Adventure Activity Standards (AAS)
Update Number 3
February 2003

Introduction

Happy New Year to you all from the Outdoor Recreation Centre Victoria Inc. With the final drafts for Caving, Mountain Biking, and River Rafting now complete, the focus of the AAS project is firmly upon preparing for the next activities. Some valuable feedback was received through December and early January and we would like to thank all those who have contributed.

News at a flash

- The AHIC have posted their National Horse Industry Code of Practice for public consultation. (www.horsecouncil.org.au/cop/) and we are also very keen to hear your thoughts specific to trail riding.
  Horse Trail Riding AAS will be written by the ORC Inc. and we have agreed to compliment the AHIC national code. We are also keen to hear of any groups with a specific interest in Trail Riding (Commercial or Non) within Victoria regarding this issue.

- As many of you will have commented or at least noted, the units included in AAS were often not available on the NTIS website as the directions indicated. This will not be the case when the completed documents are made available as ANTA have explained the new updated units must be approved then updated on that site so there is no need for concern.

- In early February representatives of various outdoor recreation and support organizations (School camps, Police Rescue, Work Cover and others) will review the Adventure Activity Standards and provide discussion and feedback relating to content, implementation, future priorities and relevance to areas such as emergency rescue and accreditation.

- The ORC Inc. would like to offer sincere thanks to Tourism Victoria who facilitated an exclusive forum on developing standards in adventure tourism from the British perspective. The guest speaker was Marcus Bailie, Head of Inspection Services for the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority in the UK. There were some excellent points raised by both Mr Bailie and attendees alike and the differences between our approaches are now far better understood.

- Discussions with Tread Lightly Australia are underway about how the AAS and the Tread Lightly message can best compliment each other. Within each is the emphasis on sustainability of activities and the environment (commercial, not for profit and recreation). Information will be posted on their website www.treadlightlyaustralia.com.au some time in February.

- We would also like to thank the Melbourne Sports Network for their support in the recent edition of TEAM Magazine. ORC Inc are always keen to hear of ways to involve club level participants to represent non-commercial interests and the TEAM Magazine certainly manages this. For Information about the Melbourne sports network view www.melbournesportsnetwork.org.au.

Workshops…
Dates for the next set of workshops remain as follows and the organizations who will be represented are listed here.

Climbing (Outdoor) Tuesday 11th February 2003.

- Arapiles Climbing Guides
- The Outdoor Education Group (OEG)
- Australian Climbing Instructors Association
- Scout Climbing Team
- YMCA
- Bendigo Latrobe University
- Army Adventure Training Wing
- Adventure Guides Australia
- Parks Victoria

Climbing (Artificial Surface) Wednesday 12th February 2003

- Hardrock Climbing Gyms
- The Rock Adventure Centre
- Victoria Ranges Climbing Gym
- Cliffhanger Climbing Gym
- IRGOA
- LaTrobe University – Alpine Institute
- YMCA
- Victorian Work Cover Authority

Recreational Fishing Tuesday 18th February 2003

- Professional Fishing Instructors and Guides Association (PFIGA)
- Murry River Fishing Tours
- Fawkner Marlynstone Angling Club
- VR FISH
- Future Fish Foundation
- FishCare
- NRE Fisheries
- Sport and Recreation Victoria

Four Wheel Driving Wednesday 19th February 2003

- Mountain Top Experience
- Australian Adventure Experience
- Scout 4X4 Team
- Victorian Four Wheel Drive Association (VFWDA)
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- South Australian 4WD Association (Support only)

If you know of any individual or organization who should be involved in any of these workshops, you have questions about the working groups, what they do or how to be involved your self, please contact the Outdoor Recreation Centre Victoria Inc via info@orc.org.au.

Industry News

Shaping Our Future - Australians are soon to have a direct say in shaping the future of vocational education and training.
Employers, employees, training providers, community leaders, and individual Australians in rural, regional and metropolitan centres will be asked for their views about training and the future at 25 regional forums to be run by ANTA around the country in February.

A discussion paper is to be released in the next couple of weeks to provide forum participants with background information and issues. The paper, shaping our Future, is based on research and interviews, discussions and focus groups with industry, training, and community leaders, training providers, and individuals.
The final strategy will be presented to State, Territory and Commonwealth VET ministers in mid-2003.
For further information about the national strategy go to: www.anta.gov.au/dapStrategy.asp, or contact Joyce Turnbull : ph (07) 3246 2482, fax (07) 3246 2490, email: turnbullj@anta.gov.au

The Outdoor Council of Australia

On the 9th and 10th of November last year, approximately fifteen representatives from The Outdoor Recreation Council of Australia (ORCA) and the Australian Outdoor Education Council (AOEA) met as a culmination of a process to set the direction and plan a future for a newly formed organization formed through a merger and to be called "The Outdoor Council of Australia".

For more information about the merger contact scott.polley@unisa.edu.au and for information about the National Outdoor Education Conference to be held on April 14th – 16th contact Shirley on 0412 840 747.

Contact details

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