



Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) Update Number Two December 2002

Introduction

Welcome to the second project update (and the last till 2003). November was a very busy month at the ORC and the project has moved on at its usual pace. We are still in the position to thank all the participants of the working parties who have now completed the review of the drafts and look forward to forming such professional groups for future activities.

News at a flash

- Draft Standards for the Caving, White Water Rafting and Mountain Bike Standards can now be viewed on the ORC website www.orc.org.au and any comments should be forwarded to gordon@orc.org.au before the end of December 2002, please pass this information on as we are keen to receive feedback from anyone who AAS may affect.
- ORC Inc. and Sport and Recreation Training Australia (SRTA) are nearing agreement on the most practical means by which to document the competency units which illustrate the benchmark competency for outdoor activity leaders.
- AAS project team are continuing to discuss the most complimentary way of making AAS usable for teachers possibly in conjunction with the 'Safety in Outdoor Adventure Activities Series'.
- Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation have agreed to document competency for the Australian Horse Industry Council (AHIC), as this will be a component of the National Outdoor Leaders Registration Scheme (NOLRS) and AAS, this will be the strongest show of uniformity across the states and at the national level to date.
- Both Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) and Parks Victoria (PV) have confirmed legal support for the AAS project with confirmation that the ORC Inc. can access their solicitors to review draft AAS.
- The Draft AAS being posted on the ORC website this week will include Australian Standards for the key equipment components where such standards exist.
- Discussion is ongoing regarding the best way to include outdoor recreation/education degree graduates as competent outdoor activity leaders. The project staff welcome any input regarding this matter as AAS must be representative.

Presentations

The following Workshops have facilitated discussion on the AAS project.

- **Thursday 5th December 2002** at the Edison Mission Energy Training Room, Business and Economics Conference Centre, **Monash University Gippsland 2pm to 4pm.**
 - This was a great success and many key issues were raised regarding the content, implementation, enforcement and timing of AAS. Thank you to all who attended.
- **Friday 6th December 2002** at the Grampians District Licensed Tour Operator Workshop, Brambruk, the National Park and Culture Centre, Grampians Road **9.30am to 4pm.**

- Unfortunately this workshop was cancelled but I am happy to hear from anyone who had intended to be present and will endeavour to forward relevant information if possible.

Workshops...

Dates for the next set of workshops have been confirmed details for those workshops and the organisations who are already keen to be involved and supportive of AAS documentation are:

Climbing (Outdoor) Tuesday 11th February 2003.

- Arapiles Climbing Guides
- Climbing Instructors Association
- Army Adventure Training Wing
- Adventure Guides Australia

Climbing (Artificial Surface) Wednesday 12th February 2003

- Hardrock Climbing Gyms
- The Rock Adventure Centre

Recreational Fishing Tuesday 18th February 2003

- Australian Professional Fishing Guides
- NRE Fisheries
- Sport and Recreation Victoria

Four Wheel Driving Wednesday 19th February 2003

- South Australian 4WD Association (Support only)

The order of the activities being discussed is still flexible so if there are reasons to support changes to the above dates then please contact info@orc.org.au.

Question of the month

How do ORC Inc decide who gets involved in writing the standards for an activity?

The full details for selection of the working groups can be accessed on the ORC website at www.orc.org.au, however the process for documenting fair and practical standards for outdoor recreation activities involves gathering 7 –10 volunteers who are representative of those who conduct group activities involving dependants in each activity. These include commercial operators, non-commercial operators (clubs, community groups etc.), the education sector and also the land managers who have a significant input considering the environmental sustainability of the industry sector.

Groups who will be affected by the content of the AAS are generally interested in contributing to that content and the ORC Inc. select participants based on the representation and experience.

Industry News

MADDEN COMMITS TO MAJOR UPGRADE OF VIEWBANK OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE

On Tuesday, 19 November 2002 the Minister for Commonwealth Games, Sport and Recreation, Justin Madden, said a second-term Bracks Labor Government would commit to a \$500,000 upgrade of the Outdoor Recreation Centre in Viewbank.

"Outdoor recreation involves thousands of people and this project will provide upgraded facilities to a number of organisations that form the outdoor recreation sector," Mr Madden said.

Local Member for Ivanhoe, Craig Langdon, said he was gratified that the Bracks Government had agreed to support the Outdoor Recreation Centre.

For full details view the Media Release on the news section of our website www.orc.org.au.

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