



# Outdoor News

Journal of the Outdoor Educators' Association of South Australia

Volume 24 No 3, April 2006

## From the Chairman

*Mike Meredith*

As Outdoor enthusiasts we are all interested in the concept and practice of recycling, as after all this is nature's way of ensuring that the cycle of living things goes on. So it is with OEASA, which now has a recycled Chairperson: yes I'm back, although I'm still searching for the youth, vitality and regeneration stuff that recycling is meant to nurture. Has anyone found it yet?

Firstly, I would like to thank Mark Hayward for the outstanding job he and last year's Committee have done to leave the association in such a good state, as I recall some time ago (well quite some time ago) we hardly had enough money to keep the basics going. Last year, as Mark reported at the AGM, was a very busy one for the committee and many successful activities were held for the benefit of members.

This year we hope to continue the good work of last year and as such have identified a number of focus activities for the committee:

- 1 The annual presentation dinner: to be held on Friday 16 June at the Hackney Hotel. It would be great to see as many members and their friends as possible at this very enjoyable celebration of success in the outdoors. This very positive and rewarding evening acknowl-

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edges those who have done well in their pursuits in the Outdoors and brings a wide circle of outdoor enthusiasts together to celebrate the things we have in common. I would encourage everyone to attend and make this one the year's great social events. Also, if you have anyone to nominate for an award get the forms filled and sent in: the more the merrier.

- 2 OEASA has set up a working party to liaise with the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) on matters of common concern. This was initiated at last year's conference after discussions with the then Minister for Environment and Heritage, Mr Hill. A few changes in Government portfolios and National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) personnel have slowed things down a little, but once this is sorted out we hope to be able to represent our members and establish a good working relationship with the NPWS to ensure both sides have understanding of each other's needs and purposes. This process has been greatly assisted by the work of Rob Hogan who investigated and produced a very comprehensive report for OEASA titled The impacts of NPWS access policies on outdoor education programs in South Australia. I would like to thank Rob for his brilliant efforts in compiling this report, which will be a great starting point for our discussions with the DEH.

- 3 The role of OEASA in the national context and in particular as part of the Outdoor Council of Australia will be investigated to ensure we are meeting the needs of our members. In this regard we will be holding discussions with other state Outdoor Education bodies to ensuring we are maximising our voice as Outdoor 'Educators' and to ensure we have suitable representation as at a peak level.
- 4 *Outdoor News* will also been given an emphasis for this year with Wayne Hooper taking on a sub-editor's role and Peter Carter doing the editing. This should see a continued high quality product, produced regularly throughout the year. If you have any articles or information that could be used in the newsletter please pass it on to Wayne who will be happy to get it ready for the

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**Outdoor News is supported by**

**And: Paddy Pallin, Scout Outdoor Centre, Mountain Designs, Outdoor Adventure Skills**

## From the Editor

### Peter Carter

One of the characteristics of journals like *Outdoor News* is that no two issues have the same 'flavour'. Last time it was kayaking, in this issue it's cycling, with Wayne and Libby contributing their ideas on possible components of outdoor education courses and an account, originally written for *Cycle!*, of a tour in Victoria. Along with that we have a number of news items and a financial report. There's also a nomination form for the Outdoor Education Award.

An interesting item appeared in the 11 March issue of *New Scientist*. Entitled simply 'Velcro' (p 52) it reported research by Jennie Whinam and colleagues in Hobart who inspected scientists arriving at Macquarie Island. They found that most of the seeds and other potential invaders arrived in the Velcro on clothing and other gear. Worth remembering. To quote the final sentence:

'[Travellers] should be aware that the seeds of destruction may be hitching a ride.'

(The name 'Velcro' comes from velours (the fuzzy part) and crochet (the hooks), and the fastener was invented by Swiss Georges de Mestral in 1948 after removing burrs from his dog's fur.)

A new Web site worth watching as it develops is Leave No Trace Australia, at [www.lnt.org.au/section01/01\\_04.html](http://www.lnt.org.au/section01/01_04.html).



## From the Chairman

...continued

newsletter (subject to various clauses and sub clauses of the Information Act, discrimination laws, etc, etc, etc and Wayne's very, very busy diary). The OEASA Web site should also become more useful as Andrew Govan takes on the webmaster role.

The committee is looking forward to a busy and enjoyable year working to provide you, the members, with a worthwhile and beneficial service. If you have any ideas or thoughts (no rude ones now!) on how we can be of service please let the committee know or come along to any of the meetings to raise your issue: you would be most welcome. It is as always a pleasure to be of service.

## 2006 Important dates

**Committee meetings** (all members are welcome, stay on and have a meal!)

6 pm Friday 26 May at Hackney Hotel

6 pm Friday 18 August at Hackney Hotel

6 pm Friday 10 November at Hackney Hotel

**OEASA Annual Presentation Dinner:** 6:30 for 7 pm  
Friday 16 June at Hackney Hotel

**Deadline for articles for *Outdoor News*:** 19 June,  
11 September, 6 November

Send items to either Peter Carter <[pcarter@acslink.net](mailto:pcarter@acslink.net)>  
au> or Wayne Hooper <[Waynelib@bigpond.com](mailto:Waynelib@bigpond.com)>

## 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 these national ethical guidelines for outdoor educators:

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

### OEASA Committee 2006

Chair: Mike Meredith

Vice: Kate Mitchell

Treasurer: Phil Noble

Secretary: Libby Robertson

Editor: Peter Carter

Sub-Editor: Wayne Hooper

Committee: Nerilee Flint, Andrew Govan, Beau Griffiths,  
Mark Hayward, Dale Hobbs, Cath Jenner, Owen Jones,  
Peter Kellett, Scott Polley, Matt Randell

## News

### Annual Presentation Night and Dinner

Friday 16 June

Hackney Hotel

6:30pm for 7:00pm

Cost: Buffet meal \$27 members, \$30 non members, payable by 9 June

Late fee \$35

Bookings: Paddy Pallin 228 Rundle Street Adelaide, 8232 3155

An opportunity for the whole Outdoor Education community to get together and celebrate the achievements of those who have excelled at Secondary, TAFE or University level in the past year.

We also honour those who have achieved leadership awards in bushwalking, canoeing, sailing and rockclimbing.

We invite members to nominate anyone in the Outdoor Education field who they believe is worthy in the above categories or who has made a significant contribution to the field.

Please use the form in this issue and e-mail (Libby Robertson <libby.robertson@unisa.edu.au>) or post to her at UniSA, Mawson Lakes Campus, Room P1-29, Mawson Lakes Blvd, Mawson Lakes 5095 by 16 May.

### Relationship with DEH

At the last OEASA meeting held in March we determined the areas which we wish to explore with DEH as a result of the issues raised in Rob Hogan's paper which Mike has referred to in his Chairman's report.

These are to:

- set up a consultation process with DEH about policy changes with respect to access issues in National Parks
- negotiate a general policy/understanding re trip intentions/permit application procedures
- develop a code of ethics for education groups using parks
- acknowledge the special needs of different groups eg those who need to have off track experiences to meet the needs of their programme
- develop an understanding of the implications of the degree of training and expertise of groups supervised by qualified leaders
- facilitate the dissemination of information from DEH to our members, e.g. information about policy changes and seasonal changes due to feral animal control in parks.

The members of the sub committee are Libby Robertson, Mike Meredith, Neil Turner, and Robert Hogan. BLSA will also be part of the consultation.

Please notify Libby 0428 103 308 if you are interested in being involved or have particular issues.

Rob will be unable to attend the Presentation Night as he will be managing a Ski Lodge at Thredbo during the winter (poor fellow) and so we presented him with a basket of goodies at the meeting in recognition of the time and effort he put into the report.

### Outdoor Adventure Skills

#### South Australia's newest Adventure Activity location

An open invitation to attend a site orientation to utilise Outdoor Adventure Skill's new ropes course.

Why: Any suitable qualified/experienced instructor/facilitator will be able to access this course to facilitate your own program. You or your company will need to enter into an agreement with OAS to do so and attend a site orientation.

Who: Any educational professional who uses activity as a learning tool

When: To be confirmed, depending on demand (May 24th proposed)

Where: Blackfellows Road, Kuitpo. Approx 10 mins from Mt Compass (follow signs to Paintball Sports)

Elements: 10m climbing wall, multi vine, 400m flying fox, high wild wozy, heebee geebee, trapeze, swinging tyres and dangle duo.

Cost: Free

Course Availability: Operating as of 1 April 2006

RSVP: To enquire please e-mail to <admin@outdooradventure.com.au>, specifying your preferred dates

### Useful Dates

**Bushwalking Leadership Courses** BLSA phone 8232 9411

Bushwalking Assistant Leadership Course: Wirrabara, Mon 10–Sunday 16 July

Day walk Leaders Induction Course

Course 2 Begins Tuesday night June 6 6–9pm, Wakefield Street

Course 3 Pt Augusta Aquatics Centre October, school holidays

Bushwalking Basic Skills

Begins Wed August 22 6–9pm

**Canoe Courses** Canoe SA phone 8240 3294 for dates of the next course.

Basic Skills Courses monthly

Rolling courses

Leadership Award Inductions

Canoe/kayak leadership/participation opportunities

Do you need to log trips as participants or leaders to complete your award? Adelaide Canoe club has an extensive programme of trips:

May 20–21 Boat/Pipeclay Creek, Chowilla region, Frank 8595 1020

June 10–12 Pike River, Loxton area, David 8271 6354

July 2 Day trip Onkaparinga River, David 8271 6354

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## Cycling as part of an Outdoor Education Programme

Wayne Hooper

As a recent convert to cycling as a personal recreation option, including three extended overnight expeditions, I have recently thought more deeply about cycling as part of an outdoor education programme. The fact that more bikes are sold in Australia each year than cars seems to indicate that a large number of people own a bike. Thus, some students exposed to a cycling programme may continue the activity in later life. It may conceivably be an activity that people access more easily, post exposure to an Outdoor Education programme, than the traditional activities of bushwalking, canoeing and rockclimbing.

Good reasons for promoting the activity are that it is a good form of exercise, it is low impact, and it provides a good medium for travelling in many places. If people exposed to cycling were inspired to use bikes for commuting and recreation that would be a wonderful spin off in reducing greenhouse gases.

Evidence of the popularity of the activity can be seen on weekends on the cycle paths along the Linear Park, the metropolitan beaches, the South Eastern Freeway and the Southern Expressway, to mention a few in the metropolitan area. Trails throughout the Adelaide Hills (particularly in forest reserves) provide the challenge and the opportunity for recreation away from urban areas. The Riesling and Mawson Trails provide scope for extended trips. I am aware that some schools run cycle expeditions on Kangaroo Island and other parts of the state and that the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme promotes cycle touring as a good expedition option.



Wayne and Libby on a recent tour (See p 6)

As part of our Recreation Degree at Mawson Lakes we hire bikes from the local bike shop at Victor Harbor and cycle along the bikeway which extends from Goolwa to the Bluff. I know that Bike SA has a fleet of bikes which are available for hire and is a good source of advice on bike related matters. I am aware that some schools use BikeAbout and are very pleased with their service and that the Linear Park Bike Hire would be a good source of bikes for a trip along the Linear Park. Cycle Gallery has a fleet of bikes for hire and runs tours for schools. I would be interested in hearing from anyone who has used cycling as part of their programme and who could share their experiences with others considering cycling as an alternative.



Seen at the Sea weekend in March

Above: an 'all in' rescue

Right: Scott Polley (standing) and Peter Thiele at the surf session at Middleton

### Useful dates

...continued

July 23 Hypurna Creek, Chowilla Region, Frank 8595 1020

August 6 Finnis River, near Currency Creek, Rob 8339 2835

August 19–20 Gomer's Retreat near Swan Reach, 8449 6602

Check the Canoe SA Web site calendar for other trips later in the year <[www.sa.canoe.org.au](http://www.sa.canoe.org.au)>.



## The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour

The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour represents a wide variety of stories—from mountain sports, to culture and environment—the festival features an outstanding collection of mountain and adventure films from around the world.

Mercury Cinema: Tuesday Night 23 May at 7:00 pm

Films include

### 1 Bug Out 10 minutes

Focus: Bouldering youth

Bug Out is a profile of inspiring 10 year old climbing phenomenon Cidada Jenerik.

### 2 Hockey night in Ladakh 9 minutes

Focus: Culture, sport

Middle aged Canadian Embassy staff living in India, fly to Ladakh to play a Hockey Tournament

### 3 Sur le fil des 4000 50 minutes

Focus: Alpine climbing

Two French climbers set out to climb all 82 summits above 4000 metres in the Alps

On their 67th summit, destiny sets in.

### 4 The Retrospective—Red Bull Rampage 17 minutes

Focus: Free Ride Mountain Biking

A candid look back at the birth of Free Ride Mountain Biking from 2001 to 2004.

### 5 Rebels with Paws 3 minutes

Focus: Climbing dogs

A Jack Russell's coming of age on rock.

### 6 Mexico BASE 6 minutes

Focus: BASE jumping

Wacular free falls in Mexico.

### 7 Parallelojams 18 minutes

Focus: Crack Climbing

An hilarious and inspiring look at modern desert crack climbing hosted by Timmy O'Neill

### 8 Middle Kaweah 21 minutes

Focus: Kayaking

The world's best kayakers embark on the first descent into the Sierra Nevada's river, the Middle Kaweah.

### 9 The Tangerine Dream 17 minutes

Focus: Ski Snowboard, BASE jumping

Ski, Snowboard and BASE jump in Alaska, Europe and Utah.

More details and tickets are available from Paddy Pallin (Adelaide Store) or

Paddy Pallin Online <[www.paddypallin.com.au](http://www.paddypallin.com.au)>

Tickets \$30.00 each, Paddy Pallin Club Members \$27.00

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## OEASA Financial report

### Phil Noble, OEASA Treasurer

#### 1 January 2005 to 1 January 2006

Balance brought forward from end 2004 \$22973.33

Balance at 31 Dec 2005 \$26082.24

#### Income

Bank Interest \$313.05

Award Dinner \$1707.50

Auction \$485.00

Membership: Individual \$2040.00

Student \$0.00

Family \$140.00

School \$1750.00

Corporate \$560.00

Organisation \$350.00

Conference \$2,920.00

Miscellaneous \$12.53

**Total \$10278.08**

#### Expenditure

Government bank charges \$166.23

Newsletter costs (printing/postage) \$599.23

Membership (CEASA, OCA) \$693.00

Public Liability Insurance \$344.85

Award Dinner \$1750.00

Teleconference \$61.16

Conference \$2165.20

Journals \$1312.50

Miscellaneous \$77.00

**Total \$7,169.17**

#### Summary

Total Income \$10278.08

Less total Expenditure \$7169.17

Profit \$3108.91

Association funds at the end of 2005 stand at \$26082.24

## Gourmet Cycling

### Wayne Hooper and Libby Robertson

During the summer holidays we had the opportunity to cycle on the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail which runs between Wangaratta and Bright in Victoria's High Country.

Even though we struck a heat wave, early morning departures and the cooler nights at the higher altitude made for a pleasant time, except on the last night when sleeping in a tent was rather stifling.

The surface of the trail is sealed all the way and made cycling on our mountain bikes with four panniers a breeze. Some day-trippers were on road bikes and seemed to cope very well although there are a few places where they need to be wary of loose gravel.

We started our trip at Wangaratta in the early afternoon having left our car (for a small fee) safely at one of the caravan parks in the town. Wangaratta, and indeed all the towns in the area, are geared up to serve the needs of cyclists and the locals are very supportive of cycling as a tourist draw card. Dean Woods Cycles hires out bikes and accessories for a reasonable fee and Bus-a-Bike provides a taxi service for riders and their bikes. This service will rescue tired riders or take cyclists back to their vehicle at the completion of a ride. At Myrtleford the Bike Shop happily did minor adjustments to Libby's wayward gears for a small donation.

At Everton Station 26 km from the start, which like all the rest stops along the trail has a shelter, water tank and toilets, we decided to continue on to Beechworth because we were feeling great, as the trail had been quite flat so far. The trail to Beechworth is a 16 km side trail which is very scenic, travelling through a mixture of bushland and farmland. It is by far the steepest uphill part of the trail and our decision to continue on during the hottest part of the day was in hindsight, not a wise decision. Our original plan was to stay at the small town of Everton just off the trail which has a general store and takeaway, a pub which serves excellent meals and a very nice caravan park which we stayed at on the return journey. Nevertheless we had a pleasant stay at the Beechworth Caravan Park and enjoyed a leisurely breakfast at the famous Beechworth Bakery before making the welcome downhill run back to the main trail.

We continued on to Myrtleford a distance of 52 km. This involves a not too demanding climb over Taylors Gap. Gapsteds winery, which has wine tastings, is right on the trail and is ample reward for passing over the gap. An excellent café meal and a cool night at the caravan park topped off a great day. We also patronised one of the bakeries in Myrtleford, which we highly recommend.

The next day was our shortest ride, to Bright, a distance of only 30 km. On the way one passes Boyntons Winery which provides wine tastings and light meals. Unfortunately we missed calling in because on both occasions we passed we were too early as we started



Wayne at the start of the trail at Wangaratta

early in the morning to avoid the heat of the day. Others told us that we should have lingered till they opened at 10:00 am. Another highlight, well worth a visit, is the berry farm which sells magnificent berry ice cream. Bright was a great place to spend a leisurely half day and we would recommend the icecreams there as well. At the caravan park our tent was pitched under a magnificent shady tree and this, with the bonus of a cool night because of the altitude, made for a relaxing stay.

In the morning we left at 6:45 am which was a good move as it was New Year's Eve and it turned out that it was the hottest New Year's Eve that Victoria had ever experienced since records have been kept. We rode to Everton, a distance of 58 km, and spent the afternoon in the pool at the caravan park, followed by a good pub meal and an excellent band which entertained us till we dozed off in our tent nearby.

On our last day we cycled via back roads to the gourmet centre of Victoria, Milawa. There are several gourmet attractions in Milawa including the Olive Shop, the Cheese Factory and Milawa Mustards. There is also an excellent café but our favourite attraction is Brown Brothers Winery where we had lunch at the Epicurian Centre which serves an appropriate glass of wine with each course. After a leisurely meal we cycled via Oxley Flats Road to Wangaratta, a distance of 36 km for the day.

We would highly recommend this rail trail to any cycling enthusiast. It was obvious that it is a very popular tourist activity as there were many people of all ages and abilities enjoying riding on the trail, even though the weather was rather hot.

On a previous trip to Melbourne we enjoyed a day trip on the 38 km Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail which runs through a scenic and historic area along the Yarra River Valley. Our recent experiences on these Victorian Rail Trails and the Riesling Trail in South Australia underline the potential of such facilities for recreation and tourism.

# Outdoor Educators Association of South Australia Outdoor Education Award

For people who have demonstrated a high level of involvement and commitment to Outdoor Education.  
Nominations to be received by May 16. To be presented June 16 at the Certificate Presentation Dinner.

## Candidate

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Category

- Primary Education award
- Secondary Education award [Year 12 Outdoor Education]
- TAFE Outdoor Recreation award
- Tertiary Outdoor Recreation award
- Tertiary Outdoor Education award
- Certificate of Merit in Outdoor Education/Service to Outdoor Education

## Statement Addressing Criteria

1 What is the evidence to support that the nominee has a high level of interest in Outdoor Education?

2 What is the evidence of significant involvement in one or more outdoor activities or environment care activities?

3 What is the evidence to support that the nominee has demonstrated leadership qualities?

4 What is the evidence to support demonstrated environmental awareness?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nominee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Organisation/Institution

**Address to:** OEASA Secretary, Libby Robertson, Room P1-29, UniSA (Mawson Lakes Campus), Mawson Lakes Blvd,  
Mawson Lakes 5095 <libby.robertson@unisa.edu.au>

**Outdoor Educators' Association Of South Australia**

**ABN 26 588 063 701**

**Membership form**

**Membership subscription for period 28 Feb 2006 to 28 Feb 2007**

**Type of Membership:**

Renewal  New member

Individual \$60

Student \$45

School/Organisation/Corporate/Family \$70

(Please tick appropriate boxes Note that we are not charging GST)

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. For two extra copies add \$40, etc.

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

Members will receive:

- OEASA newsletters *Outdoor News* (four per year)
- AJOE (*Australian Journal of Outdoor Education*) (two per year)
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Individual/student/family members: what is the School/Organisation you are connected with?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Forward to:**

OEASA Treasurer  
Phil Noble  
PO Box 104  
Morgan SA 5320