

Outdoor News

Journal of the Outdoor Educators' Association of South Australia

Volume 26 No 1, October 2007

From the Chairman

Mike Meredith

As another bushwalking season slowly draws to an end and the ominous prospect of another summer in drought conditions looms ahead it is interesting to look at our role as outdoor educators and what we can do to help in these difficult times. As part of our teaching others there should always be an element of sustainability in our programs and this should perhaps include the concept of needs versus wants, and should recognise the value of our limited resources and in particular, reference to water, the concept of our dependence on it, and the need to use it wisely. Students choosing to bring or carry insufficient water on a journey soon learn its true value and are unlikely to make the same mistake again. In fact, they become very guarded of wasting water and it is amazing how little they can use when it is not on tap or easily replaced. Learning about the body's need for water and replacing lost fluids is important, as is learning how to recognise the signs of low fluid levels in the body, e.g. quantity of fluid passed and colour. Hygiene and cleanliness with minimal water can also be addressed, but of greatest significance is the concept of use what you need, not what you want.

When dealing with water based programs on the river or lakes it is important for students to understand where the water comes from and where it all goes. This is difficult sitting in a canoe with water all about, but some research before, during and after will go a long way to helping our students or clients get a better grasp of the delicate balance that exists in nature and the devastating impact the drought and our water use practices are having on the river systems. It is imperative that they come away with a sense of awe for the rivers and lakes and an understanding of what is happening and how they can help

both in a practical manner when in these environments, and on the bigger scene at home as water users and voters in a democratic society.

As part of the bigger picture programs can help facilitate learning and practices about water use that minimize

waste at all levels, and if these practices and knowledge are transferred home we are making some impact on reducing our own footprint and toward developing a society striving for a sustainable future.

On another note, it was great to attend the 15th National Outdoor Education Conference 20–23 September at Ballarat, Victoria. The event was run by VOEA and was a great success. With 12 South Aussies present and 250 all up it was an excellent opportunity to catch up with educators from around the globe who deal specifically with the 'outdoors'. There were many sessions and key notes which were a delight to hear. Well done to Dale Hobbs and Libby Robertson and Wayne Hooper from OEASA who presented great sessions at the conference. Some highlights for me were the Risk Management Day, mind you with my Year 12 self reliant coming up it was rather daunting, and an address by Jesse Martin who at 16 was the youngest person to sail non stop around the world, truly inspirational. As always, there were many presentations and you can only attend some. If anyone is interested in any of the presentations, information is



Continued on page 3...

Contents

From the Chairman	1	National Conference 2007	6
From the Editor	2	SAREA Rescue Workshop	8
News and notes	3	No picnic on Mt Kenya	10
Vale Kris Mosher	4		

Outdoor News is supported by



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

From the Editor

Peter Carter

In 1986 I spent a year on the staff of The Heights School. One of my colleagues, although with an entirely different range of subjects, was one Kris Mosher. Our paths crossed occasionally in subsequent years, and I knew Kris as a tireless worker for the outdoors and the place in it for young people.

Sadly, Kris is no longer with us, and this issue includes tributes from people who had the good fortune to know her better than I did. We have lost a friend, but I have no doubt the work and enthusiasm she started will long continue.

Also in this issue we have a report of the recent national conference, and Scott Polley shares some images of the recent SAREA Rescue Workshop. Luke Adams and friends have been climbing in Kenya, and he has an interesting account, with pictures. Other tidbits are here, too.

One thing missing from this issue is the membership form. I omitted it so that I had a multiple of four pages. but it will be back next time, with new dates.

One of my general rules is that if an article is available on the Web then I will publish the link to it, and not the article itself. (And if you're reading the email edition of *Outdoor News* the links are live.) That's the case with three items suggested for this issue.

The first concerns the contentious Tasmanian pulp mill, and was published in *The Monthly* a while back. Unlike most of the magazine's content, this one's available without subscription at www.themontly.com.au/tm/?q=node/512. Lots of background that hasn't appeared in the dailies.

Our drought is news overseas. In the UK *The Observer* has a piece by Claire Scobie on Australian farmers attempting to cope with the dry. It's at observer.guardian.co.uk/magazine/story/0,,2140121,00.html.



Closer to home, Brisbane's Courier-Mail has 'A beautiful big back yard' available at www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,23739,22198212-27197,00.html. Darryl Low Choy contrasts our concerns for our back yards for our regard for the hinterlands and beyond.

A cartoon you may appreciate is to be found at cectic.com/056.html.

If you're looking for a job as an expedition leader for secondary school students you may care to note that World Challenge is recruiting. Details are at www.worldchallenge.com.au.

Every now and then people send me photographs embedded in Word files. (The World Challenge info was one such.) I wish they wouldn't. Apart from the fact that I don't use Word at all in preparing *Outdoor News*, I have to extract the images before editing them with Photoshop. The better way to send images is to put them, as JPEGs or TIFFs, into a folder with a text file of captions, and then make a ZIP archive of the folder. Compact, and the images are directly accessible.



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 2007

Chair: Mike Meredith

Treasurer: Phil Noble

Secretary: Libby Robertson

Assistant Secretary: Clay Hunter

Editor and webmaster: Peter Carter

Sub-Editors: Wayne Hooper, Clay Hunter

Committee: Nerilee Flint, Scott Polley, Peter Kellett,

Catherine Jenner, Andrew Govan, Alex Thomas, Nick

Hartog, Julie Englehardt, Mick Dennis, Dale Hobbs

Chairman's report

...continued

being posted on the conference Web sites under proceedings (VOEA Web site: <www.voea.vic.edu.au>) and any papers already submitted are available in electronic copy. Please let me know if you need more information.

Whilst at the conference Wayne and I were able to speak to members of the Outdoor Education Australia Network and confirm our commitment to sharing and developing this network. Of note is the desire to develop the network into an incorporated body down the track, and further sharing opportunities. If you are interested in working on this network please let us know. The next national conference is still to be confirmed but West Australia is a possibility in 2009 or 2010, which should be good.

Looking to next year, the last committee meeting for 2007 is planned for Friday 9 November. At the meeting we would hope to plan the major dates and activities for 2008, and a warm invitation is extended to anyone interested in taking part. Please phone for details if interested in attending on 8269 5693.

It is as always a pleasure to be of service

Yours in the outdoors

Mike Meredith

Quote for the issue

Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever. The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises. The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course. All streams flow to the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again.

Source: Ecclesiastes 1:4-7 (King Solomon)



Important dates 2007

Seminar Day (BLSA): 4 November

OEASA committee meeting: 9 November (venue to be confirmed)

Deadline for newsletter articles: 14 December

Send items to either Peter Carter <pcarter@acslink.net

> or Wayne Hooper <Waynelib@bigpond.com

October 2007

News and notes

More on risk management

Rob Hogan

In the July newsletter article 'Risk Management', which presented VOEA information on the topic there was reference to a paper written by me, 'The Crux of Risk Management in Outdoor Programs', but I think the paragraph describing it gave a different impression of the focus than what it is. The material was presented directly from the VOEA Web site and I've now asked them to make a couple of changes in the interest of giving an accurate description. The main problem is that a paragraph from my introduction to the paper was used to set the context, but without the two paragraphs above the words 'this description' at the end of the first sentence could have been interpreted as referring to the title of the paper.

The paragraphs above the one included in the description had examples of the very broad definitions of risk management, based on the Standards Australia and NZ risk management framework, developed by organisations with the focus on protecting themselves from harm (but not necessarily the people in or serviced by them). The central thesis of my paper is that such definitions distract us from the 'crux' of risk management for outdoor programs, prevention of death and disabling injury to participants and leaders. I think failure to see this distraction means getting bogged down in endless 'busy work', and possibly not reducing the real risks at all! The full paper can be sourced at <www.voea.vic.edu.au/riskmanagement/TheCruxofRiskManagement_Hogan_AJOE_2002.pdf>.

Suggested new version

'The Crux of Risk Management in Outdoor Programs', Rob Hogan (*Australian Journal of Outdoor Education*, Vol 6 No 2, 2002) The possibility of serious physical harm seems very much tacked on the end in definitions of risk management based on the Standards Australia and NZ risk management framework. In this paper the writer argues that in a hierarchy of adverse consequences, death or serious injury to persons involved is right at the top of things we want to avoid. Minimising the risk of death and disabling injury should be the number one outcome of any risk management plan or strategy in outdoor programs.

Vale Kris Mosher

Wayne Hooper

The Outdoor Education community of South Australia is sad to hear of the passing of Kris Mosher, a Life Member of OEASA, who finally succumbed to cancer. Kris was an enthusiastic, passionate Outdoor Educator who touched many lives through her work in schools, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Earth Education, and Bushwalking Leadership SA. Her flashing smile and her boundless energy will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing Kris.

A message from Kris's sisters

Early Tuesday morning Kris quietly began her journey to the other side. It was a quiet and peaceful transition. She will be missed by all of us who loved and knew her. You can check the Web site below for her obituary and guest book: <www.karrersimpsonfuneralhome.com>.

The family would enjoy hearing from those of you that shared her life. Some of you we know, many of you we have only heard about. If you wish to post a message or a picture it would mean a lot to us.

Memorials may be directed to:

The Institute for Earth Education
PO Box 41
St Agnes, South Australia 5097

Obituary

Kristine Elizabeth Mosher, age 56, of Fort Gratiot Township died Tuesday, September 18, 2007. Kristine was born on June 22, 1951 in Port Huron to George and Camilla Mosher. She attended Michigan State University and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education in 1973. Immediately following her graduation, she moved to Australia where she was a teacher and outdoor expedition leader for over thirty years. Also during that time, she earned a Master's Degree in Outdoor Recreation from Aurora University. Kristine served as the Australian branch coordinator for the Institute for Earth Education, Inc and shared her love of the natural world with countless youth on two continents. Kristine was an outdoor enthusiast and environmentalist travelling the world extensively. She once crewed on a Tall Ship, cycled the Isle of Man and backpacked in the mountains of Australia, USA and Tibet. She was a devoted daughter, sister and aunt. Recently she took great pleasure boating throughout the Great Lakes and tributaries with her dad. She also enjoyed kayaking with her nieces, and treasured the time each of her three nephews visited her in Australia. Kristine will always be remembered for her positive attitude and caring nature toward others.

Excerpts from tributes posted by colleagues in SA underline her many qualities

Smith Family

A wonderful person has passed this way. Those who took the time to stop and meet her were blessed. Those that did not meet her will still be touched by the legacy that she has left behind her.

Judith Roberts

I am so sad today to hear that my friend has died... We met nearly 30 years ago as teachers in the same high school... While thinking about her, I am remembering what fun we had together and how she introduced me and later my family to her/our world with some really great camping and skiing holidays in the Australian High Plains

Richard Keynes

We have lost a true Guardian of all things living, no matter how big or small. Kris held a high spot in my heart, From when I met here in 1997 at my young age of 14 she took me under her warm and loving wing guiding me through the troubled times and shining on me through the happier times. Kris your guidance, perseverance and friendship has helped make me who I am today, I will never forget the great times we had away in our true spirited home, the Bush.

Helen Goldney

Kris was my teacher in Earth Education. Her enthusiasm for all living things was inspirational. A Muir Trek with Kris was an experience never to be forgotten. I was privileged to know her.

Rod Quintrell

Kris was a wonderful woman, superb teacher, inspirational mentor, and good friend. I will always remember Kris for the laughs, the dog on the kayak, the Muir treks, the expeditions, the positive attitude and the support.

Scott Polley

Sad to hear of Kristine's passing, but celebrating a life well lived. It was a privilege to have shared a small piece of that life. She was a great servant of the planet and the people within it. The South Australian Outdoor Education community will miss her greatly.

Gordon Lehmann

It's a sad day for the world with the passing of Kris. The memory of her enthusiasm, inspiration and sense of responsibility for the planet are things that we will all carry forever.

Nick Hartog

Thank you Kris, Your passion for Earth education will live on in South Australia. I will be thinking of you next time I am on an Earthwalk, listening to nature's symphony.

Catherine Jenner

Kris Mosher personalised Earth Education for me and helped me find its path. I can only hope that in following it even a little way that a pinch of her wholehearted enthusiasm, good natured humour, productiveness and that little bit of magic has rubbed off and lodged in my Earthkeeper's pouch.

Bill Coutts


Kris, From our first meeting at a Steve Van Matre Earth

Education workshop at Arbury Park in the early '80s our paths have crossed and intertwined for nearly three decades with Earth Education being the glue and the map. You were (and still are) such an inspiration with your passion for education, adventure, making a difference in kids' lives and for protecting and preserving the natural world. You modelled the actions I was aspiring for in my own life. I loved the challenges we shared of making Earth Education conferences and gatherings happen in Australia and the US. Your legacy is that you will continue to inspire the people you have known and whose lives you touched. You will touch the lives of people you haven't even met through educators you have mentored and who now continue to offer earth education programs. Knowing you has enriched my life.

To sum it up, this from Steve Van Matre whose revolutionary approach to Outdoor/Environmental Education enriched so many lives:

Steve Van Matre

Kris Mosher had a certain sparkle about her. There's no other way to put it. She didn't try to light up any situation, but her positive energy would radiate forth on its own and contribute to a more productive dynamic wherever she went. We were exceedingly fortunate in

The Institute for Earth Education that one of the places she chose to go was an Earth Education workshop, then my graduate program, a conference, a trainer's session, and finally, to volunteer in a key organisational role. Kris knew how to get 'down-to-business' (rather than busy-ness) in any situation, and she applied those skills to building Earth Education in her marvelous adopted country of Australia. When she took on the role of coordinating the office for that branch of the institute, it gave our programs there an immediate international connection and an indefatigable presence for those interested in our work. For years to come, thousands of learners of all ages will continue reaping the rewards from the effort Kris put into facilitating our programs. Kris left all of us a legacy to emulate: positive energy applied practically and diligently with good cheer. That was Kris Mosher. She had such an abundance of those qualities that it was easy to forget how her health was declining these past years. In fact, when she visited our international headquarters last summer, she had to remind us, in her inimitable way, "I am sick, you know." But I'm not sure we really quite believed her. It was still the Kris we knew, shining out at us, piercing observations and all, and ever ready to do some work and make a difference. Gosh, she did. 

Media release

Noosa North Shore Beach closure protecting birds

From 6 August the area of beach on the lower Noosa North Shore, known locally as the 'Frying Pan', will be permanently closed to vehicles, dogs and horse riders. In addition, boats and people would not be able to visit the sand islands in that area between 1 October and 31 March.

The closure is being undertaken by Council for two reasons: firstly to provide a vehicle free area on the Noosa North Shore beach so people can follow leisure pursuits in safety, and secondly to protect migratory and resident shorebirds and terns.

Up to 40,000 migratory birds of 43 species may call Noosa 'home' at any one time. One of the migratory shorebirds, called the Bar-tailed Godwit, flies 11,000km without stopping from here to Alaska to breed during the Australian winter months. It is the longest known non-stop flight of migratory land birds. To fuel the flight the Bar-tailed Godwits gorge themselves while here in order to build up a thick layer of fat.

Noosa North Shore Working Group chair and Deputy Mayor Frank Pardon said today that scientific studies revealed disturbances caused by vehicles, people and dogs can have a disastrous effect on migratory species, as each time they take flight they use up critical energy. "This means the birds might not gain enough condition for migration and/or breeding," said Cr Pardon.

Several of the species are protected under international agreements, including the China Australia Migratory Bird Agreement, the Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention).

An information brochure relating to the shorebirds and terns has been prepared by Council and can be obtained by phoning 5449 5162.

Good to see that sometimes environmental issues win out. 

For Sale

Rockclimbing rack: outstanding condition, most has never been used and a few pieces have been used once. Mainly Black Diamond.

Has been stored in climate controlled cellar for 10 years!

Comprising:

Cams size 2, 1, 0.75, 0.5

2 x hex

1 x figure 8

2 x ATC

16 wires

1 nut tool

8 quickdraws (6 short, 2 long, inc 16 krabs)

And 8 more krabs

New would be approx \$1370: I'm selling the lot for \$900.

Scarpa all leather women's boots, size 41, worn on one 5 day trip: truly outstanding condition. Selling for \$100.

If interested please make initial contact via email Nerilee.Flint@unisa.edu.au

National Conference 2007

Wayne Hooper

The National Conference was stimulating and varied with many presentations of interest, and the pre-conference sessions on Risk Management provided valuable insights on the issues.

Preston Cline emphasized that we should be highlighting the consequences of not exposing students to adventure activities rather than be preoccupied with highlighting the risks, the what ifs?

He made the point that in many cases making more rules may not be the answer to reducing the risks because it is often the behaviour of the dependants that is the risk and some students knowingly do not obey the rules. He also made the point that the concept of certainty is a myth and that we as humans tend to deny uncertainty.

Preston provided some valuable insights suggesting that people's response to danger/threats is physiological (chemical response) not cognitive, i.e. our brains are wired to fight, flight or freeze when we perceive risk, which he suggests is the human reaction to uncertainty.

Preston says that generally in a modern context fight, flight, freeze is not an appropriate response to a threat. Instead we can increase people's competencies in navigating uncertainty. As we increase competency in an environment we increase the ability to manage fear in that environment.

In conclusion, Preston made the point that:

- we need to expose students to new challenges
- we need new ways to respond to fear
- what is the consequence of not exposing students to OE?
- Outdoor Education programs are not 'safe', they are designed to be challenging
- We do expose the students to risk but a well planned Outdoor Education Curriculum manages the risk.

Grant Davidson presented a paper on the factors which led to Outdoor Education Incidents. A study had identified the factors which resulted in an incident where a significant injury occurs. He acknowledged that some incidents were error free and were not due to planning or leadership lapses. In all cases where there was an identifiable predictable inadequacy, there was a mixture of instructor and management errors which contributed to the incident.

He used the usual categories that we identify in Risk Management, i.e. equipment, people and the environment.

In relation to the leader, he identified that we can identify unintentional acts and intentional acts that may contribute to an incident. He identified several overload issues in relation to leaders:

- poor concentration/fatigue
- misapplication of skills
- lack of skills
- poor judgement
- failure to use judgement

- sabotage
- management decisions
- misdirected motivation/attitude.

As part of the analysis of risk we need to consider that leaders may need to make decisions spontaneously, which requires a high level of skill and experience or there may in other cases be situations where decisions can be made taking all the time necessary.

When designing a program it is important that the activity must suit the skill level of the group and the leaders taking all factors into consideration.

Clare Dallat emphasized that clear communication to the parents on the nature of a school activity is essential. She made the point that in most cases the parents are unaware of the risks involved in outdoor programs and this leaves the leaders and the organisers open to backlash if there is an incident.

We need to realise that if there is a serious injury or death:

- it will attract media attention
- we live in a climate of 'blamism'
- there is an increasing disengagement with the 'bush'
- 'Worksafe' involvement is inevitable
- we risk society and public outrage.

The first question we need to ask is 'Do the clients know what they are signing up for?'

It must be acknowledged that level of risk is not objective and that different people have different perceptions. This must be considered when informing parents.

We need to acknowledge that we cannot guarantee safety, but we will take all reasonable care. One of the components of Outdoor Education programs is challenge and risk, operating outside one's comfort zone, venturing into the unknown.

Claire used a Risk v Benefit model based on the assumption that people are willing to suffer harm if they feel it is justified or it serves other goals.

Familiar (more acceptable) v unfamiliar risks (less acceptable)

Are we making it familiar to parents?

Voluntary v Involuntary

Imposed risks are less acceptable

Control v Lack of Control

Ability to participate in decision making

Fair v Unfair

Risks to sick, children, poor

Personal v Statistical

Perceived and real risk, i.e. what is more dangerous, travel to the camp or the activity?

Dread v Common

Plane crash v car crash

Shark attack v accident at home

Some strategies for improving risk communication:

- Create trust
- Sustainable relationships
- Honesty and openness: show pictures and display

information in true light, i.e. extreme weather, steep terrain, struggling with a back pack

- Sincerity
- Acknowledge the emotional reality of parents' fears
- Acknowledge uncertainty, the program isn't without some risk. Don't fall into the trap of telling them what they want to hear
- Outline the objectives of the program, the risks and the controls to minimise the risk.

The Keynotes and sessions were particularly varied. I found the keynote by Noel Gough interesting. He emphasized the challenges facing modern day educators in this ever changing world and the relevance of Outdoor Education while highlighting the threat of the 'back to basics' movement in relation to curriculum. Jesse Martin, the young lad who at 18 years of age sailed around the world solo, nonstop and unassisted was inspirational and had us all on the edge of our seats. If his book *Lionheart* is as good as his presentation it is a must read. John Marsden, the author, entertained us over dinner on Saturday night. Those of you who were unable to attend and wish to access conference proceedings can find them on the Outdoor Education Australia Web site.

The Crisis Response Conference held after the main conference was most worthwhile. Through role play we looked at the procedures to limit the collateral damage

On Deck

A publication of the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure for the South Australian recreational boating industry

Wayne Hooper

I recently picked up the July edition of this newsletter while registering a trailer. It has quite a bit of information which is relevant to anyone using the SA waterways. To receive the newsletter by e-mail contact <dtci.reboat-ing@saugov.sa.gov.au>.

One item of interest is that an owner of a jet ski was fined \$1800 for allowing two 14 year olds to operate a jet ski without a boat operator's licence, which is an offence.

Reference was made to several accidents in the Murray earlier this year related to the water level 'while many people are aware of the risks on the water, they often underestimate the dangers of sandbanks, shallow water and submerged objects.'

A video resource pack designed to assist schools to run water safety education sessions is available: phone 1800 809 780 or <www.pbf.asn.au>.

Also of note is that from 1 Feb 2009 only digital 406 MHz EPIRBS will be detected by satellite. Negotiations are under way to legislate for the carriage of the above EPIRBS to begin on July 1 2008 to ensure efficient change-over. Analogue 121.5 MHz EPIRBS will not be detected by satellite after 1 February 2009. Arrangements have been made for Battery World to collect obsolete beacons for environmental disposal.

from a major incident on a field trip. In the role play we modelled the response to the crisis in the field and the management of the incident from the school. This involved managing the communication to the leaders in the field, to police and emergency services, the staff at the school, the family of the victims, the media and the school council. The effectiveness of this process will determine the best possible response in the field and limit the repercussions of the incident. If the incident results in a death the effect on the next of kin, the remainder of the group and the staff will be enormous and strategies need to be in place to deal with such a tragedy appropriately and sensitively.

As part of this conference we were given a comprehensive manual which could be used to develop a crisis response procedure in an organisation to maximise the effectiveness of an organisations response in the case of a critical incident. If an organisation which has groups in the field has a formalised procedure which empowers those who are likely to be part of an emergency response, both in the field and back at the office, it would ensure the incident is handled effectively.

More information is available on the conference Web site: <www.outdooreducationaustralia.org.au/conferences/2007/>.



Gold nuggets

The QORF Web site at <www.qorf.org.au> has a comprehensive list of books and DVDs available for purchase. Categories include outdoor instruction, outdoor guide books, adventure curriculum, challenge rope courses, Games and initiatives, research publications, useful facilitation tools, conference proceedings, outdoor texts, trail construction and design.

Worth a look! Two examples below.

Gold Nuggets—Readings for Experiential Education

More than just another book of readings, this is the culmination of a project that took over four years to compile. The readings—over 350 poems, essays, stories, quotes and songs—have been collected from Adventure Education leaders. Headings such as Values, Commitment and Leadership help identify pieces that relate directly to what a group may be experiencing, prompting the group to view itself in a larger perspective. Edited by Jim Schoel and Mike Stratton

Price: QORF Member \$55.00, Non Member: \$61.00 (incl. GST) plus postage.

Expedition Kayaking on Sea and Open Water

Expedition Kayaking is another fantastic book by Derek Hutchinson.

This guide provides everything you need to know about paddling, seamanship, rescue techniques, and more. This is vital information for individual kayakers and expedition leaders alike.

Expedition Kayaking takes you on a comprehensive tour of the art of ocean kayaking.

SAREA Rescue Workshop

Scott Polley

Trainee and now qualified Instructor, Duncan Henderson shares his knowledge of autoloc devices.

Trainee instructors setting up at Muesli Buttress, Far Crag.



SAREA Rescue Seminar 3 June 2007

Nine people attended this rescue seminar during a timely break in the bleaker weather. Candidates were assessed on their ability to escape their system, to raise climbers not able to progress, to set up a load releasing abseil and use it to manage a jammed descending device, and a partner assisted abseil. Most candidates were nearing the end of their training, or had only this seminar to complete to finalise their instructor award.

Of interest, you may also want to act!

Environment Minister
Hon Gail Gago,

Re: mining in Arkaroola Sanctuary

I am concerned that the mining company Marathon Resources states its intention to mine Uranium at Mount Gee, in the heart of the Arkaroola Sanctuary—a region of immense biological significance that must be protected from this type of invasive mining operation.

I am alarmed that this mining group claims to have state government backing for it. On the company website it states that they have essentially obtained the approval of the state government.

This project is being proposed in the heart of South Australia's premier private wilderness sanctuary. This is an internationally famous eco-tourism destination of immense importance. I have spent many weeks bushwalking in the northern Flinders Ranges including extensive trips in the proposed area around Mt Gee, Mt Painter and the granite mountains around The Armchair.

If the company's claim is true, please retract any support you may be giving this project, and, if not, publicly declare your government is not supporting it. I am deeply concerned at the damage to Arkaroola Sanctuary if mining goes ahead there.

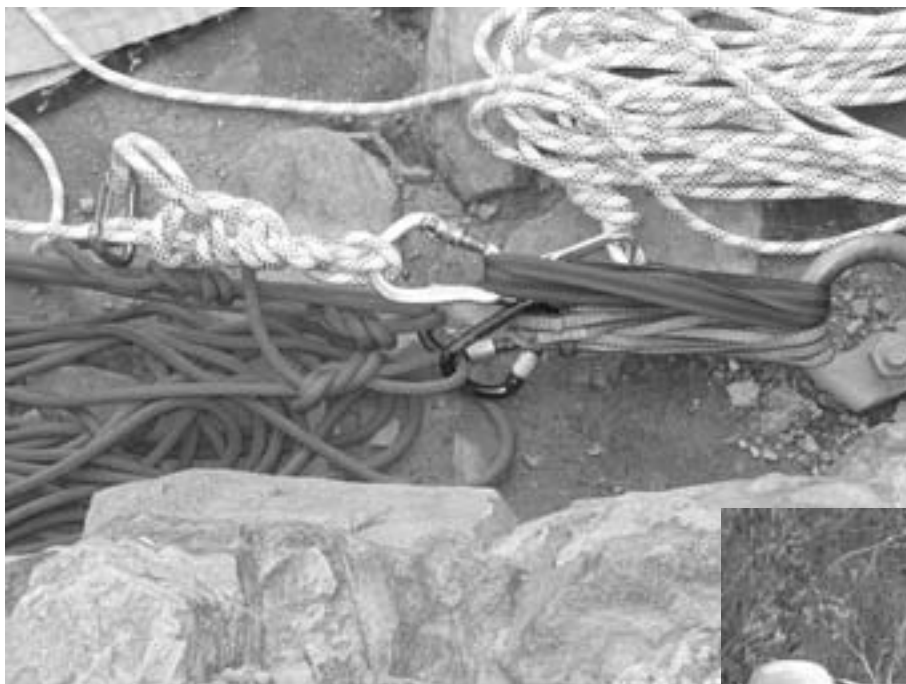
This is one of the prize areas of our state. Have you seen the film *The Tracker*? It was filmed on location in this magnificent location. What a destructive and sad future if it is mined!

As Environment Minister, what will you do about it?

Yours sincerely,

Meredith Reardon





Using a load releasing anchor with a munter hitch on an abseil line.

Guiding a partner on an abseil. The partner is about to feign having problems on the abseil and the guide is required to solve the problem!



Bushwalking Leadership training takes to the Bogong High Plains in 2008

Dave Rawson

Up to 40 bushwalking trainees are expected to attend the Bogong High Plains Induction program conducted by Bushwalking Leadership South Australia (BLSA).

The training week has already received a great deal of interest from Bushwalkers in South Eastern Australia wanting to enter the Bushwalking Leadership Certificate Program. Successful candidates will gain the Bushwalking Assistant Leader qualification at the completion of the training week.


High demand is expected because this program has not been on offer for a number of years. The program is being run by the pro-active BLSA in response to the vacuum in Leadership Training programs elsewhere.

There are limited places available so entry is competitive and is based largely on candidates' prior experience and the order in which applications are received.

Program Dates for the 2008 course are January 13–19

The venue is The Schuss Ski Lodge Falls Creeks Victoria. The first four days are based at the Ski Lodge followed by the final three days including a bush-walking expedition in the Bogong High Plain area.

This exciting week at a premier bushwalking location is incredible value and the training experience of a lifetime. Registrations are now open. BLSA invites bushwalking leadership candidates from all over Australia to apply.

Registration packages and further information about the program is available from the BLSA Web site <www.bushwalkingleadership.org.au>, or from the Office: <blsa@bushwalkingleadership.org.au>, (08) 8232 9411. 

An interesting activity for students

Antarctic Voyage

<www.edna.edu.au/edna/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/schools/TEA%20Info%20flyerPrint.pdf>

On 4 September two Tasmanian Teachers will participate in a voyage to the Antarctica. During the voyage students will be able to track the progress of the ship with an online mapping tool and will be encouraged to submit their questions to <askipy@edna.edu.au>. Selected questions will be answered directly from scientists on the voyage and posted along with other resources on the Web site.

No picnic on Mt Kenya

Luke Adams

Just before leaving for Africa, I found a small paperback book that had been lost during a recent house move. *Upon that Mountain* by Eric Shipton, published in the 1950s, describes his ascents of Mt Kenya in 1929–1930. Shipton made the first recorded ascent of Nelion (5188 m) and the first traverse over Nelion and Batian (5199 m), the twin summits of Mt Kenya. He was a truly amazing pioneer of unexplored areas of the world. Thus, I set off inspired.

The four of us arrived in Nairobi on a Sunday afternoon after 30 hours of travelling via Kuala Lumpur and Qatar. On the recommendation of a travel agent, I had arranged some cheap accommodation over the net prior to leaving. But two places in the same street in Upperhill had similar names and we ended up staying not in the campground as intended but in a backpackers called the Bush House & Camp! This turned out to be a happy mistake because our host Zipporah was extremely well-connected and could arrange anything by making a call or two. The Bush House, <www.bush-house.com>, was our base in Nairobi for the next three weeks of adventures. We spent the Monday exploring the city, buying food, and booking transport and porters.

Mt Kenya was the first objective and we decided to get to the climbing from the north via the Sirimon track. The bus ride to Nanyuki was exciting as the rural road network is in disrepair (not that the streets in Nairobi were much better). We met the porters in Nanyuki and continued on to where a dirt road headed into the hills. There, at 2000 m, we left the transport and walked 9 km to the park gate at 2700 m. This gave us an extra day to get acclimatised and used to walking with packs. The next morning, we each handed over US\$90.00 entry fee at the gate and headed up through a forest to Old Moses Camp at 3300 m. We saw baboons, Colobus monkeys, water buck and a zebra. And we wondered why the porters hadn't clipped the waist belts of the packs. They explained that when an elephant comes charging out, you need to get rid of the pack quickly. As there was clear evidence of elephants and cape buffalo in the area, we quietly unclipped the buckles on our day packs! It had been easy walking, so we pitched camp and then headed up a hill to a meteorological station at 3700 m to further acclimatise.

Leaving early the next day, we walked six hours to Shipton's Camp at 4200 m. The path took us up Mackinder Valley into an Afro-alpine zone of unique flora and fauna. The giant groundsel (*Senecio keniodendron*) and what we referred to as 'Cousin It' plants (Telek's giant



The team at the Park gate

lobelias) were particularly impressive. We saw a number of rock hyraxes. The porters pushed us quite hard as they wanted to get up, dump our packs, and go back down to solicit more business. We paid them \$15 per day plus a \$20 tip, about the going rate.

Shipton's Camp was our base for the ascent of Batian. The afternoon we arrived, Mike, Adam and I were still feeling OK and wanted to find the start of the technical climbing. Paul was complaining of bronchitis, gastro, an allergy, altitude sickness and anything else he could think of so he opted out. We set out about 3:30 and climbed a scree slope for an hour till we found the start of the North Face Standard Route (IV+). Just near the tongue of the Kranf Glacier, the start was marked with a chipped cross and blue paint. Back at camp by 5:30, we were excited to be in position to start the climb.

Tim McCartney-Snape had recommended to bivi in the Amphitheatre, about 300 m up the route, and then head for the summit the next day. With this in mind, we left Shipton's at 10 am with biggish packs containing sleeping bags, bivi bags, stoves, food, fuel, and climbing gear. Slogging up the scree for the second time in less than 24 hours was tiring but, once at the start of the route, all else was forgotten. Rockclimbing with big packs was a different experience; I found I had to adjust my technique and rely on footwork a lot more. We climbed in teams of two to keep the climbing interesting and to minimize waiting at belays. After eight pitches and some moving together we arrived at a spacious ledge in the Amphitheatre where we could wander around unroped. We spent a comfortable evening at about 4700 m under the stars in the bright night sky.

The next day began with some easy scrambling and then

two pitches to access Firmin's Tower. We climbed the Tower in four pitches, the crux pitch being about grade 17. A short abseil was followed by three more pitches to join the northwest ridge. The rock was alpine granite with ample cracks for jams and protection, nice edges for crimps, and great friction for smearing. Ice appeared in the cracks and then icicles as we moved higher.

At about 5100m, on gaining the summit ridge, we found a small bivi site. Time was getting on (it was 2:30 by then) and we had to decide whether to go for the summit or abseil back to our gear in the Amphitheatre. The decision was to continue, hoping that it would only take an hour or so to get to the top. But soon the sky clouded over and it began to snow, which slowed progress a little more. We traversed just below the ridge top for 120m to Shipton's Notch which was negotiated with a short pitch of grade 14. A bit more traversing got us to the final vertical pitch. Adam and I topped out first, Mike and Paul arriving a few minutes later. The summit was somewhat anticlimactic: we shook hands and sat in the snow, happy to have finally made it but a little fearful of what the night would bring.

We soon descended back along the ridge to the little high bivi, reaching it at 6pm. We would be somewhat protected by a half metre-high stone wall, but four guys had to fit into a space where perhaps two would have been comfortable. We spread the ropes out onto the floor to give a little insulation. We had two space blankets, minimal chocolate, and just a little water which froze anyway. It was a case of snuggling up, coping with the discomfort and leg cramps, and counting down the hours til dawn. First light was much anticipated and sunrise was a beautiful sight. Once we'd warmed up, it was seven abseils back to the Amphitheatre for a very welcome brunch.

After a rest, we packed the gear and descended to the start of six more abseils. This lower gully was a shooting gallery, full of loose blocks of all sizes. Mike was hit on the wrist and foot when pulling a rope and was lucky it wasn't more serious. We got to the base of the route at about 4pm and headed back down the scree to our welcoming tents. Everyone was feeling hungry and exhausted: a quick soup then straight to sleep. Waking the next morning, we realized how lucky we'd been with the weather. It had snowed most of the night and the mountain was plastered.

Keen to get back to Nairobi, we hired two porters to help carry the gear and walked the 23km to the park gate in a day. I arranged a 4WD and driver to take us to Nanyuki where we hopped on a mini-bus. The equator lies a little south of Nanyuki so we stopped for a photo. Spying a likely looking shop, Mike disappeared and emerged with a 25kg wooden rhino that the vendor had assured him was solid ebony. Things then became squeezey in the back seat but, nevertheless, we made it back to the Bush House that evening. Four large pizzas washed down with Tusker beer was a great celebration.

The next objective was Kilimanjaro (5895m). We packed away the climbing hardware, tents and stoves as the only practical way to climb Kilimanjaro is to pay a tour company to run the trek. Again, Zipporah arranged



Mt Kenya

everything (\$996 Nairobi-to-Nairobi). A slow day's bus trip to Arusha, interrupted by formalities at the Tanzania border, then two hours travelling along the southern flank of the mountain got us to the Marangu Gate.

We met our guide Fredrick, his assistant John, the cook and six porters. We were to ascend the so-called 'Coca Cola' route, which is the fastest way up Kilimanjaro. Three days trekking, beginning in rainforest and finishing in high alpine desert, got us up to Kibo Hut at 4700m. Highlights along the way included the gardens of proteas and giant groundsels, this time the Kilimanjaro variety *Senecio jonstonii*. We left Kibo at midnight to avoid the usual cloudy afternoon weather and, hopefully, to greet dawn from the top of Africa. It's fair to say that the ascent was tougher than we were expecting considering we'd done the hard yards on Mt Kenya. While only a walk, the dark hours trudging up the endless scree slope were tiring and very cold. The water in our packs froze and we all complained of cold feet. It was about -10°C . We reached the rim of the volcano (about 5600m) at about 4:30, and marched on for another couple of hours to reach the high point. It was Adam's turn to feel the altitude and he celebrated topping out with an impressive vomit. Africa's highest mountain is now a little higher. The sunrise on a crisp August morning made all the hard work worthwhile; Kilimanjaro's shadow is surely the biggest on the planet. We returned to Kibo for a rest and some lunch before continuing on to Horombo Hut at 3700m. We were shattered from being on the go for 16 hours but happy to have ticked the second mountain of the trip. One more day saw us back in Arusha for a good feed and Kilimanjaro beer.

Arriving back in Nairobi, we had one day spare before flying home. Adam had run out of money so had a quiet day. I went gift shopping. Paul went to Nairobi National Park. Mike spent the morning unwrapping and rewrapping rhino at the Nairobi Post Office, and the afternoon explaining to Zipporah how she could make a million bucks through property development. The evening at Carnivore dining on ostrich, crocodile and other meats was a great way to wind up our African adventure. We agreed that Carnivore is a must-do for every visitor to Nairobi (there's a vegetarian menu as well).

Hopefully, rhino will arrive safely in Adelaide in the near future: we intend to belay off him at Norton!

Special thanks to Paul Badenoch for editing, adding the facts to my fiction and generally making this article readable. (Peter Carter did some more editing.)



Dawn at 5100m

Henry Barber slide presentation

Henry Barber was one of the first climbers from overseas to visit Australia in the Summer of 1974–75. The Massachusetts climber opened everyone's eyes to international national climbing standards. From the first free ascents of Taste of Honey, Kachoong and Squeakeasy at Mt Arapiles to Barad Dur, Cioch and Bung at Morialta.

Henry says "The slideshow and talk will be on how my trip to Australia changed my life in climbing. I will speak on climbs in Victoria and then the rest of the Oz trip but I will spend a lot of time on recent years in Meteora Greece, and Brazil, as well as the defining areas of my climbing travels East Germany and England."

Venue: Mercury Theatre

Date: 14 November 2007

Time: 7:00pm

Cost: \$15.00 at the door

Sorry, no concession

Door prizes and giveaways

Supported by Paddy Pallin

