Adventure Activity Standards (AAS)
Update Number 8
August 2003

Introduction

The AAS project has reached another crucial phase. The ORC are currently in the process of drafting new AAS and working groups reviewing them. The public launch has greatly raised AAS's profile within Victoria and quite importantly at a national level and as always, it is essential that when the drafts get onto our website, you tell us if they need more work.

So please forward this update to everyone who you think may be interested in getting involved and as always we invite all feedback by email to info@orc.org.au.

News at a flash

- **Workshops** for Bushwalking, Horse Trail Riding, Trail Bikes and Surfing were conducted over the past 2 weeks. Creating some heated discussion these working groups once again demonstrated that adventure activities are conducted for very diverse outcomes. We would like to thank each and every participant for their time, support, contribution and patience.

- **The Website** (www.orc.org.au). As the drafts for the above AAS will be reviewed as soon as possible, We invite you all to review them. The content has been agreed by experienced individuals and organizations but you may operate in a different way and aspects of the draft may not suit you or your organization. We expect to have these drafts online (under a new **Review Drafts section**) by Monday the 1st September until Monday the 13th October 2003.

- **AAS media launch** On Wednesday 30th July 2003; The Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Sport and Recreation, Justin Madden personally supported Victorian outdoor recreation, the Outdoor Recreation Centre Inc. and the AAS project by launching the seven completed AAS. The launch was held at Victoria's first indoor climbing center and created an interesting networking opportunity with work group participants, industry associations and government representatives all sharing opinions and coffee.

- **National Attention** is being directed towards AAS and the call for a single set of activity specific industry standards for Australia. This issue has been raised in several print articles, discussed on radio and now on national television. To view the online transcript of the recent "The 7:30 Report" coverage from the ABC network view; http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2003/s922047.htm.

  The Bracks Government (on Wednesday 13th Aug 2003) called on all states to follow its lead and press the Commonwealth Government to establish national safety and environmental standards for adventure providers. We continue to thank the Victorian government for their strong support of this industry project.

- **Teachers** have been keen to confirm where AAS fit in relation to existing DE&T guidelines for outdoor recreation activities. AAS do not state the requirements for looking after school children. This is an additional duty of care which is best described by the DE&T guidelines. Where there are no DE&T Guidelines then attention should be paid to the generic industry standard; which is AAS. The ORC are continuing discussions with DE&T to reach a logical solution to activity guidelines for teachers/school groups.

Suggested dates for future workshops.

Please contact us if you would like to be involved in any of the following workshops.

- Scuba / Snorkel — Tuesday 25th November
- High and Low Ropes — Thursday 27th November
- Abseiling — Monday 1st December
- Canoeing/Kayaking — Tuesday 2nd December

It has been brought to our attention that the above dates correspond with the busiest times for school camps and similar programs. It may be possible to move these workshops so please could you let us know if there would be a better time (Pre-Christmas).

Additional Industry News

ORC facilitating outdoor recreation associations

In early July 2003, the Outdoor Recreation Centre Inc, supported by Sport & Recreation Victoria, held a one day " Board Orientation and Governance" workshop. The workshop , presented by Steve Bowman, Enterprise Care Not for Profit Services Pty Ltd, was attended by over 30 outdoor education, sport, recreation and tourism representatives, from across Victoria.

Topics discussed/covered included board legal responsibility, annual reports, and assessing and managing risk for committee of management or boards. The day provided a great opportunity for learning and discussion, and networking with industry colleagues.

The ORC welcomes suggestions from the industry to enable us to develop more professional development training opportunities. Please contact Sandy Jeffries (03) 9457 5432 or info@orc.org.au

"Refreshing the Interpretation Tool Kit"

September 1st 2003 Grand Hyatt Melbourne Victoria.

Key Note Speakers

The Honourable Dr David Kemp Minister for Environment and Heritage
Reverend Tim Costello, Jason Clark - Minds at Work, Ms. Becca Hanson - Principal Portico Group- Exhibit Design Specialist Seattle.

Sponsored by Environment Australia, Parks Victoria, City of Melbourne Sign Corp. Nuttshell Graphics and Aus Unique International.
Please register at www.interpretationaustralia.asn.au

October - Community Safety Month

During October this year, Victorians are encouraged to take the steps towards enhancing their safety and the safety of others by organising activities aimed at reducing crime, violence, emergencies and injuries in our community.

http://www.communitysafetymonth.com/

Pursuing Common Goals: Opportunities For Tourism And Conservation

A newly released publication about tour operator licences on public land and permit issues across Australia. Can be viewed at;
http://www.industry.gov.au/content/controlfiles/display_details.cfm?objectID=92111A48-A181-42E6-9902044A4C4C0FF0

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