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## FROM THE GM's DESK – SEP 2011

### FORGET THE RUGBY WORLD CUP – OURS IS ONLY 15 MONTHS AWAY!

A primary focus currently for NZOF is the Oceania Carnival incorporating the initial round of the World Cup in January 2013. A Board chaired by **Graham Fortune (WN)** has been beavering away during the year to put the framework in place to make this event hugely successful and have our visitors leave with fantastic experiences and memories. Recently, **Graham Teahan (RK)** has been appointed Event Director and will bring his experience from APOC 1994, and WMOC's in 2000 and 2009 to the role.

Just as important as the organisational side of the event will be helping our athletes perform to the best of their ability. Having a World Cup at home is a precious opportunity to achieve results even better than those gained overseas over the last few years. Being realistic, it is an opportunity our current elites may only have once – we have only ever hosted a World Cup race once before, in 1994. How we maximise the potential for our athletes to perform will be addressed in the near future.

### A PODIUM, BEST-EVERS ... JUST ANOTHER HO-HUM INTERNATIONAL YEAR

Before it becomes a distant memory, we really should sit back and reflect on what an incredible year some of our athletes have given us in 2011. It is a rare occurrence for a Kiwi orienteer to step onto a podium at an international elite event, yet that is what **Angela Simpson (BP)** achieved by finishing 6<sup>th</sup> in the sprint distance at the Junior World Championships. Our team at this event gave us daily highlights and best-ever aplenty, ending with superb performances in the relay event, the girls finishing in the top-10 and the boys just missing out.

A month or so later, our senior elites had their turn in one of the most technically difficult areas used for a World Championship. Hence it is even more outstanding that **Lizzie Ingham (WN)**, at her first World Championship, had the ability and temperament to qualify for all three individual finals and finish in the top-20 in all of them, with her 11<sup>th</sup> in the sprint distance being the highlight. **Chris Forne (PP)** was as solid as ever while **Ross Morrison (HB)** grabbed 25<sup>th</sup> in the men's sprint final.

Orienteering in Europe is not all about elites and a smattering of others meandered their way around the continent, taking in various multi-day events. We see **Trish Aspin (CM)** picked up another medal at a World Masters Championships, this time a silver in W65 before winning that grade at the Scottish 6-days, where **Graham Fortune (WN)** also won M70.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

There are a couple of roles that need bodies in them sooner rather than later.

D-Squad Coaching Coordinator: **James Bradshaw (CM)** has stepped down and we need someone to carry on the good work he, and his predecessors, have done with our top juniors. Ideally a person with an affinity with young people, some idea on coaching and orienteering techniques and organisational skills will jump at this opportunity.

Contents Editor – Yearbook: We will be publishing a Yearbook at the end of this year and a volunteer to organise the content would be appreciated. We do not need a journalist, more someone to cajole and convince others to write material, and source photos. The role does not involve any design work.

Looking into the not-too-distant future, there will soon be a call for high performance roles in relation to the World Cup (2013), and JWOC 2012.

## PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

During the year we have increased (with immediate effect) our PL Insurance as some forestry owners require higher levels of cover. These levels are now \$10 million indemnity with cover under the Forest and Rural Fires Act also doubling to \$2 million. These increases are unavoidable, especially with the recent experience one forestry company endured after an accident burned down a significant part of their forest.

## AREA EMBARGOES FOR EVENTS

Please respect embargoes placed on areas for upcoming events. Currently we have embargoes in place for:

- a) the MTBO ANZ Challenge in January 2012 (Central Otago – see the event website at [www.otagomtbo2012.co.nz](http://www.otagomtbo2012.co.nz));
- b) next year's Nationals at Easter in Auckland – embargoes notified on the maptalk forum in the Nationals 2012 thread; and
- c) the World Cup in January 2013, on the NZOF website.

## YEAR 13 AT SEC SCHOOL? GOOD GRADES AS WELL AS GOOD O SKILLS?

Applications for the Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship Programme close on 31 October. This programme is for University of Waikato students and well worth considering if you meet the criteria. **Angela Simpson (BP)** is currently a recipient and it doesn't seem to be doing her any harm, while current NZOF President **Simon Addison (WK)** is a past scholar. The GM has brochures for anyone interested.

## FINALLY, ALL THE BEST IF YOU'RE OFF TO OZ

Good skills to both the ANZ Challenge and NZ Secondary Schools teams about to depart for Australia to compete against their counterparts as part of the Oceania Championships.

