
OEASA NEWS

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Help Needed.

A reality of OEASA is that even though it ascribes to being the Outdoor Education Professional Association, it is run by volunteers. This has positive aspects such as freedom from government constraints, independence of thought, an ability to change direction quickly. The negative aspects being that when there are tasks to be done, the load is shared by a few. We are looking for assistance with the following:

- **Secretary**
- **Committee Members**
- **Conference Assistance and Presentation**
- **Newsletter Assistance**

There is no financial reward for any of the above, only the satisfaction that comes with contributing to the development of our profession.

Scott Polley

National

Outdoor Education Survey.

In 1999 it is planned to survey all schools in South Australia as part of a national Outdoor Education Survey. This study will attempt to examine the following 'state of the nation' issues:

Qualifications, Training, Certification

Curriculum Support

Attitudes and Values

Participation

Curriculum and programs

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National Conference.

The bi-annual outdoor education conference was held in Perth Jan 11-15, with the theme 'The Human Face of Outdoor Education'.

Attendance:

About 130 delegates were there from all aspects of outdoor education. Teachers, instructors, corporate trainers, employers, researchers, academics, were there for this pilgrimage. As it happens I was the only South Australian delegate, as far as I know, but there was at least one expat South Australian that had just started work at Merribrook. Considering that this is the major national gathering for outdoor educators we appear to be poorly represented. There are probably a number of factors contributing to this. The Adventure Therapy conference being held in 1997 in Perth, the expense [my attendance bill was around \$1140], and the recent focus on ORCA and ORCSA.

2001:

It has been agreed that **Victoria** will hold the next conference at a date to be advised. We will keep you posted. It was to be South Australia's turn, and I am hoping that we will be ready by 2003.

Organisation:

Our sister organisation in WA, The Camping and Outdoor Education Association of Western Australia, [also a member of the Australian Outdoor Education Council], did a fantastic job, with the some first class structures, and great organisation.

Tone:

The conference tone was one of optimism, open communication, and a sense that Outdoor Education had made some sound progress in Australia. The next conference is likely to reflect the emerging theme of higher levels of critical analysis of our craft, making greater use of the strengths of Outdoor Education in Australia.

Presentations:

Keynote Speakers.

The first was **Brian Hill**, Professor of Education from Murdoch University. Brian had three key questions for Outdoor Educators. 'What do you think you are doing?'; 'What do you hope to achieve?'; 'What traps do you need to avoid?'. These questions asked Outdoor Educators to define outdoor education, and how was it different to other

educational streams. In particular he alluded to the distinct Outdoor Education methodologies that have escaped formal acknowledgment. In particular those methodologies that incorporate moral education. This, with the development of a stronger theoretical base are things that will influence policy according to Brian. Brian had a congenial and yet challenging manner, that struck chords for all in the audience.

The second was 'Mr Project Adventure' **Karl Rhonke**, who had some simple messages delivered, as you would expect, through fun activities. Although nothing particularly new in Karl's presentation, it was the presentation that left the most smiles on people's dials!

The third was the renowned **Chris Loynes** who did both an interactive presentation, and a more classical lecture style presentation. Chris used imagery, mythology, imagination and moral dilemmas to assist in teasing out our relationships with the environment.

Martin Ringer was the fourth, and in my view, the most interesting and challenging presenter. Many of you may be familiar with Martin's journal pieces, and he is continuing to push back our boundaries of understanding about groups. I urge those that are interested in developing group skills to look at Martin's paper available in the conference proceedings.

Presenters:

Feedback about the presenters from others that attended the conference was mostly positive, with the odd presentation that was not at national standard. [I just happened to go to two of these!]

Here were some of the better ones that I went to.

Alistair McArthur *Best Practice in Outdoor Education*

This presentation encouraged lively debate as to whether best practice principles were appropriate in Outdoor Education. Alistair's argument in part was that best practice might help to legitimise Outdoor practice, as well as promote quality. From a personal view, I emerged thinking that it had application in the safety area, but not curriculum. One thing that did come out was the importance of paperwork to outline your policies, as in any kind of court, that will be what your fall back will be.

Jackie Kiewa *Forging an Adventurous Identity*

This examination of the nature of adventure and how it relates to women was both interesting and entertaining. Her key concepts as I saw it were that images of adventure were different for males and females, and that much of this was tied up in romanticised culture of adventurousness.

James Neill: *The Melting Pot of Outdoor Education Effects.*

In an attempt to examine the variables that affect the outcomes of an outdoor education program, James examined large numbers of participants results from a questionnaire.

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Some interesting ideas emerged that included
-a poor relationship between the staff and participant's perceptions of outcomes
-that methods used in program were important influences in outcomes
-that the variable that seemed to have the largest impact on the outcome was the starting profile that participants had of themselves
-that outcomes were higher for longer programs and single sex programs
-that a significant percentage of participants emerge having had a negative experience.

Rites of Passage:

A program operating in a school in Western Australia at the start of year 11, and looks at the concept of the ceremonial passage from childhood to adulthood. The 5 day camp includes the use of symbolism, metaphors, adult mentoring, peer support, connections with nature and a fair amount of body painting in this quest. It was an interesting concept that stimulated and also raised a few eyebrows.

AOEC

In my role as the Australian Outdoor Education Council delegate for South Australia, I attended some 8-10 hours of meetings. Some outcomes were:

1. That the AOEC remain as a distinct organisation, with it's role being to:
 - a) produce a national journal
 - b) hold a biannual national conference
 - c) facilitate communication between state organisations involved in Outdoor Education
 - d) advise on matters of curriculum and other educational matters to government and interested organisations
2. That the AOEC ensure that it communicates closely with the Outdoor Recreation Council of Australia, as there is some common ground in the activities that are used.
3. To this end it was decided that Outdoor Education was significantly different enough from recreation to warrant the continuation of a separate organisation. This would be put to the states members to make a final decision on this however.

It is worth noting that most states have retained separate organisations, except for Tasmania and Canberra as far as I could tell. At this stage there are no plans for ORCSA and OEASA to merge organisations. There already exists a good relationship with the two organisations having quite different mission statements and agendas.

Scott Polley

Conference and Seminars 1999:

There has generally been a poor showing at the seminars held over the last two years, and it is with great trepidation that we launch into another calendar. We hope that our survey in 1998 has helped us to identify what your needs are.

Conference 1999: 'Connections'

South Australia is overdue for a conference, so 1999 is the year. OEASA has worked successfully with other organisations in the past, such as Camping Association of South Australia, to organise professionally relevant events. This year, we will be working with the newly formed ORCSA, which is quite an exciting prospect. We are going with the theme of connections, reflecting the nature of our profession, and our links with other related industries such as tourism, recreation.

There are some excellent presentations and workshops lined up, and the greatest dilemma for participants is likely to be 'which sessions do I go to'.

We are finalising details, and so brochures, etc are yet to be printed. We will include a full layout in the next newsletter, as well as distributing information through a number of other outlets.

Dates: 6 pm 22 October to 4 pm 24 October

Venue: Regency Institute of TAFE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OEASA CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

LOCATION TO BE CONFIRMED

FRIDAY JUNE 4TH 6.30 PM [NOTE CHANGE]

Combined certificate presentation for SAREA, OEASA, YSA, Canoe SA [Recreation], BLSA, UNISA as well as awards from OEASA to outstanding students of Outdoor Education.

OEASA STATE CONFERENCE 1999 'RECONNECTING'

VENUE TO BE ADVISED

22-24 OCTOBER [NOTE CHANGE]

Series of workshops and presentations

OEASA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MAID AND MAGPIE HOTEL, CNR MAGILL RD AND PAYNEHAM RD

6.00 PM

4 MAY [NOTE CHANGE]

All Welcome

SEMINARS

UPSTAIRS AT ANNAPURNA

RUNDLE ST 5.30-7.30

NO 1: 30TH JULY

NO.2: 26TH NOVEMBER

This is the newsletter of the Outdoor Educators' Association of South Australia. It is a means of exchange of information between members and interested organisations. It also provides a forum for debate of important issues to Outdoor Education. The views expressed by contributors are their own and not necessarily those held by OEASA.

National Survey

Outdoor Education

This project could be of major significance to the Outdoor Education community as it will be the first survey of it's kind and the date derived from this will no doubt be important at all sorts of levels, including policy, research, practice, and educational demands.

A survey of South Australian secondary schools is to take place as part of this process, and an honors student in Human Movement, Bronte Pickett, will be conducting this as part of her honors thesis. At present she is collating a history of Outdoor Education in South Australian Schools, so if you have any input, please contact Bronte c/- University of South Australia, School of PEES, Holbrooks Rd, Underdale.

Graduates Get Jobs

In my current role as lecturer for University of South Australia, I was keen to follow up the demand for graduates in Outdoor Education Positions. Of the 16 graduates that had undertaken a specialisation, the following gained employment by mid January:

Alex Thomas- Outdoor Education Group, Mark Hayward- Accompany Outdoors and Port Augusta Aquatic Centre; Ben Hawthorne, Kate Lucas- Westminster School; Summer Cameron- Murrayville Secondary College; Carrie Lamming- St Johns College Whyalla; Ali Castle- Pembroke School; Emma Lilley- Gleeson College, Nicole Main- Wilderness School, Jackie Webb- Glossop High School. In addition, Bronte Pickett has been accepted into an honours program in human movement to survey schools in South Australia about the state of Outdoor Education. [see article on national outdoor education survey].

Congratulations also to Outdoor Recreation graduate and OEASA award recipient Matt Randall on his recent managerial appointment to the YMCA. We know you will do well.

Scott Polley

Resource Review:

This section is intended for review of new and or commonly available resources such as books, video, CD roms.

Not reviewed but available:

Conference proceedings of 1997 Adventure therapy conference, and proceedings of 1999 Outdoor Education Conference

Blades G, 1998

Outdoor Education in Schools: A Guide for Planning and Implementation

Outdoor Educators' Association of Queensland/ Maroon Outdoor Education Centre, Health and Personal Development Unit, Education Queensland

Cost \$20; available from Outdoor Educators' Association of Queensland, or from the Education Queensland

This book was developed as a response to the Queensland Education Departments need to address the National Statements of attainment and Curriculum profiles. The chapter titles of Framing, Focusing, Designing, Implementing and the table of outcomes gives some clue as the content and structure. Included is some interesting discussion on the nature and values of Outdoor Education, and some work samples. There is also an interesting discussion of 'Outcomes Based' education. Although I personally struggle with the concept and it's application to OE, Genny works through department views methodically and simply. Another useful tool for those that are struggling to come to grips with education department policies.

Scott Polley

Priest S and Gass M, 1997

Effective Leadership in Adventure Programming,

Human Kinetics, USA

Available from Human Kinetics Australia, 57A Price Ave, Lower Mitcham, SA, 5062 at around \$68.50 [OEASA members eligible for 10% discount]

One of the missing links in Outdoor Education, to my mind has been this text book. It is an attempt to summarize the current thinking on the nature and needs of adventure leadership. There has been a genuine attempt at taking a global perspective [SA gets a mention!] It has done quite a reasonable job, and will probably serve as a landmark text from which others will build on.

It is not the be all and end all, and

many chapters are lacking in depth or even a high level of functional understanding, and there is a lot of assumptions which are not based on anything other than popular practice.

Having said that, it is a text that I and many others will refer to again and again for some time to come.

It is divided into 5 sections. The first is devoted to some functional understandings of our field that the authors describe as foundational. These include Philosophy – this is one section that I thought was lacking, history, behaviour and motivational and group theory. They then move on

to the more pragmatic and practical aspects of Outdoor Leadership, before looking at instructional methods- again another section that was underdone in my view. This is followed up by quite a reasonable chapter on facilitation and metaskills of Outdoor Leaders. It finishes off with some interesting discussion of some of the professional issues that we face including burnout. Two chapters missing in my view are one's that deal with relationship to environment, and Outdoor Education Methodology.

Highly recommended. Worth the \$\$\$

Scott Polley

Outdoor Educators Association of South Australia

Outdoor Education Award

For young people that have demonstrated a high level of involvement and commitment to Outdoor Education

Criteria:

1. Attendance at a primary, secondary, or post secondary institution
2. Demonstrate a high level of interest in Outdoor Education
3. Significant involvement in one or more outdoor activities or environment care activities
4. Demonstrated leadership qualities
5. Demonstrated environmental awareness

Categories:

1. Primary Education award
2. Secondary Education award [Stage 2 Outdoor Education]
3. TAFE award
4. Tertiary Outdoor Recreation award
5. Tertiary Outdoor Education award
6. Certificate of Merit

Awardees Receive:

1. Certificate from OEASA, presented at the Certificate Presentation Dinner
2. Voucher from Scout Outdoor Centre for categories 1 - 5
3. Membership to OEASA for categories 1 - 5
4. Invitation to be part of the Outdoor Educators Association committee

Nominations:

An application for the award is to be submitted prior to May 30. A written nomination from the teacher/ lecturer of less than 250 words addressing the criteria, indicating which category, with full details of the nominee, the nominator, the school/organisation, contact details, and appropriate supporting evidence.

Address to:

OEASA Treasurer:

Nerilee Flint, PO Box 623, North Adelaide, SA 5006 or email: Nerilee.Flint@unisa.edu.au

BUSHWALKING LEADERSHIP SA

NATIONALLY ACCREDITED TRAINING

1. INTRODUCTION TO BUSHWALKING
2. DAYWALK LEADERSHIP
3. BUSHWALKING LEADERSHIP
4. ADVANCED BUSHWALKING LEADERSHIP

Contact:

BLSA on 84101414

CANOE SA EDUCATION

1. BASIC SKILLS COURSES
2. BASIC SKILLS INSTRUCTOR COURSES
3. SEA PROFICIENCY
4. WHITEWATER PROFICIENCY
5. INLAND CANOE TOUR LEADERS COURSES
6. WHITEWATER INSTRUCTORS COURSES
7. SEA INSTRUCTORS COURSES

Contact:

Canoe SA Education on 84100700

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ROCKCLIMBING INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION

1. ASSISTANT CLIMBING INSTRUCTOR
2. TOP ROPE INSTRUCTOR
3. LEAD CLIMBING INSTRUCTOR

Contact:

Regency TAFE on 83484600

'You are never given a wish without also being given the power to make it true. You may have to work for it, however.'

Richard Bach
Illusions

The Outdoor Educators' Association of South Australia

Aims:

1. To promote the development of Outdoor Education in South Australia
2. To represent Outdoor Educators on issues and matters concerning the use of the outdoors
3. To maintain the professional development of personnel working in the area of Outdoor Education
4. To maintain, support and develop the role of Outdoor Educators in South Australia
5. To promote the professional interchange of information between members and other related organisations through conferences, meetings, seminars and publications
6. To promote a philosophy of environmental awareness, preservation, conservation and positive attitudes towards the use of the outdoor environment
7. To act in an advisory capacity to community, government and non government agencies.

Advertising in the Outdoor Educators Association Newsletter 'OEASA NEWS'

Review of Policy

Currently the committee is reviewing it's policy of advertising in the OEASA newsletter. We would like to hear members views on what is appropriate and innapropriate for a newsletter of this type. At this stage, there is a proposal that the following apply:

1. That corporate members be given, as part of their membership, one quarter page spacing. This space to be constructed by the corporate member, and is the responsibility of the corporate member to submit updates by the deadlines.
2. That if corporate members would like to increase the size of their advertising, then they may do so in a number of ways.
 - 2.1 Sponsorship of awards, presentations, conferences, seminars
 - 2.2 Direct payment, at a rate to be determined. We are yet to get a comparison with other organisations.
3. That organisations such as bushwalking leadership continue to have general information disseminated free of charge

Please submit any input that you have, or better yet, come to the next committee meeting!

Membership Fee Increase

The committee are reluctantly proposing an increase in membership fees for the 1999/2000 financial year. Currently it is set at \$40 for individual membership, which includes membership to the Austalian Outdoor Education Council, subscription to the national journal, and a quarterly state journal. At some point, the organisation needs additional funds to provide a higher quality service to it's members. We do not want to make the organisation inaccessible, but do not want it to be a toothless tiger either. The proposal at the moment is for an increase to \$50 for the next financial year. If you have any views on the matter, please contact one of the committee, and we will seriously take your considerations. Some alternatives are variable rates for individuals/groups, application for discount, etc.