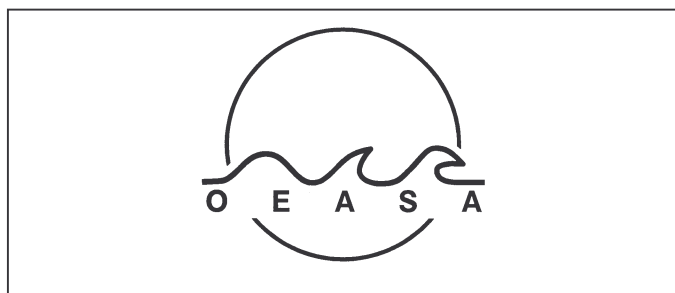


OUTDOOR NEWS

THE JOURNAL OF THE OUTDOOR EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Volume 23, no.2, August 2004



Outdoor News is supported by:



And:

- Paddy Pallin
- Scout Outdoor Centre
- Mountain Designs
- Outdoor Adventure Skills

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From the Chair

Conferences - Hot Stuff or Hot Air?

Welcome to our second edition of 'Outdoor News' this year.

I recently had the pleasure of attending the Queensland State Conference on the sunshine coast. The Queenslanders put on an outstanding conference and it was great to meet many new faces and catch up with some familiar ones. I came away from the conference with a clearer understanding of the powerful role they can play in our professional lives. It gave me a wonderful opportunity to discuss, listen, question and experience the many views, ideas and philosophies, which exist in our varied field. Much of my learning occurred within informal discussions over a beer at the end of the day, but these 'chats' were triggered by the content and presentations, which we had experienced during the conference. The presentations and conference content acted as the foundations for our discussions. I certainly left the conference feeling refreshed and eager to continue working hard in my field of choice. As outdoor educators we often operate in 'professionally isolated' circumstances - just ourselves, our students and the environment. Conferences allow us to be surrounded by like-minded professionals, who can inspire, encourage and motivate us to continue our important and valuable work. I say, "Conferences are hot stuff!"

It was wonderful to see such an awesome turn out to our annual awards dinner held on the 4th June. This event has been growing in popularity over the years and this year we had over 100 people attend. A congratulations to all our award recipients and a well done to all the educators who helped them to achieve their wonderful results. OEASA would like to thank Paddy Pallins for organising the ticketing and donating some wonderful auction items. David Stewart for offering his outstanding auctioneering talents to the night and Wilderness Escape, Mountain Design, Scout Outdoors - Snowgum and Satisfac Credit Union for their generous donations.

Lastly, the committee is very excited to announce the new OEASA treasurer as Phil Noble. Phil is a teacher at Prince Alfred Colleges 'Scott's Creek' Outdoor Centre. In fact Phil will be assisted in the role by his 'Scott's Creek' colleagues

From the Chair (cont)

Dale Hobbs and Belinda Beisiegel and we welcome Dale and Belinda onto the committee. The team approach to this large and important role will certainly lighten the load for Phil and we are thankful to the P.A.C. team for taking it on. The committee would like to thank the hard work and dedication shown by Kyla Young and Brett Stamford during their time in the membership and treasurer positions. Brett has moved to Queensland and Kyla has embarked on her final year of study at university. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

See you out there,

Mark

Editorial:

The following awards were presented at the Outdoor Certificate Presentation evening, Hackney Hotel, 4th June.

Tertiary Outdoor Education Awards:

Nick Johnson

Josh Hancock

Troy Jacques

Secondary Outdoor Education Awards:

Jessica Northcott

Nicola Winter

Sasha Holthouse

Tom Lodge

Tom Hicks

Rachel Patrick

Carmel Toms

Richard Harry

Tom Massey

Luke Lorenzin

Mark Auricht Award

for most outstanding year 12 student:

Evan Jones

Field Story:

Going up in Smoke!

An interesting "near miss" happened on a recent bushwalking assessment that was a new experience for me.

A group of well prepared year 11 students set out for a 4 day hike with their teacher. They had been taught how to water proof everything before the trip. The weather forecast was ominous and the route was altered in the Mambray Creek area to cope with fog and rain which did persist for over 36 hours.

On the morning of the second day a student slipped and sprained her ankle. The teacher handled the incident very well and ensured that all the group rugged up so that they did not get cold while waiting for the injury to be assessed and treated. The injured girl wanted to continue with the walk and so the group prepared to walk on again after about a half hour stop. As rucksacks and clothing was being adjusted smoke started billowing out from a boy who was about to put on his rucksack. He started laughing and the teacher who realised that it was smoke and not just excessive steam/sweat told him to take his rainjacket off. As he continued to just laugh she pulled his jacket off him and then dropped it on the ground and stamped out the fire.

The students had been shown at school how to water proof matches by either putting the box in a plastic bag or putting them in a film container with the striker part of the box placed in the container. This boy did not have a film container and so he used a snap lock bag. However, he had removed the matches from the box and put the striker loosely in the bag with them (saving the weight of the box). The bag of matches with striker had moved around in his raincoat pocket for about the hour we had been walking, and at least one must have caught alight, smouldering in the bag. When he went to put his gloves away in his pocket, before starting to walk again, the air must have got into the enclosed space and so the smoulder turned into flames. By the time the fire was extinguished there were melted holes in the raincoat and pocket. Many of the matches looked as if they had started burning at their heads but not continued to burn and several matches were completely burnt.

The quick thinking of the teacher certainly prevented any injury happening to the boy. It certainly gave me a new safety consideration of how to package matches to be water proof but that they cannot rub against the striker by accident.

Libby Robertson

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.

The Outdoor Educators Association of South Australia supports the following national ethical guidelines for outdoor educators:

- The Outdoor Educator will fulfil his/her duty of care.
- The Outdoor Educator will provide a supportive and appropriate learning environment.
- The Outdoor Educator will develop his/her professionalism.
- The Outdoor Educator will ensure his/her practice is culturally and environmentally sensitive.

OEASA Committee 2004

Chair: Mark Hayward
Treasurer: Dale Hobbs/Phil Noble
Secretary: Wayne Hooper/Libby Robertson
Committee:

- Scott Polley
 - Peter Kellett
 - Mike Meredith
 - Kate Lucas
 - Nerilee Flint
 - Andrew Quinn
-

OEASA Meetings 2004

Meetings to be held at Kent Town Hotel, Rundle St, Kent Town 6.30 –7.30.

All Welcome.

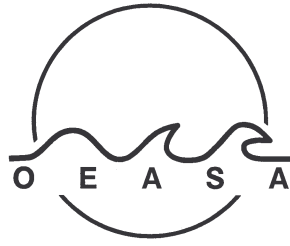
- Friday March 5th – meeting
 - Friday June 4th - Certificate Dinner
To be held at Hackney Hotel
 - Friday June 25th – meeting
 - Friday August 6th – meeting
-

This Edition of OEASA News

Editor: Scott Polley
(contributions to scott.polley@unisa.edu.au)

Contributors:

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-



OUTDOOR EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Proudly presents the:

2004 OEASA BALL

WHEN: Saturday 18th September

WHERE: Scotts Creek Outdoor Centre
Morgan/Blanchetown Road
Morgan

WHAT TIME: 6.00pm

THEME: Black with a 'touch' of colour!

HOW MUCH: \$30 Members
\$35 Non Members

WHERE DO I BOOK: Paddy Pallins Rundle Street Adelaide ph: 8232 3155

WHAT'S INCLUDED: Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Entertainment

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING: BYO Drinks, Bedding

An offer extends to all members and potential members for the opportunity to participate in the following activities on the Saturday afternoon:

1.30pm – 3.30pm
Wetland Walk
Canoe Tour
Navigation Exercise

(All interested people are to meet at the Scotts Creek Outdoor Centre at 1.00pm)

4.00pm – 5.00pm
OEASA Meeting (All Welcome)

National/Professional

OUTDOOR COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday June 20th 2004 at Alexandra Headland, Qld.

Meeting opened at 3:35pm by Glyn Thomas, Acting Chair., OCA. Copies of the OCA 2003 annual report were distributed.

Attendance:

Members (State or Territory Associations/National Associations)

Rob Hales - OEAQ
Arthur Crichton - ORIC
Mark Dingle - VOEA
Kathy Mann - ACTOEA
John Doidge - NTORC
Peter Vandeppeer - RecSA
Jo Prior - ACA
Ralph Gurr - Outdoors WA
Geoff Owens - TasORC
Ken Pullen - CCI, Australia
Mark Hayward - OEASA
Gordon Duff - ORC Inc
Kathy Kingsford - QORF

OCA Board members

Peter Martin
Glyn Thomas
Don Hamley

Observers

Neil Robinson - The Mapleton Centre
Ray Young - Kinchant OEC
Rod Kleinschmidt - Kinchant OEC
Mike Tolley - Tropical Nth Qld TAFE
Pete Walker - Googa OEC
Jan Scudamore - Treadlightly! Australia

Ian Heath - Scouts Australia (Qld)
Renaë Owens - Team Discovery (Tasmania)
Phil Harrison - Ironbark
David Ferris - Munich-American Risk Partners
Andrew Devenish - OEAQ

Apologies - Nil, although no representative from the Tasmanian Outdoor Educators' Association was present

President's Report

Zoe Herbert, OCA President during 2003, had resigned her position in April 2004 and her report prepared for the Annual General Meeting and included in the annual report was tabled.

MOTION: That the President's report be accepted.

Moved: Glyn Thomas Seconded: Jo Prior Carried

Treasurer's Report

Kathy Kingsford, as Treasurer of OCA, referred to Page 7 of the Annual Report and added some background information for those present. OCA was incorporated in April 2003. OCA Financial Year is based on a calendar year therefore the recent financial audit was for a period of 6 months although the comparative figures in the audited financial statements refer to a 12 month period and refer to the Outdoor Recreation Council of Australia (ORCA).

The balance sheet shows that OCA's financial position is "quite healthy".

MOTION: That the Treasurer's report be accepted by the meeting.

Moved: Kathy Kingsford Seconded: Peter Martin
Carried.

Election of Board Members for 2004 Board

The Chair advised that there were 3 vacancies on the board and 3 nominations had been received being Gordon Duff, Peter Vandeppeer and Ken Pullen. This being the case there was no need for any voting.

MOTION: That the three nominated representatives fill the three vacant positions on the Board.

Moved: Glyn Thomas Seconded: Jo Prior
Carried.

OUTDOOR COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING (cont)

Appointment of Auditor

MOTION: That the appointment of the Auditor be left at the discretion of the Board depending upon the location of the administration of the OCA offices.

Moved: Kathy Kingsford Seconded: Kathy Mann
Carried.

Date of next AGM

MOTION: That the next AGM be held at the National Conference to be held in Queensland in 2005. As this date will be after the official time period in which to hold the meeting (3 months after the end of the organisation's financial year) an extension is to be sought.

Moved: Glyn Thomas Seconded: Gordon Duff
Carried

Close

There being no further business the Chair thanked those in attendance and closed the meeting at 4:02pm

Meeting of state/territory Outdoor Recreation and Outdoor Education Representatives

MINUTES

21st June 2004

Alexandra Park Conference Centre

8.30am to 3pm

Meeting Opened at 8:38am

ITEM NO: 1

TOPIC: Attendance And Apologies

SUMMARY:

Invited Attendance:

Arthur Crichton (ORIC)

Mark Dingle (VOEA)

John Doidge (NT ORC)

Gordon Duff (ORC)

Ralph Gurr (Outdoors WA)

Rob Hales (OEAQ)

Mark Hayward (OEASA)

Kathy Kingsford (QORF)

Kathy Mann (ACTOEA)

Geoff Owens (TasORC)

Peter Vandeppeer (RecSA)

Observers:

Don Hamley (OCA Board)

Peter Martin (OCA Board)

Jo Prior (OCA Board)

Ken Pullen (OCA Board)

Glyn Thomas (OCA Board)

James McIntosh (OEAQ)

Staff:

Andrew Barkham, QORF Administration Manager (to record Minutes)

Apologies:

Terri Anne Philpott (TOETA)

MOTION: "That the attendance be noted and apologies be received"

Moved: Ralph Gurr Seconded: Mark Dingle Carried

ITEM NO: 2

TOPIC: Election of Meeting Chair

RECOMMENDATION: That Kathy Mann Chair the meeting on behalf of the State/territory representatives

ITEM NO: 3

TOPIC: Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 21st January 2004.

SUMMARY: A copy of the minutes for the Board meeting held on 21st January 2004 was distributed

MOTION: "That the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record."

Moved: Gordon Duff; Seconded: Mark Dingle. Carried.

Meeting of state/territory Outdoor Recreation and Outdoor Education Representatives (cont)

ITEM NO: 4

TOPIC: Business Arising From Those Minutes

SUMMARY:

Some matters of Business Arising have been itemised later in the Agenda and/or are part of the OCA Board Agenda with subsequent reporting back to the state/territory representatives (refer Item 5). Matters not common include (from Action list from previous Minutes)

A9 & A21: insurance policies and negotiations with Affinity Risk Partners

Arthur Crichton reported that there is the ability to negotiate group insurance with Munich American Risk Partners. 10-15% savings is possible. Preferably, extent of coverage for both Public Liability and Professional Indemnity would have to be common to all states. Professional Indemnity is slightly harder to arrange due to insurers not fully understanding the "outdoors industry" and what each organisation does. Agreement needs to be found amongst the state bodies on the requirements (coverage) for a joint policy. Do we go further? Arthur Crichton happy to continue working on a National coverage for public liability. Peter Vandepier added that although he supports group buying power, consumer affairs legislation is different in each state, and policy requirements may therefore be different.

MOTION: That Arthur Crichton follow-up with insurers to provide a "wish-list" coverage, including indicative costs for public liability for state bodies and OCA. Reporting back to OCA within three months.

Moved: Gordon Duff

Seconded: Mark Dingle

Action for A21 will be followed-up after the investigation period and finding as outlined above.

A10: revenue, brokerage or "in kind" contribution to be obtained through telephone wholesalers

Arthur Crichton reported that this may be difficult to operate at a National level. Far better to operate at a State level. No further discussion.

ITEM NO: 5

TOPIC: Summary of outcomes of OCA Board Meeting 20th June 2004.

SUMMARY:

A summary of the Agenda for the OCA Board Meeting 20th June was distributed. The important details of the minutes from the OCA Board meeting were read.

MOTION: That the following issues/discussion points be placed on this Agenda as a consequence of the OCA Board meeting outcomes:

National Conference

Discussion was held regarding the 2005 National conference. As this would be the first OCA conference it was suggested that a theme might be required. Other topics during the discussion included:

Who covers insurance?

Whose conference is it?

Who accepts any profits/loss?

Finally, it was decided that OCA nominates 2 representatives to liaise with the organisers (QORF & OEAQ) of the 2005 conference. Proposed dates are based around Sunday 3rd July, 2005. Potential Streams include: Managers, Practitioners, Applied Researchers and possibly Land Managers.

MOTION: That QORF (Kathy Kingsford) and OEAQ (Rob Hales) consult with OCA chair and develop a formal agreement of financial responsibilities of each organisation in relation to the OCA Conference hosted by QORF/OEAQ.

Moved: Mark Dingle

Seconded: Ralph Gurr

Carried

AJOE

There was discussion regarding the distribution of the AJOE. It was stated that the price of the journal (\$12.50) covers distribution to the state office and perhaps the State offices should be charging a higher price per issue to their membership to cover postage to the end users. At present the AJOE is one issue behind and this is not a problem for those paying per issue. There is however a problem for those paying per year. The meeting was advised of the outcome of the OCA Board meeting that the Outdoor Education sub-committee is to develop and outline a business plan for the AJOE to investigate the financial viability of the journal. Glyn Thomas and Peter Martin reported that estimates on the most recent print run should realise a profit in the region of \$1500.

Meeting of state/territory Outdoor Recreation and Outdoor Education Representatives (cont)

The suggestion that the AJOE include some recreational aspects was made. Some suggested that this may "weaken" the value of the AJOE although the sub-committee said that further discussions may be warranted.

Outdoor Education Sub-Committee

The outdoor education sub-committee are seeking input from the meeting with regards to terms of reference.

ACTION 1: *State reps are requested to provide input to be used as a starting point for discussions for the sub-committee. These comments should be emailed to Andrew at QORF (andrew@qorf.org.au) who will collate and distribute to the sub-committee.*

ITEM NO: 6

TOPIC: Adventure Activity Standards (AAS)

SUMMARY:

Gordon Duff had requested an update on any discussions/progress regarding the uptake of AAS in other states:

To enable each state rep to know what is being done in other states.

To enable discussion regarding some different approaches to implementing AAS (WA vs. Queensland).

To enable Gordon to develop a current status report for the Victorian AAS Steering Committee and Government.

Each organisation rep briefly reporting what discussions have taken place to date.

QLD OEAQ - not much. Education Qld manual (DOEM) is out of date and the outdoor education section needs to be rewritten.

QORF - Exec Director of Sport & Rec Qld raised with QORF EO the AAS as a result of meeting of Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport (SCORS). For AAS to be applied in Qld there would need to be consultation throughout Qld. A costing of a consultation proposal in Qld has been developed at around \$200,000 for 15 activity areas. Needs to have cross-agency support in state government (Tourism, Education, Parks& Wildlife). Qld have also been approached by Tasmania to use their model and costings.

NT Looking at NOLRS. Advertised it on website. No minister for sport and recreation present at SCORS meeting when AAS discussed. Will approach in the future.

SA National Parks are looking at AAS

WA Outdoors WA rolling out NOLRS which is using all resources. Decided to 'park' AAS to restrict information (information overload) to members. Sport & Rec aware of AAS and have approached Outdoors WA, possibly as a result of SCORS.

NSW Regular meetings with S & R Director (not present at SCORS). Not a priority.

ACT Distributed AAS brochures/newsletters. Not much follow through though. Currently finalising rewrite of Education Department guidelines/procedures incorporating NOLRS.

RECOMMENDATION: That each state rep become familiar with NOLRS, Accreditation and Adventure Activity Standards and email Gordon at the Outdoor Rec Centre, Victoria with updates on any discussions with state government regarding AAS.

ITEM NO: 7

TOPIC: Role of State reps

SUMMARY:

It was determined that, due to the differences, the roles of each state/territory organisation and its structure/representation be shared to develop a better understanding of similarities and differences.

MOTION: That each state rep provide a summary of their mission, membership and key objectives

Moved: Gordon Duff

Seconded: Mark Dingle

ACTION 2: *Andrew to remind all State reps and collate replies by next meeting.*

ITEM NO: 8

TOPIC: Training – related matters

SUMMARY:

Industrial versus Recreational roping activities (Ralph & KK)

Kathy advised that industrial roping is not included in the recreational roping of the outdoor recreation training package and that she had received a question from Sport and Recreation Training Australia about this. There was agreement that if industrial roping competencies need to be written then they should be done under another relevant Training Package and not outdoor recreation.

Arthur Crichton indicated that Standards Australia were looking at developing standards for ropes used in climbing/abseiling activities

Meeting of state/territory Outdoor Recreation and Outdoor Education Representatives (cont)

As the OCA had determined to write to SCORS and other government agencies re its support for "Nation Outdoor Activity Guidelines" it was suggested that it may be worth including Workcover (or it's equivalent) in the letter.

ACTION 3. *Arthur Crichton to keep OCA and State reps informed of Standards Australia roping committee outcomes*

Quality Assurance/Moderation of Assessors - Possible expansion of Qld model (KK)

Kathy discussed the intent to conduct a moderation workshop for trainers and assessors in late November/early December with RTO's in Queensland (self funding). This is in conjunction with Recreation Training Qld (State ITAB) and Queensland Canoeing. Looking at Quality Assurance in outdoor recreation training and assessment. May be useful from a NOLRS point-of-view, as we are now relying heavily on the outcomes of that training/assessment. The discussion then veered onto complaints relating to training. Kathy advised that any complaints should be in writing to the ITAB of the State involved. If it is not in writing then it is regarded as hearsay. Each State Training Authority has a Complaints process.

ACTION 4. *Research contact in Workcover who should receive the SCORS letter as a "FYI". - Each State.*

Training and RPL Tools and processes

Discussions took place regarding the acceptance of university gained outdoor recreation qualifications as instant entry into NOLRS. Outdoors WA have advised that they have paid to have a major university course mapped as a service to their members. Others felt that if a university were to map their courses to NOLRS then it may be a competitive edge. There was no funding within NOLRS to map courses. Unlikely that funding for mapping would be given on a national level. More likely and a better chance to approach the Education Department in each state to apply for mapping funding. (Peter Martin to investigate further on behalf of Outdoor Education) Victorian reps advised that they were raising the issue of NOLRS at their upcoming conference. It was suggested that a large proportion of members are disadvantaged by adopting competency based training. Ralph Gurr advised that conducting information sessions for cross-government departments regarding NOLRS has led to broader outcomes in WA.

ITEM NO: 9

TOPIC: Website

SUMMARY:

It is essential that the OCA has a web presence that links those interested in the Outdoors with organisations and associations that can support and inform them. The web page would in the first instance be a link to other sources of information as well as providing an insight into the nascent role of the OCA.

As the OCA develops so too will the website potentially becoming the central reference point for national outdoor issues. It may include the AJOE as an online resource???

OUTCOME: The OCA Board informed the meeting that Gordon Duff would investigate the possibility of a simple web page design to accommodate OCA information.

ITEM NO: 10

TOPIC: Industrial Relations/Awards

SUMMARY:

Draft 4 of the Qld Award for Outdoor Leaders was distributed

ACTION 5: Send Draft 4 to all Reps for their information - Andy

SUMMARY:

Kathy explained that QORF is currently being funded by Sport & Rec Qld to implement an industrial award for outdoor leaders in Queensland. It is envisaged that the award should go to the Industrial Relations Commission by the end of the year and hopefully be implemented by 1 July 2005. Kathy explained that all awards have a number of common Clauses and others which can be made applicable to each industry. Comments regarding Draft 4 of the award would be welcome, especially regarding weekend penalties or compensation for hours worked. FYI the bold sections are non standard, **bold and underlined** indicates a change since the previous version. Peter Martin raised the issue of the Classifications not reflecting current practice where University Graduates (particularly undergraduates) obtain work as operatives, not managers. Kathy indicated that the Classification f levels within the award were still open for discussion and would review them in light of his comments.

ITEM NO: 11

TOPIC: Land management issues

SUMMARY:

To be carried forward for discussion at next meeting

ITEM NO: 12

TOPIC: OAS (Organisational Accreditation Scheme)

SUMMARY:

OAS roll out in terms of materials and process

Meeting of state/territory Outdoor Recreation and Outdoor Education Representatives (cont)

State based assessors for facilities in OAS

Ralph Gurr questioned the current status of an OCA national accreditation scheme as WA has funding that was required to be spent on accreditation and was expecting a national product to be available. Arthur Crichton suggested that a national scheme may have been too optimistic in the time frame allocated. Ken Pullen advised that CCI is in the process of developing a campsite accreditation program and declared a possible conflict of interest. Kathy Kingsford indicated that an accreditation scheme needs to be able to include organisations at a club level. At present there would seem to be 3 products available (or soon to be available) for implementation by the outdoor community.

RECOMMENDATION: That Peter Vandepier as Chair of OCA write to all three accreditation schemes stating that OCA's preference would be to have a single scheme covering all stakeholders.

Moved: Peter Vandepier

Seconded: Kathy Kingsford

ITEM NO: 13

TOPIC: General Business

SUMMARY:

State Reps Travel Fund: That the existing arrangements from the previous face to face meeting continue ie. Each state organisation contributes \$500 and those spending over \$500 will be reimbursed

ACTION 6 - QORF to collect and collate travelling costs for all state reps and invoice as necessary - Andy

ITEM NO: 14

TOPIC: Dates for Next Meeting

SUMMARY:

Next Meetings as follows:

Thursday 4th November 2004 Teleconference 8am (ACT, VIC, TAS, NSW), 7am (Qld), 6am (WA), 7:30am(SA) 6:30am (NT)

20th and 21st January, 2005 Face to Face Meeting in Melbourne - Venue to be decided

Meeting Closed at 3pm

International

Climbers piqued by British application of EU safety directive

Martin Wainwright

Thursday June 24, 2004 Downloaded 29 June 2004

<http://guardian.co.uk>

The bizarre prospect of airbags under Scafell crag and safety scaffolding on tougher pitches of the Cuillin ridge was raised yesterday by the outdoor leisure industry.

Staff from climbing schools and adventure centres warned the minister for work, Jane Kennedy, that such "ridiculous" precautions were a genuine prospect if the government failed to relax its view of new European safety regulations.

Alone among EU countries, according to mountain sports companies, Britain is extending a Brussels directive on safety-at-height to leisure climbing, as well as the originally intended target of builders, steeplejacks and window cleaners.

"I've asked colleagues in France, Spain and Germany what impact the directive will have on them and they look at me as though I am daft," said John Cousins of Mountain Leader Training UK, who was at the meeting with Ms Kennedy. "As things stand, the regulations expect us to avoid being at height if possible. That's a problem for us because that's what we do."

The industry has rejected assurances from the Health and Safety Executive that the rules will not affect it. An HSE spokeswoman said: "The adventure activity sector has exemplary standards of safety. If they stick to those standards, they will have no problem."

But the campaigners, backed by an all-party group of MPs and peers, told Ms Kennedy that the HSE advice left mountain guides and climbing instructors vulnerable to insurance claims. A successful action against a company after an accident, citing neglect of the EU directive, could have "horrendous" knock-on effects, according to Mr Cousins.

The regulations require red and yellow warning signs for hazards at height, a potentially vivid addition to famous landscapes. "They then say that, if we have to work at height, they would prefer us to put a huge airbag at the bottom of the cliff," Mr Cousins said.

The HSE spokeswoman said: "We've done all we can in terms of listening to them and trying to address their concerns."

Websites

Here are some cracker websites that are worth checking out for resources and information, if you haven't already.

<http://wilderdom.com>

<http://www.outdoorsnz.org.nz/>

<http://www.education.tas.gov.au/outdoors/>

The latest edition of Weed Watch in now available from the Weeds CRC

website

http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/documents/weed_watch_vol2_no6.pdf

From Sally Vidler

Science Communication Officer

CRC for Australian Weed Management (Weeds CRC)

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In this issue...

- Weeds cost farmers 14 per cent of income
- WWF report critical of national weed policy
- Weed Warriors - winning the battle against weeds!
- Getting our factors straight before spraying wild oats
- Australian Weeds Conference registrations close August 15
- Is eradication possible?
- Rusty approach no bad thing
- Rivers, trees and weeds
- Vietnamese coriander (mint) - A riparian weed?
- Summer student Kate, on the trail of bird-dispersed weeds
- Weeds CRC Postgraduate Research

- Bookshelf
 - Naturalisation of introduced plants in Australia
 - 9th International Conference on Ecology...
 - Early weed detection - early response capabilities
 - STOP PRESS - Queens Birthday Honours list...
 - New email address
 - *Chromolaena odorata* - have you seen this plant?
-

Pedagogy of Weeding

Every little bit helps:

Reprinted from SAREA News, August 2004

Scott C Polley RN Bed Med SAREA Instructor/Assessor

Some years ago, Rob Knott (SAREA instructor) and friends began having another go at the Blackberries at Morialta. This was followed by other Climbing Club of South Australia members doing their bit, either on working bees or spasmodically. Further support has been provided by National Parks. Some climbing instruction programs, such as University of South Australia, now include blackberry and feral plant removal as a component of their course.

The learning outcomes of putting on leather gloves, snipping and hacking at blackberries and poisoning the snipped sections for half an hour to an hour each week have been surprising. Students have developed a greater sense of ownership and care of the crag; strong senses of satisfaction of having made a small contribution to the community and environment; greater teamwork and stronger relationships between themselves; a feeling of stronger connections to the management of the land; and a stronger sense of wanting to ensure that the natural ecosystem is allowed to regenerate as much as possible.

So, thanks to Rob and others for starting the ball rolling.

I can only encourage others that have instructional programs to consider including, even if only a few minutes, a little time to engage in the care of the environment that they are using for pleasure or learning. I suspect you your clients/students will gain as much as our students did from the experience - not to mention the benefits to the crag!

OUTDOOR EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
ABN 26 588 063 701
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Renewal New member

Membership subscription for period 1 Jan to Dec 30 2004

Type of Membership: (please note: we are not charging GST)

Individual \$60

Student \$45

School/Organisation/Corporate \$70

(Members in the organisational category have been sent a Tax Invoice to use. If you are a new member in this category please return this form without payment and a Tax Invoice will be sent to you.

[If you have this membership and would like an extra copy of a year's OEASA newsletters please add \$20, two extra copies add \$40 etc

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

Members will receive:

OEASA newsletters "Outdoor News" (4 per year)

AJOE (Australian Journal of Outdoor Education) (2 per year)

and affiliation to other State Associations via the Outdoor Council of Australia

Member details:

School/Organisation/Corporation (if applicable).....

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

Postal Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Home Phone Work Phone.....

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

For Ind/student/family members what is the School/Organisation you are connected with?

.....

Forward to:

The Outdoor Educators Association of South Australia

C/-University of South Australia

Holbrooks Rd

Underdale

SA 5032