



Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) Update Number 10 November 2003

Introduction

With the ORC AGM being held Friday past (the 7th November) we, like so many at this time of the year, are extremely busy and only too aware that between AGM's and the start of another summer (Schools are out at camps) we are seeing the end of what has been an extremely tough winter for all in Victoria.

Like the industry at large, the AAS project has no rest and as you read, we are finalising the AAS for Bushwalking, Horse Trail Riding, Trail Bike Touring and Surfing Sessions.

The process has been extremely varied for these four activities and we have certainly had our work cut out to get agreement on some controversial issues. So as always I would like to extend a huge thanks to all who have been involved in getting these AAS to this stage.

The completion of these AAS also means that it is time to start confirming details for the next four activities to undertake the process. If you are interested in the following activities, please ensure that you are getting involved by contacting us on the email address below.

- Scuba Diving, Snorkelling and/or Swimming with Wildlife.
- High and/or Low Ropes Courses.
- Abseiling
- Canoeing and/or Kayaking

This is a larger update than usual for which I apologise but please forward this update to everyone who you think may be interested in getting involved and as always we invite all feedback by feedback form (online) or email to info@orc.org.au.

News at a flash

Drafts of the standards developed at the workshops in July and August (Surf Sessions, Bushwalking, Horse Trail Riding, Trail Bike Touring) have been posted on the ORC website for the past 2 months for review.

Key points were discussed as follows.

- **Surf Sessions**
 - Surf Schools are mainly members of Surfing Victoria, affiliated with Surfing Australia. Surfing Australia are impressed with the AAS and have been liaising with their new surf coach training scheme. Possible mapping to training package which could help to close the gap between Surfing Australia and Surf Schools Association of Australia.
 - Clarification on Victorian foreshore access/license required.
- **Bushwalking**
 - Bushwalking federation has reported in their last three newsletters that the drafts are available for feedback. The feedback received has mostly been positive but we have not received as much as expected.
 - One query from commercial operator questioned the use of the area descriptions used in AAS. As these are aligned with ANTA descriptions no change will be made.
 - One query on leaders ability to use participant skills to back up his/her own skill base. A review of the wording in leader skill section has been done to accommodate bush walking club needs.
- **Horse Trail Riding**
 - Very little feedback from operators. Information of the drafts has been circulated and it appears that due to the recent AHIC code and the insurance effects on the industry, operators are aware and keeping current with standards.
- **Trail Bike Touring**
 - Australian Motorcycle Trail Riding Association is the only non-competitive organization and are

supporting the current draft.

- There has been no involvement of motorcycling Victoria which is disappointing as those who have become involved are almost certainly not those in need of raising their standards, ideally we would like representative bodies to promote safe group riding throughout the state.

- **Draft Downloads**

- As a response to the lower volume of feedback than expected, the ORC have reviewed website statistics. We had 40,000 hits in September alone. Actual downloads of drafts in September were; Trail Bike Touring 100 downloads , Horse Trail Riding 197 downloads , Bushwalking 307 downloads , Surf Sessions 90 downloads .

- **Parks Victoria** have issued their permit renewals which include activity criteria requiring adherence to existing AAS. The Victorian Tourism operators Association (VTOA) have communicated AAS information to members, including information regarding permit renewal for activities not yet with a finalized AAS.

- **Sport & Recreation Victoria** have confirmed that they will include AAS in contracts to sporting and recreation organizations for grants. AAS to be included in Parks and Leisure Australia project.

- **Reminder of dates for future workshops.** Please contact us if you would like to be involved in any of the following workshops or if you would like to ensure that we have spoken to the right people.

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| • Scuba / Snorkelling & Wildlife swims | Tuesday 25 th November |
| • High and Low Ropes | Thursday 27 th November |
| • Abseiling | Monday 1 st December |
| • Canoeing/Kayaking | Tuesday 2 nd December |

There has been some discussion about the suitability of these dates but within the available range of dates to keep the project on track it has been impossible to change them any further.

If you are still interested in attending but have not yet spoken to us then please contact us by phone or email (contact details below). Each workshops will be run from 10am till 4:30pm.

Additional Industry News

Community Organisation Information Forum

The ORC and Sport and Recreation Victoria are hosting a forum to provide relevant AAS information. This forum will provide vital information and an opportunity to be involved in the Adventure Activity Standards Project.

If your organisation is involved in the following activities in any way it is imperative that you are aware of these new industry standards.

- River Rafting
- Caving
- Mountain Biking
- Four Wheel Driving
- Rock Climbing
- Artificial Climbing Structures
- Recreational Angling
- Bushwalking
- Horse Trail Riding
- Trail Bike Touring
- Surfing Sessions
- Scuba/ Snorkel/ wildlife swims
- High/Low Rope Courses
- Abseiling
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Snow Activities
- Water Skiing

This forum will provide: A summary of AAS – past to present, Discussion of the application of AAS to non-commercial groups and crucial open discussion and networking.

The forum will be held at:
The Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth)
Ground Floor, 15-31 Pelham Street,
Carlton South 3053

From 6:30pm till 8pm. On Monday the 8th December 2003

A copy of the invite is attached for anyone who has not already received one (I apologise for the poor quality of this copy). Please RSVP if you would like to attend.

Gordon Duff – Project Manager Outdoor Recreation Centre Inc. 332 Banyule Road View Bank Vic 3084	Ph. (03) 9457 5432 Fax. (03) 9457 5438 Mobile 0402 848 367 Email gordon@orc.org.au or info@orc.org.au Web www.orc.org.au
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Gordon Duff

Project Manager
Outdoor Recreation Centre Inc.
332 Banyule Road
View Bank Vic 3084

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Fax; (03) 9457 5438
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www.orc.org.au