

2008: Already a Great Year for Australian Orienteering

2008 already promises to be a great year for Australian Orienteering. Orienteering Australia has been working overtime over the break to make sure it is a great year. There are a few exciting announcements to make already that we hope will make this year one to remember.

In this issue...

2008 SILVA National Orienteering League
Orienteering media coverage - magazines
Coaching Workshop
Schools Resources
Online Orienteering Community

Event Reports
Bushrangers in NZ
Christmas 5-Days
Events Upcoming

2008 SILVA National Orienteering League

Cash and Prizes up for Grabs, and not just for the Elite!

The National Orienteering League will move into an exciting new era for 2008, after securing a naming rights sponsorship from SILVA. The Swedish company is synonymous with compasses and Orienteering throughout the world. Recently SILVA was acquired by Fiskars Brands, which also includes companies such as Gerber, Brunton, and of course FISKARS Garden and Craft. SILVA has grown to produce many other items including high-quality head lights, trekking poles, GPS units, and watches.

The SILVA National Orienteering League will continue to provide quality competitions where the state based teams compete for the Men's and Women's trophy, as well as the growing Junior SILVA National Orienteering League. The sponsorship will enable \$15 000 in cash and prizes to be presented to individual events and overall series winners. But there will be also be random draw prizes for other age categories following the prize giving ceremony at selected events. The series consists of 18 races from March to September and is a truly National competition taking place in 5 states.

SILVA hopes their involvement will raise the profile of the SILVA National Orienteering League and help increase the overall popularity of Orienteering in Australia. Orienteering Australia is looking forward to building a strong and successful partnership with SILVA throughout 2008 and into the future.

Further information about the SILVA National Orienteering League can be found [here](#), and for SILVA products [here](#).

Orienteering media coverage - magazines

Australian Orienteering has done well lately in achieving increased coverage in Australian magazines.

Orienteering Australia continues its close relationship with the national running magazine, Run For Your Life (R4YL) which features a regular Orienteering section in each issue. Grant Bluett began compiling the articles which has recently been taken over by Rob Preston. Hanny Allston has benefited numerous times by this coverage and recently appeared on the cover of the magazine thanks to her Melbourne Marathon win. The magazine provides a great outlet for orienteering to get increased coverage in the general running community.



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The current issue (no. 107) of national wilderness and adventure magazine, Wild also features orienteering. The feature is a report from the 2007 Junior World Orienteering Championships in Dubbo. Increased coverage of orienteering in magazines such as this is testament to orienteering's increased presence within the mind of adventure and athletic minded people.

Further information on Run For Your Life magazine can be found [here](#), and Wild magazine [here](#).

Coaching Workshop

A Level 2 Coaching Workshop is being held in Canberra on Thursday and Friday March 27 and 28 - immediately prior to the post-Easter Canberra NOL events. The workshop is aimed at Level 1 coaches who wish to progress to Level 2 but will also be open to any aspiring Level 1 coaches. Further details will be released soon.

For any more information and to express interest in attending, please email the Manager, Coaching and Officiating Development, Bert Elson at oa_accreditation@netspeed.com.au

Schools Resources

A Schools pages has been set-up on the Orienteering Australia website. The page aims to provide a number of resources to schools to help establish an orienteering program as well as information on where more information and assistance can be sought.

To link directly to the page follow [here](#).

Online Orienteering Community



There is a new Australian Orienteering community **forum!**

You can visit it at: www.maptalk.org

We encourage all members and orienteering participants to get on board, share views and create a strong community. You can even use it to provide Orienteering Australia with feedback. The forum has been set-up by the guys in NZ that run the NZ equivalent Maptalk.

Event Report – Bushrangers in NZ: Australia New Zealand Test Match

Four test match races were held over the last week as part of the Waitangi Summer Orienteering Carnival on the North Island of New Zealand.

The Australian Bushrangers got off to a flying start in the Test Match series taking out a strong lead over the NZ Pinestars in the first event held in fast spur gully terrain. The lead was slowly eroded in the second event, a University campus sprint race. The lead reversed all together in the third event after the Kiwis completely dominated an event in intricate sand dunes north of Auckland.

The final event was unfortunately invalidated due to several protests giving the NZ Pinestars victory on home soil. The Australian Test Match will take place as part of the Australian Championship Carnival in Queensland later in the year.

Full results and more about the Waitangi Summer Orienteering Carnival can be found [here](#).

The Australian Bushrangers is a mix of Australia's top elites, and developing elites. The 2008 team in NZ consisted of:



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|-----------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| David Shepherd | ACT | Jo Allison | ACT |
| Kerrin Rattray | SA | Anna Sheldon | QLD |
| Simon Uppill | SA | Jasmine Neve | VIC |
| Matt Parton | NSW | Mace Neve | ACT |
| Bryan Keely | VIC | Rachel Effeney | QLD |
| Oliver Mitchell | QLD | Bridget Anderson | |

Event Report – Christmas 5 Days: Wine and Waves

Australian orienteer's enjoyed the annual Christmas 5 Day orienteering carnival held on very enjoyable and suitably challenging terrain in the Newcastle area north of Sydney. The event is famous for its social atmosphere, early starts, and days left to explore the local treats (this year wineries and beaches!). Despite this, the competitive nature of individuals is never too far away and all classes are still competitive

The Men A course had close competition after the first 2 days between Dave Shepherd (winner Day 1), Julian Dent (winner Day 2), Eric Morris and Grant Bluett. However some mispunches and DNS for some of the leading group on subsequent days, saw the final placings as Dave Shepherd (winner on Days 1, 4 and 5), Grant Bluett (Day 3 winner) and Simon Uppill. In Women A, Jo Allison won each day with Mace Neve and Allison Jones second and third overall respectively.

Other course winners were (based on best 4 of 5 results):

- B - Nicolay Stytov (M), Jenny Enderby (W)
- C - Hugh Moore (M), Lilian Burrill (W)
- D - Alex Tarr (M), Jacque Rand (W)
- E - Valentin Schepotkin (M), Lisette Schults-Rand (W)
- F - Leigh Hoy (M)

For the full results as well as maps and photos, visit the event web site's results page [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Events are held all over Australia and many urban based evening events are common during this time of the year. For details check out your [State Association](#). The major events season is not far away either and here is a list of upcoming National events.

- [23-Feb-08: Qld Sprint Distance Championships](#)
- [01-Mar-08: NSW Sprint Championships, Armidale](#)
- [02-Mar-08: NSW Badge #1, Armidale Area](#)
- [08-Mar-08: Victorian Relay Championships and SILVA NOL Round 1 - Event 1](#)
- [09-Mar-08: Eureka Challenge and SILVA NOL Round 1 - Event 2](#)
- [21-Mar-08: Australian Three Days Prologue and SILVA NOL Round 2 - Event 3](#)
- [22-Mar-08: Australian Three Days - Day 1 and SILVA NOL Round 2 - Event 4](#)
- [23-Mar-08: Australian Three Days - Day 2 and SILVA NOL Round 2 - Event 5](#)
- [24-Mar-08: Australian Three Days - Day 3 and SILVA NOL Round 2 - Event 6](#)
- [29-Mar-08: ASC Galaxy SILVA NOL Round 2 - Event 7](#)
- [29-Mar-08: Galaxy Mixed Relay- SILVA NOL Round 2 - Event 8](#)
- [30-Mar-08: The Canberra Cup and SILVA NOL Round 2 - Event 9](#)

MTBO

- [19-Apr-08: Victorian Long Distance MTBO Championships, Round 1 National MTBO Series](#)
- [20-Apr-08: Victorian Middle Distance MTBO Championships, Round 1 National MTBO Series](#)
- [20-Apr-08: Victorian Sprint Distance Championships, Round 1 National MTBO Series](#)

Questions or comments? E-mail us at orienteering@netspeed.com.au or call 02-6162-1200

