



O-NEWS
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UPCOMING EVENTS

For a full listing of upcoming events and all their details, please go to the [Event Calendar](#).

2026 JUNIOR CAMP REPORT



This year's camp was held at the beautiful Columboola Environmental Education Centre, with thanks to Principal, Sean Mead. The facilities were excellent, with a large meeting area, eating area and permanent tents all undercover, and a fully equipped kitchen and classroom. A huge thank you to Casey Giese for her amazing catering efforts, and to Kylie Fourie for assisting. The attendees were completely spoiled with not even having to wash their own dishes!

The camp began at Dalby SHS, with exercises set and run by Will Barnes. Will catered well for the large range of abilities, and set a terrific exercise that stretched the experienced navigators through the complexities of two levels. We then moved to Dalby Christian College for a sprint relay.



Day 2 was spent on the northern section of Gurulmundi with exercises set by Will Barnes and run by Ben Schulz. Eric Lovell joined us, as Will was unable to stay on. There were 4 exercises – bearings, hat relay, hagaby and control picking. At the same time, Krystle McConville ran a coaching session for 18 enthusiastic under 13's (and a few parents!) from the South West regional schools team. Marion stepped in to help with this unexpectedly large group and was in her 'Mini Cyclones' element. Thank you, Krystle and Marion!

Day 3 began with 13 juniors and 2 coaches running the Miles Park Run. The exercises were at the Richard's property, Twin Creeks. Ben set and ran a great hagaby course (you can never get too much practice at mass start pressure!) and an interval start exercise to practice the skills they had been working on. He also planned a mapping exercise, but we ran out of time.

Back at camp, there were 4 challenges for the Adventure Race, with Wellington Wood and Lexie

Krystle, and to your trusty side-kick, Sophie!



At every camp, the Fiona Calabro Memorial Award is presented to the junior who makes the most of their camp experience. This year it went to Ivy Young for her persistence, resilience and courage.

On Sunday morning, the Camp Champs were successfully held on the southern section of Gurulmundi. A total of 48 juniors attended either all or part of the camp, making it one of the biggest for awhile. It was fantastic to have so many juniors from the South West. A massive thank you goes to my four other coaches – Ben Schulz, Eric Lovell, Will Barnes and Marion Burrill, and to my amazing team of helpers – Matt Tomlins, Nicole Cooper, Sean and Jacinta Mead, Craig Baker, Phil Burrill and the catering team Casey and Kylie.

Junior Camp, 2027: 8 – 11 July. Save the date!

Felicity Crosato





The 2026 Queensland Schools Orienteering Championships are heading to the Darling Downs!

- 25–26 July 2026
- Crows Nest & Highfields

Entries are now open for the Queensland Schools Orienteering Championships - **3 races**, just north of Toowoomba:

Open to all Queensland school students who can complete a course independently:

- independent athletes
- members of regional representative teams

Public races: As well, there are courses for everyone at the Sprint and Long Distance, ranging from very easy to very challenging!

[Details & registration](#)

Entries close: Saturday 18 July 2026

GLEN MINE ORIENTEERING ADVENTURE



Think you can find your way?

Join us at **Glen Mine** for a fun-filled orienteering adventure! Navigate your way through checkpoints, explore the outdoors, and challenge your map-reading skills.

Glen Mine, west of Warwick

Sunday 19 July

9 - 11am

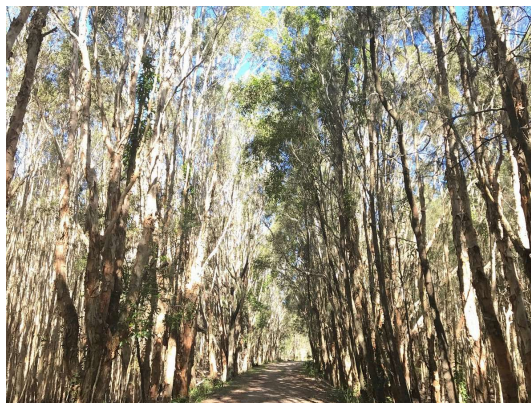
Suitable for all ages and experience levels.

Courses available: Hard 1 - 5.5km, Hard 2 - 4km, Hard 3 - 2.8km, Moderate 1 - 3.4km, Moderate 2 - 2.1km, Easy - 2.1km, Very Easy - 1.7km

Find your way. Explore. Have fun!

For registrations and enquiries: <https://eventor.orienteering.asn.au/Events/Show/24192>

BUSH TRAIL ORIENTEERING - COOMBABAH WETLANDS



All are welcome at this Bush Trail Orienteering event!

Sunday 19 July with starts from 9 -11am.

Course closure at 12pm

Courses available: TBC

Registration and more information at <https://eventor.orienteering.asn.au/Events/Show/23658>

ENOGGEROOS FOREST ORIENTEERING TRAINING SESSION (EFOTS) - SESSION 1



Enoggeroos Forest Orienteering Training Session or EFOTS - because we love a good acronym!
Saturday 18 July with starts at 3pm in Enoggera (exact location TBA)

These sessions will be designed to last around an hour and cater for beginners to experienced as training for forest orienteering.

This will be a coaching session for members only. There will be a limit to the number of participants to ensure any permission requirements are met. Priority to Enoggeroos however other members may be welcome if space allows. Please [check with the organiser](#).

Pre entry required by Wednesday prior to ensure coaching sessions planned meet target audience. Pre Entry does not guarantee a spot is available.

More information and registration at <https://eventor.orienteering.asn.au/Events/Show/24402>

Exact meeting location will be communicated to participants the day before the event. Meet at designated location 2.45pm for a 3.00pm start.

MIDWEEK ORIENTEERING - CLEAR MOUNTAIN



This week's Mid-Week Orienteering event will be on Thursday 16 July at Clear Mountain, Cashmere. There will be a classic bush event.

Starts between 10:00am and 10:30am.

Start Location: North end of Old School Road, off Winn Road

Courses: Long 3.9kms, Medium 2.8, Short 1.8, Very Short 0.8.

Fees: Members \$6, Casual \$8, Family/Group \$12. Cash only.

Please pre enter to guarantee a map.

Pre-enter here: <https://eventor.orienteering.asn.au/Events/Show/24398>

Pre-entry closes at 11pm on Wednesday prior.

All welcome!

EVENTOR PROFILE CONTACT CHANGES

Eventor Australia

Orienteering Australia's central IT-system

1. Background

2. Emergency Contact Details

The previous My profile > Contact Emergency Contact details looked like:

Emergency contact * Sue 0418901129 

Whereas the new fields, for a casual now appear as:

My profile

Personal details	Contact details	Time zone	Login	Competitor details	Organisations	Information
Email * aburnett2026@gmail.com						
Phone number (landline)						
Phone number (mobile)						
Street address						
City						
Postal code						
State * NSW						
Country * Australia						
Emergency contact name * Joy Oliver						
Emergency contact mobile * 0418 123456						

and for a member, also appear as:

Personal details	Contact details	Stats	Competitor details
Email *			
Phone number (landline)			
Phone number (mobile)			
Street address *			
City *			
Postal code *			
State *			
Country *			
Emergency contact name *			
Emergency contact mobile *			

As part of the change, a script was run to separate the existing data into text and numeric and to populate the new fields with the 'new' data.

Any member, or casual, who previously had not provided any emergency contact details, and who logs in to their Eventor account, will be required to provide any missing information to be able to log out successfully.

An additional change was also implemented to the My pages > Contact details tab to ensure mandatory fields are consistent for registered users, casuals, and club members. The change included email address and State becoming mandatory across all registered users.

4. Recommendations

Orienteering Australia recommends that all users log in to their Eventor account and review their profile settings, especially for emergency contact details, and ensure that all details are correct.

At the same time, if members have not yet done so, they might like to complete their diversity data profile.

A TOOLKIT EVERY COACH NEEDS



The AIS mentorship program is shaping the next generation of coaches.

After benefitting from regular check-ins with mentor Shayne Bannan, Paddle Australia's Senior Women's Coach Laurence Fletcher didn't need convincing to rejoin the Australian Institute of Sport's (AIS) High Performance Coach Mentorship Program for a second year.

The **AIS High Performance Coach Mentorship Program** is a professional development initiative run by the Australian Institute of Sport that pairs **developing high-performance coaches** with **highly experienced coaching mentors**. The program provides regular mentoring, guidance, and objective feedback to help coaches strengthen their leadership, decision-making, and coaching skills in elite sport environments.

In 2026, the program included **46 mentor–mentee partnerships** across **35 sports and organisations**, bringing together emerging coaches with mentors who have extensive experience and knowledge in high-performance sport. Participants use the program to reflect on their practice, tackle challenges, and grow professionally through ongoing one-on-one mentoring relationships.

As one participant described it, the program provides “a toolkit that every coach needs,” offering both support and constructive challenge from experienced leaders outside their immediate sporting environment.

Find out more about [this program here](#).

CHILD-FIRST COACHING APP - PLAY THEIR WAY



[Play Their Way](#) (UK) has launched a new app offering child-first coaching advice, support and resources for coaches working in sport and physical activity. The '[Coach in Your Pocket](#)' provides quick answers and practical ideas that coaches can access on the move or when difficult situations arise during sessions.

It'll help them put the enjoyment, rights and needs of young people at the heart of their coaching, with the aim of instilling a lifelong love of sport and movement.

The UK's latest Active Lives survey results show that [only half of children and young people strongly agree that they enjoy taking part in sport and physical activity](#). Coaches can have a huge influence on young people's experiences of sport – and ever-growing numbers of them are embedding children's rights into their coaching methods. But they're often volunteers with limited time, so the app is designed to fit around their real coaching lives.

What's on offer in the app?

In the app, which is available to download for free from the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#), users can:

- ask Joy, an AI coaching assistant, for child-first coaching guidance
- explore practical learning, real coach stories and downloadable tools
- track progress and unlock badges
- stay up to date with events, webinars and new resources
- enjoy trusted, child-first content – because all guidance comes from Play Their Way and partner-approved resources.

One of the app's main innovations is the personal coaching assistant Joy, who can provide ideas specific to a coach's age group, activity or available time.

Learn more and read the [full article here](#).

REVIEW THE DRAFT ORIENTEERING QUEENSLAND STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2030



After many months of consultation, discussion and planning, the draft Orienteering Queensland Strategic Plan 2026–2030 is now ready for review.

This plan outlines our proposed vision, priorities and strategic directions for the next five years and will help guide the growth and development of orienteering across Queensland.

Before the plan is finalised, we are seeking feedback from members, clubs, volunteers, officials, athletes and other stakeholders to ensure it reflects the needs and aspirations of our community. We invite you to read the draft plan and complete a short feedback survey. Your input will help identify any areas that may require clarification, adjustment or further consideration before the plan is adopted. Whether you are a long-time member or new to the sport, your perspective is valuable.

View the draft Strategic Plan and provide feedback via the survey: <https://forms.gle/pPz27cVube6ibZcz8>

Feedback closes on **30 June 2026**.

Thank you for taking the time to help shape the future direction of orienteering in Queensland.

Management Committee
Orienteering Queensland



The **NZ MTBO Championships** will be held from **24–27 April 2027**.

You can find the [event page here](#).

We'll be adding more information to the event-specific website soon.

The championship will include a **Mass Start, Sprint, Long, and Middle** event. The final race will conclude on Monday morning, allowing competitors to catch late afternoon or evening flights back to Australia.

The most convenient airport is Christchurch, with several direct daily flights to Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane, as well as seasonal direct flights to Adelaide and Perth.

We're also developing a broader programme of MTBO activities in New Zealand around the championships. The current plan is:

- **17–18 April:** MTBO events in Central Otago, hosted by Central Otago Orienteering and Dunedin Orienteering
- **19–22 April:** Informal MTB riding and/or orienteering around Tekapo (TBC) while travelling to Christchurch.
- **23 April:** Pre-Nationals MTBO Rogaine (TBC).
- **24 April:** Mass Start and Sprint.
- **25 April:** Long Distance.
- **26 April:** Middle Distance.



The 2025 Annual Report of OA is now on the OA website.

The direct link is here: [2025AnnualReport.pdf - Google Drive](#)

It is located on the [Annual Reports, AGM & Minutes - Orienteering Australia](#) page.

There are now 30 years of Annual Reports published on the age going back to 1996.

WHEN FINDING YOUR WAY ISN'T EASY



Photo by [Vitaly Gariev](#)

Most orienteers take pride in their ability to navigate through unfamiliar terrain, but for some people, simply finding their way around familiar places can be a daily challenge. A recent article highlighted a little-known condition called **Developmental Topographical Disorientation (DTD)**, which affects an estimated one in 30 people. Those with DTD can become lost even in environments they know well and have often experienced navigation difficulties since childhood.

Researchers are particularly interested in a subgroup they describe as having “**atopia**”—a difficulty in developing a mental or “cognitive” map of the world. While these individuals can recognise landmarks and remember routes, they struggle to understand how locations relate to one another spatially. As a result, an unexpected detour, road closure, or wrong turn can quickly lead to confusion.

altogether.

The encouraging news is that navigation skills appear to be trainable. Research suggests that excessive reliance on GPS can weaken spatial memory over time, while targeted navigation exercises and virtual training programs may improve orientation skills.

For the orienteering community, the article is a timely reminder that navigation is both a remarkable human skill and one that benefits from regular practice. Every event, training session, and map walk helps strengthen our ability to build and use cognitive maps—something many of us may otherwise take for granted.

This article was summarised from an article in The Conversation and ABC News and was written by Isabelle Kaiko, Ineke van der Ham and Judith Schomaker. You can find the [original article here](#).

ARE YOU PLANNING AN EVENT THIS YEAR?



Are you involved in planning an event this year?

Course setting?, Controlling? Event Organiser?

Please take advantage of the resources available. In particular, check the **Event Guide** and the **Course Guidelines** at

- [Event Resources - Foot-O](#)
- [Event Resources - MTBO](#)

and the **Risk Management guide** at

- [Safety & Emergency](#)

2026 Date Savers



QLD Foot Events 2026

Date	Major Events 2026
25-26 July	QLD Schools Champs - Crows Nest
9 Aug	OY8 – Marstaellar Rd Reserve (Middle)
22 Aug	OY9 (QLD Middle Champs) – Karawatha
23 Aug	OY10 – Prout Road (Long)
12 Sept	OY 11 – Toowoomba (Sprint)
13 Sept	OY12 – Leyburn (Long)



QLD MTBO Events 2026

Date	Major Events 2026
2 Aug	State Series 5 - Samford
19-20 Sept	State Series 6-8 QLD MTBO Champs
9-11 Oct	AUS MTBO Champs
25 Oct	State Series 9 - Peak Crossing

Contact Details

Please use the email addresses below to contact OQ Personnel:

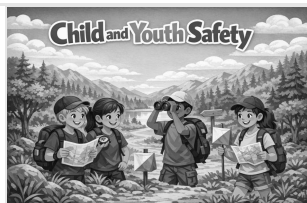
membership@oq.asn.au (Liz Ferguson)

treasurer@oq.asn.au (Tony Bryant)

bulletin@oq.asn.au (Linda Burridge)

website@oq.asn.au (Rob Crosato)

Last bulletin submissions to be received by 8pm each Tuesday.



Child and Youth Safety

Orienteering Queensland is committed to [Child Safety](#) and to implementing the National Child Safety Standards.



Orienteering Queensland gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Queensland Government, enabling Queenslanders to participate in sport and recreation activities.



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Our mailing address is:

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