



Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) Update Number 11 January 2004

Introduction

Happy New Year

04 already??? With such a challenging year behind us, we all hope that 04 will be a year to remember for the better things in life.

This year will see all 18 AAS completed, and the ORC taking a serious look at the feedback throughout the process. Certification of those supervising adventure activities has been by far the biggest issue. The ORC are working on this and throughout 2004 we will be discussing the most appropriate ways to get the skills and experience of current supervisors recognised.

Legislation has also been changing throughout 2003. There are some fantastic developments to protect activity providers, volunteers especially, which can only strengthen the recreation sector. If you would like to be brought up to speed with such developments then feel free to contact the ORC.

With this all going on I am proud to acknowledge the ongoing support of all who are helping us to keep the AAS project moving. With that in mind, this is the situation as we enter the New Year.

As always, please pass this update on to any one who you think may be interested in getting involved. We invite all feedback by email to info@orc.org.au or by calling us (number is in the page footer).

News at a flash

- **Drafts** of the standards developed at the workshops in July and August have been removed from the ORC website. Some details are still being resolved (hence the delay in getting these posted online). For this reason we will not be able to say at this point when the bushwalking draft will be available. However the completed AAS will be online by the end of February for.
 - **Surfing (focusing on group surfing sessions/lessons)**
 - **Horse Trail Riding**
 - **Trail Bike Touring**
- **Work reviewing more recent drafts** is progressing well (extra thanks to the working group members who have reviewed these drafts over the festive season). Thanks to that assistance, the drafts will be available for comment (which we encourage.) by Friday the 6th of February.
 - **Snorkelling (including SCUBA and swimming with seals and dolphins)**
 - **Challenge rope courses**
 - **Abseiling**
 - **Canoeing & Kayaking**
- The ORC and SRV hosted a **Community Organisations Information Forum** on the 8th of November to introduce AAS and ensure that the community organisations are being appropriately included throughout the AAS development process.

- **Thank you to Michael Coldham**, President of 4wd Victoria and Partner with Anderson Rice Lawyers for an excellent summary of the not for profit responsibilities when conducting adventurous activities.
- The key outcome from the forum was that community groups (clubs and charities) have some difficulty **communicating/training volunteers**. This is an issue that has been brought to our attention many times and the ORC has initiated plans to increase communication and availability of training in these areas.
- **AAS Brochures are now available.** If you would like to be able to provide brochures to your members, volunteers, leaders or anyone else that you feel should be made aware of AAS within Victoria (or interstate), simply send an email to info@orc.org.au with the following.
 - Subject reading “brochure request”.
 - What organisation you represent.
 - How many brochures you would like.
 - How you intend to distribute the brochures (post, handout, display)
 - Who are the recipients of those brochures (staff, management, leaders, volunteers, parents)?

Additional Industry News

Communication has been increased between **State and Territory Outdoor Education/Recreation Associations**. The staff employed by the peak bodies in each state held a teleconference at the end of last year. The discussion included key issues within the industry from Insurance, National Outdoor Leaders Registration Scheme (NOLRS) and representation to the function and structure of the Outdoor Council of Australia (OCA).

- The teleconference was a big step towards a national voice and there will now be face to face meetings held once or twice a year to raise and discuss issues which have more of a national focus.
- The ORC is keen to receive any views on issues which should be raised at such a forum and we look forward to keeping you informed of the outcomes.

The ORC and VOEA have agreed that they will work together to ensure that if NOLRS is implemented in Victoria, it will be for good reason and it will be done in a way that suits our industry. There is a real need for experienced leaders to “be qualified” and the National approach has some significant benefits, however the VOEA and ORC are extremely aware that the process must be simple and efficient.

Association of Challenge Course Technology Australia (ACCTA)

A new organisation has been formed to provide a focus for people who own, use or build Challenge Courses. Some of the tasks the Association has set itself are to:

- **Represent the challenge course technology industry throughout Australia.**
- **Develop, review and promote quality standards for the design, supply, installation, maintenance and management of challenge courses.**
- **Develop, review and promote quality standards for the training of facilitators and staff using challenge courses.**
- **Promote research, publications and education in the field of challenge course technology and training.**

The inaugural meeting in December elected the following committee

President	David Strickland
Vice-president	Matt Scott
Secretary	Tim Edwards-Hart
Treasurer	Andrew McGuckian
General members	Erik Westrup Steve Whitmore

You can contact the Association via interact@edventures.com.au

The web site, which currently has a record of the establishment discussion, constitution, etc., is at www.bassinternational.com.au/accta

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