Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) Update Number 13
April 2004

Introduction

Thank you to everyone who took the opportunity to comment on the second draft AAS for;

- Snorkelling/SCUBA
- Challenge Ropes Course
- Abseiling &
- Canoeing/kayaking

The feedback is being collated and the final drafts will be circulated to the working parties soon before being finalised.

Thanks are also extended to everyone who has recently been involved in the workshops for the recreational snow activities AAS's for resort and beyond resorts. These working parties are just beginning to review these AAS but there was considerable discussion to ensure that they were produced to be as relevant as possible. (More below)

This update marks a turning point for the AAS development process, as we have no more workshops planned. There are currently 7 completed AAS, three AAS being converted to post online, four AAS just completed the open review, the two snow activity AAS just starting the process and one AAS still being discussed in great detail among the club community.

News at a flash

- After a long wait, the AAS for **Horse Trail Riding**, **Trail Bike Riding** and **Surfing** are soon to be returned to the ORC by the lawyers. These will be converted and posted online as soon as possible
- The following drafts have been removed from the website after an extended opportunity for feedback.
    - **Snorkelling (including SCUBA and swimming with seals and dolphins)**
    - **Challenge rope courses**
    - **Abseiling**
    - **Canoeing & Kayaking**

  The new style of documenting the **ratios** in the canoeing/kayaking draft has created a lot of positive discussion as it leaves the decision more in the hands of the competent leaders. I would like to thank Australian Canoeing and also the UK Adventure Activity Licensing Authority for helping us to refine a more appropriate way to define ratios. This approach is based upon identifying the variables, which then help to define a range of appropriate supervision ratios, for a look at this, please email gordon@orc.org.au.

- **Final AAS workshops in stage two for recreational snow activities** were interesting as always. There was a very good turnout with representatives including ski instructors, ski patrols, clubs, scouts, a commercial operator, the army, outdoor education (state and private), relevant associations as well as search and rescue experts from the Police, Victorian Nordic rescue (VNRS) & Bushwalking search and rescue (BSAR).

  The planning of these two AAS involved much discussion. The resorts address inherent risks in a comprehensive manner significantly varying the inherent risks in areas beyond the resorts (regardless of the chosen discipline). In terms of AAS (planning and equipment, leaders and environment) these differences merited an AAS addressing the risks rather than the technical

differences between disciplines.

- The possibility of developing further AAS will be raised at the next AAS Steering Committee Meeting.

- **Bushwalking AAS.** The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (VicWalk) is now actively developing a version of the AAS, which is hoped to suit all stakeholders. The ORC are pleased with the commitment of Vic Walk to the process. It is expected that once developed, the VicWalk draft will be circulated to the initial working party in the hope that it is deemed to be sufficient.

- **AAS brochures are now available.** If you would like to be able to provide brochures to your members, volunteers, leaders or anyone else that you feel should be made aware of AAS within Victoria (or interstate), simply send an email to info@orc.org.au with the following.
  - What organisation you represent.
  - How many brochures you would like.
  - How you intend to distribute the brochures (post, handout, display)

- **National developments.** There is now significant discussion of AAS as National Guidelines in other states. The Outdoor Council of Australia, state and territory peak bodies and specific Government departments within each state and territory are driving this.

  AAS are being developed to be Victorian guidelines for adventure activities and until they are developed/adapted to be National that is exactly what they are. However there are significant benefits in adopting a single set of guidelines across Australia, which will extend from land management issues, work place health and safety expectations, legal defences and Insurance benefits.

  As many AAS are being supported by National bodies such as Australian Canoeing, AHSE, Surfing Australia, Australian Speleological Federation and many more, the next 6 to 12 months will be very interesting.

Additional Industry News

Wombat Community Forest Management - Forest Assembly 1 May 2004.

All people with an interest in the Wombat State Forest are invited to attend a the second general Forest Assembly at the Daylesford Secondary College, between 10am and 5pm on Saturday 1 May 2004. The Assembly will provide information, and be a forum to continue discussions and make decisions about the structure and function of "Community Forest Management". The Assembly is looking forward to involving a broad cross-section of the community to establish a robust and representative structure for improved decision making about the forest.

Information on Wombat Forest Community Forest Management can be accessed at http://www.wombatforest.org or by contacting Tim Anderson, DSE Community Development Officer on (03) 5321 6811. In addition, a Recreational Users Group has been established as a working group to support and provide recommendations to the Interim Stewardship Council in response to concerns about the lack of representation and involvement of non-local recreationalists in the process to date. The working group convenor is Milton Oliver, President of the CITYWEST Four Wheel Drive Club Inc. Milton can be contacted on (03) 9740 9145.

The Victorian State Coroners Office

The Victorian State Coroners Office has made a recommendation that all occupants of recreational boats be required to wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Type-1 at all times to reduce the number of boating fatalities on Victorian waterways.

In response, Marine Safety Victoria is reviewing the use of PFD's by recreational boaters and would like your input.

Please be a part of this important boating safety review by obtaining your copy of the policy options paper and questionnaire from www.marinesafety.vic.gov.au or call Marine Safety Victoria on 1800 223 022.

Please note that these need to be completed or returned to Marine Safety Victoria by 4 June 2004.

Outdoor Victoria Conference – 23-24 July 2004

Sponsored by the Outdoor Recreation Centre Inc. The Outdoor Victoria Conference is an annual multidisciplinary network opportunity for:

- Outdoor Education Teachers
- Physical Education Teachers
- Environmental Science Teachers
- Outdoor Leaders
- Outdoor Recreation Providers
- Land Managers
- Camp Managers
- Tertiary Students of Outdoor Recreation/Education

For a more information on registration, program development or trade displays please see the attached flyer.

Gordon Duff – Project Manager	Ph. (03) 9457 5432
Outdoor Recreation Centre Inc.	Fax. (03) 9457 5438
332 Banyule Road	Mobile 0402 848 367
View Bank	Email gordon@orc.org.au or info@orc.org.au
Vic 3084	Web www.orc.org.au

Gordon Duff

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

Ph; (03) 9457 5432
Fax; (03) 9457 5438
Mobile; 0402 848 367

www.orc.org.au

V.A.E.E

CAMPING ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

VICTORIAN OUTDOOR EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Outdoor Victoria Conference

A collaborative forum for people who deliver outdoor and environmental experiences and services

When
23-24 July, 2004

Where
Darebin Arts Centre
Cnr Bell St & St Georges Rd
Preston, Melbourne

Registration Information
CAV

Postal Address
Locked Bag 2000
Coburg 3058

Email
camping@cav.asn.au

Phone
03 9350 1700

Fax
03 9350 1077

Program Development
VOEA

Postal Address
150 Palmerston St
Carlton 3053

Email
education@voea.vic.edu.au

Phone
03 9349 4311

Fax
03 9349 5758

Trade Display
VAEE

Postal Address
150 Palmerston St
Carlton 3053

Email
info@vaee.vic.edu.au

Phone
03 9349 1806

Fax
03 9349 2050

Your professional development starts here!

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The Outdoor Victoria Conference will provide more than 20 workshops to choose from covering contemporary issues associated with outdoor and environmental education, and centre facilities management.

A wide range of Trade Displays will also provide great resources to Conference delegates.

For further information and a registration form log onto:
www.cav.asn.au

Keynote Speaker

Ticky Fullerton, Journalist & Author
("Watershed" & ABC Four Corners)

Speaking from her experience of water management issues in Australia

The Outdoor Victoria Conference is a joint initiative of:

Victorian Outdoor Education Association
Victorian Association for Environmental Education
Camping Association of Victoria