2024 President's Report

Membership	297 – up from 226 in 2023
Event Income	We ran events that participants wanted to spend $52,000. on.
Levies Paid	We contributed $10,500 toward ONZ in the form of Levies.
Supporters	Thanks to all those individuals and groups who have supported North West in 2024: ● David Melrose - junior fund donation ● Bivouac Outdoor, Boric Orchards, and Graze snacks - event prizes
Representatives	Congratulations to all those who represented NZ: ● Isaac Stewart - Southern Cross Challenge ● Cameron Bonar - JWOC
Land owners	Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara (Woodhill Forest) Rob Garden and Marquita Gelderman (access to Slater Road Forest) Riverhead Forest managers AUT Akoranga Campus Mr Chow (Mairetahi) Ian Humphrey (Stoneybrook)
Special Acknowledgements	

Events

In 2024 NWOC ran 9 events in total; 5 forest orienteering, 1 sprint orienteering and 3 rogaines. In these events we co-hosted the JWOC trails and hosted NISS.

The events we ran were of a good quality and we continue to be known for hosting smoothly organised events with top quality orienteering.

Training

NWOC provided just a few training opportunities for members this year, not as much as some other similarly sized clubs. The main avenues for training were small talks before rogaines and soft directed training in Riverhead Forest. We see benefits to training beyond improving navigation skills and we aspire to provide more in this area in the year ahead, which we hope will lead into a wider pool of workers in the future.

Maps

NWOC continues to watch over a great set of assets in the form of our maps.

An old Woodhill map, Celebre, came back online this year with a complete remap. Another collaborative mapping job means this map is another co-owned with AOC.

A remap of the White Line area of Woodhill Forest is mostly underway with the same structure. This progress shows our clubs adaptability to the changing pattern of forest availability and heralds a return to more orienteering in the parts of Woodhill closer to Auckland City.

This season also saw many updates to our popular maps like those in Riverhead, Stoneybrook and frequented areas in Woodhill.

Membership

Membership stands at around 295.

We've had a substantial growth in membership compared to 2023. The most significant contributors to the increase are thanks to the Pinehurst School contingent and the Rogaine Series membership combo deal.

Skills

When looking at our skills across areas of the sport, a common theme is concentration. We have the talent, skills, and experience to run top quality events, but risk significant disruption if certain key personnel move away from their typical roles. The committee is actively working on ways to spread skills more broadly in the club in order to reduce this concentration risk.

Better understanding what skills and interests are out there in the club will be part of the progress here. A good examples of success with this the work by Louisa Currie to refresh the Rogaine Series branding and website. This unloaded the committee and improved the outcome by giving the work to a professional.

One part of our solution is continued acknowledgement and financial support for course planners and controllers and all volunteers with the free entry vouchers and we plan to enact more similar measures in the coming year.

Governance

The NWOC committee functions well to manage the interests of the club. Meetings have become generally more streamlined over recent years and visibility over key tasks like event profit/loss and mapping cost is more visible than ever with digital documents.

There is immense experience in the committee and I'm impressed by how well challenges and risks around delivery our events are dealt with by those with that expertise, while those with other areas of focus are free to focus on their roles. This trust allows us to spend valuable time on long term issues without leaving issues with upcoming events unaddressed.

One timely critique of the committee is that at times it risks becoming a working group, instead of a steering committee. Much of the time being on the committee is synonymous with doing the work. I'd like to acknowledge notable exceptions like James Christie who runs our event technology without being on the committee and Alan Janes who's enduring contributions come more through the committee meetings than at events. This distinction is essential if we want either the join the committee and taking up skilled jobs to be inviting to newer individuals who want to take a first step towards furthering the interests of the club. This is something we are actively working on.

Club activities

The most significant club activity this year was the shared accommodation at NZ Champs in Genesis Lodge in Rotorua. The group accommodation and a shared dinner was intended to foster club spirit, allow newer club members to get to know other club members, and for everyone to learn from each other as they talk over their races.

NWOC leadership

NWOC continues to lead by doing. We lean into our strengths to run good quality events on interesting and up to date maps. We hope this rubs off on other clubs and contributes to the march of progress our sport has enjoyed since its inception.

ONZ

NWOC members still hold strong connections with ONZ with myself as Training Coordinator and Marquita Gelderman on the Board. These positions help ideas and information flow in both directions; We can more easily stay abreast of wider issues and opportunities in the country and since we are listened to, we can contribute to steering the wider community in a good direction.

Our relationship with ONZ management is good, and we are known to have expertise valuable to the wider community.

Local Clubs and Lactic Turkey

NWOC continues to maintain close communication with AOC, CMOC and Lactic Turkey about event planning and longer term goals. Our relationship is AOC is especially good and we routinely share equipment and even highly value maps.

Future Plans

NWOC remains on a multi-year trajectory to sure up its own future by reducing dependence on a concentrated few. In 2024 we got more confidence on some of the solutions, but acknowledge that the best way to know is to try. On that note we intend to try more ways to engage and support our membership in the year ahead.

Gene Beveridge
President
North West Orienteering Club