



ORIENTEERING TASMANIA INC. POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

H

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ORIENTEERING IN TASMANIA

The first orienteering event held in Tasmania was at the Lea near Hobart, on Sunday, 9th September 1972. Almost single-handedly, Karen Alexander, acting as mapper, course setter, starter, novice-instructor, time-keeper and treasurer, together with Janet Stephens as publicity officer, introduced the sport to Tasmania. Following a number of further events, the Orienteering Association of Tasmania (OAT) was formed on March 6th, 1973.

In 1979 four clubs were established: Australopers (AL), Hills and Valleys Orienteering Club (HAVOC), and Unidentified Flying Orienteers (UFO) in the South, and Esk Valley Orienteering Club (EVOC) in the North. The OAT then became the State coordinating body.

Several attempts were made to introduce orienteering in the North West, with the short-lived Bass Orienteering club established in 1980, operating at Burnie. The Pathfinders club was established in Devonport in 1990.

Wellington Ranges Orienteering Club (WROC) was formed as a result of the amalgamation of UFO and HAVOC in December 1990.

The OAT was incorporated in 1985. In 1991 OAT became Orienteering Tasmania (OT) along with a change in its structure.

In 1988 the association conducted its first large international event, the Asia-Pacific Orienteering Carnival (APOC'88) and Heat 2 of the 1988 World Cup. In 1992, OT hosted the largest international event ever held in the Southern Hemisphere – the Veteran World Cup. In October 2002 a special Tasmanian Orienteering Carnival was held at St Helens with entries from over 20 countries.

Tasmania hosted its first Australian Orienteering Championships and Australian Schools Orienteering Championships in 1980, its second in 1996, and its third in 2004. In 1984 and 1999 Tasmania conducted the Australian 3 Days Carnival (held at Easter).

Tasmania has been well represented at national and international events. Members have been frequently included in Australian teams for the World Orienteering Championships, Junior World Orienteering Championships, Asia Pacific Orienteering Carnival, and Australia/New Zealand Challenge as well as individual participants in other major overseas events.

AUTHOR	Ian Atkinson/John Brammall/Warwick Moore
RESPONSIBILITY	
LAST UPDATED	14 October 2006
APPROVED BY OT EXECUTIVE	

ORIENTEERING TASMANIA - HISTORY

Since 2001 Tasmania has mounted State teams in the National O League competition.

Tasmanian orienteers have played their part in the national administration of orienteering. John Brammall was President of Orienteering Australia from 2000 to 2004 and he and others have led in development, high performance, coaching and major event controller roles.

A number of Tasmanian orienteers have served or are serving in various IOF Commissions (John Brock, John Brammall, Christine Brown and Mike Dowling).

At the State sports level, Orienteering Tasmania has been recognised a number of times for excellence in sports administration and management often in competition with many larger so-called 'major' sports: -

- 1992 – Gold Award for Event Marketing (Australian Marketing Institute)
 - Tasmanian Tourism Award: Major Event
 - Pica Print Award: Mapping
- 2002 – Winner Tasmanian Award for Excellence in Sports Management
- 2003 – Premiers Physical Activity Award
- 2004 – Winner Volunteer Management Award and Finalist Ministers Award

In 1999 Orienteering Tasmania gained Active Australia Provider status, and subsequently underwent two successful audits. This status, set up by the Australian Sports Commission, provided a national recognition of sporting and recreation organisations operating at a high level of performance. Although the ASC was unable to maintain the scheme as it was first established, it was none-the-less a valuable benchmark for evaluating the quality of the organisation. (EVOG also gained this status.)

In 2003 OT reached agreement with the Tasmanian Institute of Sport (TIS) for inclusion of orienteering as one of five sports in the 2003/2004 Australian National Talent Search Program in Tasmania. This has continued to 2006, and has resulted in orienteering gaining some gifted young athletes, some of whom are already performing well.

In 2006 Hanny Allston became the first Australian woman to win both a World junior orienteering title and a World open orienteering title – the first non-European to achieve such an accomplishment. Hanny also gained a silver medal in the junior championships, and was, together with another Tasmanian, Grace Elson, and Jo Allison from ACT, a member of the Australian woman's relay team that came fourth in the World championships. So, in just 34 years, Tasmanian orienteering grew from small beginnings to having its name on the world stage.

See also

[Office Bearers - Past Awards and Titles](#)