



## Monthly Meeting Thurs Aug 28 2025

Jane's and Mike's

22 Meath Ave

Taroona

### AGENDA

1. Meeting opened at:
2. Attendance:
3. Apologies:
4. Minutes of previous meeting (Thurs 31 Jul)
5. Motion that Minutes be accepted: ; Seconded: ; Carried
6. Correspondence
7. Action list from previous meeting
  - Event admin meeting (amendments to blue and yellow cards; 2<sup>nd</sup> Square unit and I-pad for Admin desk?)
  - Newcomers at the Nats (Robyn for Julian)
8. Financial Report

In the absence of Julian, nil income and 2 payments are noted: \$361 customs bill for medals; \$1302 to Aussie O Gear for 21 Bryzos shirts. Funds in bank: \$25,933.

Report be accepted? Moved: ; Seconded: ; Carried
9. Events

Past events

  - Geilston Gully, Sun 03 Aug, SL #6 (Liz Canning, Hugh Fitzgerald) (92)

Future events

  - Tolosa Park, Sun 07 Sep, SL #7 (Isaac Butler, Bonnie Butler, Cathy McComb); Learn to Orienteer #3 of 3
  - Hunt Tin Mine, St Helens, Sat 13 Sep, OST #12 (Bernard Walker, Jeff Dunn)
  - Bells Marsh, St Helens, Sun 14 Sep, Tas Long Distance Champs (Simon Louis, Dion McKenzie)
  - Gorringes Beach, Sun 12 Oct, SL #8 (Jeff Dunn, Sally Wayte)
  - Sandown Park, Wed 29 Oct, Twilight #1 (Margot and Janelly Marcant, Mike Calder)
11. Technical and equipment
12. General Business:
  - Learn to Orienteer social media promotion (Mike)
  -
14. Next meeting:
15. Meeting closed at:

## Draft Grant Request (minus formatting)

Grant request for AOC 2026 "Newcomers at the Nats" Orienteering Tasmania 23 August 2025 Summary Orienteering Tasmania is requesting a grant from the Whiteside Bequest to encourage Tasmanian newcomers to the sport to participate in AOC 2026. The concept is to provide incentives to newcomers who have undertaken a formal training programme, have demonstrated a basic commitment to the sport and have not previously entered National Championships. This would help provide an enhanced pathway to regular orienteering participation. The incentive consists of assisting newcomers with the cost of entry and offering a piece of up to date hi tech orienteering equipment to be used in their future orienteering endeavours. Take up of such a programme is difficult to estimate given it has not been offered before but assuming funding is limited to the first 50 participants the total grant requested is a maximum of \$14,000. Background and rationale Objective of the scheme is to encourage participation by newcomers at national events by offering a worthwhile inducement. In so doing making it clear that such events are not just aimed at the highly skilled but offer to beginners a chance to participate, enjoy and learn from the experience - an opportunity that only comes round once every few years on their home ground. It helps provide a further stepping stone from a Come and Try It, Learn to Orienteer, and Twilight Series involvement through to mainstream orienteering. There are no restrictions on who participates in the scheme either by age or gender - they just have to be newcomers in the last 12 months or so. Attending a National event is an expensive activity for anyone (even from the home State) when travelling and accommodation is factored in. It is not considered feasible to subsidise travel or accommodation but it is realistic to address the direct costs of participating with a simple and straightforward proposal. The SI stick helps position the sport in newcomers eyes as technologically savvy and something which will enhance their participation experience. We are not aware of any similar schemes being offered from which we can draw lessons. Who qualifies? Anyone who has:

- participated in a formal multi day learning programme sanctioned by OA during 2025 and up to the start of AOC 2026 (OT to confirm individual's status)
- joined a club - this demonstrates a commitment to the sport on the part of the applicant.
- has not participated in a previous national event (checked via Eventor).

From the start of this year up to the time of AOC 2026 we anticipate at least 200 persons from throughout the State will have been through a 'Learn to Orienteer' programme. It is hard to gauge take up of an innovative offer such as this and it is considered prudent to include a restriction on availability (e.g. first 50 to apply) - The Whiteside Bequest therefore knows upfront their potential maximum outlay. What is the offer? The simplest and most direct inducement is to offer:

- free entry to all AOC 2026 events together with
- an SI Air stick such that newcomers feel they are utilising top grade equipment and something they can continue to use throughout their orienteering career
- to reinforce the ongoing support being provided to newcomers we would also require participation at an introductory session prior to the first event "What to expect at the Nats".

Promoting the offer. Availability will be promoted through the OT website, individual club bulletins, direct mail to 'Learn to Orienteer' participants and of course word of mouth Cost of the programme. Cost per person is estimated as: Entry fee - 4 events at \$40 (assuming Earlybird pricing applies) SI Air stick - \$120 Total per person \$280 NB The AOC 2026 committee have yet to finalise entry fees but the figures above are considered realistic estimates. SI Air price current from aussieogear.com If the full quota of 50 is achieved then total cost is \$14,000. Cost will of course be reduced in proportion to the take up. The Whiteside Bequest would only be asked for payment when the final numbers qualifying are confirmed. Measuring success Success will be determined by how many persons apply for the scheme. However since the costs are directly proportional to the number of participants the risk to Whiteside is minimal. If we achieved anything approaching 50 persons being involved in the scheme then we would regard that as a major success when total entries are expected to be in the order of 500 persons and in prior national events hosted in Tasmania newcomers have been the exception. Relevance to other states/events We suggest the concept is easily replicable by other states hosting major events provided they have a structured programme for encouraging newcomers. Volunteer hours are relatively modest being largely:

- identifying qualified newcomers
- encouraging newcomers to apply for the scheme
- organising the introductory session prior to the events
- ensuring the application process is smooth for the applicant

Contact details Julian Roscoe, AOC 2026 treasurer  
roscoejulian@gmail.com 0418 123 459