

# 2015 Hawke's Bay School

## Orienteering champions found at Tauroa

Reading the honours board of those who have won Hawke's Bay secondary school orienteering titles is like reading a who's who of New Zealand schools' orienteering. A Hawke's Bay title is very hard to win and few regions can boast such a success rate at national and international level afterwards by those who win their regional title.

So when the nineteenth Hawke's Bay school champs were held at Tauroa Station on Sunday the title winners signalled their arrival on a pretty big stage.

Senior girls' winner at Sunday's long course championships was Napier Girls' High's Georgia Creagh. Georgia won from Havelock North High's Jenna Tidswell. Both girls have just been selected in this year's New Zealand Secondary School teams of four, Georgia in the senior team and Jenna in the junior; these teams to compete against Australian state teams in September.



*Post mortem time . . . New Zealand secondary school representatives Georgia Creagh (left) and Jenna Tidswell go over their course afterwards. Jenna led for most of it before making a late mistake which Georgia seized on to win.*

On Sunday, Jenna competed in the senior championship to keep Georgia honest, rather than taking the easier pickings of winning her own intermediate grade.

In the intermediate girls' grade it was Susan Eatson from Napier Girls' High who won by three minutes from Carlyne Nel, also from Napier Girls'. Susan has recently returned from the World Schools' championships in Turkey and put that experience to good use, but it is the younger Carlyne who has just been selected in the New Zealand Secondary School junior team making her the third rep from Hawke's Bay this year.

The senior boys' title went to Dylan Kirk of Havelock North High School by an impressive margin of 5m 14s over David Rawnsley (Napier Boys' High), late of Turkey also and a 2014 NZSS rep. This bodes well for Dylan's future in the sport.

Bayley Stephens-Ellison (Napier Boys' High) won the intermediate boys' title from team mate Jonty Anderson, and again both are recent returnees from representing New Zealand schools in Turkey.

The junior grades can throw up surprises but boys' winner Ronan Lee (Lindisfarne College) has been showing real promise in club events and was probably favourite, while girls' winner Olivia Wolland is yet another to have run in Turkey where she got on the podium with the Havelock North High School team who won the junior girls' World Schools' title.

In the Year 7 and 8 grades the boys' title went to Will Tidswell (Havelock North Intermediate) by a huge 6m 28s margin, while in the girls' championship Phoebe Burns (Woodford House) beat her sister Tessa by a solitary second to take the title.

In the large primary school fields Garrett Olsen beat fellow Haumoana School runner Tobias Murfitt by five seconds while for the girls it was the Te Mata School pair of Sarah Tong (first) from Bonnie Maidens (second).

With the sprint and long course individual championships run and won, we look now to the relays on 21 June at Kaiwaka which will complete the Hawke's Bay interschool orienteering competition.



*Xander McLeay (Te Mata School) heads for the download station while team mate Hugo Till punches the finish control. Xander finished 18th and Hugo 9th in the primary school grade*

Steve Armon (June 2015).