



Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) Update Number 22 September 2005

Introduction

Welcome to the 22nd Adventure Activity Standards update.

Many organisations around Victoria have now known the Adventure Activity Standards for more than 2 years since the launch of the first set in July of 2003. However, many more organisations are still being introduced to the concept and others are becoming aware for the first time.

So whether you are a member of the Caving fraternity who sat in the very first AAS workshop or you are a member of the ski touring group (soon to re-engage in the process) or even a member of one of many groups looking at AAS interstate, I hope that you continue to pass these updates to anyone who may wish to be involved or informed. Also remember that you can leave your suggestions and/or issues via the AAS section of the ORC website (www.orc.org.au).

This report covers;

- **AAS, Qualifications and edition 2 Bushwalking**
- **The legal introduction**
- **AAS February Forum**
- **Relevant website links**
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 - **Victorian Outdoor Recreation House update**
 - **National Outdoor Leaders Registration Scheme (NOLRS)**
 - **Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Sport Development Volunteers Program**
 - **14th National Outdoor Conference (the challenges we face)**
 - **Tasmanian Adventure Activity Standards Forum**

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.

News at a flash

AAS, Qualifications and edition 2 Bushwalking

In a timely fashion it has been brought to the attention of the ORC that many organisations around the state (and indeed the Country) are concerned that the AAS specify qualifications that are too demanding financially, on time or in many cases are simply unavailable. These concerns also lead to the assumption that the AAS is a promotional scheme designed to drive attendance at VET based training centres and hence, are in some way driven by the need to generate profit. None of which is in any way true.

Why is this timely?

The Bushwalking AAS 'Edition 1' was published with a paragraph missing. It was a paragraph that, in some form, is in every AAS published and it is vital to convey the genuine intent of the AAS. There is little or no harm if you have downloaded the Edition 1 AAS Bushwalking but to set the record straight, Edition 2 is now online and as a reminder to other activities, the AAS say that the leader should have the skills for the task that they undertake.

The paragraph (missing from 2.1 on page 14) reads as follows;

“A statement of attainment for these units is not required but the inclusion of this section is intended to provide a suitable benchmark describing the skills that leaders should have, although not all of the skills listed below will be applicable on all trips. It is recommended that leaders keep a record of activities they participate in and/or are responsible for as relevant experience is also extremely important.”

The legal introduction

There has been some feedback that the legal information should be moved to the back of the document, to an appendix or removed and placed upon the website. If you have an opinion on the importance of this section and/or it's location within the documents/website then please let us know.

AAS February Forum

This forum was a great success and provided much guidance for the AAS project. Should it be an annual forum? View this years report in the additional resources section of the AAS section at www.orc.org.au/aas/aas_resources.htm and let us know. The report is a summary of the feedback received at this years forum.

Relevant website links

Forward any website links that you believe are relevant to the Adventure Activity Standards project and we will endeavour to add them to the additional resources section of the site.

Interstate ownership and development

Several States and Territories have begun the process of adapting the Victorian AAS to suit their own industry. It is important that this is done with appropriate involvement of the leaders and organisations within each State and Territory so that the content is relevant.

Eventually, when a group conduct an activity interstate they will be able to refer to the relevant AAS to be informed of important legal, emergency procedure and environmental differences as well as the relevant contact details for land managers. An example may be that snorkelling and surfing AAS in Queensland may need to mention sunburn, stingers and crocodiles and bushwalkers in Tasmania will be unlikely to endure desert conditions.

Incident reporting forms

Reminder that these are also available in our additional resources section at www.orc.org.au/aas/aas_resources.htm

Documenting the details of an incident and storing the information gathered is likely to assist an organisations defence should legal action be initiated against them. The forms are simple to download and all forms included should be completed as comprehensively as possible. The ORC advise against changing the content unless advised to do so by your own solicitor.

Frequently Asked Questions

ONLINE NOW!!!! Answers from the horses mouth. <http://www.orc.org.au/aas/index.htm>

Review Committee

Thank you to those of you who have submitted expressions of interest for this vital committee. It must be stressed that this committee will be the decision making committee for future technical development of the AAS. This will involve reviewing comments and emerging equipment, procedures and standards wherever they may come from. It is increasingly likely that the first of these reviews will be considering drafts (or published) AAS from South Australia as well as increasing consistency between similar activity standards. Expenses will be covered where possible and there will be one meeting per annum.

AAS are continually evolving. If you are interested in participating on this essential committee please email info@orc.org.au with “AAS review” in the subject field. The ORC will record your interest and contact you at the appropriate time. All expressions of interest will remain confidential although appointed committee members may be made public when the committee is established.

Additional Information

The Outdoor Victoria Conference

The outdoor Victoria Conference is being held at the Geelong Conference centre on the *11th & 12th November*. Keynotes and Plenary sessions will be conducted to bring all delegates up to date with current Government, Industry, community and legal developments. Workshops are also being organised by The Australian Camps Association, Four Wheel Drive Victoria, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and The Outdoor recreation Centre.

For more information see the attached flyer and contact the ORC or one of the above organisations.

Rec House Update

The new Outdoor Recreation House to be built in conjunction with Parks Victoria's new regional offices at Westerfold's Park remains on target for completion in July August 2006. This extremely exciting development (an election promise by the Honourable Justin Madden and the team at Sport and Recreation Victoria) promises to boast accommodation for at least 6 outdoor recreation organisations, meeting, training and conference facilities for ORC members that will be perfect for board/committee meetings, training, AGM's and many other vital services.

For more information contact gordon@orc.org.au. We will follow the progress and report significant developments.

National Outdoor Leaders Registration Scheme (NOLRS).

Several recommendations have recently been endorsed by the National NOLRS sub Committee of the Outdoor Council of Australia and work is currently underway to implement these changes. Primarily aimed at broadening access to the scheme for appropriately trained practitioners the updates Scheme is likely to be implemented in Victoria in 2006/07.

Please forward any views to info@orc.org.au with 'NOLRS' in the subject field.

Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Sport Development Volunteers Program ...sharing sports expertise across the Commonwealth of Nations

Volunteers are currently being recruited to work in Commonwealth countries as part of the Sport Development Volunteers Program, funded by the Victorian Government as part of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games. Skilled volunteers will provide hands-on advice and assistance with local sports development. If you have expertise in sport development – perhaps as a coach, technician, athlete or administrator – you are invited to apply for one of these volunteer positions. To find out more go to the Office of Commonwealth Games Coordination website : www.dvc.vic.gov.au/ocgc/sport/sports_volunteers.htm

This program is part of Up and Running, the Victorian Government's strategy for using the Games to create healthier, more active communities across Victoria and the Commonwealth.

14th National Outdoor Conference (the challenges we face)

For those of you who were unable to attend, this was a fantastic conference with an extremely diverse range of topics covered. To view presentations and papers go to www.outdoorcouncil.asn.au. Topics include.

- **Outdoor Education/Environmental Education**
- **Outdoor Leadership: Issues, trends and strategies**
- **Adventure Therapy**
- **Outdoor Recreation and Land Management - policy, planning and management**

Tasmanian Adventure Activity Standards Forum

TasORC is holding an information session to introduce the concept of Adventure Activity Standards and to outline how the project will be run. You will have the chance to ask questions of TasORC staff and a consultant from Victoria, where such standards are already up and running!

Who: Educators, commercial operators, students, volunteers: anyone who is involved in the outdoor adventure industry and wants a say in the development of minimum standards!

Where: The Theatre at The Old Woolstore, 1 Macquarie St, Hobart

When: Tuesday 27th September 2005, from 6 - 8pm.

A light supper will be provided for forum attendees.

RSVP: Friday 23rd September 2005

Contact: Clio Griffiths on (03) 6234 9223 or info@tasorc.com.au

Contact details

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