

Orienteering Australia – Rob Plowright Award for Services to Mapping

Orienteering SA nominates Adrian Uppill for this Award

Adrian Uppill has been a major contributor in the area of orienteering mapping, from the production of maps for Local events, map production for National events held in SA, the development of the use of LIDAR and digital field mapping, along with contributions at both the National and International level.

1. Mapping for Major Events

Adrian Uppill has produced maps used in National events held in SA since 2002. Maps have been of various terrain types (rock, spur gully, mining), including Pewsey Vale (2002), Worlds End and Worlds End South (2007), Lady Alice, Mack Creek and Rock Oyster (2010), Tundarri and updates/extensions to Bri Glen (2015), Weila – Bunyip Reach (with LIDAR), Wirra Wirra Updates, Mt Crawford Updates (2018) and Pymton total remap with LIDAR (2024).

For national carnivals held recently in SA. Adrian has supervised course map printing, liaising with the map print shop to ensure maps were printed to specifications, and the best quality. Efforts were made to produce map colours that aligned with the IOF Print Tech sheet, and also to make the colours appropriate for colour blind orienteers, paying particular attention to the purple overprinting colour.

2. Contribution to Mapping in SA

Prior to producing maps in SA, Adrian was an earlier adopter of OCAD software, producing his first OCAD maps in Townsville in 1995-96. In Adelaide Adrian has also produced many maps including for local championships (forest, sprint and school) in SA from the late 1990s to the present day. One major mapping project was the coordination of mapping the complete Adelaide City Parklands, this has proved a great resource for our urban and school events. He has encouraged mappers to follow the various mapping specifications to ensure maps comply with these standards. Adrian has consistently produced georeferenced maps for many years, thus improving the accuracy of the maps he has produced - initially with the use of georeferenced aerial photographs, use of a GPS in the field, and more recently with LIDAR data and GPS based digital field mapping.

3. Adoption on new Mapping Technologies

- a. LIDAR – Adrian was first introduced to the use of LIDAR in SA in 2016-7, and worked with 2 SA Coaching Scholars who also had a major interest in mapping. At that time LIDAR data for non-urban areas in SA was limited. In 2018 he engaged with Airborne Research Australia (ARA) to investigate the requirements for LIDAR data acquisition for orienteering maps. ARA were engaged to capture LIDAR data for 3 map areas used for the Australian Championships events in SA in 2018. He worked with another mapper David George to process the LIDAR data using both OCAD, the LAS Tools and Kartapullautin software.

Since then LIDAR data has become the basis in SA for new and major map updates. Data was acquired by Aerometrex for map updates for SA maps in 2020, and again for maps used for the 2024 Australian Three Days.

- b. Digital Mapping - Concurrently with the acquisition and processing of LIDAR data, Adrian developed a new approach to mapping field work using a small hand held

device (with Open Orienteering Mapping software) connected to a GPS GNSS aerial to provide more accurate GPS location. Digital field mapping enables several different base layers of LIDAR data to be available to the mapper in the field.

4. Chair of the OA Mapping Committee

Adrian was chair of the OA Mapping Committee through the period 2011 – 2017, and chaired well attended meetings of the mapping committee held at the Australian Three Days

5. Member of the IOF Map Commission

Adrian was a member of the IOF Map Commission from 2017 to 2022 and was involved in the development of major mapping specification updates for both ISOM and ISSprOM. For ISOM he contributed to changes to support colour blind orienteers by recommending changes to duplicated symbols with different colours problematic to colour blind orienteers (green and brown crosses). Additionally he supported changes to green symbols by addition of a white mask to green crosses and circles, and a green dot to the small green circle (so it is distinguished from the brown dot knoll symbol). Adrian was involved in the development of new symbols used in multi-level features in sprint maps in the ISOprOM update. Adrian also worked with other commission members to develop recommended colour tables for OCAD (colour settings and colour ordering).

6. Other

Adrian was involved in the creation of 2 new orienteering clubs, Top End Orienteers in Darwin, and the Townsville Club (now called Totally Tropical). In Darwin, black and white maps were produced to support the emerging club, whilst in Townsville, both black and white and colour maps were produced when OCAD became available.