



Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) Update Number One November 2002

Introduction

The Outdoor Recreation Centre Inc. (ORC Inc.) is well aware of the significance of this project. Through this update, we aim to involve as many relevant individuals and organisations as possible and to keep you up to date with the progress of the AAS project.

At different stages in our progress we will need your input to keep AAS relevant to you, this update will let groups know what we need from you, when we need that and more importantly, why!

At the end of September 2002, the ORC sent out a media release for this project. The release was sent to more than 400 individuals or organisations and we are still talking to new contacts.

Thank you to

- Victorian Tourism Operators Association (VTOA),
- Camping Association of Victoria (CAV),
- Adventurepro.com,
- Victorian Outdoor Education Association (VOEA)
- Tourism Training Victoria (TTV)

Who have supported and actively promoted the AAS project.

We would also like to thank all the individuals and organisations that have already contributed time, advice, expert opinion and guidance. Without such contributions the activity standards will never truly represent the needs of outdoor recreation and adventure tourism in Victoria.

News at a flash

- The Victorian Workcover Authority will provide a summary of regulations relating to adventure tourism industry
- Writers of 'Australian Standards' in the amusement industry provided some advice for the future of AAS and the benefits of greater accountability
- 'Standards Australia' confirmed that they will be able to assist where standards apply to AAS equipment
- The AAS for horse trail riding will now be written in early 2003.
 - The Australian Horse Industry Council (AHIC) will document a national code of practice for the horse industry (including trail riding)
 - AHIC will follow a similarly transparent system of complimentary to AAS
 - The ORC Inc and AHIC will share information to ensure consistency
- Further discussion with Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation (QORF) lead to greater understanding of current projects. Ensuring long-term goals are being worked towards in a complimentary manner.
- A number of insurance underwriters have been briefed about the AAS project, and we will continue to liase with the Insurance industry to ensure that the AAS meets the needs of all stakeholders.

Presentations

In October, the ORC Inc and the Project Steering Committee have presented to:

- The Victorian Youth Development Program (VYDP)
- Parks Victoria Licensed Tour Operator Workshop (Bright)
- Ecotourism Conference in Cairns

Please let us know if there are convenient opportunities for us to conduct a presentation in your area or to your group.

Workshops...

- On the 23rd, 24th and 25th of October the ORC Inc. hosted the first of the AAS workshops for caving, white water rafting and mountain biking respectively
- There can be no denying that at times, the odd topic created some heated discussions, however the outcomes of the activity workshops were very positive and useful.
- First drafts are already in construction
- Second drafts will be available on the ORC website from Monday 9th December 2002 till Friday 27th December 2002, for comment, another reminder will be placed in next month's update.
- The next workshops will be held in early February 2003, and will be for climbing, four wheel driving and recreational fishing. To get involved or to pass on relevant information for these activities please contact: info@orc.org.au

Question of the month

What is the National Training Framework and how does it relate to AAS and outdoor recreation?

Sport and Recreation Training Australia (SRTA) manage the National Training Framework for outdoor recreation. The framework is a training system designed for structured career progression within the outdoor recreation industry. It is designed to train participants to Certificate II, III, IV and Diploma level in all aspects of outdoor recreation across all activities.

As the activity standards focus on the qualifications of guides/leaders, we are focused on the minimum safe requirements for conducting group led activities. As the certificates offered by the national training framework cover so much more than this we aim to use certain relevant components of these courses as a benchmark. The units (or components) we list will be deemed reasonable by the working groups and as such, will be equivalent to the competency required to guide groups in each activity.

Initially there will be no requirement to hold certificates for the units selected. Though any individual who accepts the duty of care for others will be strongly advised to review their experience and suitability against the relevant set or sets of units. Where an aspect or aspects of the AAS Competencies are unclear, an expert should be consulted.

For more information about the National Training framework view: www.sртаustralia.org.au

Industry News

Applications are now open for the 2002/03 Country Action Grant Scheme

It aims to increase the capacity of sport and recreation organisations in regional and rural Victoria. Grants of between \$500 and \$5,000 are available to successful applicants under the following four categories:

- Improving Organisations,
- Enhancing Skills ,
- Including Everyone,
- and Victalent

For application details see

http://www.sport.vic.gov.au/web/srv/srvsite.nsf/pages/services_funding_ruralvic

or contact your local SRV office.

Contact details

Unfortunately due to unforeseeable events, it is now impossible for the project team to access the contact details of those who have expressed an interest in the project. If you have passed on your details or have been involved in the process so far then please forward a new e-mail to info@orc.org.au, the project team apologise for this inconvenience.

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