14

Erica Smith & Alex Eberli	30	58:30
Gary Slocombe	38 *	60:30
Maurice Anker	40	57:30
Kasimir Gregory	44	57:30
Eric Baker	47	Time not recorded
Felix Burkhard	48	55:30
Boahdan Gregory	48	55:27
Don Barker	50	58:33

* 17 controls visited – score based on face value of squares punched (didn't use last 3 high value squares).

Colour Codes for Orienteering Courses

Blue:

Very easy navigation with the course following very distinct linear features (handrails such as roads, tracks, fences and well defined watercourses). A compass is not required. Controls are easy to see, frequent and placed at changes in direction. Length approximately 2km.

Green:

Easy navigation with the option to take a direct cross country route, or to follow a more indirect route using handrails. Controls are on large obvious features close to handrails. Use is made of contour handrails such as spurs and gullies. Limited use of compass. Length approximately 3 km.

Orange:

Medium level navigation with route choice to control points that have good attack points (a big feature close to the control point) and catching features (a feature such as a fence or road that 'pulls you up' when you have gone to far). A compass is essential. Length 3 to 5 km.

Red:

Difficult navigation with controls on small point features with no obvious attack points or catching features. A compass is essential. Length depends on age and fitness - 3 to 8 km.

Northern Tablelands Orienteering Club Newsletter

If undeliverable return to:

Northern Tablelands Orienteering Club
19 Bishop Cr
Armidale NSW 2350

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To:

forest had been hit by a severe storm several months ago and this has left a lot of fallen branches on the ground. One area of thicket had been macerated by hail the storm leaving it as a fast running area with only light regrowth.

The moonlight was bright enough for the Red course fastest, Don Barker to be able to run long stretches with moonlight alone and just use his torch to find the control flags. Even so there was not enough light for everyone to easily find the flags and everyone had problems with at least one control in the dark. Kirsty and Nathan (together) and Kaz Gregory were the only ones to hit the hardest control (no. 8 on the Red) direct on a compass bearing through the bush with no attack point. Erica and Felicity had a slow finish when all of their 4 torches failed with a kilometre to go, so they didn't ever find the last flag on the Orange.

Results:

Blue	Time
Zoe Barker-Smith	27
Green	
India Winiger, Stephanie and Alinta Merrotsy	25
Nicola, Sam, Sandy Watson	42
Andreas and Laura Tillman	56
Jack and Marley Sinden	73
Orange	
David Clayton	32
Brent and Sue Gregory	76
Felicity & Erica Smith (missed last control)	111
Red	
Don Barker	63
Felix Burkhard	68
Alec Watt	68
Kaz Gregory	70
Maurie Anker	80
Jane Watt	90
Nathan Jeffrey and Kirsty Moore	114

Saw Mill Creek, 18 Nov 2007

By Jenny & BobHawkins, Organisers

Saw Mill Creek is a great piece of bush - not very large, but obviously quite challenging, since only one person achieved under 10 minutes/km. The Green course attracted the largest number of competitors. They chose well, since Jenny had set a really interesting course round a paddock that is reverting to bush.

The weather was warm and quite humid, with the thunder shower holding off until after the controls had been collected at the end. The heat may have affected some performances, but the slower competitors in each class either found new ways to make mistakes, or else brought back glowing reports about all the wildflowers they had encountered. Maurice Anker had done great work beforehand, improving the map out of recognition. But this didn't help him to a good

time on the day; he said he was distracted noting all the further improvements he could be making to the map.

So congratulations to all who came! Those who didn't miss a good day's orienteering.

Results:

Green course	Time
Ramona Burkhard	35:45
Erin Rummery, Beth Wilson & Fayah Arnold	45:17
Joanne Lowe & Tegan Picona	52:25
Hannah Kirkwood & Zoe Barker-Smith	55:40
Jack & Marly Sinden	65:25
Orange course	
David Clayton	98:05
Judy Colman	107:55
Short Red course	
Alec Watt	45:35
Jenny Hawkins	56:51
Felix Burkhard	57:03
Long Red course	
Eric Baker	64:00
Boahdan Gregory	76:18
Don Barker	76:53
Kasimir Gregory	78:09
Maurice Anker	84:00

Milson's Bridge, 10 Dec 2007

By Alec Watt

One feature of this event was the way people stuck to the time limit. All long-course starters finished within a 10-minute window, which becomes a 5 minute window after excluding one outlier (Graeme).

Gary obviously believed that a score event was Anarchy-O and that he could punch the squares on the card in any order he chose, so he used the line event system and punched the squares on the card in order (starting with square 1), but visited the controls in a random order. Totally impossible to score properly! 17 out of 20 controls visited – taking the squares punched at face value gives a score of 38. Gary's score could have been as high as 47 (if he only missed 3 one-pointers), but we'll never know.

Don was the only one to punch control #1, so I wasn't able to cross-reference the punch mark. We'll let him have it though! Don was given instructions by Erica to get rid of the trophy and not to bring it back. Sorry Erica...

We stuck to Nathan's scoring system, but his proposal to have Blue, Green, Orange & Red score events was ignored – we just had 2 classes (short & long) Nathan was forgiven for muddling the control numbers as it was pouring rain while he hung the controls. No punch card and no time for Eric, so we are trusting him to have correctly worked out his score (written on stub).

30 minute score course:

This year's orienteering outing at the Blue Hole was just as exciting as last year's. Where the farmer's friends did not do their job to deter or confuse the runners, the 'misplaced' flags did. I cannot quite tell whether this last detail helped the more experienced or the less experienced but I think we agree that it added another level of complexity to the run. Nevertheless, it was a beautiful day for running and just like last year, I could hardly climb the steps to our bedroom after returning home on Sunday afternoon having retrieved the required flags (I was bugged!). The pros: a great way for a relative new course setter to learn the finer points of orienteering, and I slept like a log! Till next time!

Blue course	Time
Denise Herd	0:45:00
Zoe Barker-Smith	0:48:00
Cherene, Hamish & Marley Doak	0:53:00
Maeve & Laura	1:13:00
Green course	
John Maguire	0:37:12
Ramona, Maddy & Bella	0:43:00
Kim Swan & Group	0:44:00
Jackson & Riley Doak	0:44:57
Micheal & Family	0:53:00
M. Sinden	1:23:35
Jack Sinden	1:23:38
Short Orange course	
Michael Smart	0:58:10
Felicity & Erica Barker-Smith	1:21:35
Kyrrill Ho	1:39:00
Narelle Clayton	1:46:28
Watson Family	2:43:10
Long Orange course	
Sue Gregory	2:12:00
Judy Coleman	2:39:24
Robert & Denise Herd (missed P)	1:32:22
David Clayton	DNF
Short Red course	
Eric Baker	0:56:50
Felix Burkhard	1:05:15
Kirsty & Group	2:39:40
Jane Watt	DNF
Long Red course	
Don Barker	1:26:50
Kas Gregory	1:41:12
Boahdan Gregory	1:46:12
Terry Cooke	1:48:42
Garry Slocombe	2:36:50
Brent Gregory	3:15:10
Nathan Jeffrey	DNF

Oakview – 19 August 2007

The rain fell ever so gently at first. As the morning progressed, so too did the rain. This made conditions quite difficult for many of the starters, so it was just as well the organiser was unable to be present to record times!

Blue course
Kieran Dennis, Brent (no time)
Green course
Michael Smart, Torsten, Disa (no time)

John Dennis MP
Short Orange course
Boahdan Gregory 47:50
Long Orange course
No starters
Short Red course
No starters
Long Red course
Lloyd Barker-Smith (no time)
Don Barker (no time)
Maurice Anker MP

Yooroonah – 23 September 2007

By Graeme Cooper, Organiser

A revival after some years absence of the "6 hour" event format from the Northern Tablelands Orienteering Club's calendar brought out a small number of enthusiasts. The event was held in the "Yooroonah" section of Cathedral Rock National Park which provided near ideal conditions for the event. In orienteering jargon, this was a "score" event where the controls are scattered over the course area and you have a time limit to find as many as possible. This introduces an extra dimension to the game in that you have to work out your "route", the order in which you visit the controls. In effect this was a "rogaine". For more about rogaining, visit "www.nswrogaining.org".

Maurice Anker proved he was on top of all this by missing only two of the thirty two check points, getting back with just five minutes to spare. It so happened that the flags were collected in the following weekend by one of the current Australian Rogaining Champions and his wife. It took them a full six hours to do the job. Admittedly they had to stop at each flag and untie the knots but to compensate for that five of the very close in flags had already been collected.

Results:

Name	Score	Time
Maurice Anker	640	5:55
Bob Hawkins	520	5:44
Don Barker	450	4:15
Bruce Haigh & Steven Harden	340	5:31
Alec & Jane Watt	320	3:48
Kasmir Gregory	280	4:17
Terry Cooke	270	5:07
Eric Baker	260	3:26
Erica Smith & Felicity Barker-Smith	180	3:42
Brent & Sue Gregory	180	4:24
Boahdan Gregory	160	2:56
Marly Sinden	40	2:06
Jack Sinden	40	2:06

Sunnyside, 19 Oct 2007

By Eric Baker, Organiser

25 orienteers turned out at Sunnyside TSR on a perfect night for orienteering – clear night, with a half moon high in the sky, temp 10 degrees. The

and there were very few grass seeds to annoy competitors.

Alinta set the Blue and Green courses, and did an excellent job. She set some controls such that the handrails could be abandoned for a short cut, and it was good to see John Dennis take advantage of this and complete the course in very quick time.

Alinta advised Peter on the setting of the Orange course. The intention was to include a range of features, a couple of difficult ones but with big handrails to bump into if off-line or overshooting, and to keep them navigating to the end. The Red course was the same as Orange, but without the map. A large section of the map (some said it was a mere fragment) was at each control showing the next leg, which the runners had to memorise. This was a suitable challenge, especially for the over 40s, and it was very pleasing to see the number of people who tackled the Long Red course. Some rude people laughed at the control description for #7, "Earth mound, 10 cm", nominating it for control description of the year. But it was on the map, and it was 10 cm high, and everyone found it.

Maurice clearly attacked the controls aggressively and his memory impressed all. Alinta (12 yo) completed her first Red course, and did herself proud.

Blue course	
Zoe Barker-Smith	30:55
Green course	
John Dennis	35:16
Jack & Marly Sinden	70:14
Short orange course	
David Clayton	68:58
Jane Watt	72:36
Felicity Barker-Smith	99:08
Long orange course	
Terry Cooke & Eve Woodberry	99:33
Long red course	
Maurice Anker	43:10
Alec Watt	54:36
Felix Burkhard	69:08
Don Barker	70:37
Kasimir Gregory	70:55
Boahdan Gregory	78:55
Bob Hawkins	81:25
Graeme Cooper	86:49
Alinta Merrotsy	99:09
Brent Gregory	100:53

Booralong Forest – 24 June 2007

By Felix Burkhard, Organiser

The National Parks service decided that Orienteering is a destructive activity, and as a result we were given notice that this area was no longer available for us to use in club activities. This event was our last go at the area and a fair

amount of enthusiasts turned up on this cool and windy day to have a go.

The most popularly competed course was the Long Red course, with no less than 11 competitors. Of these competitors seven managed to finish in less than an hour – demonstrating, perhaps, the high standard of runners in our club. I would like to apologise to the entrants in the short orange course; I managed to mix up a control number, which caused some confusion!

Results:

2.1km	Blue
0:28:50	Zoe Barker-Smith
0:34:45	Madeleine Ho & Laura Williams
1:12:50	Matty Woodward
3.1km	Green
0:40:50	Harry, Sam & David Wright
0:44:10	Jessica & Suzie Wright
1:11:20	Sabrina & Joakim Ho, Alex & Charles Williams
1:14:30	Sandy, Sam & Nicola Watson
1:34:49	Marly Sinden
1:34:50	Jack Sinden
5.0km	Orange
2:03:30	David Clayton
2:14:00	Anna Hanson, Kirsty Moore, Audrey & Melanie
DNF	Judy Colman
3.7km	Orange
0:56:43	Brent Gregory
1:08:00	Sue Gregory
1:22:45	Felicity & Erica (Barker)-Smith
1:38:10	Jeanette & Gavin Rogers
DNF	Mattie & Kyrill Ho
6.0km	Red
0:50:10	Bob Hawkins
0:53:53	Don Barker
0:54:10	Matthew Woodward
0:54:35	Maurice Anker
0:57:10	Boahdan Gregory
0:57:50	Kasimir Gregory
0:58:40	Peter Merrotsy
1:18:35	Nathan Jeffrey
1:55:50	Garry Slocombe
DNF	Jenny Hawkins
DNF	Graeme Cooper
4.4km	Red
1:54:00	Narelle Clayton

We still have lots of pre-printed maps left and being a Nature reserve, the area is open to the public. If you want to have a nice outing in this forest, get in touch with a club official to get a few maps.

Blue Hole - 29 July 2007

By Joakim Ho, Organiser

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for 2008 will be held on Sunday 2 March after the Oakview event to allow non-local members to participate. The AGM will commence at 1pm at Graeme's caravan in the finish area. All members and prospective members are welcome to attend and to have your say in the selection of the committee for 2008 - your vote counts! If you care about NTOC's future you might even consider standing for election yourself - there are a number of positions open, most of which are not especially onerous. **Remember: Many hands make light work.**

The first committee meeting after the AGM is scheduled for the 12 March 2008 at 7:30pm (venue to be advised).

Upcoming Events

February 6, 13 and 20 Summer Twilight Events

We kick off the season with our traditional Wednesday twilight events. These events are designed to get you back into the swing and brush up on particular skills. They are also a great opportunity to bring along any friends or family members, who want to see what our sport is all about. Seasoned club members will be available to answer your questions and tutor you in essential map reading and navigation skills.

All events start between 5:30 and 6:30 pm and anticipated running time is less than an hour. The events run at a special introduction price of \$4, with extra maps charged at \$1.

February 6

Organiser: Narelle Clayton (6772 2785)
Venue: Drummond Park, Apex Lookout

Directions: Travel to the lookout at the western end of Jeffrey Street

February 13

Organiser: Garry Slocombe (6772 7093)
Venue: Moran Oval

Directions: Take Kentucky Street past NERAM and the Keeping Place and turn right into the southern end of Taylor Street. The start is signposted near the Tafe Rural Campus.

February 20

Organiser: Jane Watt (6772 6849)
Venue: Pine Forest (EAST)

Directions: Follow the Rockvale Road North for about 5km beyond the northern traffic lights. Do **not** turn right into the first pine forest turn-off. Go straight ahead past Charleston Willows on the

left and cross the river (Tilbuster Ponds). Turn right immediately after the bridge into the Pine Forest. Follow signs to assembly / parking.

March 1, UNE Sports Union

Organiser: Sue Gregory (6772 6157)

Start time: after 3 pm

Courses: Red; Orange; Green and Blue

Cost: Members - \$10 for adults; \$5 for juniors;

Note: These are "Enter on the day" fees. If you want a pre-allocated start time, you need to pre-register via our website by the 15/2/08.

This event encompasses the NSW Sprint-O Championships. In such an event the courses are shorter than normal for Red and Orange courses, while Blue and Green courses are the same as usual.

March 2, Oakview

Organiser: Sue Gregory (6772 6157)

Start time: after 3 pm

Courses: Red; Orange; Green and Blue

Cost: Members - \$12 for adults; \$6 for juniors;

Note: These are "Enter on the day" fees. If you want a pre-allocated start time, you need to pre-register via our website by the 15/2/08.

Venue: The area is mainly open eucalypt forest on moderately hilly terrain with some steeper sections of complex granite. Because of forest regrowth, the area has been selectively remapped by Eric Andrews (Dec 2007) and has been extended to include an adjacent 1 square km of more gently sloping terrain with substantial patches of granite.

Facilities: Bush toilet; drinks & snacks for sale

Directions:

From the intersection of Bundarra Road and Miller Street, head west along Bundarra Road, past the Armidale Saleyards and the turn-off to Invergowrie, and over the Pinnacle. About 20 km west of town, immediately after the descent from the Pinnacle, watch for signs indicating the turn-off on the left side of the road. Proceed through the gate, ensuring that it is closed after you, as there are sheep in the paddock. Follow signs along the gravel track to the parking area. Please drive slowly and carefully along the gravel track, as some courses cross it.

Reports & Results

Four Mile Creek – 13 May 2007

By Peter Merrotsy, Co-Organiser

The day was overcast, but mild and no rain fell during the event. The map has been eaten out by drought affected travelling stock, so it was fast



The NTOC

Compass

The Newsletter of the Northern Tablelands Orienteering Club

Number 106

February 2008

<http://www.ntoc.asn.au>

Dear Reader!

Welcome to our newsletter for 2008! As you probably gathered by now, the second newsletter for 2007 got a DNF. Sorry, but some personal challenges and work load prevented me from publishing an update.

After a two month rest from our beloved sport, we can indulge in the next few weeks: There will be no less than 5 local events!! We kick off the season with the traditional twilight series. These events are great to get back into shape or to introduce friends to the sport. On the first weekend in March our club will host two events that count towards the state league awards and we should see people from afar travel to Armidale to participate.

Check the lift-out calendar for all the events later in the year. For all the latest news and details you should visit our website, or get in touch with one of the club officials.

I hope to see you at an event soon! Best regards

Felix

Committee News

In the last few months the committee has been busy with the preparation for the upcoming state-level events.

In December Eric Andrews visited Armidale. He has created many of our existing maps and was here to enhance and extend the Oakview map. He conducted a workshop on map making with a few of our members participating. It was useful to learn how a map is drawn and to recognise what features make it on to a map. Maurice Anker put his already good mapping skills into action, when he completely re-developed the UNE map. This map now contains a magnificent amount of detail and has been brought up to a sprint orienteering standard. Our members will be able to see both of these enhanced maps at the state events in March.

On the subject of maps, slow but steady progress has been made on mapping the new Saddleback area near Yarrowick, west of Armidale. Most landowners have been contacted and are agreeable to having their property used for the occasional orienteering event. Photo-grammetry using aerial photos will be the next stage in map development.

Negotiations have taken place between the NSW state association and the regional clubs over increased levies. While we recognise that we have to pay for some of the burden, we have been making the state association aware that we have generally small number of competitors at our events compared to those attending metropolitan events. In the end a compromise was reached resulting in an increase of our event fees by \$1 per participant.

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