Annual Report 2016

A summary of 2016 outcomes, activities and performance and plans for 2017

Prepared for the 2017 AGM
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Attachments – Balance Sheet; Profit and Loss Statement
2016 Key Activities, Changes and Achievements

Governance

- Natasha Sparg, who was elected to the role of President at the 2016 AGM, was unable to continue in the role after changes in her workplace responsibilities. Council thanks her for the enthusiasm and fresh ideas she brought to her position in the short time she held it. When there was no response to advertisements re the vacant position, Jan Fletcher offered to take on the role in an acting capacity until she could be replaced at the 2017 AGM elections.
- At this time Noel Schoknecht took on the role of Acting Vice President in addition to his role as mapping convenor to provide support to Jan.
- Council is grateful to Peter Komyshan who agreed to continue in the position of Secretary until a replacement could be found. Daisy McCauley was welcomed to the position late in 2016.

Goals

- Most of our goals for 2016 were achieved as reported to our DSR consultant, Lorraine Campbell, during a meeting to determine our eligibility for continuing funding under the Organisational Sustainability Program. Lorraine was happy with our performance in the key areas. It is crucial for OWA to continue to meet DSR expectations because the Department is our single biggest grant source.
- A three-year strategic (2017-2019) plan has recently been completed. This was started at the beginning of 2016 when a review of our performance against goals set for the previous 4 years was carried out by Bryce Crage. It provided understanding of the issues we needed to incorporate in the online survey that members completed. This was followed up by consultations with clubs. The data from these 3 stages was then made available to a consultant obtained through a grant provided by DSR. His draft plan was then discussed with a working party of OWA members. The finalised plan is now at the stage where the 2017 OWA Council can use it to develop operational plans for subsequent years.

Financial Management

- Thanks are due to Edward and Emma Plummer who have provided excellent management of our finances throughout the year.
• OWA is still in a sound financial position with $83,282 held in bank accounts and terms deposits. Nevertheless, our expenditure has exceeded our income for the past couple of years so we either need to find ways to raise funds or reduce expenditure.

Events & Mapping

• OWA provided 3 series of foot events: Bush, MetrO and Navdash, as well as the Mountain Bike Orienteering series. Many thanks to all the volunteers who made this possible.
• The WA Schools championships was our largest event. As this was anticipated, OWA ran 2 separate carnivals for Primary and Secondary school students. Combined numbers were again close to 1000 with 572 secondary and 417 primary students participating.
• Mapping output has been considerable this year. OWA is fortunate to have a good number of competent mappers who are effectively deployed by Noel Schoknecht.

Coaching & Development

• A range of coaching and training activities were held as can be seen from the coaching report. Thanks to Coreen and all the coaches for their efforts to upgrade the skills and fitness of our members.
• Major contributions to the development of our membership have been made by our two regional clubs which have made excellent use of funds made available to them through ASC Participation Projects. SWOT developed the Orienteering - it’s My Game (O-MG) series. This involved mapping two additional schools and setting 6 events that were attended by 32 secondary school students from 11 schools. ADHOC used its grant to map areas suitable for permanent courses that are appropriate for schools’ use with the goal of them being used for inter-school competition. This year an inter-school carnival involving 124 students in Years 5 & 6 from 6 local primary schools was held. Both clubs are only half way through their 2-year projects so we are expecting great things in 2017 as well.

High Performance

• This was an outstanding year for OWA with 3 athletes from WA being selected to represent Australia in elite competition
  o Henry McNulty was selected for both JWOC and WOC teams, an outstanding feat in itself. He then finished 6th (a podium place) in the JWOC sprint event
  o Ricky Thackray was again selected for the WMTBO championships
Jo Anna Maynard was selected as a member of the Bushrangers Junior Elite team to compete against New Zealand.

These 3 athletes were nominated by OWA for WA Sports Star 2016 Awards.

Participation & Membership

- Full members declined by 4.9% from 326 to 310.
- The number of entries to events run by all clubs was 3850. This number does not include participants in the Schools’ carnivals. (The number of participants would have been higher than this but cannot be provided as our recording system does not note the number of people in groups.)

Communication & Promotion

- In 2016, following a survey of members and Council discussion, the decision was made to change our magazine, the O-Express, from a monthly to a bi-monthly production available both electronically and in hard copy. Jane Punyanitya took over the role of Editor, for which we thank her.
- Our weekly E-News as continued to keep us up to date with events and activities thanks to the efforts of Layla Riley, our Administration and Communications officer, and Adam Nolan our Promotions officer.
- Communication has been a major emphasis of the Council in 2016 and we owe Nicole Davis thanks for the substantial amount of work she has put into developing a new communications policy for OWA.

Volunteers

- The contribution of OWA’s many volunteers was celebrated at our annual dinner which was enjoyed by just over 100 members.
- The 2016 Volunteer of the Year Awards went to Jennifer Binns (Governance), Ricky Thackray (Major Event Management), Jack Dowling (Event & Technical Support), Duncan Sullivan (Map Production & Coordination), Rob & Lois West (Coaching), SWOT’s O-MG team (Development), Robert Boekelar (Course Setting), Ori Gudes (Promotion & Communication), Bryce Crage (Club or Other Support – Specific Project), Emma Plummer (Club or Other Support – Ongoing).
- Janet Fletcher was the winner of the 2016 National Silva Award for Services to Coaching.
2017 Plans & Challenges

Our main plans for 2017 are outlined in the 2017-2019 Strategic Plan and include:

• Providing activities that will be attractive to families and young people.
• Supporting the development of volunteers through mentoring and training programs.
• Continuing to develop communication strategies that will bring our sport to the attention of a wider audience.
• Seeking opportunities for grants and sponsorships.

Our major challenges involve:

• Recruiting younger volunteers to fill key positions on Council.
• Increasing our membership.
• Finding the funds to enable us to support the development of our Juniors and our elite teams.
• Working with government agencies to ensure access to areas suitable for mapping.
2. FINANCIAL REPORT

2016 Key Financial Indicators

Cash on hand

- At the year end, the bank accounts had a total balance of $31,403.
- In addition, there was $80,000 in term deposits. These have terms ending in June and December so funds can be accessed during the year without penalty if needed.

End of year surplus/deficit

- The income and expenditure account shows a deficit for the year of $3,282.
- It is very difficult to compare figures year on year as the association’s activities vary depending on funding opportunities and how schools’ sporting initiatives are funded. Whilst this seems a significant improvement on the previous year’s figures shown as a comparative, it is the 2015 figures that were unusual – with the carnival levies paid after the 2014 Frazzle Rock carnival, and $26k paid to our nomads and schools team.

Main sources of revenue

- In 2016, $62k (42% of the income) came from funding; we thank DSR for their continued support in funding our activities; also Healthway. OA provided nearly $24k to assist our regional clubs in expanding their activities.
- More than 30% of the income for the year was received from entry fees for our events, which also included the National MTBO Championships.
- The balance of the income for the year was from membership fees, O shop (and club/squad shirt) sales, donations and the orienteering maps and sessions provided for schools.

Key expenditure items

- Nomads and schools’ team combined travel funding was $18,195 for 2016 and is the majority of the $21,459 development costs figure.
- Other amounts in the total development expenses of $52,717, include:
  - expenses relating to the SWOT and ADHOC participation grants – mapping, equipment and personnel costs for the events they organised.
  - payments to members as mappers and coaches for preparing maps for schools and providing courses for school children.
- Personnel costs total $30k and cover payments to everyone who helps support OWA’s activities – Layla Riley (admin), McTeam and the schools’ coaches.
• National affiliation fees totalled $18k and relate to state registration fee, event levies, Australian Orienteer magazine and WA’s share of Eventor Costs.
• Event costs are a significant part of the annual spending budget, but we are grateful to everyone setting the programme who work hard to keep costs to a minimum.

Attachments - Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure statement. These are currently unaudited but audited figures should be available by/at the AGM.

Detailed figures are available on request.

2017 Plans & Challenges

• The focus for us this year is to review our activities and see how we can best use our funds and try and generate more. We have a budget for the current year with an anticipated deficit and we will endeavour to turn this into a break-even position by the year end if we can.
• DSR funding remains unchanged at $22k. We will be looking to make use of any available additional funding to support our activities – particularly for equipment purchases. Council welcomes all ideas, proposals and support to gain additional funding.
• Preparations for the 2019 Easter Carnival have commenced and we will be starting the budgeting process to make that a financially successful event.
3. COACHING REPORT

Coreen Maynard

2016 Key Achievements

Coaches

- At the end of 2016 OWA had 20 accredited coaches with one new coach and one coach of long-standing deciding to stop.

- Specific coordinating roles:
  - Nomads - Wayne Eliot
  - Schools Orienteering Team - Anthea Fever, Mike Sibbald and Graham Braid
  - Sporting Schools - Janet Fletcher
  - SWOT Juniors - Jill Elderfield

Courses

- A Level 1 coaches course was held in 2016 with 5 participants, Harry Nicholson, Kelly Martin, Cameron Duncan, Wayne Eliot and Lois West. This was run by Janet Fletcher. Lois is now a fully accredited coach and the rest of the group are completing the post-course requirements.

- A level 2 coaching course was also held in 2016 run by Jim Russell. Five Level 1 coaches undertook the course to upgrade their qualifications to a Level 2 standard. One has completed the post-course requirements and four are working towards this.

Training and Coaching

Training and coaching activities were carried out during the year by members of the coaching team and several other experienced orienteers.

- A couple of training days were organised throughout the year for juniors. Jill Elderfield organised a training day in Bunbury early on in the year and around 20 juniors from Perth and Bunbury participated. We also had a day at Fred Jacoby for Perth based juniors.

- Craig Duffy, Rachel West and Rob West organised bush training activities leading up to the Easter 3-day carnival.

- A series of sprint training activities was provided by Natasha Sparg early in the year.
• Lightpole orienteering training was again coordinated by Janet Fletcher.

• Thursday group runs continued throughout the year at Kings Park.

• Junior camp was well supported and the new venue, Camp Kerem, was a hit with all.

**Schools team**

• A total of 16 students travelled to Queensland for the Australian School Sport Orienteering Carnival. Everyone gave 100% despite some illness and sore bodies. We saw 3 coaches travel with the group which was made up of seasoned competitors and a few new faces. Thank you to all those involved.

• Joanna Maynard was selected for the All Australian squad.

• School sport held their annual awards night. Orienteering was represented by Anthea Fever, Oliver Martin, Joanna Maynard and Michaela Maynard. Joanna won the School Sport medal for achievement.

**Nomads**

• Wayne Eliot was appointed manager of Nomads. Craig Duffy, Rachel West and Rob West held a series of training activities pre Easter.

• 2 juniors, Oliver Martin and Joanna Maynard, progressed into Junior elite ranks.

**Sporting Schools Program**

• Janet Fletcher organised this throughout the year.

• Jill Elderfield, Moreen Cox, Carol Brownlie, Tony Simpkins, John Toomey, and Ian and Jan Fletcher ran programs for children and/or Level 0 coaches’ programs.

**Schools programs other than Sporting Schools**

Orienteering activities were run in secondary schools by Michele Martin, Steve Fletcher and the SWOT O.M.G. team.
2017 plans and challenges

Nomads

• Creating regular coaching/training for our senior Nomad aspirants.

• Creating standards rather than sending a team

• Progression of juniors into senior ranks

Juniors

• Keep a steadying increase in numbers and keeping juniors involved in the sport.

• Provide training availability all year round

General

• Try to obtain an international coaching scholar to help with training programs and sporting Schools.

• Men’s training day in high demand, needs to be conducted.

• Utilise the coaches we have to hold regular training sessions.

Coaching Accreditation

• Ensuring those who started Level 1 and Level 2 coaching courses are assisted to complete practical components.
4. HIGH PERFORMANCE REPORT

2016 Key Achievements

National Selection

- Henry McNulty was selected to represent Australia at both JWOC and WOC – a significant achievement in itself. He went on to be a podium finisher with 6th place in the JWOC Sprint Event.
- Joanna Maynard was another junior to represent Australia, gaining selection in the Boomerangs Junior Elite team for their competition against New Zealand.
- Ricky Thackray again was selected to represent Australia in WMBOC.

National Orienteering League

- Throughout the year 10 men and 3 women represented OWA in our elite team, the Nomads, at either the senior or junior level in various NOL Foot O events. We were, however, unable to field full teams at any events.
- In the MTBO NOL events we only had one male and one female representative. They performed extremely well - Ricky Thackray won M21 and Natasha Sparg came second in W21 – enabling their team to finish second overall.

2017 Plans & Challenges

- The increased number of NOL events coupled with the cost of travel (most events are in the eastern states) makes it virtually impossible to field full teams.
- New ways to fund travel need to be found to support team members without depleting OWA reserves.
- Anthea Feaver has agreed to take on the role of Coach of the Nomads, so we look forward to regular training opportunities for current team members and those who aspire to become Nomads.
- Juniors with the potential and desire to perform at an elite level should be encouraged to attend Anthea’s training/coaching sessions.
5. MAPPING REPORT

Noel Schoknecht

2016 Key Achievements

Mapping

• A bumper year for map production, most notably in Metro maps.

• An increasing interest from schools in orienteering maps, and a move to standardise school map production to ISSOM (International Specification for Sprint Orienteering Maps) standard.

• 3 high quality MTBO maps produced for Australian MTBO Championships

• Completion of a major upgrade to the Jumbuck Hill bush map

Mappers

• Creation of a register of qualified mappers by map type (bush, metro, sprint and MTBO). Paid mapping conducted by the association are assigned to certified mappers on a rotational basis, ensuring fair and transparent allocation of jobs. WA is fortunate to have a capable and enthusiastic team of mappers able to fulfil most mapping requirements.

• A training day on bush mapping led by Alex Tarr held on Jumbuck Hill

Digital map archive

• A Dropbox archive to store the extensive, and ever expanding, digital store of maps was implemented. Wherever a map is updated for an event (this mostly applies to Metro maps), the update is added to the archive.

Purple Pen & OCAD

• Purple Pen course setting software is now the primary course setting software supported by the association. Two OCAD 12 licences were acquired by the association to enable access to a new suite of capabilities not available in the widely distributed OCAD 9 version.

Acknowledgements

• Paul Dowling for invaluable assistance with the Dropbox archive and the production of maps, Ricky Thackray for his enthusiastic and tireless contribution to MTBO and Metro maps and to the many mapping volunteers that continue to improve the comprehensive map resource the association holds.
2017 Plans & Challenges

2019 Australian 3-Day Carnival

• A major focus for 2017 will be finalising map approvals for the 2019 carnival, organising digital data acquisition (lidar, imagery), and engaging mappers. The plan is to have all maps completed by mid-2018 to provide plenty of time for course planners, controllers and organisers.

Schools mapping

• The demand for new, or updates to existing, school maps is likely to increase. The maps will be done, wherever possible, to modified ISSOM standards to enable them to be also used by the association as Sprint maps.
2016 Key Achievements

Attendances

- Average of 28 people across four standard bush events (down again on 2015)
- Two urban scatter events held attracting 45-50 people each
- Four interstate travellers to national series events in Vic and Qld

Maps

- Three new maps created for the Nationals – Dwellingup, Marrinup and Murray Valley

Nationals 2016

- Three very successful and well regarded events run in October plus a ‘warm up’ event, attracting a total of 216 participants
- WA is next scheduled to host the Nationals sometime around 2021, with only five states or territories now holding regular MTBO events
- National series wins to Lily McFarlane (W16), Debbie McKay (W50), Connor Martin (M12) and Ricky Thackray (M21)

2017 Plans & Challenges

Events

- Plans to go back to our six regular events for the year, including the state championship weekend
- New or extended maps planned to be used for the champs

Attendances

- Numbers are way down on previous years and dropping steadily; this seems to be common across many sports
- Biggest challenge is in drawing people to the sport and retaining them

2018

I said this last year but I will be stepping down as Convenor at the end of 2017 (or before) so will be seeking a replacement. I will have completed ten years on Council in the role by that time.
7. PROMOTIONS REPORT

Adam Nolan

2016 Key Achievements

E News

• Continues to be distributed on a weekly basis.
• Distribution continued to increase.

O Express

• Bi-monthly publication was successfully implemented during the 2015/16 year.

Website and Facebook

• The OWA website continues to be a key promotional tool and first point of contact for the sport of orienteering, OWA and event information.
• Events pages promoting OWA events are being published on an increasingly regular basis.

Media Exposure

• Orienteering events at Peterdine were fortunate to feature in The West Australian as one of the top 10 weekend activities.
• OWA and orienteering generally were positively represented by Nicole Davis in an on-air 6PR Interview.

Acknowledgements

• Nicole Davis, Layla Riley and Jane Punyanitya are to be commended for their ongoing and significant contributions to promoting OWA, and orienteering generally, as a fun, family friendly and rewarding sport. Their assistance throughout the year was greatly appreciated.

2017 Plans & Challenges

• To continue to assemble and develop the promotions team and to produce and implement processes in line with OWA’s communications policy.
• To ensure promotional and communication processes are implemented that will assist OWA to meet the communications objectives set out in the new Strategic Plan.
2016 Key Achievements

- 8 schools were mapped
- 12 schools received services. These schools were located in the Bunbury and Albany regions as well as in Perth. In 3 of these teachers were provided with a Level 0 course to enable them to run orienteering programs in their own schools. In the remainder, OWA coaches provided a program. This usually took the form of 4 weekly orienteering activities for a single class.

2017 Plans & Challenges

- There is still very little flow-on effect to regular orienteering events from schools engaging the services of orienteering as part of the Sporting Schools programs. New ways of helping the transition need to be found.
- Currently the majority of those providing training of teachers and running programs are retirees as they are often the only ones available at the times schools require. Attempts are being made to recruit potential Level 0 coaches from university Phys Ed programs.
- Sporting Schools expects the program to be expanded to Secondary schools in the near future. This will place increased strains on limited manpower. Increasing the number of teachers prepared to undertake Level 0 training will be necessary.
9. TECHNICAL REPORT

Tony Simpkins

2016 Key Achievements

Revised Metro Series Program

- A comprehensive review of the Metro Series was undertaken by Richard Matthews, Tony Simpkins and Ricky Thackray, and Ricky subsequently incorporated many of the recommendations into designing the 2016/17 Metro Series Program.

- These included extension of the Series to start earlier (early October) and finish later (March), varying events between Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings, and the introduction of some Score events with digital punching and timing.

State Championships

- Sprint, Middle and Long Distance State Championships were run, with excellent courses, particularly in the Middle Distance with good use of a technical gully/spur area, and in the tough and challenging Long Distance event. Attendance at the Sprint Championships was disappointing, with only 63 entries, but 15 other members choosing to enter on the day instead of compete in the Championships.

Controllers

- All Level 2 and 3 Controllers were surveyed, resulting in some positive outcomes, but also revealing that our Controllers list needs some renewal. On the positive side, we have Controllers appointed for the three 2017 State Championship events.

2017 Plans & Challenges

Course Setting and Controllers

- A Course Setting workshop is planned for March, and several newer members have already expressed interest in attending.

- A Level 1 Controllers is also being planned, but at this stage only one person has shown interest.

- At least two Level 2 Controllers will travel to South Australia during the year to attend a national Level 3 workshop.
2017 Event Program

- As ever, obtaining approvals for the bush and NavDash event program is a slow process, no matter how early we start to plan the program, but we are getting there.

- With longer, hotter summers, and particularly this year with Easter being both late and transferred to New Zealand, our bush program has been pushed back to May.

- However, an exciting Navdash program with several new venues will commence in March, and conclude with the State Championships in the Swan Valley in June.

- The Middle and Long distance State Championships will be held on a re-map by Alex Tarr of the Jumbuck/Walyunga areas.

Technical Documentation

- All documents on the Technical Pages of the website will be reviewed and updated before the season commences. This includes guides for NavDash, State Orienteering League, State Championships, and Event and Course Planning manuals.

Metro Series

- Following the current season, the trial of various options for timing and format of Metro Series events will be reviewed prior to planning for the 2017/18 season.
10. EQUIPMENT

2016 Key Achievements

Shed

- There were problems with the Alarm system earlier in the year. While these had appeared to have been resolved after members were reminded of the alarm system, a recent recurrence suggests that the system needs to be reviewed.

- The annual clean-up and stock-take of equipment was again organised by the Brownlies early in the year. Thanks to them and the volunteers who came to help.

Caravan

- Routine checks and maintenance carried out.

Controls

- Dave Pass has refurbished all the new lightweight stands, replacing many of the flags, which had been damaged by incorrect folding and storage. Dave has now produced a photographic guide to folding the flags, which all course setters should use.

- Dave also produced a new set of 20 Metro Series/School markers.

2017 Plans & Challenges

Sportident Stations

- Rubber seals will be replaced on all the BSF7 stations prior to events in the rainy season (the seals had to be ordered from Europe).

2019 Easter Carnival

- A review of equipment needs for the 2019 carnival will be conducted.
Scope of Role: To provide advice to the OWA council on matters relating to the effective management and integration of technology across the Association.

2016 Key Achievements

- Documentation of range of technology systems that support results, membership and communications systems and update of back end processes due to Orienteering Australia changes.
- Ongoing review and adjustment of access levels to systems to appropriate levels to safeguard OWA systems
- Development of an OWA Communications Policy (approved by Council) and Communications Process document (in final development). These documents detail how the technology platforms and communications methods employed by the Association work together and provide oversight of the communication practices of OWA.
- Upgrade of the Joomla backend of the website to the current version of Joomla to ensure the ongoing stability of the website.

2017 Plans & Challenges

- Maintain new systems and documents for reference and Association management, including administration access to systems such as Eventor and Website.
- Ensure that the Technology platform and Communications Policy are working effectively together and the Policy and the associated updated process for communications are implemented across the association.
- Maintain website currency and overhaul the clubs and schools areas to update the OWA breadth of information.