



New Zealand Orienteering Federation (Inc)
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FROM THE GM's DESK – FEB 2011

ANOTHER YEAR – ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

I can't believe the year is already nearly 2 months old and our National Championships are only 2 months away. It's time to think about getting those entries in now!

You might not believe that after a period of absence this occasional newsletter has been resuscitated with a slight name change and hopefully the good intentions will continue longer than they did in 2010.

Despite the odd creaks here and there in this organisation, our sport continues to grow on the backbone of the amazing efforts of many of you. National club membership broke through 1,800 while participation data records a significant increase. More details in our Annual Report to be produced next month.

CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE

As I write this I'm distracted by the images on TV from Christchurch and I'm sure all of us outside of the region are concerned for the safety and well-being of our PAPO friends. To all orienteers in Christchurch we are thinking of you, and if there is any way the orienteering community can offer any assistance or support, please do not hesitate to ask.

NZOF WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

Despite an outward appearance perhaps indicating otherwise, we are working on upgrading our website. We are determined web solutions will serve us for the long-term and that means no "quick-fixes" are planned.

In the meantime, I'm utilising Facebook to put out any snippets of news that will be of interest to orienteers and I encourage you to keep an eye on our Facebook page. You don't have to be a Facebook user to view the page, and it can be accessed at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Zealand-Orienteering-Federation/353993084879>

NZOF APPOINTMENTS AND VACANCIES

We have found some new blood to undertake important roles within our organisation and I'm pleased to welcome **Peter Watson HB** as our new Convenor of Selectors and **Martin Peat CM** as our new Secondary Schools Co-ordinator. Thanks to them both for volunteering their services, and an even bigger thanks to the people they replace – **Jeff Greenwood AK** and **Geoff Morrison HB** – who have made a significant contribution over many years.

Yet as gaps are filled others appear, and I'm especially keen to find people with an interest in coaching and with some spare time they can devote, to contact me.

WORLD SKI-O CHAMPS

Keep an eye out for **Chris Forne PP** and **Emily Wall PP** at next month's World Ski-O Champs. They are being held from 20 – 28 March and you'll be able to follow the action at <http://www.skiwoc2011.com/>

INTERNATIONAL EVENT ADVISOR CLINIC

There is an event advisor clinic being held later this year in conjunction with the World Masters Orienteering Championships in Hungary. Any A Grade controller attending WMOC may like to consider attending. We only have three international event advisors in NZ and we could do with a few more. Please contact me if interested.

SILVA ORIENTEERING AWARDS

As usual, at Easter during our Nationals the Silva Orienteering Awards will be presented and nominations are open now! Individuals as well as clubs may make nominations and if you believe someone is deserving in any of the categories, drop me a line. Nominations can be as simple as a short e-mail to me stating who and why, and don't delay – do it now while you think about it.

CONGRATULATIONS

Orienteers occasionally are recognised at Regional Sports Trust awards and I would love to hear of any nominations as I'm sure I don't see them all. Close to home, it was great to see **Trish Aspin CM** win the Masters award for 2010 from Counties-Manukau Sport while **Alistair and Joanna Stewart AK** were recognised by Sport Auckland for their many years of volunteer service. Congratulations to all three of you.

