



# Media Release



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## Dubbo to host Junior World Orienteering Championships

Orienteering Australia announced today that Dubbo would be hosting the 2007 World Junior Championships, known formally as the Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC) in July 2007.

The announcement represents the first time the event has been held in the Southern Hemisphere and early forecasts have predicted that the event would attract more than 300 competitors and officials from about 35 nations. In addition the Australian Championships will attract a further 700 – 800 orienteers ranging in age from eight to 80.

Dubbo City Council's Manager Tourism Services, Mr Matthew Colahan said using previous economic studies, Orienteering Australia forecasts that the carnival would bring more than half a million dollars in to Dubbo, coupled with the Australian Championships carnival also being held in Dubbo, the city could be looking at over one million dollars.

"The Australian bid nominating Dubbo as the host venue was contested with several other nations and was successful over Sweden in the final ballot," he said.

"The City of Dubbo was chosen as the venue from a number of other sites because Orienteering Australia believes it provides a variety of facilities, accommodation and attractions in a truly Australian setting."

Orienteering Australia Development Director Mr Bob Mouatt said the JWOC was one of the premier international orienteering events that attracted the best junior (under 21) foot orienteers from throughout the world.

"JWOC will be supported by the Australian Championships carnival, a weeklong series of events that will start on a Saturday and finish on the Sunday of the following weekend. While the exact dates have yet to be finalised, it will be the week when Australian school holidays overlap, with the mostly likely week being 7-15 July 2007," he said.

Mr Mouatt said in addition to the economic benefits, JWOC 2007 would give the city of Dubbo the opportunity to promote itself to the rest of the world in particular the nations where orienteering is strongest, the four Scandinavian nations, Switzerland, Great Britain, France, Germany, and many Eastern Europe nations, as a relatively large media contingent is expected to cover the championships from Dubbo

“Orienteering is the sport where competitors navigate their way between control points marked on a map. For the experienced athlete, it is a true challenge for body and mind,” he said.

“It demands the advanced skill of being able to read a detailed map and choose the best route between controls, while finding your way over complex terrain and moving at high speed. In order to be successful, the athlete must combine physical and mental strength and skills.”

Mr Mouatt said while much had to be done before the final program was agreed, the activities during the week would be something like the following program:

- Saturday, 7 July: Competitors arrive and the prelude to the NSW Championships
- Sunday, 8 July: NSW Championships (long distance) and JWOC Model event and JWOC Opening Ceremony
- Monday, 9 July: JWOC Qualifying heats for Short Distance final.
- Tuesday, 10 July: JWOC Short Distance final followed by public event.
- Wednesday, 11 July: JWOC Long Distance final (no heats).
- Thursday, 12 July: Public event at venue of JWOC Long Distance final.
- Friday, 13 July: JWOC Relays.
- Saturday, 14 July: Australian Long Distance Championships.
- Sunday, 15 July: Australian Relay Championships.

Matthew Colahan  
***MANAGER TOURISM SERVICES***

**For further information or interviews Contact Manager Tourism Services, Mr Matthew Colahan on 6884 1422.**

## About Orienteering

There more than 5,000 registered orienteers in Australia and an estimated 6,000 fairly active orienteers not registered, giving a total of more than 11,000 regular orienteers in Australia.

The breakdown by age is roughly 35 per cent under 21, 15 per cent in the age range 21 to 34, and 50 per cent 35 and over. Of the four orienteering disciplines, foot, mountain bike, ski and trail (primarily for people with disabilities), foot is by far the most popular, with growing interest in mountain bike orienteering, especially with the next World Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships to be staged in Victoria around mid October 2004.

While orienteering is a relatively small sport in Australia, on the international orienteering scene Australia is regarded highly in terms of organisational and technical skills, and in international competitiveness. Its orienteers are recognised as the best outside of Europe and its top competitors are always regarded as a threat in any foot or mountain bike orienteering event.

With the 2007 Junior World Orienteering Championships being staged in Dubbo, Orienteering Australia will be looking for the best of our juniors to take full advantage of competing in Australian terrain, which is much different to that which they normally confront in Europe.