

# Orienteers geared up for easter competition

By ROWENA CHILDS

THE NORTHERN Tablelands Orienteering Club (NTOC) will hold its next club event on Sunday at Mount Duval East, north of Armidale. This will be the last training opportunity for club members competing in the national three-day Easter event to be held at Stanthorpe. All club members and the public are invited to come along. Start times are between 10am and 12noon.

The event will be held partly on UNE farm and partly on private grazing land, on the eastern side of Mt Duval. The area includes undulating gully/spur terrain, with significant outcrops of complex granite.

The vegetation is not excessively thick, but expect long grass in clearings, so long pants or long socks with sock protectors or gaiters are recommended.

The granite features are mapped as boulders, high points, cliffs, bare rock, boulder clusters and boulder fields.

All the normal range of courses will be offered, (very easy, easy, moderate and hard).

The course setter Alec Watt has indicated that he is trying to make the map reading a bit more challenging (within the limits of each grade) without the courses being excessively long.

There will be lots of controls and direction changes with orienteers getting plenty of opportunity to find features before they find the control.

All the different features in this area will make the courses more interesting than courses on plain gully, spur maps. This event should provide



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excellent training for the Easter event as it is being run in the same types of terrain.

To get to Mt Duval East, take the New England Highway north from Armidale for about 10 km. Shortly after Tilbuster turn into Newholme Road and then follow the orange 'O' signs.

For more information about this event please contact event organiser, Alec Watt on 6772-6849 or club treasurer, Maurice Anker on 6772-9604. Alternatively visit the NTOC website [www.ntoc.asn.au](http://www.ntoc.asn.au)