



## FINAL REPORT

### From the CARNIVAL DIRECTOR to Orienteering Australia Conference

The Oceania 2019 Carnival was hosted by Orienteering ACT in conjunction with Orienteering NSW and Orienteering Victoria, centered on Wagga Wagga, NSW, in the heart of the Riverina, and extending along the A41 Olympic Highway and beyond – from Cootamundra to the Beechworth/Wangaratta region in Victoria.

This year the carnival as a whole incorporated multiple different events:

- Oceania 2019 – all disciplines – Sprint, Middle, Long, Relay = events 1,8,7,3 respectively including the Oceania (Men and Women 21) Junior (MW20) and Youth (MW18,16) Orienteering Championships (OOC, OJOC, OYOC) plus other age classes
- Australian Championships – Long and (non-elite) Relay disciplines = events 2,3
- 4 NOL events = events 1,2,7,8
- AUS-NZ Challenge
- Australian Schools Orienteering Championships (ASOC) – Sprint, Long, Relay = events 4a,5a,6a
- Australian Universities Championships – held in conjunction with Oceania Sprint = event 1
- Riverina Run (RR) – a mid-week public 3-day event held in conjunction with the Schools Championships – Sprint, Long, Long = events 4b,5b,6b
- Junior Invitational Tour.

Competition started in NSW with the Oceania Sprint at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga on the afternoon of Saturday 28 September and concluded with the Oceania Middle in Victoria at Beechworth on the morning of Sunday 6 October 2019.

This report is not a record of the whole process of organising the carnival, but rather it is a personal review of the most pertinent issues encountered in a number of areas over time, as well as a recognition of contributions made by many people and opportunities for improvement in future. A detailed report including daily issues log will be made available to major carnival organisers.

## 1 Overall summary

**Overall** the carnival can be considered to have been a resounding success, both from a sporting perspective and financially. Particular praise came from competitors for the results and live production functions provided by Canberra Grammar School (CGS) and Living It Live, and for the courses and arena arrangements at the Oceania Long event in particular.

Staging the carnival in such wide-spread **locations** added a high degree of complexity from the outset, as it necessitated involvement and cooperation from three State Associations – OACT, ONSW and Orienteering Victoria (OV). Additionally the IOF appointed a senior event adviser from NZ.

Ahead of the carnival the highest **risks** to the carnival were considered to be:

- Maps and courses not ready in good time, or sub-standard
- Low entry numbers and consequent budget pressure
- Unforeseen or elevated expenses
- Adverse weather
- Poor performance by key personnel
- Last minute/sudden unavailability of key personnel.

**Mitigation** strategies to address these risks included:

- Appointment of a mix of experienced and emerging talented individuals
- Oversight by local, national and international controllers
- Conservative budget formulation
- Seeking sponsorship and value-for-money services and products
- Promotion, branding and other publicity; early web links to accommodation options
- Monitoring the weather forecast and planning alternative solutions for matters such as parking, shelter etc

If we could have been confident that relevant contributors would have adhered to it, it would probably have been prudent to promulgate a detailed **timetable** of expected milestones, with day organisers locked in earlier for all days. We did not have (and fortunately did not need) a specific strategy to replace any key personnel (including the carnival director and the single logistics coordinator) in an emergency.

In practice the risk that was least well managed and the mitigation that was least effective was associated with timeliness of quality **map and course production**, both in terms of the controlling individuals having the opportunity to vet the material and the printing being managed in an orderly way. Fortunately the experience of the personnel involved in the mapping and course-setting prevailed on the day, and there were generally not many concerns (and no official complaints) about the maps or courses.

In the final weeks leading up to the carnival the most serious other risk to emerge was associated with finding **first aid** providers. On balance 2 first aiders would be better than one at bush events.

While a **jury** was selected for every day, no protests were lodged so the juries were not called upon. At the carnival itself an awkward issue arose from confusion about eligibility rules for certain prizes (especially non-Australian or NZ competitors in Oceania classes).

**Technology:** over the span of the carnival, on the whole the results capture, big screen, live tracking and video production services were greatly appreciated by everyone in the arenas, and online, and we received many compliments about the way both the CGS and Living It Live teams enhanced the competition generally. If there is a downside in this, it is that the process is not necessarily repeatable in a cost effective way, especially given some generous private backing via CGS, and the fact CGS is not a commercial entity that will regularly be in a position to make these services available outside the ACT.

Flyers **advertising** event dates and distances from capital cities were distributed at Oceania 2017, at Aus Champs in Bathurst (2017) and Renmark (2018), and at the Yukon event in Canada in 2018. We probably missed a strategic opportunity to advertise more prominently to orienteers in Europe in mid 2018, but World Ranking Events were listed in the website calendars of the IOF and World of O.

We did not appoint an official **photographer**. Two orienteers who are also commercial photographers took copious photographs (especially of prize winners) and were willing to share them freely online, including via Facebook. Many other individuals took photos which were shared across a range of social media platforms.

This was the third year that a **Junior Invitational Tour** (JIT) has been arranged to coincide with ASOC, on this occasion organised by Toni Brown (OACT) and Barb Hill (Bold Horizons, NSW). By all accounts the tour was immensely popular with junior and adult participants alike, with the evening tour talks generally so well subscribed that second sessions had to be put on.

We considered not providing **plastic cups** for water in the arenas at all, but ultimately decided to make at least some cups available but to encourage participants to use their own water containers rather than generate a large amount of plastic cup waste. Cups were provided in the field, in quarantine and at start locations for events with remote starts. Every entrant had been given a water bottle on registration, and these were well used, especially when the weather became unexpectedly hot in the middle of the carnival (up to 32 deg C).

As usual of course it would not have been possible to run a successful carnival without the invaluable assistance of so many **volunteers** from three Associations, including those who said yes when approached ad hoc for assistance at the events eg to help with prize presentations or retrieve injured competitors. Particular thanks to the OACT Office Manager, Paul de Jongh, who provided tireless and good-natured assistance well in excess of his usual hours in the hectic two weeks immediately before the commencement of the carnival.

## **2 Statistical summary**

Modelling suggested that we could expect approximately 800 competitors for the Oceania Sprint, Long and Middle and Aus Long, with fewer for the relays and public/mid-week days.

In practice entry numbers exceeded forecast, as shown in Table 1 below. This increased our overall revenue, as well as additional OA levies and other expenses, especially in map printing and for toilets and consumables.

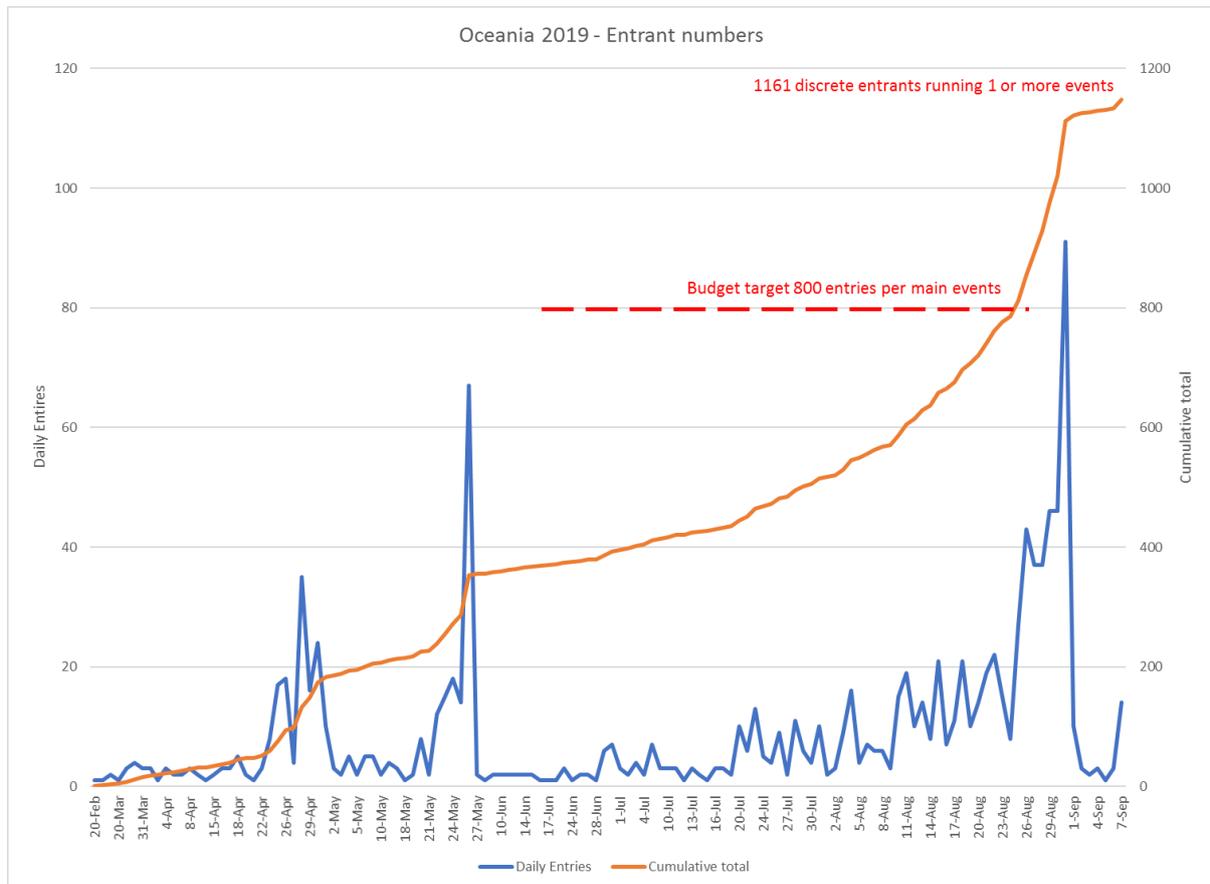
As with many pre-enter events there was a spike in entries immediately prior to close of the early bird period, extended early bird, then final cut-off – see Table 2.

**Table 1 – Entries**

Entrant numbers												
	Oceania SPRINT	Australian LONG	Oceania / Australian RELAY	Schools SPRINT	Public 3days SPRINT	Schools LONG	Public 3days LONG	Schools RELAY	Public 3days LONG (RELAY)	Oceania LONG	Oceania MIDDLE	* note that prior Auschamps and Oceania events are jointly displayed across Sprint/Middle/Long to give comparable prior numbers
<b>Background info</b>												
<b>Entrant counts - prior events</b>												
Tas 2015 Oceania	664	730	691							730	816	
NZ 2017 Oceania	1138	1260	864							1260	1212	
NSW 2017 Bathurst	854	836	638	138	467	138	482	138	579	836	899	
SA 2018 Renmark/Adelaide Hills	768	794	668	149	403	149	461	149	468	794	831	
<b>Oceania 2019</b>												
Budget count - target	800	800	600	180	440	180	440	180	440	800	800	5660
<b>Final count - actual event</b>												
<b>Normal</b>	900	972	705	171	469	171	483	171	445	977	988	
<b>Late</b>	18	23	29		21		22		21	20	19	
<b>EOD</b>	9	29			25		25		9	50	48	
<b>Total</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>1024</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>1047</b>	<b>1055</b>	<b>6820</b>
%ratio to budget	116%	128%	122%	95%	117%	95%	120%	95%	108%	131%	132%	
count to budget	127	224	134	-9	75	-9	90	-9	35	247	255	1160
<b>Pre-entry runners</b>												
added as their first run	918	+ 93	+ 23		+ 18		+ 2		+ 0	+ 95	+ 12	1161 persons in total
departed, didn't re-run		-16	-284		-262				-39	-93	-2	

OV also hosted a model event on the rest day, for which 330 people booked entry via Eventor and paid \$5 per head for a map on the day.

**Table 2 – Entry frequency**



### 3 Financial summary

For the purposes of risk/surplus/deficit apportionment, a 48:28:24 split was agreed in advance between OACT:OV:ONSW, based on allocation of 100 units for all the events, apportioned as 14 per major event and 10 per minor event for which each jurisdiction had lead organisational responsibility, hence 14 14 14 10 10 10 14 14 for the 8 days. A modest surplus was forecast for each association.

Income was 23% more favourable than expected. Expenses were almost precisely in line with forecast, mainly due to generous private backing from the CGS Foundation. Organiser expense claims were less than allowed for, and savings were achieved through printing only some maps commercially, with others printed at OACT office. Overall this more than doubled the projected surplus for the carnival and each association.

Sponsorship was relatively hard to come by. The arrangement with councils through Sports Marketing Australia was fruitful, but grant applications under the Commonwealth Government 'Move It Aus' program and to Indigo Shire (Beechworth) both suggested that the lack of likely local repeat business from our sport worked against us. Several potential sponsors said they would not be in a position to decide until the beginning of the financial year in which the events were to be held (ie not before July 2019).

Table 3 shows forecast and actual financial outcome for each of the three participating associations and OA.

*Table 3 – Financial outcome*

Distribution model - State/National Levy; Profit/loss share (10%/14% ratios for events)		Event budget	State / Nat levies	Cost recovery for mapping	Net forecast January 2019
48%	O-ACT	\$15,268	\$5,120	-\$2,000	\$18,388
24%	O-NSW	\$7,634		-\$200	\$7,434
28%	O-VIC	\$8,905		-\$3,120	\$5,785
	OA		\$25,976		\$25,976
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$31,807</b>	<b>\$31,096</b>		<b>\$57,582</b>
<b>**Possible** position November 2019</b>		<b>Event prelim finances</b>	<b>State / Nat levies</b>	<b>Cost recovery for mapping</b>	<b>**Possible** position November 2019</b>
	O-ACT	\$35,144	\$5,781	-\$2,000	\$38,925
	O-NSW	\$17,572		-\$200	\$17,372
	O-VIC	\$20,501		-\$3,120	\$17,381
	OA		\$29,674		\$29,674
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$73,217</b>	<b>\$35,455</b>		<b>\$103,352</b>

**Stephen Goggs**  
Carnival Director

1 December 2019