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# OUTDOOR NEWS

The Journal of the Outdoor Educators' Association of South Australia

Vol. 19 Issue 2 June 2000

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## ***OEASA Editorial***

A colleague of mine spoke candidly with me the other day about two of his children's experiences with school camps. Both had been traumatic and have left scars that will take some time to heal. Both children were subject to harassment, and do not want to go on school camps again. This was highly distressing for this

parent. He is a person that values highly the outdoor experiences that he shares with his children. He is a major supporter of outdoor education in the curriculum.

The imagery I have of camping experiences at a young age are fun, discovery, interaction and freedom. It was devastating to hear that the idea of a camp brings dread to these

children. My colleague believes that the heart of the problem lay in the teachers not getting to know the students prior to the camp experience, and a poor attention to group dynamics that might have either reduced the opportunities or pre-empted the harassment. Let's hope it is not symptomatic of outdoor education being

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**Letter from Stuart Beinke**

## **Feature**

# **What Are We Worth?**

**Exploring the issue of casual outdoor education staff wages and conditions.**

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## ***OEASA Editorial (cont)***

marginalised in the curriculum, a trend away from cross curricular involvement or a reluctance on teachers behalf to allow themselves to develop closer ties with their students. It was a timely reminder that not all camping experiences are inherently good, and that one of the great skills of leadership and education remains observation.

A recent OEASA meeting has committed the organisation to hosting the 2003 national conference. As the Victorian national conference is dedicated to futures the problem of finding a theme for the Adelaide conference emerged. 'Relevance' a theme suggested by Jon Herd is emerging as the favourite so far! If you have any input, we would love to hear from you. A conference working party will be assembled in term 1, 2001, and that will be OEASA's activity focus for the next two years. This will mean that all activities will be focussed on raising the revenue to run this conference. The \$600 plus dividend from the recent OEASA/ORCSA conference will go towards this. (Thanks to ORCSA and Anthea Shem!).

The second subject advisory committee meeting for 2000 for year 11/12 outdoor education met on 16 May. There was great discussion about the possible direction for outdoor education and the impact of SSABSA's signalling of dissolving physical education and outdoor education into sport and recreation. There was also a lot of discussion of the place of VET based units within the subject. There was discussion about whether outdoor education should pursue the intrinsic worth path or the preparation for employment path. (Wirreanda High School is to trial at year 11 level delivery of a VET based curriculum in outdoor recreation.) As the direction of this subject is reviewed, and with the knowledge that the OE SAC may not have very much influence, the following guidelines for redevelopment of the SACE courses emerged.

1. That the title of 'Outdoor Education' must remain, and be made clear and distinct from other titles such as physical education and outdoor recreation.
2. That the embedding of VET based practical models should be explored
3. That environmental studies should form a major focus within the subject
4. That the ratio of practical to theory be maintained at 60:40
5. That the practical retain a strong relationship to the theory
6. That the option of changing the subject from a school assessed subject (SAS) to a publicly assessed subject (PAS) be explored.

The SAC is investigating the best way to achieve these aims. If you have any comments at the preliminary stages of rewriting of the outdoor education curriculum you are most welcome to do so. Formal re-writing of the stage 2 document is due to occur at the end of this year.

We have our annual general meeting on the 2 August at the Maid and Magpie, so be sure to pencil the date in. There were over 20 in attendance last time which made for an entertaining evening. Lastly, some thanks from members who have passed on feedback about the journal recently- it was much appreciated. Made the time spent getting this one together go that little bit more quickly!

Your in the outdoors  
Scott Polley

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*From the listserv  
From Alistair McAnthur*

Your comments to the listserv and to the author Tim O'Dwyer [odwyer@platypus.net.au](mailto:odwyer@platypus.net.au) are welcome. I have spoken to Tim and he is happy to have the article distributed.

Regards, Alistair

## **“THE GREAT (BUT POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS) OUTDOORS**

## **-EXCURSIONS REQUIRE ADEQUATE SUPERVISION”**

“School excursions, camps and other outdoor activities can provide enjoyable learning experiences. Outdoor educators need to be aware of the risks for their students. Tim O Dwyer reports. The obvious benefits of outdoor education for students include enhancing self-confidence, bonding while sharing challenging experiences and learning how to learn. The physical risks involved in outdoor activities (whether curricular or extra-curricular) may be less obvious for students thrilled at being away from their confining but comparatively safe classrooms. Outdoor educators, however, must plan meticulously and ensure adequate and careful supervision because their legal duty of care is considerably higher when students are taken out of the familiar, predictable

environment of the classroom into what may be foreign and potentially dangerous territory.

There are all too frequent media reports of school groups lost, and later found, in mountains or bushlands. A number of outdoor education incidents involving serious and sometimes fatal injuries have reached the Courts.

A Victorian Court decided that three teachers were negligent when they took 21 pupils bushwalking up a dangerously narrow and slippery track in the Cathedral Ranges. One boy fell onto rocks and received fatal head injuries. A girl who also fell stayed overnight on the track in deteriorating weather with a teacher and the dying boy. She suffered nervous shock as a result.

The Court incidentally considered that prior consent given by the students' parents was not "informed consent" because they had not been told of the rugged and hazardous conditions. The Victorian Education Department was also found negligent for having approved such a high-risk activity without an adequate number of supervising teachers.

A Victorian Coroner found a teacher had not acted prudently and reasonably when, during a primary school camp, he placed a gas lantern near a canvas tent. A fire started after the tent contacted the lantern. One boy suffered serious burns while a 12 year old sadly burned to death.

Another fatality, involving a subsequent coronial inquiry, occurred when two teachers led 20 students aged 15 to 18 on a week-long hike in Tasmania's Cradle Mountain area. The students had inadequate clothing and footwear for the overwhelming cold, snow and

sleet they encountered. This badly planned and ill-advised venture in foreseeably dangerous circumstances produced several distressed and scared students and led ultimately to the death of one from hypothermia.

Ocean beaches with strong currents can be as dangerous as wintery mountains and necessitate close supervision of students by their teachers. A 15 year old girl was caught in an undertow, swept out to sea and drowned while on a school tour of Kangaroo Island South Australia. Despite a beach warning sign noticed by one

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*Even the best supervision will not prevent injuries to students if outdoors equipment is not safe.*

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teacher, some students entered the water without any of the teachers being present on the beach. The teachers later tried to pass blame to the tour bus driver but the Coroner regarded the primary duty of care as resting squarely on the teachers.

Even the best supervision will not prevent injuries to students if outdoors equipment is not safe. Last year a Queensland Court awarded damages to a schoolgirl who fell from a bike at a school camp and was injured. The bike had no brakes and the girl lost control after riding onto loose gravel on a forestry track.

Brisbane-based barrister and former Professor of Education Dr. Keith Tronc, the author of several books on schools and the law, gives these warnings to those involved in planning and supervising outdoor education activities:

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- \* Meticulous planning is essential.
- \* Ensure leaders are qualified, experienced and competent don't press-gang unwilling and unskilled teachers.
- \* Determine the best ratio of teachers to students to ensure proper supervision of all activities.
- \* Ensure minimum standards of protective clothing and the supply of adequate equipment, shelter, food and water.
- \* Never lead students into an outdoors area (whether bush or city) without having made a prior detailed reconnaissance.
- \* Never take students into harsh terrain unless you are very familiar with the first aid treatment for such risks as heatstroke and hypothermia.
- \* Consider the hows, whens and wheres of emergency evacuation and having appropriate communication equipment to contact medical and rescue services.
- \* Obtain up to date weather information before and during excursions.
- \* Teacher-supervisors, students and any parent volunteers should be well-briefed and instructed on their respective responsibilities. \* Balance a necessary measure of supervision with what outdoor education is about: making students more autonomous, more self-reliant and more

independent.

- \* Always be prepared for accidents, which can occur despite the best-laid plans and without anyone's negligence.

Finally there is one extraordinary outdoor education story (involving a quite unforeseeable risk) which fortunately did not make the Courts: Teachers took a group of Canberra schoolgirls on an excursion to Sydney for the day. While they were waiting on a foot-path, a bearded and tattooed biker pulled up and asked if anyone would like a ride. One girl replied "You bet", and hopped onto the pillion seat whereupon bike, biker and schoolgirl disappeared with a roar into the traffic.

The happy ending was that, despite the other girls anxiety, if not envy, and their teachers increasing state of alarm, the girl was later returned safe and sound with no harm done except to her stressed-out teachers."

*Tim O'Dwyer is a Queensland solicitor Published in "The Australian", Monday May 29th 2000. Page. 16 SCHOOLS SECTION  
Titled "Outdoors is fun, but watch out!"  
"The Australian" Web site: [www.news.com.au](http://www.news.com.au)*

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### **Bushwalking Leadership S.A.**

1. Introduction To Bushwalking
2. Daywalk Leadership
3. Bushwalking Leadership
4. Advanced Bushwalking Leadership

**Contact BLSA on 8410 1414**

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### **Bicycle S.A.**

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  2. Bicycle Maintenance Courses
  3. Bike Education
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**Contact BSA 8410 1406**

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### **Canoe S.A. Education**

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2. Basic Skills Instructor Courses
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4. Whitewater Proficiency
5. Inland Canoe Tour Leaders Courses
6. Whitewater Instructors Courses
7. Sea Instructors Courses

**Contact Peter Carter: 8410 0700  
0700**

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### **Yachting South Australia**

1. Sailing For Disabled
2. Sailing Education
3. Instructor Courses

**Contact John Woolatt: 8410 1437**

***yachtins@picknowl.com.au***

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### **South Australian Rockclimbing Education Association**

1. Assistant Climbing Instructor
2. Top Rope Instructor
3. Lead Climbing Instructor

**Contact Regency TAFE: 8348 4600**

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### **Council Of Education Associations of S.A.**

1. Professional Development
2. Cross Curricular Contacts

**Contact Lindsay Mathews: 8373 0070**

**Email: [ceasa@ceasa.asn.au](mailto:ceasa@ceasa.asn.au)**

**Website: [www.ceasa.asn.au](http://www.ceasa.asn.au)**

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## *The Venture*

*Lauren Potter, Westminster School*

Enter here with an open mind  
Or else you live another person's experience

Know that there is a time for everything But wait for your time to come to you

Forget what people have already told you  
But be prepared to find out the answers for yourself

Know that there is always someone there to help But don't be afraid to try for yourself first

Let things be the way they are  
And don't try and influence what they are destined to become

Take with you the fun times,  
Leave behind the bad times,  
But remember that good times will remain in your heart forever

Don't look too far back in the past  
And don't go bolting off into the future For now is the time to be lived

Don't be afraid of what is to come  
"For you can't steel second base with one foot still on first"

Dare to rock the boat at times  
Or you will never know how far you can lean before you tip

Understand that friendships come and go  
But to a precious few you should hold on  
Here is the place that those few will be found  
Not forgetting that here is a place that you find yourself

Never be afraid to show who you really are  
Or you will forever live in the shadow that you create

Always stand and speak your mind  
Don't wait for someone to do it for you

Learn to show what you feel in every way you can  
And in doing so,  
Know that there is more courage in that than hiding yourself from the World

There are times to work as a group

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And there are others when you are alone  
Work hard to support everyone in every way you can  
But know that some of the greatest feats are made by the individual

Certain things will be lost forever here  
But there is more than you can imagine to replace them

Your old self may be one of those things lost  
But only to make room for the new

New emotions and feeling will be discovered New friendships made  
Goals will be set and reached  
And old records will be replaced

Memories will be created and kept  
And these will be recalled upon time and time again in the future

I was told,  
" Whether you think you can or think you cant, you are right"  
Work out for yourself what this means to you and it will become one of the most valuable  
pieces of advice you will ever receive

Be happy on the inside as well as the outside  
And find every bit of fun in everything you do  
Then tell those who cant how to do the same

Watch the sun rise every morning  
For once you leave you don't come back, and you may never see it again

Take this challenge while you can  
Here and now!  
And don't regret it in years to come





**Camping Association  
of South Australia (Inc.)**

PO Box 264 STIRLING SA 5152  
Telephone/Fax: (08) 8339 8600  
E-mail. [sacamps@senet.com.au](mailto:sacamps@senet.com.au)  
ARN: A0007263R

14 April 2000  
Mr S Polley  
OEASA Chair  
c/- University of South Australia Holbrooks Road  
UNDERDALE SA 5032

Dear Scott

We have just received a copy of your "Outdoor News" with the feature article on the GST. Since you received that information from CAV, there has been a subsequent ruling by the ATO on the Food component of school camps.

I have attached a copy of the letter from the ACA, which was sent to all of our campsites and other members, including Mike Meredith of OEASA, with our March newsletter.

The ACA is still negotiating with the ATO re this ruling. The Executive Committee was concerned that schools to whom your journal goes would have inaccurate information and consequently asked me to write to you with this more up-to-date information.

Also, would you please clarify if Mike Meredith is still the correct person to send the CASA newsletter to? Feel free to email me on the address above.

Yours sincerely

Virginia Gare

Executive Officer



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# australian camping association inc

incorporated association (vic) A0033736V

email: camping@ozemail.com.au  
332 banyule road view bank vic 3084  
ph: 03 9457 5434  
fax: 03 9457 5438

14 March 2000

## GST Ruling on Food

We have spent considerable time over the past three weeks discussing the detail with the ATO the treatment of the "food" or "meal" component of school camps.

It would appear that when campsites are invoicing/quoting schools for GST-free curriculum based educational services they must also separate the "food" or "meal" component and list that amount separately. Campsite operators therefore will be required to estimate the amount they will charge for the food or meal component of prices quoted and invoiced to schools.

An example of this might be as follows:

Using an example of two nights at \$30 each per person, it would normally be listed as

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Campsite services | \$60.00 |
| GST               | \$6.00  |
|                   | <hr/>   |
| Total Invoice     | \$66.00 |

To separate the "meal" component it should be drawn up as follows:

|                   |                |     |               |                |
|-------------------|----------------|-----|---------------|----------------|
| Campsite services | \$40.00        | GST | \$4.00        | \$44.00        |
| Meals             | <u>\$20.00</u> | GST | <u>\$2.00</u> | <u>\$22.00</u> |
|                   | \$60.00        |     | \$6.00        | \$66.00        |

The school will then invoice the parent/student for the value of the camp i.e. \$60.00 plus \$2.00 GST

The school will then claim a credit back from the ATO for the \$4.00 GST paid on the non-meal component.

The parent/student will not be able to claim back the \$2.00 GST on the meal component, as they are the end consumer.

### **Please Note**

The above rule applies to educational services up to and including Secondary level. For curriculum based educational services offered to Tertiary level organisations campsites will be required to separate both the meal and the accommodation prices.

We hope this clarifies the situation!

If you would like further information on the GST and Campsites please contact CAV Business Manager John Wheeler on 03 9457 5434 (Tuesdays & Thursdays) or 0419 393 251. We will be offering a second round of GST workshops in all states in April and May, for small groups, to help answer any questions. Contact CAV for a brochure if you have not received one by 24 March.

**John Wheeler**                      **CAV Business Manager**

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## Book Review

Barker, S., McCaskill, M. and Ward, B. (1999?- no date in text) *Explore the Flinders Ranges*, Royal Geographical Society of Australasia – SA Branch, Adelaide  
\$29.95 Scout Outdoor Centre

It sometimes feels that there is so much information available on the Flinders Ranges, that another book is not necessary. I must admit to being very blasé when picking up this volume, but now it is one I keep at the bedside. It is a fantastic volume, bringing together so many disciplines such as geography, history, biography, geology and indigenous perspectives in one volume. Best of all, it has been written and produced in South Australia retaining a strong local feel. The book works on many levels. It can be used as an aid to touring, an aid to enriching a bushwalk or as a resource for environmental science. There are some great daywalks included, as well as drives and town walks. I found the section on Dutchman's Stern great reading on a recent walk to the area, and found it a great aid to making connections with this park. It is interesting to note that the major funding for the book came from a mining company.

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## Book Review

Briedahl, H., (1997) *Australia's Southern Shores*, Lothian, Melbourne  
\$24.95 Scout Outdoor Centre

Being a seasoned beachcomber I keep referring to this book constantly. From a teaching perspective it has some fantastic explanations of coastal phenomena such as tides, estuaries and the impact of different ocean currents on our experiences of coastlines. (I finally found out what causes those fibrous balls that get washed up on the shore. You know, the ones that kids develop a million theories for how they came to be. They are seagrass leaf fibres rolled up into balls by wave action.) Briedahl is clearly passionate about this coastline, and uses the book as a tool to remind us of the need to care for our waterways too if we are to preserve life on the planet. The book is nicely divided into bite size sections and chapters making it easy to pick up at the breakfast table. Unfortunately the starfish section seems to have a mysterious jam stain on it as a direct result of the books readability. I'd recommend it as a neat pulpable volume for anyone who appreciates our exceptional coastline.

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## MOSQUITOES and the ROSS RIVER VIRUS

### Mosquitos

**Definition:** The mosquito is a member of the fly family and there is around 2,960 different known species (Kite 1996).

**Diet:** Mosquitoes usually feed at night on flower nectar, the juices in fruit, and blood from animals and humans, although not all mosquitoes are blood-suckers. Mosquitoes find their diet by using their very acute sense of smell and in pitch darkness a mosquito can smell animals and humans from up to 35m away (Thomas and Stuchbury 1995).

**Bite:** It is only female mosquitoes that bite or suck blood from humans and animals. The blood, because of its protein content, is required after mating for eggs to grow before they are laid. The female mosquito uses a sharp hollow spike called a 'stylet' to pierce the skin of the victim, she then inserts some saliva to stop clotting and make the blood easier to withdraw. It is this saliva that can carry diseases such as the Ross River Virus, malaria, yellow fever, dengue and encephalitis (Thomas and Stuchbury 1995).

**Reproductive Cycle:** The female mosquito makes a whining noise which attracts the male mosquito and they mate whilst flying. Three days later the female mosquito lays around 300 eggs in a still pool of water. After two days the larvae hatch from their eggs. Larvae float on the surface of the water, shedding their skin four times as they grow from eating the slime on the water surface. After 7 days they stop eating and their skin hardens to form a pupa case. After about three days as pupae the adult mosquito emerges from the pupa case, allows it's wings to dry and harden and then flies away (Thomas & Stutchbury 1995).

**Predators:** Mosquitoes are appetising to birds, spiders, lizards, bats and frogs, and mosquito larvae are commonly eaten by fish (Thomas & Stutchbury 1995).

**Common Mosquitoes:** The two most common mosquitoes in Australia are 'Aedes vigilax' and 'Culex annulirostris' (Glazebrook 1984).

Aedes vigilax or the salt marsh mosquito, breeds in temporary brackish pools, marshes and mangrove swamps. It bites both during the day and night and it's estimated that it is able to travel up to 50km from its place of breeding (Glazebrook 1984).

Culex annulirostris the common mosquito, breeds in fresh water swamps, pools and creeks, and bites mainly at night. It is estimated to be able to travel only around 10km from its place of breeding (Glazebrook 1984).

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## **ROSS RIVER VIRUS (RRV)**

**Types of RRV:** Three different genetic types of RRV are known to exist, however one has not been detected since 1977 (Hills 1996).

**Vectors:** Mosquitos are the main source of transmission of the virus and *Culex annulirostris* is noted as the main vector. Once in contact with the virus mosquitoes remain infective for a period of 6 days. The disease is also potentially able to be spread through blood and blood products (Hills 1996, Glazebrook, 1984).

**Diagnosis:** Is made through one or two blood tests (Mudge 1993).

**Source of Infection:** Wallabies and Kangaroos are thought to be the main hosts of the disease although it is known to affect many other species of animals (Hills 1996, Mudge 1993).

**Symptoms:** Usually presents as a rash with flu-like symptoms shortly after, severe joint and muscle (arthritic) pain commonly persists (SA Health Commission, 1994).

**Incubation Period:** Ranges from 3-21 days but usually around 7-9 days (Hills 1996).

**Duration of Symptoms:** After 8 weeks almost 80% of sufferers will be able to return to work, although 50-80% of people will still have symptoms such as aching joints, tiredness and depression after 6 months, and 30-65% still suffer symptoms after 12 months. Some sufferer's symptoms can persist for several years before fading out completely although no permanent damage has been observed to occur (Hills 1996).

**Recurrent infection:** Infection with RRV is thought to result in long term immunity, however it is not known whether this holds true for the varying streams of the virus (Hills 1996). Females also seem to be affected with the disease more than males (Glazebrook 1984)

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***Preventative Camping Measures:***

- Wear loose fitting light coloured clothing covering the limbs and trunk.
  - Use insect repellents containing 5-20% DEET at regular intervals on all exposed parts of the body.
  - Limit outdoor activity during the peak biting periods of late afternoon and dusk
  - Limit outdoor activity within the peak mosquito seasons of spring and summer
  - Avoid areas with observed high mosquito activity
  - Limit outdoor activity after periods of heavy rain
  - Use flyscreens on tents
- (Hills 1996)

**REFERENCES**

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Geoffrey Slater BappSc (HM)

*Completed as a minor research assignment as part of Introduction to Outdoor Education Leadership, UniSA, April 1998. Geoffrey is currently completing a Bachelor of Education (Graduate Entry) in Health and Physical Education, having completed a sub major in Outdoor Education as part of his Human Movement Degree in 1999.*

## Huge volunteer effort in rescue

A 13 year old Melbourne school girl is in Alexandra Hospital this morning after injuring herself while bushwalking in Cathedral Range.

The girl was part of a group of 12 students that were hiking along rough tracks around 3.45pm yesterday when she slipped and fell, injuring her back. She is now alert and well and it is hoped her injuries are minor.

Tired emergency service volunteers are arriving back in Alexandra as we go to press after spending all night in Cathedral Range.

Following the initial call-out around 4pm, additional crews were called in with as many as fifty people involved in the exercise when the group was found around 11.30pm.

As well as police and ambulance officers, 15 Alexandra SES members and 10 from Marysville were involved. Four Parks Victoria employees, eleven from the Outdoor Education Group and four Search and Rescue Unit police also searched.

The Alexandra Red Cross Unit provided three welfare drops to the searchers during the night.

Two sweeps of the Green Hills Track area were made by two teams before the school girls were found.

Due to the nature of the terrain, it was decided to wait until first light before the group was brought out.

The walk out started at 6.45am this morning with the injured girl being stretchered into the ambulance at 9.40am.

**Road accident:** SES volunteers also attended a single vehicle accident on the Gobur cutting yesterday afternoon.

A female passenger received lower back injuries when the vehicle left the road and hit a tree.

Police and Yarek CFA also attended.

**Spur closed:** The Maroondah Highway through the Black Spur was closed for about four hours yesterday when suspected diesel spills made the road unsafe.

Police are now uncertain whether they were spills or a combination of oil build-up on the road and wet weather.

Two accidents occurred, one in which a truck skidded off the road and the other where a Melbourne lady was injured when her car left the road and travelled down an embankment.

*The above excerpt was sent in by newly anointed group leader with the Outdoor Education Group in Vic, Anthea Fisher. From the Alexandra Times (date unknown).*

## A NEW SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY

*From Tim and Kat Vogt*

Investigators at a major research institution have discovered the Heaviest element known to science. This startling new discovery has been Tentatively named Administratium (Ad). This new element has no protons or electrons, thus having an atomic number of 0. It does, however, have 1 neutron, 125 assistant neutrons, 75 vice neutrons, and 111 assistant vice neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312. These 312 particles are held together by a force called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called peons.

Since it has no electrons, Administratium is inert. However, it can be detected as it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact. According to the discoverers, a minute amount of Administratium causes one reaction to take over four days to complete when it would normally take less than a second. Administratium has a normal half-life of approximately three years; it does not decay but instead undergoes a reorganization in which a portion of the assistant neutrons, vice neutrons, and assistant vice neutrons exchange places.

In fact, an Administratium sample's mass will actually increase over time, since with each reorganization some of the morons inevitably become neutrons, forming new isotopes.

This characteristic of moron promotion leads some scientists to speculate that Administratium is formed whenever morons reach a certain quantity in concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as the "Critical Morass".

*You will know it when you see it.*

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***As we relentlessly destroy our environment, the basis of human life is dying. Does that mean humanity is dying, too? Where are we headed? PAUL LLOYD asks the experts.***

WE'VE got a couple of years left yet. That's the pessimistic view. Slightly more optimistically, it could be a few decades yet before humanity has to kiss the world goodbye. Either way, the prospects are that the species called Homo sapiens will become some ghastly, alien-like mutation or mere cockroach fodder.

Canadian environmental guru David Suzuki, recently passing through Adelaide in shorts and sandals, was scratching his head in wonder about how "nobody seemed to listen above the media noise of O.J. Simpson and Monica Lewinski" to the World Scientists' Warning to Humanity.

In 1992, 1500 scientists, including Nobel laureates, issued a frank document that "no more than one or a few decades remain before the chance to avert the threats we now confront will be lost and the prospects for humanity immeasurably diminished". They were hardly the first to talk in this way about what is happening to the atmosphere, to water resources, to the oceans, to soils, forests and dying species. Writers such as Rachel Carson, Paul Erlich and E.O. Wilson have been prominent prophets of environmental doom, to the general contempt of society's establishments. Somehow we've lived on through threats of nuclear winters, smashing comets, alien invasions, genetic engineering, population explosions and socialist governments.

Yet here was the world's scientific elite warning that the end is nigh. They were hardly what Dr Suzuki dismisses as "fuzzy-headed do-gooders, ecoterrorists, neo-Luddites or

simply people interested in alarming the public to raise more money".

The same year, a similar message came from the august Royal Society in Britain: "The current rate of reduction in

Biodiversity is unparalleled over the past 65 million years. The loss of biodiversity is one of the fastest-moving aspects of global change, is irreversible and has serious consequences for the human prospect in the future. The next 30 years may be crucial."

In 1997, the Economists Statement on Climate Change, signed by 200 economists including six Nobel laureates, argued similarly, saying, "preventative steps are justified. These were economists, for heaven's sake. Of course, there have also been some theologians who believe God gave us the planet to do with as we will; there have been businesses whose primary obligation is to this year's shareholders; there have been governments looking to the next election; there have been technocrats who believe they can solve all problems; and there have been most of us - sunny, chardonay-sipping hedonists who can't imagine the good times not continuing.

After all, we've been here for a long time already. Dr Suzuki, revisiting Adelaide not only to call for saving of the River Murray but also for saving of the planet, concedes that life has existed on Earth in one form or another for about four billion years.

During that time there have been four mega-extinctions, according to fossil records, at least one of which was caused by a comet hitting the Earth. In each case, 10 to 15 million years later, life recovers.

But this time, he suggests, it is different. It is the so-called dominant life force itself - humanity - which is causing the mega-extinction. It is precisely because we have gone (in the title of his new book) from naked ape to super species. We, proud of our wisdom and intelligence, are

responsible. But perhaps Dr Suzuki is being a bit alarmist? Even after this environmental Auschwitz, surely there will be some humans adapting so life will continue?

Who would want to believe that, in the 40,000 years since we overtook the Neanderthals in this garden of Eden, it's all actually been a cosmic mistake or God's jestful little experiment?

So just what will people become? "I don't give a shit," says Dr Suzuki with passion.

"I find it intolerable to think of 99 per cent of humanity dying when it may be preventable." Yet the question continues to resonate. If Homo Sapiens do survive, even

1 per cent, will we ever become Superman? Or smart blobs of jelly? Or stupid blobs of jelly? It is not just humanity's environmental vandalism that may be our downfall. One of the gurus of the information age, Sun Microsystems co-founder Bill Joy, believes the revolution he himself helped unleash could turn and make humanity extinct within two generations.

"The 21st century technologies of genetics, nanotechnology and robotics are so powerful that they can spawn whole new classes of accidents and abuses," he says. "Knowledge alone will enable the use of them." He particularly fears the prospect of genetically engineered viruses, like computer viruses that can wipe out a hard drive, against which people have no defence.

Anatomy professor Maciej Hennenberg, at the University of Adelaide, says while technology may give humans greater life expectancy and reduce the relevance of the traditional Darwinian concept of natural selection, our relationship with the environment must be the main consideration.

"The basic mechanism of human evolution is a set of positive, self-amplifying feedbacks between our biological endowment, our natural environment, technology and social organisation," he says.

The biggest factor of these to

*Continued page 17*



influence humanity may well be the natural environment or, more precisely, our feedback-relationship with the natural environment.

Colorado physicist Adam Trombly, of Project Earth, points out how even the National Centre of Atmospheric Research in the United States has reversed its original sceptical stand on humanity's destruction of the atmosphere, saying that "by the year 2.031, if the ozone continues to be depleted at the current accelerating rate, humans will be a nocturnal species".

There simply won't be a sunscreen strong enough to allow us outside during the day - already we see 50-plus sunscreen being used in place of 30-plus. If that's not an evolutionary change in the making, what is?

Because of the polluted environment, American futurist J.R. Mooneyham believes homes and buildings in the developed nations in the 2060s will be much like "stranded spacecraft", using air locks on all entryways. "Circumstances force human activity indoors, underground or otherwise, protected from the 'natural' environment via low-cost spacesuit features designed into daily wear," he says. An Antarctic authority, Tim Naish of New Zealand's Geological and Nuclear Science Institute, says bluntly: "We're playing Russian roulette with the climate".

As greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide continue to be

discharged into the atmosphere, and as forests continue to be depleted, the massive western Antarctic ice shelf could be threatened.

The result would be climatic disruption throughout the planet from massive currents of cold water, while sea levels would rise 6m. This would put most of the (seabound) population of the world under water. Speaking from McMurdo Station in Antarctica, he warns of "a mini Ice Age".

It's not all doom and gloom, though. Herman Hahn and associates, in the book *The Next 200 Years: A Scenario for America and the World*, paint a rosy picture of people, 200 years from now, "numerous, rich and in control of the forces of nature".

Professor Hahn argues, rather heroically, that interference with the natural evolution of society would not only be unwarranted but it would also be unethical.

The consensus, however, is that if we don't change, nature will make us change, and not necessarily the way we would want. Famous British astronomer Sir Fred Hoyle once argued that if we mess this one up, there might not even be another chance.

"It has often been said that if the human species fails to make a go of it here on Earth, some other species will take over the running," he said.

"In the sense of developing high intelligence, this is not correct. We have, or soon will have, exhausted

the necessary physical prerequisites so far as this planet is concerned. With coal gone, oil gone, high-grade metallic ores gone, no species, however competent, can make the lion climb from primitive conditions to high-level technology. This is a one-shot affair."

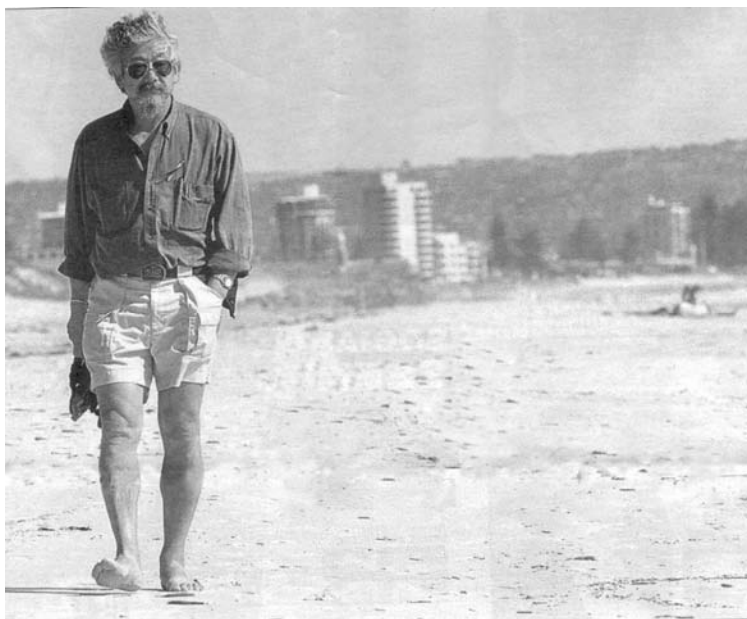
What is needed, says Dr Suzuki, is changing attitudes. Certainly, so far, the Malthusian prophets of doom through overpopulation of the planet have been confounded. Science is giving the world enough food (the problem being the politics of distribution rather than the technology of growth). And the technologists keep insisting that necessity is the mother of invention. Dr Suzuki reckons it is "absurd" to think technology can keep saving us. But, more to the point, the issue for him is not so much population and technology as consumption - learning to live with what we've got. "In the Western world, 20 per cent of the population is consuming 80 per cent of the world's resources" he says.

"We have to help the developing world leapfrog to our technological levels, give massive education and empowerment to women in the Third World, and set an example by having a much lighter ecological footprint ourselves."

"We can consume a hell of a lot less without any degradation of the quality of our life. We don't need all this shit."

He believes we can actually "come to our senses" and become "a much more caring people, with the local community as our unit of survival". Then the only problem might be that the sun will burn up all its energy, making life uninhabitable on Earth, or anywhere in our solar system. That's due to happen in about 450,000 million years' time.

So, by taking Dr. Suzuki's advice, we wouldn't have to worry just yet. After all, as comedian Groucho Marx said "Why should we care about future generations, what have they ever done for us?"



**Taken from  
"The Advertiser"  
Saturday  
April 1 2000.**

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## What Are We Worth?

### *A Discussion Paper On Industrial Issues in Outdoor Education and Outdoor Recreation*

Currently I am employed in a position that pays a regular salary to help others learn the art, science and craft that is outdoor education. It's fantastic to have that salary in my bank account each fortnight, regular as clockwork. I remember when this was not the case and have experienced the range of pay offers. When you are keen and enthusiastic, you accept what you can get. You are always looking for good experiences. You don't work for the money!

Having been in the position of having to set pay rates for staff I found myself in the position of having to choose between students paying higher prices for practical experiences versus staff receiving a more professional wage. This is the position of all employers. This leads to a basic question: What is fair pay for a fair days work in the outdoor education or outdoor recreation industry? I did a selective sample of pay rates, and there appeared to be a great variation between employers. This made it difficult to arrive at a sensible wage commensurate with the responsibilities, roles and experience of the employee. I found a number of models operating in this state. They included:

1. Teacher salary equivalent (\$34,00-\$55,000)
2. A rate per day between \$80-\$250/day
3. A rate per hour between \$10-\$25 hour
4. Negotiated contract of between \$22,000 and \$30,000

Many employers had a sliding scale according to experience and qualifications, whilst some had the approach of paying according to responsibility.

There are several other professional issues which need sorting out. They include transportable superannuation, insurance against loss of pay through injury, sick leave, adequate rest periods, training support. Unionism is an option, as is the formation of a co-operative but there are others as well.

This table on the next page has been prepared as part of the debate on rates of pay, and should be seen in this context, not as a definitive recommendation.

All p.a rates based on a 44 week working year that accounts for:

- 10 x days public holiday equivalent
- 10 x days sick leave equivalent
- 20 days annual leave
- 40 hour working week

Superannuation, equipment and transport expenses not included.

Neither are employee related costs of employing (usually around 15%)

Look forward to your comments!

Scott Polley

| Level                       | Qualifications  | Role   | Rate of Pay   |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|
| 0. Trainee                  | Senior First Aid<br>May have commenced leadership qualification.<br>Limited experience at that level.   | Assist qualified instructor/ teacher/ leader. Limited instructional opportunities. No supervision responsibilities.        | Suggest expenses covered if used in the supervision ratios. |
| 1. Assistant                | Senior First Aid<br>May have completed an assistant qualification, or be part way through a qualification.<br>Limited experience at the level of employment | Assist under the direct guidance of a qualified instructor/ teacher. Instructs/teaches with direct supervision             | \$10/hr<br>\$80/day<br>\$17,600 p.a                         |
| 2. Senior Assistant         | Senior First Aid.<br>Has commenced leadership qualification in related field.<br>Experienced with activity at the level of employment                       | Assists under the direct guidance of a qualified instructor/ teacher. May not be directly supervised                       | \$12.50/hr<br>\$100/day<br>\$22,000 p.a                     |
| 3. Leader                   | Senior First Aid.<br>Has a single qualification such as basic skills instructor- kayaking.<br>Minimum additional experience.                                | Has responsibility for small groups. Indirectly supervised   | \$15/hr<br>\$120/day<br>\$24,000 p.a                        |
| 4. Senior Leader            | Senior First Aid.<br>May have additional or advanced qualification, such as diploma, degree.<br>More extensive experience                                   | Has responsibility for small groups. Indirectly supervised.<br>May have additional responsibilities such as equipment, etc | \$17.50/hr<br>\$140/day<br>\$30,800 p.a.                    |
| 5. Leader/ Manager          | Advanced Qualifications<br>Advanced Experience<br>Program Management experience   | Independently responsible for group. May be responsible for other leaders.   | \$20/hr<br>\$160/day<br>\$35,200 p.a.                       |
| 6. Leader/ Manager Advanced | As above.<br>More Extensive Experience and Qualifications   | As above   | \$22.50/hr<br>\$180/day<br>\$39,600 p.a.                    |
| 7. Program Manager          | As Above<br>Tertiary or equivalent qualifications   | Responsible for all aspects of a program   | \$25/hr<br>\$200/day<br>\$44,000 p.a.                       |

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# Games And Mysteries For The Mind!

These can be used everywhere, in the bus, during the walk and around the bonfire.

\*Can a man living in Adelaide be buried in South Australia?  
*(No, he is still living)*

\*If a plane crashed between the border of Canada and the United States, where would the survivors be buried? (You don't bury survivors)

\*How far can a bear run into the forest?  
*(Halfway, then it is running out again)*

\*There is a ship in the bay with a ladder over the side. The rungs of the ladder are 6' apart. The tide comes in rising 6' per hour. How many rungs are covered after three hours?  
*(None, the ship floats)*

\*Is it possible for a man to marry his widow's sister?  
*(No, he is dead)*

\*If you have 10 cows and all but 3 die, how many are left?  
*(3)*

\*In the old west, a man rides into town on Thursday, stays three days and rides out on Thursday?  
*(How can this be?)*

\*There is a man walking down the road dressed entirely in black. There are no lights on anywhere and no moon. A car with no lights on comes down the road and manages to avoid the man. How?  
*(It is daylight)*

\*What is getting bigger when you take away from it?  
*(A hole)*

\*A man walks into McDonald's asks for a glass of water. The person behind the counter pulls out a gun and points at him. The man says 'thank you' and leaves. Why?  
*(He had the hiccups)*

\*A man lives on the 14th floor of an apartment. When he goes to work, he goes into the elevator, pushes the 1st floor button, goes out and walks to work. To go home, he goes into the elevator, pushes the 7th floor button, the walks up the other 7 flights. Why?  
*(He is short person and cannot reach the buttons)*

\*A father and son are involved in a car accident. The father is killed and the son is in a critical

condition. When the boy arrives at the hospital, the doctor in the emergency room exclaims "I cannot operate on this boy, he is my son" How can this be?  
*(The doctor is his another)*

\*A man in a suit is lying dead in a room. The door and window are both locked and unbroken. Who is the man and how did he die?  
*(The man is Superman and there is a piece of kryptonite beside him)*

\*Romeo and Juliet are lying on the floor dead. Nearby is puddle of water and broken glass. Hamlet is asleep on the couch. What happened?  
*(Romeo and Juliet are fish. Hamlet the cat knocked the fish bowl over)*

You are a person or a place or a thing. The other s have to guess how you are by asking questions. You can only answer yes or no to the questions. Remember that you have to be something or someone that everyone knows.

From the Camping Association Newsletter

May 2000

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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.

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### Advertising in the Outdoor Educators' Association Journal

#### 'OUTDOOR NEWS'

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, Canoe SA: Education, Bicycle SA, SAREA, YSA continue to have general information disseminated free of charge

## 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.

### OEASA Committee:

1999/2000

Scott Polley 83026497  
*scott.polley@unisa.edu.au*  
Nerilee Flint- Treasurer  
83025266  
*nerilee.flint@unisa.edu.au*  
Mike Meredith 82695693  
Matt Randall 82231611  
Bronte Pickett 83518773  
Bronwyn Marten  
Jamie Holland  
Kerry Houston 82771855  
Liz Patterson  
Grant Henwood  
Chris Davidson  
Aaron Nielson  
Tim Vogt 82703727  
Mark Dudley 82323155

All Members of OEASA are welcome to attend committee meetings.

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### Calendar of Events:

#### OEASA AGM

Aug 2 6pm  
Maid and Magpie Hotel  
Contact 83026497  
All Welcome

#### Port Augusta Instructor Training Week

Sept 16-23  
Port Augusta Aquatic Centre  
Contact Brett Yardley  
0408830191

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## OUTDOOR RECREATION AWARDS

for Excellence and Innovation in Outdoor Recreation  
(Individuals and Organisations)

...events, programs, projects, research, partnerships, management, facilities, services...  
conducted or initiated during the period January 1999 to July 2000

An independent panel will judge the applications on:

- aims and goals
- implementation/development processes
- significant outcomes
- performance evaluation
- 

These Recognition Awards will be presented at the **Recreation SA General Meeting** on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Recipients will receive a certificate and a cash prize.

Forward your application (maximum of 3 A4 pages), including a reference contact to the ORCSA Board / Recreation SA Board – Outdoors, 1 Sturt Street, Adelaide, 5000 by Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August.

The recipients of the Outdoor Recreation Recognition Awards will be invited to the **Office of Recreation and Sport Award Night** at the Hilton International Hotel on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2000.

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## Outdoor Educators' Association Certificate Presentation

The annual event was held on June 2 at the Unley Community Centre. We had around 63 participants in the evening with representatives from Bushwalking Leadership South Australia, Canoe SA: Education, South Australian Rockclimbing Education Association of South Australia, Regency TAFE and University of South Australia.

The guest speaker, Dorjee Sherpa enthralled the group with slides of his family, Nepal and recent experiences guiding others in the mountains. As usual, the auction proved to be highly entertaining, and this was the major fundraiser for the evening, along with the mystery envelopes. Thanks is owed to many people that made it possible.

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Dorjee Sherpa     | for an amazing presentation             |
| George Adams      | for last minute fill in as money person |
| Mark Dudley       | for taking bookings                     |
| Paddy Pallin      | for taking bookings and prize donation  |
| Snowgum Adelaide  | for gift vouchers and prize donation    |
| Perception Kayaks | for prize donation                      |
| Annapurna Store   | for prize donation                      |
| Kerry Houston     | for checking the finances               |
| Matt Randall      | for organising certificates             |

Lastly, to those that came to share in the major social event of the outdoor calendar and helped make it a successful evening.

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## INVITATION

*The Outdoor Educators Association of South Australia and the Outdoor Recreation Council of South Australia Invite You To:*

**Outdoor Education/ Recreation Wages (and other professional issues)**

### Forum

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <i>Who?</i>      | Outdoor Educators<br>Outdoor Recreation Professionals<br>Employers<br><i>Outdoor Managers</i>   |
| <i>What?</i>     | Wages<br>Insurance<br>Rights and Responsibilities   |
| <i>Outcomes?</i> | First level discussion on formation of professional and industrial guidelines<br>Formation of interest group to examine issues that face employees and employers. |
| <i>Where?</i>    | Maid and Magpie Hotel Payneham Rd   |
| <i>When?</i>     | Thursday, 6.00 (Dinner available) Jun 22  |

Come along if you have an interest in developing and protecting the outdoor education profession and the outdoor recreation industry.

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### *The Outdoor Educators' Association of South Australia Annual General Meeting*

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <i>Who?</i>      | All OEASA members are invited   |
| <i>What?</i>     | A general meeting to disclose OEASA's vast financial resources, discuss outcomes and achievements of the previous year, and to continue to map out the organisations future directions. |
| <i>Outcomes?</i> | Nomination of Committee<br>Calendar for 2001<br>National Conference in 2003– discussion on next step<br>Financial Statement   |
| <i>When?</i>     | August 2, 6.00 pm dinner (optional) 7.00 pm meeting   |
| <i>Where?</i>    | Maid and Magpie Hotel cnr Magill and Payneham Rd<br>Contact 83026497  |

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# OUTDOOR EDUCATORS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Renewal                       New member

Membership subscription for period 1 June 2000 to 31 May 2001.

Type of Membership:

- Individual (\$49.10) ie \$45 membership + \$4.10 GST
- Student (\$32.75) ie \$30 membership + \$2.75 GST
- School/Organisation/Corporate (\$54.60) \$50 membership + \$4.60 GST
- Family (\$54.60) \$50 membership + \$4.60 GST

Please make cheques, money orders payable to 'Outdoor Educators' Association of South Australia'.

Members will receive:

- OEASA newsletters (4 per year)
- AJOE (Australian Journal of Outdoor Education) (2 per year)

and affiliation to other State Associations via Australian Outdoor Education Council.

Member details (apart from name, only complete if details have changed or if you are a new member):

Last Name.....First Name.....

Postal Address.....

.....Suburb.....Postcode.....

Home Phone ..... Work Phone.....

Fax.....E-mail.....

School/Organisation connected with.....

Outdoor Education interest areas include.....

Forward to:  
Acting OEASA Treasurer  
Kerry Houston  
228 Rundle Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

Contact details of Acting Treasurer:  
Ph 8227 1855  
E-mail oas@dove.com.au

If you wish to relinquish your membership please inform the Acting Treasurer.