



Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) Update Number 21 June 2005

Introduction

This is the first AAS update since January and for that we apologise.

There have been several significant developments over the past four months and this update is intended to keep you and, where relevant, your members informed.

Several initiatives mentioned have implications upon the future direction of the AAS. These have all been implemented in response to the contributions of organisations across the outdoor sector/industry. For more information on anything included within this update please feel free to contact us.

This report covers;

- Important note regarding Fire Regulations
- Archiving the AAS – Edition 2
- Forum outcomes
- Incident reporting forms
- Frequently Asked Questions
- AAS Bushwalking.
- Review Committee
- AAS Launched in South Australia
- Additional information
 - Rec House Update
 - National Outdoor Leaders Registration Scheme (NOLRS).
 - The Outdoor Council of Australia National Conference.
 - Bush and Adventure Therapy Forum.

Please pass this report on to all members, staff or individuals who you believe will have an interest in the continued development of the Victorian AAS.

News at a flash

Important note regarding Fire Regulations

The ORC have been made aware that some AAS were initially published with a misprint referring to the pit depth required under law for any camp fires on crown land (other than established fire places). Some AAS had stated that pit depth must be no greater than 30 cm deep. Where this misprint has been identified the AAS now state the accurate requirement that pits must be *at least 30cm deep*.

Please check that your organisation is aware of all Crown Land legislation (including fire where relevant to your activities). The Department of Sustainability and Environment, Parks Victoria and/or your local committee of management will be more than happy to assist with any enquiries.

Archiving the AAS – Edition 2

The Victorian AAS are now in their second edition. One of the primary commitments of the ORC and the many organisations that support, contribute and/or endorse the AAS have always been to ensure that they remain current, informative and relevant.

The process anticipated to undertake the necessary reviews has not been finalised but Victorian legislation has been changed meaning that our solicitors have updated the generic introduction to the AAS.

If you have not had the opportunity to review the updated version then we encourage you to do so. Of particular interest to many groups will be the clarity in areas such as inherent risks, waivers, good Samaritans, volunteers, apologies and limitation on claims.

Forum outcomes

FINALLY!!! The report for the AAS Forum will be available on the ORC website in the next week. Keep an eye out for this as many of the future directions were determined at this forum including the importance of developing support

material, relevant web links and the AAS review process.

The report aims to summarise the feedback received but as this will always be subjective so we have also provided the actual feedback as appendices so that you may form your own views (these are anonymous and as close to the actual word received as possible). We are always pleased to receive your comments.

Go to www.orc.org.au, the report and appendices are in the updates section.

Incident reporting forms

Incident report forms are now available from the ORC/AAS website. These have been developed by the ORC and Moray and Agnew Solicitors to provide a free and accessible template for any organisation to record details of any incident that may occur. Although developed as a component of the AAS it is easy to 'personalise' the forms with your own organisations branding.

Documenting the details of an incident and storing the information gathered is likely to significantly 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 a solicitor.

Go to www.orc.org.au, the incident report forms are in the additional information section.

Frequently Asked Questions

These provide clear responses to the most common questions and misconceptions regarding the AAS project. Technology willing; you will find the frequently asked questions in the 'Project Summary' section of the ORC website from the week beginning Monday 13th June.

Go to www.orc.org.au, the FAQ's are in the project summary section.

AAS Bushwalking

ONLINE NOW!!!!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this AAS. Several groups contributed a great deal of time and effort to 'get this right'. Some parts of the published AAS have been addressed in quite a different way to other AAS and in some cases this is to cater for the broad range of activities currently described within the term 'Bushwalking', some times the changes reflect the extensive participation by non commercial organisations and other aspects have simply been improved.

Let us know what you think and to help us interpret your feedback please include the context for your comments such as activities provided by commercial activity provider for youth groups, commercial activity provider for adults, non-commercial organisations such as church, youth and 'at risk' groups or non-commercial organisations such as clubs.

Review Committee

The AAS Steering Committee is in the final stages of confirming the structure, role and responsibilities for the AAS Technical Review Committee. It is hoped that this committee will be established in the near future and will include experts that are able to contribute valuable information, independently discuss and create recommendations and actions as well as being representative of the diversity of both stakeholder organisations and activities.

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.

AAS Launched in South Australia

Recreation South Australia held a whole of industry forum on April 7th 2005 with support from the Government of South Australia and Office for Recreation and Sport.

Consultation is currently under way and we look forward to seeing the completed South Australian AAS.

Additional Information

14th National Outdoor Conference (the challenges we face) REMINDER

3 - 6 July, 2005, Radisson Palm Meadows, Gold Coast, Australia

The conference sessions across the four days will be based upon themes relating to "The Challenges We Face". The program, in addition to the renowned international and national Keynote Speakers, will include concurrent sessions focused within the following four streams:

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

Delegates will also have the opportunity to identify issues requiring further discussion and time has been allocated within the programme for this to occur. An outline of the conference programme is included below.

The conference Opening Address is scheduled for Sunday 3rd July at 10am, with pre-conference welcome drinks on Saturday evening. When booking return flights, make sure you don't need to leave before the "plenary with a difference" which will conclude at 4pm on Wednesday 6th July.

For all information on the Outdoor Council of Australia and for the forthcoming Conference please contact: Danny Parkin - (07) 3369 9455
or follow the link to <http://www.outdoorcouncil.asn.au/conference/index.htm>

Rec House Update

The Outdoor Recreation Centre Victoria Inc. Parks Victoria and Sport and Recreation Victoria have all signed off the concept plan for the Victorian Outdoor Recreation House. All involved are very excited about the new building and the increased services that it will bring to the Victorian outdoor industry/sector.

We will follow the progress and report significant developments.

National Outdoor Leaders Registration Scheme (NOLRS).

Discussion on the implementation of the NOLRS scheme continues with consensus on the changes that should be made to the scheme. The OCA and other states currently implementing the scheme are very supportive of further development.

The ORC is confident that we will be in a position to publish our discussion paper later in the year so please forward any views to info@orc.org.au with 'NOLRS' in the subject field.

If you would like to be removed from this email list please simply reply to this email with "Please remove me from your list" in the subject line.

Yours Sincerely

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