

The Waitangi Shorts

6-7-8 February 2021



A series of short laid-back orienteering events on new and little-used maps that are too small for a Sunday event and too far for after work. Two events on Saturday and Monday and three on Sunday - pick and choose. One course at each venue, it might be a sprint for some or a long for others. Orange-to-Red nav level.

Here are the details that will let you find the events, and download the map files. (Print your own.) There's also some information about the terrain and the mapping. For anything else please feel free to contact me – Michael Wood – at 027 232 4310 or michael (dot) wood (at) mapsport.co.nz

Change log. This is:

Version 2 published Fri 5 Feb. Map links have been added.

Version 1 was published Wed 3 Feb. Map links still to be added.

SCHEDULE

- Warmup Saturday, start 8am. Parkrun at Lower or Upper Hutt. Navigation not required.
- Tunnel Gully Saturday, start 12:30-1:30. TG is just north of Upper Hutt.
- Kaitoke Waterworks, Saturday, start 3-4pm. Just a bit further north of Upper Hutt
- Petone Sunday, start 10-11am. The west side of the valley.
- Waiwhetu Sunday, start 12:30-1:30pm. This is on the east side of Lower Hutt
- Dry Creek Sunday, start 3-4pm. Near the junction of SH2 and SH58, between Lower and Upper Hutt
- Wainuiomata Monday, start 10-11am. Wainuiomata is just over the hill from Waiwhetu.
- Catchpool Valley Monday, start 12:30-1:30pm. This is about 10km beyond Wainuiomata.



GENERAL



This is a one-man-band, low-key, totally laid-back series of events. Compare it to kicking a ball around on a park, or back-yard cricket. IMHO we should be doing more of this and less fancy bells and whistles events.

So... no tent, toilets, parking attendants, computer screen or course quality check by a controller. There won't be electronic controls and there may not even be markers at the controls (unless I get some volunteers to put them out 😊) There will however be some seldom-used and new maps of little Hutt Valley gems.

SAFETY

I don't avoid sensible safety precautions however. First the courses are orange to red level and are not suitable for beginners. DO NOT COME if you have the slightest sign of respiratory illness. Fill in

my old-fashioned paper contact-tracing sheet at each event. Saturday and Monday are “non-urban” and OHV policy is that whistles are carried.

Treat them like a training run in the bush (which they are) or doing one of our anytime courses. That is, tell someone where you are going and what time you expect to be back. And of course check in with them when you ARE back. (For each event).



At each event sign in with me. If you are a slower orienteer, start early in the time window. Clear and check your SI stick (rentals available). Punch “start” whenever you wish. Do the course and punch “finish”. Report in to me and put your stick in the little splits printer we have. Own up if you didn’t visit all the controls. That’s it. I’ll be there for 30 minutes after the time range below, then I’ll uplift the SI boxes and take them off to the next place.

THE MAPS



All are based on the OHV variations of the “sprint” mapping specification. (A weird term if ever there was one.) The variations make our maps more legible for the bush, the farm, and the odd steep area we have. Our variations are sort-of in between the official “sprint” mapping spec and the “forest” spec.

I map small areas at 1:5000 and then enlarge them as much as possible (having fading eyesight myself). I would much rather have a bigger map than a round number for the scale.

Your home printer might also be less good than our commercial printer or your work one. That’s another reason for enlargement. The maps are designed for A4, if you have access to A3 by all means use it. The scale number will be wrong but the scale bar will be right. Bring your own plastic map bag for protection.

WAITANGI SHORTS WARMUP

A late addition to the schedule, Upper Hutt started a Parkrun last weekend. This is a free timed 5km run/walk that happens all over New Zealand (and usually all over the world) every Saturday at 8am

For more info see <https://www.parkrun.co.nz/trenthammemorial/>
Or if you get out of bed a bit late you could try <https://www.parkrun.co.nz/Lowerhutt/>



WAITANGI SHORTS COURSE A



Tunnel Gully Sat 6 Feb, start 12:30-1:30.

The area: The little low-visibility pine area between the lower picnic area and the old railway. Since mapping a couple of years ago this has improved a lot, and I've changed narrow green stripes to wide, and wide green stripes to white forest. Its not a complete review but good enough I think. I have also mapped every tree in the upper picnic area and there will be a second course there. Thinking of calculating a score as "Pines plus 5 times Eucalypts" to find the best all-rounder 😊.

How to get there: SH2 past Upper Hutt to the small settlement of Te Marua. Right at the dairy and follow signs to "Tunnel Gully Recreation Reserve" Continue thru the lower picnic areas to the upper one (where the eucalypts are). Its about 3km from the dairy.

Download the maps from www.mapsport.co.nz/hvoc/waitangishortA1.pdf and www.mapsport.co.nz/hvoc/waitangishortA2.pdf The scales are 1:3000 and 1:1500 for the eucalypt part if printed on A4.

WAITANGI SHORTS COURSE B

Kaitoke Waterworks Sat 6 Feb, start 3-4pm.

The area: Native bush with forest giants, water supply infrastructure, LOTR film location (Rivendell). There's not a lot of passable off-track forest but this is made up by the scenic location and a brand-new map. The rivers (the Pakuratahi meets the Hutt here) offer swimming in pools beneath huge cliffs, and it would be a nice spot for a BBQ.



How to get there: Continue north on SH2 from Upper Hutt or Te Marua. After the Kaitoke Hill turn left into Waterworks Road (probably signposted Kaitoke Regional Park). Continue past the campground office, right over narrow bridge, through narrow gorge, then left into carpark. Its 9km from the Te Marua dairy.

Download the map from www.mapsport.co.nz/hvoc/waitangishortB.pdf The scale is 1:3000 if printed on A4.

WAITANGI SHORTS COURSE C

Petone Sun 7 Feb, start 10-11am.



The area: New terrain type – industrial landscape - at the west end of Petone. Apart from the Aro Valley this is as close as we get to the old centres of European capital cities. No cobblestones, but narrow streets, one with the gutter down the middle 😊 Small businesses, seemingly every second one with a semi-permanent shipping container parked outside. Big-box retailers with massive carparks. And Jackson Street the valley's heritage and café quarter.

How to get there: Meet in Carters Building Supplies carpark (they don't open on Sundays). That's behind Petone's Pak N Save, but the best approach is from Annie Huggan Grove which is off Te Puni St. From Wellington peel off SH2 at the Petone off-ramp, head along the Esplanade and look on your

left for Te Puni. From up the valley you're best to find Te Puni from Jackson St at the Kathmandu corner.

Download the maps: They will be available Friday afternoon. When available, the links will be www.mapsport.co.nz/hvoc/waitangishortC1.pdf and www.mapsport.co.nz/hvoc/waitangishortC2.pdf The scales are 1:3000 if printed on A4.

WAITANGI SHORTS COURSE D

Waiwhetu, Sun 7 Feb start 12:30-1:30pm

The area: Haywards Bush Reserve including a reputed gold mine. This is part of Lower Hutt's eastern hills, from Whites Line East to the Wainui Hill Road. We'll stick to the lower slopes, the best off-track bits are in a strip just above the houses. Three specially interesting areas with new mapping which are best done as A to B with car-pooling to get back. Haven't quite decided which way round so the details below are provisional



How to get there: Pre-start (park) in Rishworth St Waiwhetu. Get there by following Wainuiomata signs until you get to Flight Plastics (formerly Griffins factory). Just before starting to rise, turn right into Rishworth St. There's a right-turning bay, plus a speed camera, but take care. There's a short walk from here to the course start. And the finish is a 1.4km flat jog back to here, see above.

Download the map from www.mapsport.co.nz/hvoc/waitangishortD.pdf The scale is 1:3750 if printed on A4.

WAITANGI SHORTS COURSE E

Dry Creek, Sun 7 Feb start 3-4pm.



The area: Complex highway interchange, extensive riverside willows and regional park entrance. We'll first get you under SH2 via the Dry Creek culvert, which does NOT live up to its name heh heh. Then some riverside terrain, a fancy overbridge and the maze of foot/cycle paths through the highway junction before sampling the regional park entrance. We've used this before for a U-Max and Mini Adventure Race but it has changed quite a lot 😊

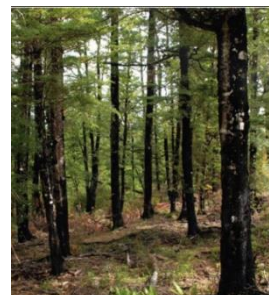
How to get there: Belmont Regional Park – Dry Creek entrance. Exit SH2 at the Haywards (SH58) junction and make as if to head west. But immediately go left onto Hebden Cres (probably signposted to regional park). Right into the park entrance in 500m. If parking inside is full there's more on the road.

Download the maps from www.mapsport.co.nz/hvoc/waitangishortE1.pdf and www.mapsport.co.nz/hvoc/waitangishortE2.pdf The scales are 1:3333 if printed on A4.

WAITANGI SHORTS COURSE F

Wainuiomata Mon 8 Feb, start 10-11am.

The area: East of the Wainui Trail Park is an extensive area of mature beech, which has hardly been touched. However the bikers have their eyes on it and have built a demon downhill track plus a gentle exit track that you could push a pram on (Trailforks website: Pavolva and Mohaka Meander). We'll use the forest on either side of the meander without getting too high. We've had U-Max events here but I've updated the tracks and added vegetation detail. Its mostly light green with visibility from great to "brush it aside". You'll be amazed at this hidden secret.



How to get there: Park near the NW end of Kaponga St, respecting the residents. After crossing the Wainui hill from Lower Hutt, left at the first roundabout into Parkway, and left at the next roundabout into Mohaka St. Kaponga St is 6th on the left. Its 5km from Flight Plastics on the Hutt side of the hill.

Download the map from www.mapSPORT.co.nz/hvoc/waitangishortF.pdf The scale is 1:3000 if printed on A4.

WAITANGI SHORTS COURSE G

Catchpool Valley, Mon 8 Feb, start 12:30-1:30pm



The area: Our Catchpool map has a deserved reputation for being steep and green. By being selective I've found some nice flat areas including the Graces Stream campsite. Used before for a multi-sprint, I've updated and extended the mapping for this. We'll operate from the top carpark where the Orongorongo Track heads up the Catchpool Stream, but we'll go up Graces Stream instead. Expect wet feet.

If you want more, there are two other small areas on our Anytime Orienteering list you could do for a post-script ☺ Another nice BBQ spot. The park gates close at 8pm.

How to get there: From Lower Hutt head over the hill to Wainuiomata. Or from Kaponga St head back to the first roundabout in Wainui. Take the main road through Wainui following Remutaka Forest Park signs and turn in the park entrance in about 13km. It's a further 2km to the top carpark.

Download the map from www.mapSPORT.co.nz/hvoc/waitangishortG.pdf The scale is 1:3333 if printed on A4.

Stay safe on the roads and in the sun. Keep up the contact tracking. See you at the weekend.
Michael Wood, OHV Mapping Officer