Update Number 33 September 2007

Introduction

As the first update for some time from the AAS project I am keen to assure everyone that the pace of developments has not slowed in 2007. Rather, the pace has increased at the ORC to the point that we are looking at our options to significantly enhance member and industry communication within Victoria;

As always, we are very keen to have your input and to hear your views on these matters as they impact you 'in the field'.

This is best done via email to **gordon@orc.org.au**

In this update;

- **AAS Technical Committee - Progress and info.**
- **World Class Risk Management Workshops**
- **Australian Standards Artificial climbing structures draft for review.**
- **VWA adventure activity injury prevention project**
- **National Outdoor Education Conference**
- **Flying fox operation - and other high ropes**

Additional information

- **New Rec House at Westerfolds Park**

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 the ORC Executive Officer via (03) 8846 4100 or gordon@orc.org.au. Please leave a name and telephone number.

AAS Technical Committee - Progress and info; The AAS Technical Committee has progressed it's review of the AAS. The committee is yet to address technical data within the AAS and continues to focus upon the usability and relevance of the content. The committee will have their own web presence on www.orc.org.au/aas/aas_committee.htm by Saturday 15th September that will explain what and who they are, as well as providing a forum for progress reports.

We anticipate drafts of the new layout etc being available for comment before the end of the year and as always we appreciate your feedback. All AAS review or technical communication should be directed to AASreview@orc.org.au.

World class risk management workshops; The ORC Victoria Inc. in partnership with the Australian Camps Association and the Department of Sport and Recreation Victoria have arranged a series of three seminars to enable you to spend a day with the very experienced Preston B Cline – President of US based risk management company Adventure Incorporated.

Preston has sound international experience (including Australia) and has developed an innovative and easy to use approach to risk management in the outdoors.

Numbers are limited so to register for a workshop visit the ACA's events page and download the registration form http://www.auscamps.asn.au/news.asp

Registrations must be received by the 24th September.

Australian Standards - Part One - Climbing Wall Draft Standard – Available for Comment; Standards Australia has released a draft of new standards for artificial climbing structures.

The draft standard (DR07324) specifies the minimum requirements for the design, construction, operation, competencies for support personnel, supervision levels, maintenance and testing of fixed and mobile artificial climbing and abseiling walls and associated components.

The is for; fixed, indoor, outdoor, permanent, temporary and mobile structures (including inflatable climbing structures) and facilities used for climbing, abseiling and bouldering.

The draft has been developed by a comprehensive committee of commercial and non commercial providers, experienced (relevant) representatives from engineering Australia as well as representation by the Outdoor Council of Australia. We hope that the draft reflects current practices with the AAS being a significant resource for the committee.

The draft can be viewed at www.saiglobal.com/shop/Drafts and is available for public comments ***until 27 September 2007***. *Comment on this draft is invited from people and organisations concerned with those artificial walls.*

15th National Outdoor Education Conference; When: 20 - 23 September, 2007; **Where:** Ballarat Lodge, 613 Main Road, Ballarat, Victoria

The 15th National Outdoor Education Conference will be held from the 20th to the 23rd of September, 2007. The conference will be hosted by the Victorian Outdoor Education Association (VOEA) on behalf of Outdoor Education Australia and with the support of the Outdoor Council of Australia.

For further information contact the VOEA on 03 9349 4311 (*Quickly as spaces are limited)*

Or email info@outdooreducationaustralia.org.au

VWA adventure activity injury prevention project; Once again; It is important that we gather feedback regarding how have the visits affected you?

If you have had a VWA visit as part of the injury prevention project then it may be beneficial for the industry if we know how it went. Several questions are important for the rest of the industry such as;

- Was an appointment made in suitable time to prepare/be available?
- Were you informed of the objectives of your visit prior to your appointment?
- Was the level of detail of the audits appropriate?
- Were the inspectors understanding of your procedures?
- Were the questions asked appropriate?

I take this opportunity to add that the outcomes of this project should include far better understanding by the VWA of what to expect of an adventure activity provider as well as better understanding by us of the role and processes of the WVA.

Flying fox operation - and other high ropes; There is still a great deal of confusion regarding the appropriate procedures for operating a Flying Fox. The Challenge Ropes Course AAS still contains the general areas that should be addressed in any risk assessment. One requirement of the AAS since edition 2 was released in April 2005 that *'Harnesses must comply with European Standard EN 12277 Mountaineering equipment (harnesses, safety requirements and test methods), UIAA or equivalent standards.'*

There is no data to support any claim that a full body harness is any safer than a sit harness provided they are fitted and used appropriately and in accordance with your procedures. Further, there is no indication that the Australian Standard in development will expect anything that contradicts this AAS requirement.

Additional information

Rec House – project update; For all who are interested, we moved into our new home in March this year and, other than some minor teething problems we are all very happy to be working with Parks Victoria staff at the Westerfolds Park.

We now have a 70 person Training/conference room that is available (free for the time being) to all ORC members. If you are a member of an organisation that is a member of the ORC then you may also be able to utilise this great resource. Contact your member organisation. A web page is also being prepared with all details so keep an eye out for that.

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.

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