Adventure Activity Standards (AAS)
Update Number 7
July 2003

Introduction

Once again there has been a lot happening since the May update. The following are the key points which we would like to clarify and or invite comment. Please remember that this project is industry driven and the AAS are written and signed off by you.

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

- **The Website** (www.orc.org.au) has been amended to host the completed Adventure Activity Standards. This now shows:
  - **Project Summary** – No change.
  - **Adventure Activity Standards** – Hosting the finished AAS.
  - **Project updates** – Where you can view past updates.
  - **Review Drafts** – Where you should check any "work in progress".
  - **Additional Resources** – We have advice for accident investigation and provision of food being loaded soon but please suggest relevant additional resources.

- **Workshops** for Bushwalking, Horse Trail Riding, Trail Bikes and Surfing are almost complete (see lists below). We are extremely keen to maintain the appropriate representation in these working groups so please contact us if you know of a group who are not represented.

- **Rock Climbing AAS:** The units of competence listed as relevant to industry in Victoria (Section 2 or the AAS) have been amended as of this update. The workshop agreed that these should mirror the requirements for ACIA qualifications. It was however brought to our attention by ACIA, Commercial and non-commercial climbers that the units did not reflect the real requirements for offering 'basic top rope experiences". As such, there has been a new category for a single pitch guide "Restricted" in line with the intention of the National Training Package.
  (Please note, lead climbing skills are still expected of all climbing guides at non restricted sites and in the eyes of the ACIA, ALL climbing guides should satisfy the non restricted site requirements including lead climbing skills)

- **Four Wheel Drive** AAS have been a long time in the making. We would like to thank the significant time and support of all working group participants who continue to ensure that the AAS truly represent the needs of all 4WD users. All 4WD clubs, tour operators and organisations for whom this is relevant should read over the AAS.

- **CAV/VAEE/VOEA State conference** was held in mid June and we thank all who attended the AAS presentation conducted by Whitty & Chitty (Fran Whitty of Sport & Recreation Victoria and Dave Chitty of Adventure Guides Australia). Most feedback involved increasing awareness of the AAS and, difficulties relating to downloading and printing the available AAS.

  In response to these issues we have arranged for AAS to be launched on a far bigger scale. Discussions are now underway with Agile Communications to create and

undertake this launch including Television, Radio, News Papers and Industry publications (for which we actively invite suggestions).

We have also created printable versions of the AAS so that you may download either the original AAS (Professional layout) or the plane printable version which will be far quicker to download and easier to print.

- **Scuba/Snorkelling AAS** It has been suggested by several organisations (Including state and national dive organisations) that the Scuba/Snorkeling AAS should be documented sooner than April of next year. For this reason we propose that this should be included in the workshops being conducted for **Rope Courses**, **Canoe-Kayaking** and **Abseiling** in late **November /** early **December**.

- **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.

- We also remind you that the review process has also been confirmed. This will involve the ORC storing feedback for discussion over the next 8-12 months after which a 2nd edition will be produced. We hope that this will facilitate acceptance and more importantly iron out any oversights sooner rather than later.

Stage two activities and proposed key dates.

The following activities and key dates are very important. Some issues with stage one related to the tight schedule involved in this project. As a result we would like to invite interest and create discussion from the very start of stage two.

As AAS are our (The industries) opportunity to demonstrate consistency and to take steps towards ensuring the success and sustainability of the outdoor recreation sector (Commercial and Non commercial), we are, as always, very keen to involve all key organisations, individuals and types of activity providers (education, tourism, community etc.). So please contact us if you would like to be involved in any of the following workshops info@orc.org.au.

Dates for workshops are;

- Bushwalking — Tuesday 29th July
- Trail Horse Riding — Thursday 31st July
- Trail Bike Rides/Tours — Tuesday 5th August (We would still like club participation)
- Surfing — Thursday 7th August

Block Two;

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

A third block is being included but the activities are not yet confirmed.

There is also some discussion regarding the inclusion of wild life tours (dolphin, penguin etc.) by documenting Scuba and snorkelling AAS then documenting a supplementary AAS for the wildlife viewing. Opinions are also encouraged on this matter to info@orc.org.au.

Please forward this information to anyone who you feel will have a reason to view these drafts.

Additional Industry News

ACTIVITY SPECIFIC PUBLICATIONS

As the ORC is looking to launch AAS on July 30th, we are very keen to receive information on all relevant industry publications. Ideally we would like to know the name, activities covered, frequency of publication and contact details of all publications. For example Wild Magazine, Australian White Water Magazine, Outdoor Magazine.

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