

Orienteering Australia Development Awards

Club Development Awards

Application from the Esk Valley Orienteering Club Inc.



The Esk Valley Orienteering Club Inc. (EVOC), based in Launceston, Tasmania, was established in 1975, and has been a highly active club since then.

The club has a proud history in the sport that is evident both through strong performances by its members of all ages in competition, and through a high involvement in administration. A significant number of EVOCers have been involved with the major national and international events hosted by Orienteering Tasmania; have held senior positions in Orienteering Tasmania and Orienteering Australia; held and hold positions with the IOF; and have acted as managers and coaches to Australian WOC and JWOC teams. Currently the club has one Level 3 Coach, and a number of Level 2 and Level 1 coaches, and has one IOF Senior Event Adviser, one IOF Event Adviser, three Level 3 Controllers and several Level 2 and Level 1 Controllers.

The club has a membership of around 60, but attracts a much wider participant support.

During 2007 EVOC conducted 32 orienteering events with a total of 3,352 entrants:

10 Twilight events	655
13 Sunday events (local/state, etc.)	976
3 MTBO events	68
3 special (requested) events	104
1 Seniors Week activity	20
7 Launceston State Primary Schools Sports Association events	1529
Total: 32 events	3352

The club meets regularly for business meetings, and has several social functions (BBQs, games nights, etc.) each year, including the annual award presentations dinner.

Club Officials for 2008:

Executive Committee:

President:	John Brammall
Vice President:	Ian Brown
Secretary:	Jan Mitchell & Carol Phillips
Treasurer:	Paul Pacqué

Other office bearers:

Coaching:	Debbie Gale
Equipment:	Ron Briggs & Peter Hoban
Events:	Christine Brown
Junior representative:	Juniors to be invited to put forward a nomination.
Mapping:	Christine Brown
Projects:	John Brammall
Publicity:	Valerie Brammall & Lynn Carswell

Our development projects

In 2007, EVOC was involved with two specific development projects:

1. **The mapping and setting up of a permanent DIY orienteering course in a local park including a children's maze.**

Aim: to produce a permanent public orienteering course in a popular park that will offer the public a quality DIY experience of orienteering.

2. **The furthering of a continuing project with the Launceston State School Sports Association to include orienteering for one term a year as an optional primary school sport.**

Aim: to provide primary aged children from Grades 5 and 6 with an enjoyable, "quality" orienteering experience

1. Tailrace Park DIY Public Orienteering Course.

The club successfully applied for a **grant of \$1200 from The West Tamar Council** to assist with this project which was to include the mapping of a small but very popular park about 3km from the centre of Launceston, the provision of permanent markers and the production of a kit available for purchase by the public. Paddy Pallin (Launceston) also assisted with a sponsorship of \$200.

A major challenge was the production of the map without any proper base map, but relying on Council photographs and Google Earth photos. The mapping involved a number of club juniors working with experienced club members, thus providing some 'on the ground' training.

Another challenge was the **design of the control plates** which needed to be as vandal proof as possible. This was achieved using small aluminium plates with the traditional red and white orienteering flag symbol in printed vinyl, and fastened in place with vandal proof screws. Using printed vinyl also enabled the West Tamar Council logo and the Orienteering Tasmania website to be included on every label.



An additional touch to the project was to **map a maze** situated in the park playground, and include a series of animal plates through the maze.

The map, course and kit were **officially launched by the Mayor of West Tamar Council** in October 2007. The kit is available for purchase from Paddy Pallin, and indications are that the course is getting reasonable use. Further sales points are being negotiated and several schools have indicated that they intend to make use of the course in 2008.

To date all the plates have remained intact. Their design is certainly worth consideration for use in other similar situations.

EVOC is now investigating establishing other DIY courses in various Launceston parks, and has the support of the Launceston City Council to pursue this.

The project kept to budget of \$2400. The \$1200 grant from the West Tamar Council was matched mainly through costing in volunteer labour from club members in all stages of the project. Such budgeting was encouraged by the Council.

Budget summary

Item	Cost	Notes
Mapping	\$450	Provided by club volunteers
Control plates and materials	\$450	
Printing of maps and kits	\$400	
Project management	\$825	Provided by club volunteers
Publicity and promotion	\$200	
Total	\$2350	

Photos of the park and the official launch of the project are appended to this application. A copy of the kit is enclosed.



Scenes of Tailrace Park, Riverside, Tasmania



West Tamar Mayor, Cr Barry Easter officially launches the DIY orienteering course – with Club President, John Brammall & young club member Arabella Phillips

2. Primary Schools Orienteering.

In 2003 EVOC was approached by **Launceston State Schools Sports Association** to assist in providing orienteering as an optional school sport for primary school sports activities on every Friday afternoon through term three. The program has continued since then (except for 2005) and is being continuously modified and improved with the overall aim to minimise club involvement in ongoing administration, although the club will retain responsibility for the maps and probably the courses.

The main aim of this project is to provide primary aged children from Grades 5 and 6 with an enjoyable "quality" orienteering experience. We believe the club is clearly meeting this aim.

In 2007, there were 11 weeks in the program with the first two undertaken by the teachers in their own school grounds or a local park. Students attended from 1.15pm to 2.30pm at parks and reserves around Launceston using black and white and colour maps.

The project is **funded by LSSSA** to an amount of about \$2,200 each year. This provides an allowance for a club member to be the program coordinator, all administrative costs incurred by the club, map royalty costs (payable to Orienteering Tasmania), the use of some club equipment (LSSSA are building up their own orienteering equipment), and a small reimbursement to club members who assist on the day.

In 2007, an average of approx 220 students per week attended from 9 schools with a total attendance at the nine EVOC run events of around **1300** (800 females, 500 males). In total there were 137 (day) adult helpers over the series, including teachers, parents and orienteering club members assisting with the program.

The program functions as follows:

The **club coordinator** is responsible (with assistance from club members) for ensuring that maps are current, and three courses are planned for each event (venue).

Master **maps** (mainly black and white, but some colour) are forwarded (generally by email) to the teachers responsible in each school. The school has the responsibility to copy the requisite number of maps, to allocate children to the different courses, and to ensure that each child has a map.

Club members are responsible for putting out controls, assisting children on the day, and collecting controls.

Teachers are responsible for starting and timing the children. First aid is the responsibility of the schools.

This format has been developed and consolidated over the years. Its success is evident from the request from LSSSA to fund the project again in 2008. In response to this request, the following guidelines will be set by the club:

- ❖ All teachers must participate in a professional development session prior to the commencement of the program.
- ❖ All schools participating must commit to the full program, thus ensuring that the program can provide for the progressive development of orienteering skills.
- ❖ Every child must have a map.

Both the **successes and possible weaknesses** rest mainly with the commitment of the teachers, and especially their time spent in preparing their children

Feedback from the teachers has been very positive. One teacher reported to the EVOC "The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the skills involved with orienteering. They particularly liked last week in the bush!" As indicated above, the club had already been requested by the LSSSA to repeat the program in 2008.

Following the 2007 program, teachers were invited to nominate a small number of children whom they considered to show some potential for orienteering. These children have been invited to attend a **talent identification** day with the club.

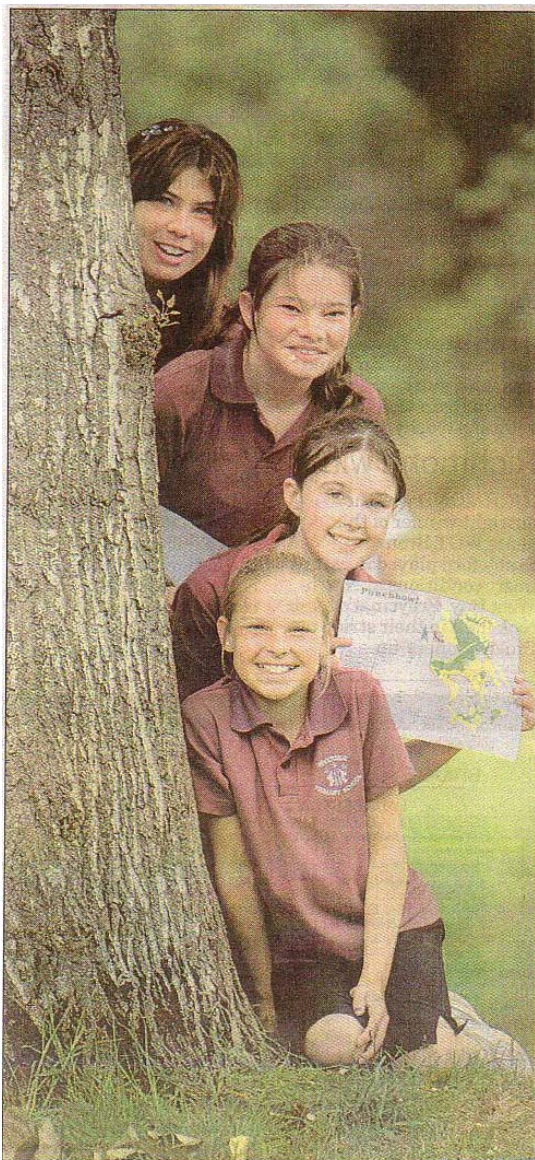
Future plans for the program including moving more of the responsibility for organisation to the schools and teachers involved. While the club will need to ensure that maps are up to date, in time teachers might well be able to take over the planning of courses and the running of the events on the day.

It is also envisaged that an **inter-school competition** could be included as part of the program. For example, in 2006 a Motala relay was organised for the final event, and proved highly successful. Unfortunately rain washed out this event for 2007

While there has been little transfer of children from the schools' program to club events, publicising club events directly to the parents of the participating schools has seen some families participating in club events.

EVOC, Orienteering Tasmania, and LSSSA are highly satisfied with the quality and outcomes of this project.

The program has received good media coverage over the years, samples of which are included below.



Students off and running for event

ORIENTEERING

By PHIL EDWARDS

A PRIMARY school orienteering event at Launceston's Punchbowl Reserve yesterday was helping to teach pupils the skills of cunning running.

Run by the Esk Valley Orienteering Club in conjunction with the Launceston State School Sport Association, the orienteering event was part of a nine-week programme for Grade 5 and 6 pupils.

"This is the fifth or sixth event we've had this year," Esk Valley junior development officer Valerie Brammall said yesterday.

"They start off in their schools with their teachers introducing them to the map and legend and the basics of orienteering and then we progress them to

using black and white maps and colour maps and develop their skills."

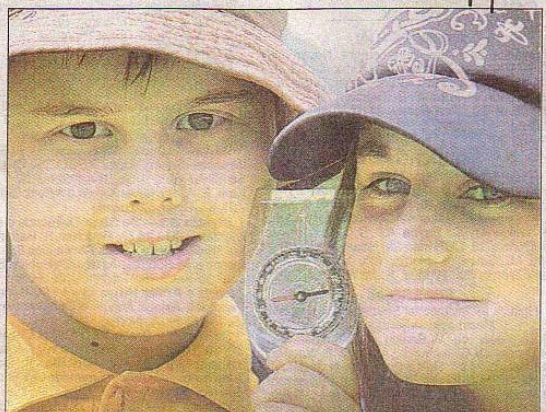
About 11 Northern primary schools are involved in the programme with more than 280 pupils taking part.

"We give them a choice of three courses from a simple navigation one and two others which offer a bit more challenge to those who are ready to take on something a little bit more difficult," Brammall said.

"Orienteering is becoming popular with students because it allows students who may not be athletic enough to win

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Examines 25/11/06





Punchbowl Primary School pupils Alex Walker, Nick Beard, James Hunt, Caleb Smith, Jarrod Withington, Crystal Jones, Rhiannon Stanley and Mikayla Blair were jumping for joy as they set out on their orienteering course yesterday.

LAUNCESTON Features



GOOD FUN: Katie Grace and Samantha Stoltenberg, of East Launceston Primary School.

200 find way to orienteer

The Launceston State School Sports Association's orienteering programme was held at Royal Park last month.

The event was organised jointly by the Esk Valley Orienteering Club and the LSSSA.

Last year, 1500 pupils participated over the 10-week programme held on Friday afternoons.

Following the success of the initial programme last year, about 200 pupils participated in this year's event.

Schools included East Launceston, Invermay, Mowbray Heights, Ravenswood Heights, Riverside, Summerhill, Trevallyn and Youngtown.

The programme introduces pupils to orienteering in local parks and reserves such as Heritage Forest, Western Suburbs Reserve at Summerhill, Royal Park and Punchbowl.

The final two events at Trevallyn State Reserve will introduce the pupils to orienteering in a less familiar bush setting.

Pupils start with simple

courses that follow paths and fences and, as they develop their map reading skills and decision-making abilities, they venture on to more challenging courses which allow cross-country navigation.

The challenge is provided by the student choosing the best route around the control points on each course which will allow them the fastest but safest way for the individual to navigate their way back to the starting point.

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