

President's Report for 2011 AGM – Feb 26, 2012

2011 was a year in which we consolidated ourselves at the Eastwood Leisure Complex proving that we will be a valuable member club at the complex, with our support of the organisation's working bee and the reunion weekend.

In most other ways we have had a year where we maintained the sport at a level which has been consistently sound for a number of years, without providing for any over-riding highlights.

However there is little doubt that what we do we do well and we move easily with the developments in the sport. With great assistance from Ian we brought the Duo into the same arena as other adventure races by having competitors use Sport Ident. We understand that event centres are a crucial part of giving an event a profile and will assist in gaining greater media exposure. And thanks to Roch we are in that privileged position of being able to make and print maps internally with the very minimum of fuss.

Our Foot and Bike achievements are excellent and we applaud Aislinn for her dedication to the sport and the National rewards which have come her way as a result. And not forgetting Roch with his work as Australian team Coach.

2011 will be the year we do remember for another reason, and that is the closure of the Cake Stall. The on-going expectations placed upon the senior Norwoods was no longer something we could reasonably take for granted, and the likelihood of a range of compliance matters in the near future combined to force this hard decision late in 2011.

Our challenge is to find a way to replace that social hub at events and to source a fund-raising scheme to support our travelling stars. I look forward to your input in the coming days and weeks.

As usual I am indebted to the fine work that our executive group continues to do behind the scenes, and I have been very pleased that when we seek your arms and legs for an event there is a great response. However as pleased as I might be, it must not be something we allow to remain in this state – we continue to have to report that our active membership is narrow-based and demographically skewed, and this is not an indicator of long-term viability. We need to source younger families, school groups and spread the event workload especially at the organizational and planning stages.

Mark Valentine
President
Feb 22, 2012