
OUTDOOR NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE OUTDOOR EDUCATORS' ASSOCIATION

Volume 18, Issue 2

May 1999

Conference 99

'Connections'

A joint conference between ORCSA and OEASA

October 22-24 1999, Regency TAFE

Keynotes Confirmed

Scott Polley

Progress on conference preparations continues well with 2 of the three hoped for keynotes confirmed.

Martin Ringer is well known within Outdoor Education circles for his insight into Group Dynamics in an outdoor education setting. He has published internationally, and is currently writing

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OEASA Dinner

2nd Annual Certificate Presentation Dinner

4th June Henley Sailing Club

It's on again!

This year promises to be the most entertaining dinner for years. With such events as auctions, raffles, door prizes, not to mention a fantastic menu, we are hoping for a high participation rate. Our trial of this combined bushwalking leadership, Canoe SA, Yachting SA, SAREA, OEASA certificate presentation worked surprisingly well. Many were attracted to the speaker, Mike Gass. This year, as we could not secure the services of Karl Rhonke, Edmund Hillary, Bridgit Muir or any other internationally famous person, so we have opted for some local flavour. [They were cheap!]. This years speakers are members of the successful South Australian team that managed to paddle across Bsss Strait. The story of this unaided expedition, and the lessons learned will be related. It will be accompanied by a slide presentation.

We hope that you can make it to this important function. It is a great opportunity to honour those students and leaders that have worked hard in our profession, as well as catch up with old and new friends. However the \$25 is worth it for Max's food alone!

Contact Nerilee Flint on 83025266 if you need another booking form.

AOEC Teleconference:

Scott Polley

On your behalf, I participated in a national teleconference to clear up the relationship between the Australian Outdoor Education Council and the Outdoor Recreation Council of

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a book on his craft. I saw Martin at the National Outdoor Education Conference in January, and he was a most impressive speaker. He has that rare ability to invite you in, making you feel that you are in his lounge at his home. I found myself instantly connecting with Martin's concepts, and appreciated his humble and open style. Without giving too much away, I strongly urge you to come and hear Martin for yourself, as he gets real about group processing, and helps us to move on from the often limited understandings of groups that are espoused. I would think it compulsory for any outdoor educator that works in small groups and wants to be able to work at the most effective level.

Peter Martin is currently chairperson of the Australian Outdoor Education Council, Chairperson of the Climbing Instructors Association, and is Acting Head of School of the Department of Outdoor Education and Nature Based Tourism Latrobe University at Bendigo. He has been part of many recent discussions and changes in both the national and Victorian outdoor education and recreation leadership scenes. Peter will be discussing the relationship between ORCA [Australian Outdoor Recreation Council] and the AOEC [Australian Outdoor Education Council]. He will also explore some of the philosophical and practical differences between outdoor recreation and education to continue the debate on this important discussion. He will also share some of his experiences in the Victorian Scene, where Outdoor Education at Year 12 level has merged with Environmental Education in it's VCE structure. Peter is a clear thinker, and an engaging and articulate speaker. His experiences at both a state and National Level will no doubt assist South Australia as it decides how it is to proceed in promoting Outdoor Education in South Australia.

We hope to confirm a third speaker soon.

Your early payment for the conference assists us with budgeting and planning. If you need more registration forms contact either Scott Polley, or Anthea Shem at ORCSA, 1 Sturt St Adelaide.

Stephen Van Matre In Adelaide

Kris Mosher

Steve van Matre will be in Adelaide October 11 for a public lecture- a different one this time- Sunship Earth which he hasn't given in Adelaide for about 10 years. It is more

environmental but just as challenging. He may do Starmakers earlier in the day at a function for teachers.

We may have a dinner for members and friends on the Sunday night before.

This is just an idea at this stage, but will be dependent on the interest.

[Editors note: I saw Stephen in 1996, and his simply expressed messages continue to have impact on my practice. I will be encouraging every one I know, educator or not, to try and see this man. It does not matter too much whether you are interested in Earth Education, he has something to say.]

*For more information on Stephen Van Matre's
1999 Adelaide visit please*

Contact Kris Mosher: 83963304

Outdoor Educators' Award

To be presented at the Certificate Dinner

Time is fast running out for submitting any of your students for award presentations at the OEASA dinner. If you have students that have demonstrated that they are worthy recipients, we would like to hear from you. There is also certificate of merit for those students that could use some encouragement!

Contact Scott Polley if you require another nomination form [see last issue]

Oops...bad grammar, spelling mistakes and apostrophes...

Thanks to all those that kindly let us know about our poor

English, especially in our title. We are now officially the

'Outdoor Educators' Association of South Australia'.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OEASA CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

HENLEY BEACH SAILING CLUB

FRIDAY JUNE 4TH 6.30 PM

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

OEASA/ORCSA STATE CONFERENCE 1999

REGENCY TAFE

22-24 OCTOBER

Series of workshops and presentations

OEASA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MAID AND MAGPIE HOTEL, CNR MAGILL RD AND PAYNEHAM RD

6.00 PM

27 JULY

All Welcome

SEMINARS

UPSTAIRS AT ANNAPURNA

RUNDLE ST 5.30-7.30

NO 1: 30TH JULY

NO.2: 26TH NOVEMBER

STEPHEN VAN MATRE IN ADELAIDE

October 11

Venue to be advised

Australia. The short phone call accompanied much email correspondence on the issue. It was confirmed that there should be a relationship, but that there would be no moves on the part of the AOEC to become part of ORCA. The reasons given were:

1. Philosophical differences between the goals of education versus education
2. The AOEC was seen as a professional organisation, and not an organisation that wanted to involve itself heavily in training and certification. Consultation was the preferred option, rather than administration.
3. Other concerns such as funding, the recent resignation of the chair Gary Richards, following the recent resignation of the ORCSA representative Peter Vandepier suggesting that the organisation is still working through it's role and purpose.
4. The goal of the AOEC of focussing on it's core business journal production, biannual national conferences, and outdoor education professional representation.
5. The direction of ORCA to VET accreditation, although not fully decided, was not unanimously supported as appropriate for Outdoor Educators.

The teleconference was paid for by savings made on your \$20 journal subscription component of your OEASA membership.

It is difficult to know whether I have represented South Australian OEASA members fairly. It is also difficult to obtain accurate information to help shape viewpoints. I suspect there has been much whitewashing of the implications, and many people just being tired of the whole thing. I welcome any comments. As far as ORCA goes [no reflection on ORCSA], I am not convinced that the amount of money being poured into this is going to do much for South Australian outdoor educators other than make outdoor education leadership training more expensive and less likely to occur at school level. I sincerely hope not...

If volunteer training organisations are lost in the process, then the money is not justified. Taking accreditation and training out of community hands will alter the landscape of Outdoor Education. There would no doubt be some improvements, such as improved service in some cases, but the essence and accessibility may be lost.

BOOK AND RESOURCE REVIEWS...

No submissions as yet, but we will keep this section going for a little longer.

If you have come across something useful recently, we would like to hear from you. We can also arrange to borrow some texts if this is of interest to you.

Port Augusta Map At Last!

Available Scout Outdoor Centre, Map Shop and Department of Environment and Conservation 77 Grenfell St Adelaide.

Hardly a literature review, but good information if you want to head for Dutchman's Stern! They have released a cadastral overlay of the 1:50,000 at last. The Heysen trail is not marked, however, but the Heysen Trail map is marked if you need it. The ring route day walk up to the stern is now marked. The new versions also have the park boundary marked which is handy.

Native Plants of the Adelaide Plains Map

The Map Shop, Peel St, Adelaide. \$5

Very useful if you are investigating planting in the Adelaide region, detailing what was indigenous to where. Easy to follow and very useful if you are on the plains.

The Social Climbers

Chris Darwin and John Amy

Uni SA Library

Pan MacMillan, 1991

A couple of years ago I was in the Blue Mountains with a friend of mine pretending to climb at Mt Victoria. My friend Bernie, who seemed to know everyone in the Blue Mountains Outdoor Scene, and I, were watching this tall lanky Englishman belay a lycra clad young apprentice. I noticed a fairly cavalier approach from the Englishman, as he belayed from one

tree, but he was very friendly and... well... *charming*. Bernie casually said '...that's Chris Darwin- he wrote a book you might have heard of... The Social Climbers...' Read the book? I couldn't put it down as I went on a rollercoaster of emotions, bumbles, love triangles, risk taking, environmental activism, and amazing determination. I had to speak to this guy, as I had never met anyone that had written a book before! He was quite chuffed that I had read his it- he didn't think that many did, and gave himself no credit for his completely engaging, honest and funny account of the attempt to hold a dinner party at 6000m. I began to ask a few questions, but I seemed to take his

attention away from his task of belaying, so I returned to my climbing. By this stage his apprentice was getting nervous also!

Last time I heard he was teaching climbing and canyoning in the Blue Mountains casually.

Back to the book- this is one of those books that you can't put down easily. I am not sure what I learnt about the nature of adventure, except that he makes you realise that it is ordinary people, with all their insecurities, faults and foibles that sometimes do extraordinary things. There are few sad bits, I must say though.

Chris donates 5% of the royalties to the Heart Foundation...

Association for Research in Education Conference 29th November to 2nd December 1999

Email correspondence from James Neill

The Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE) upcoming conference details are as follows:

Conference: Joint AARE - NZARE 1999 Conference

Date: 29th November to 2nd December 1999 (Pre-conference workshops start on 27th November)

Location: Melbourne, Australia

Main theme: Global issues and local effects: The challenge for educational research

Papers to be fully refereed need to be submitted in its final form to AARE by 31 May 1999

Abstracts for OE research papers available online.

From Outward Bound Australia

Outward Bound Australia has been actively involved in researching many aspects of its programs since 1969. We have aimed to develop our understanding of the psychological, educational, sociological, and physiological processes and outcomes of our programs in an endeavour to provide the best quality of staff training and program delivery possible.

Recently we have put some of this information online at our website at www.outwardbound.com.au. Go to COURSE menu then to RESEARCH.

The web pages in this section contain the abstracts, publication details, commentaries, and keywords for over 60 books, journal articles, theses, conference papers, and monographs that have been produced by Outward Bound Australia or by researchers working in conjunction with us.

The references are grouped by their themes and within each theme are presented in alphabetical order by surname of first author. The themes are

General Programs

Special Programs

Management Programs

School Programs

Challenge Programs (17 to 30 year olds)

Adult Programs (over 30 years old)

Other

We hope that this may be of use to the OE/EE community and plan sometime in the future to have some of the texts available online.

If you would like more information, contact us on info@outwardbound.com.au

Fired up...

Scott Polley

I had my first encounter with the Parks and Wildlife Service where I was threatened with legal action. It was both an educative and confronting experience.

It was around the 28th April when I was part of a University group to go to the Coorong. Two groups of the eight broke the fire ban that was in force until April 30. The worst part was that I was lecturer with one of them. The fire was something that promoted great discussion about the ethics of fires, and whether one was appropriate in the area. I became aware of the ban when I arrived at Mark Point and saw the dates on a sign. No excuses- should have rechecked the dates. I then had a phone call to my head of school threatening court action, once the person that reported us filed a written complaint. Naturally, this was of great concern. What was I thinking? Of course the fireban season goes until the end of April. The follow up of this is either a caution, \$100 fine for me, \$100 fine for each person, or \$1000 fine for each person. Crime doesn't pay...I meet with the District Ranger Phil Hollow soon to find out our fate. Will keep you posted.

National Parks and Wildlife Public Meeting at Onkaparinga Gorge

RE: FEES FOR CLIMBING

Scott Polley

Interested climbers, climbing instructors attended a public meeting held at Onkaparinga Gorge to discuss fees for access on Saturday May 1.

The meeting was attended by NPWS district Ranger Belair Ron Saers and Southern Area's Terry Gregory. The meeting was amicable and friendly, with representatives from the Climbing Club of South Australia, commercial users, school users, University groups, South Australian Rockclimbing Education Association, and private climbers represented. Notices had been posted by Colin Bolton in all possible climbing outlets, and notices distributed via the SAREA newsletter prior to the event. Given this, the attendance was somewhat lower than what was hoped for.

In summary the National Parks and Wildlife proposal that they will present to Senior Management is the following:

Groups:

1. That commercial groups pay a once a year park access fee of \$100 for the rights to operate within a national park. This is consistent with other commercial users of the park, and a commercial operator needs only one permit for any nominated activity and park
2. That commercial access attract a fee of \$2 per participant per day. Recording of details to be done by an honour system via a record book.
3. That schools should continue to require permit, but not be required to pay \$100 access fee.
4. That schools would pay \$1 per day per participant, to be done via log book honour system
5. That schools using commercial provider would pay only \$1/day, but that commercial provider would still need \$100 permit

Individuals:

1. \$15 per year levy to climb in the park per individual
2. An alternative club membership to encourage participants to join a club. This fee would be reduced to the club, and the club to include access as part of it's membership

Obviously questions were asked. Firstly, NPWS asked whether the idea was reasonable and were the amounts reasonable. There was general consensus that the amount was fair.

... schools would pay \$1 per day per participant, to be done via log book honour system

Assurances were sought that this was not the thin end of the wedge, and that the prices would go up dramatically. This was not guaranteed, but it was thought that this should be the case.

The money from the access per day fee went directly to the park to pay for maintenance and testing of bollards, maintaining tracks, steps and guard rails. The money for the initial access (\$100) would go into general revenue, however.

Questions were asked how it would be policed. National Parks did not want to appear heavy handed, and wanted to rely on occasional spot checks and peer pressure.

It was thought the new fees would come in Jan 1 2000, following administrative approval for the proposal.

It was pointed out that the maintenance of the climbing areas is not funded within the normal budget.

We will keep you posted on developments. If have any comments, then best address them to Terry Gregory or Ron Saers c/- NPWS.

Many thanks to those that were there, and the BBQ that NPWS put on for the occasion. There were a few well fed pooches that night!

There have been a number of incidents involving outdoor activities that have required retrievals in the last few months. The Ranger at Mambray Creek reported 3 incidents involving students refilling Trangia stoves, after using them for a 'fire'. Apparently the flame in each case was out, but the burner still hot enough to ignite. One poor student suffered major burns to face and airway. Moral of the story? Suggest you enforce the old 'Don't fill until you can pick the burner up in your hands.' There have been a number of cliff rescues, with a well known teacher coming off second best whilst leading at Mordialta being one of them. Some serious breaks I hear. A speedy recovery for all that have come off second best from an encounter with nature.

The Present.

Contributor: Nerilee Flint

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back.

The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on vacation, and, every afternoon when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window. The man in the other bed began to live for those one-hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and color of the world outside. The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every color of the rainbow. Grand old trees graced the landscape, and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance.

As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine the picturesque scene.

One warm afternoon the man by the window described a parade passing by.

Although the other man couldn't hear the band - he could see it in his mind's eye as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words. Days and weeks passed.

One morning, the day nurse arrived to bring water for their baths only to find the lifeless body of the man by the window, who had died peacefully in his sleep. She was saddened and called the hospital attendants to take the body away.

As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch, and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone. Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the world outside. Finally, he would have the joy of seeing it for himself. He strained to slowly turn to look out the window beside the bed. It faced a blank wall. The man asked the nurse what could have compelled his deceased roommate who had described such wonderful things outside this window. The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall. She said, "Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you."

*Epilogue. . . There is tremendous happiness in making others happy, despite our own situations. Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness when shared, is doubled. If you want to feel rich, just count all of the things you have that money can't buy. "Today is a gift, that's why it is called **the present.**"*

OEASA- Your professional organisation.

Like to get involved? Like to contribute to your profession? Contributions welcome.

Contact any committee member as listed.

CORPORATE ADVENTURE TRAINING NETWORK (CATNet) WORKSHOP - MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

Thursday 17th June 1999

‘SHARPENING THE SAW’

* Transfer of Learning * Psychological tests revealed. * Biting the Bullet: The Self and Peer Assessment Model.

* Cutting Edge Issues:

! Corporate Wellness - the aftermath of downsizing ! Virtual Teams - the affect of cyberspace on teambuilding

! Organisational Change - have we arrived ? ! Organisational Culture - how to measure and fix it

CORPORATE ADVENTURE TRAINING NETWORK (CATNet)

WORKSHOP & NETWORKING DAY

Enhancing your skills as a Trainer and Facilitator

(Pre Victorian Outdoor Education Association [VOEA] and Camping Association of Victoria [CAV] Conference, 18 & 19 June 1999)

Date: Thursday 17th June 1999 8.45am to 5.00pm

Where: Statewide Resources Centre, 217 Church St, Melbourne

contact Margaret Nikolajuk,

Executive Officer, Victorian Outdoor Education Association (VOEA)

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Bears:

In light of the rising frequency of human/grizzly bear conflicts, the Montana Department of Fish and Game is advising hikers, hunters, and fishermen to take extra precautions and keep alert for bears while in the field. We advise that outdoorsmen wear noisy little bells on their Clothing so as not to startle bears that aren't expecting them. We also advise outdoorsmen to carry pepper spray with them in case of an encounter with a bear. It is also a good idea to watch out for fresh signs of bear activity. Outdoorsmen should recognize the difference between black bear and Grizzly bear poop. Black bear poop is smaller and contains lots of berries and squirrel fur. Grizzly bear poop has little bells in it and smells like pepper.

Contribution from David Stuart from Alan Noble. Editor's note: Outdoorswomen would not be that stupid

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.

Advertising in the Outdoor Educators' Association Newsletter 'OUTDOOR NEWS'

Review of Policy

The new advertising policy is:

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. Additional spacing to be at the cost of \$50 per quarter page, or equivalent, with a one page advert costing \$100 for 4 issues.
3. That organisations such as bushwalking leadership continue to have general information disseminated free of charge

Membership Fee Increase

As outlined in the previous issue the membership fee is to increase. New fees, effective 1 July will be:

Individual Member	\$45
Corporate Member	\$50
Full time Student	\$30
Family	\$50

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.

This Edition of OEASA News:

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Contributions Welcome

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You?

News...

News...

Classifieds...

In line with amendments to OEASA policy, OEASA corporate members are eligible for one quarter page advertising within this magazine. Half page is an additional \$50, full page additional \$100. Community organisations will continue to be free of charge. It is up to the organisation to ensure information is current.