Adventure Activity Standards (AAS)
Update Number 30
December 2006

Introduction
Dear members, stakeholders, fabric of the Victorian (interstate and international) Outdoor Industry. It is the festive season once again which means that in many ways it is time to reflect on the year that we have had in 2006. My committee and I would like to acknowledge all of the vital support that we have received over this year from an extensive and diverse range of individuals and organisations. If I look back at the ORC and this industries relationship with Government (and other non industry stakeholders) in 2002 and compare to the current situation, it is evident that we have come a very long way. Congratulations and thanks.

The coming year will continue to challenge us; programs are relocating due to bushfires, DSE continue to develop the new licence scheme for commercial operators, regulators will be implementing responses to their own exposure to our industry while clubs and not for profit organisations will continue to establish themselves (with the support of the ORC) as an instrumental part of Victoria's social and physical health.

So for now, the following is the report for the states AAS related developments.

Merry Christmas & have a very happy New Year.

In this report;
- **AAS technical committee and review**
- **AAS Website**
- **AAS Surf Kayaking update – MSV investigation outcomes**
- **VWA adventure activity injury prevention project**
- **Australian Standards update**
- **AAS Interstate developments**

Additional information
- **Rec House project update**
- **Resignation of Admin Officer Sandy Jeffries.**

Please pass this report on to all members, staff, committee members or individuals who you believe will have an interest in the continued development of the Victorian AAS and the issues communicated in this update.

News at a flash
Unless stated otherwise, please direct any questions regarding this update to your sector peak body (ACA, TAV or VOEA,) or contact the ORC Executive Officer via (03) 9457 5432 or gordon@orc.org.au. Please leave a name and telephone number.

AAS Technical committee and review.
The first meting of the newly formed AAS technical committee (AASTC)(as it is now named) was held at the ORC building in View bank on the 7th of December 2006. This meeting was very productive as the committee members;

- Viewed and discussed a standard introduction to the AAS (to be posted to www.orc.org.au)
- Established a terms of reference for consideration by the ORC committee of management and AAS steering committee
- Prioritised the aspects of the AAS to be reviewed
- Commenced the review of the general structure, presentation and consistency of the AAS.

The key outcomes of this meeting are that the review will be undertaken over a period of time (Jan – June 2007 is the preferred time frame), that all review developments will be communicated via these updates and/or online www.orc.org.au. Archived drafts will also find a place on the website (*please note this will be from Jan 30th as the ORC webmaster is on leave Jan*).

Any comments for consideration (whole of AAS, a particular activity or even a single word) please email ***AASreview@orc.org.au***.

Adventure Activity Standards (AAS)
Update Number 30
December 2006

AAS Website
Please note that www.orc.org.au may not be up to date. The ORC webmaster has unfortunately stepped down due to illness and while a replacement has been engaged, the site will not be worked upon until mid to late January.

If you have any concerns or are seeking any documents that you believe may have been intended for publication on the site then please email gordon@orc.org.au.

AAS Surf Kayaking update – MSV investigation outcomes
As many of you will be aware, the ORC has received funding from Marine Safety Victoria to develop the AAS so that they cover 'sit on top surf kayaking'. This is an interesting task as this may fit within kayaking and/or surfing AAS.

The ORC is currently awaiting the outcomes of the Marine Safety investigation so that the new AAS responds to these if required. However, we are keen to establish a working group of organisations that undertake this activity to meet (hopefully) prior to the end of March. We appreciate that the earlier the better for this.

If your organisation is interested in participating in this process then please email info@orc.org.au.

VWA adventure activity injury prevention project
WorkSafe Victoria, through their new Public Safety Branch, has commenced a project titled the "Adventure Activity Injury Prevention Project". The project will involve WorkSafe visiting licensed tour operators operating on Crown land as well as providers operating on private land because activity providers have a responsibility for the health and safety of their participants under Section 23 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004. Activities being addressed in 2006-07 are horse trail riding, canoeing, river rafting, kayaking and caving.

The ORC –Victoria – Inc have been working with the Public Safety Branch since the conception of this project and have also established a stakeholders group that will continue to work towards mutual outcomes for the VWA and our industry.

The following is from a recent update from the manager of the Public Safety Branch;

- 'Development of the project tool for this project is progressing well, with a draft circulated to ORC Inc for comment.
- The 'participant list' of activity providers has been constructed using a number of search strategies and is almost complete. Once finalised, WorkSafe will send a letter of introduction out to activity providers, advising them that they will be visited by a WorkSafe Inspector and other standard introductory information. Thank you to those stakeholders who have assisted WorkSafe to identify relevant activity providers.
- Initially prioritizing sea kayaking; upon further consultation, this component of the project will be broadened to include kayaking on other bodies of water.'

At the end of the 2006-07 phase of the project, WorkSafe will collate the information from the visits and provide feedback around the state of compliance for these activities. This should provide useful information for the whole sector. Depending on the outcomes of this project, WorkSafe may extend the project into the 2007-08 financial year and review other adventure activities.

PLEASE NOTE; we have received several comments questioning the level of industry knowledge that VWA's auditors will have of our industry. If you are to be included in this project then I urge you to work as closely as possible with the VWA throughout all visits. This is as much of an opportunity for us to learn how the VWA operates as it is for the VWA to learn how we operate. A fantastic outcome for all will be that of mutual recognition and an ongoing, healthy relationship with our state regulators.

Australian Standards update
SF – 047 is the Australian Standards Committee developing Standards for Artificial Climbing Structure and Challenge Ropes Courses. To date the committee has been developing the AS for artificial climbing structures (Gyms, outdoor walls and mobile structures). At this meeting, the committee has commenced work on new parts for

CRC elements. This is a long process with a great deal of existing documentation to consider. It should be noted that SF -047 is seeking to add representatives from the armed forces and from the Australian Camps Association.

The following is the formal meeting update from Standards Australia;

"The Committee noted there was one issue still to be finalized for the artificial climbing walls draft and this should be able to be dealt with via correspondence. The Committee worked on the draft for flying foxes, refining the scope, terminology and figure showing the key features. The Committee also drafted design and construction requirements for the structures to hold the flying fox line and dispatch and dismount points. Drafting of requirements for flying fox lines, clearances around them and operational procedures was also commenced."

AAS Interstate developments
For those of you who conduct programs interstate, you might wish to visit the newly completed South Australian AAS available now from http://www.recreationsa.org/aas/home. Find the standards link to take you to the documents.

AAS are also in conception in Tasmania and Western Australia with discussion continuing at Government level in Queensland. The ORC will endeavour to bring updates of interstate progress in these updates.

Additional information
Rec House – project update.
For all who are interested, the new Recreation House in Westerfolds Park remains on target for completion in early to mid February. This means that tenants are likely to move in towards the beginning of March with an official opening expected for April 2007.

This is exciting times for Victorian Outdoor Recreation as this commitment by Sport and Recreation Victoria, Parks Victoria and the department for Victorian Communities provides a physical center for us all. Every ORC member organisation will have access to the meeting and training rooms, storage facilities as well as access to broad band internet, printing and photocopying.

Administration Officer moves on.
This festive season carries another significant change for myself, our committee of management, tenants, members and industry partners as we farewell Sandy Jeffries.

Sandy has been with the ORC since mid 2002 and in this time has revitalised the administration of the ORC to bring us up to speed with current governance requirements. Sandy has been the key point of contact in our offices for enquiries and has supported all of our committee, sub committee and working group meetings over this time.

The ORC farewells Sandy and wishes her all the best with her future endeavours.

For more information regarding the Victorian AAS project visit our website or contact us;

Gordon Duff
AAS Project Manager
Outdoor Recreation Centre Inc.
332 Banyule Road
View Bank
Vic 3084

Ph. *(03) 9457 5432*
Fax. *(03) 9457 5438*
Email *gordon@orc.org.au* ***or*** *info@orc.org.au*
Web *www.orc.org.au*

If you would like to be removed from this email list for any reason please reply to this email with "Please remove me from your list" in the subject line.