



# Outdoor News

Journal of the Outdoor Educators' Association of South Australia  
Volume 27 No 4, September 2009

## Mike Meredith

It's great to be back from my Solomon Island adventure, and while it was not quite a holiday it was interesting and enjoyable helping out one of our Pacific neighbours. Whilst in the Solomons I was able to observe the work being done to rebuild the country, and hopefully our efforts will assist in stabilising the political system and security so that a more equitable and sustainable future will be possible for the Solomon Island people. I would like to thank Peter Kellett and the committee for the excellent work done in my absence: their efforts are much appreciated.

I was able to catch up with many of our members on 21 August for the annual OEASA presentation night, which was a very enjoyable evening with 82 people getting together to celebrate the successes of those who enjoy learning and working in, about and for the great outdoors. I would like to congratulate the many award winners (acknowledged later in the newsletter) for their efforts and endeavours in the various categories for the inspiration they provide to us all through their efforts to achieve excellence in their study or work.

Students undertaking SSABSA Year 12 courses were acknowledged for their superb efforts in Stage 2 Outdoor and Environmental Studies and Outdoor Education. I am constantly amazed with the incredible talent and commitment young people display to endeavours they love: they only need a suitable outlet to display it. Their involvement in the course and in related activities was amazing. They are a credit to their teachers who should be also be acknowledged for the great work they do: well done to Gordon Begg and Greg Allan. Students from TAFE and University outdoor courses were acknowledged for their efforts and once again the quality of these future outdoor leaders was inspirational and leaves no doubt that future generations will be in capable hands whilst learning and

adventuring in outdoor environments. The fact that most of these recipients were overseas working in the field is testament enough to their calibre.

I would like to thank Peter Vandeeper for representing Recreation SA and presenting the two awards for an individual and group who encourage involvement and display excellence in Outdoor Recreation. This year's recipients, Maureen Merrick (individual) and Bicycle SA (organisation), were well deserved: their efforts within the outdoor community are an example to us all. I must thank Recreation SA on behalf of the OEASA for this much valued contribution to the awards night.

Community leadership organisations acknowledged trainees gaining awards in bushwalking leadership and canoeing. Ian Jones was recipient of the Kris Mosher Environmental Award for his excellence in environmental education and Margaret Watchow was awarded for her excellent work in primary education. Peter Vandeeper received Outdoor Educator of the Year for his sustained efforts over many years in the areas of outdoor recreation and education: congratulations and what a great honour it was to acknowledge his achievements.

As with all events it is the efforts of a few people who make them such a great success and I would like to thank Nick Glover for his work in preparing for the event, Phil Noble and Tabitha for setting up the financial aspects, Clay Hunter preparing the certificates, and once again the

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## Outdoor News is supported by



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

## From the Editor

### Peter Carter

The main feature in this issue is the report, by various authors, of the Presentation Dinner. It was at a new venue this year, and was a success all round. My congratulations go to all the recipients, and to the people who made it happen.

On the previous Friday there had been a retirement dinner at Regency TAFE to honour Peter Vandeppeer, with almost everyone who is anyone in outdoor education and recreation in South Australia present. Peter may not be 'working' any more, but his influence and inspiration will be with us for a long time to come.

Scott Polley alerts us to a report from the UK House of Commons, *Education Outside the Classroom*, looking at the benefits versus the perceived risks in outdoor education. At 236 pages, there is a lot of detail that will take time to digest, but it is worth downloading and looking at.

Scott also has a review of a new book from Human Kinetics, *Technical skills for adventure programming: A curriculum guide*. It's a big book, probably better for the library than an individual, but clearly one with a lot of useful ideas.

Another report, being circulated in draft form, is *The role of human factors in led outdoor activity accidents: Literature review and exploratory analysis* from Monash University Accident Research Centre. Again, there is a lot of detail, but the key recommendations are:

- '1 Development of a unified, theoretically underpinned accident and incident reporting system;
- '2 Development of a National led outdoor activity accident and incident database;



- '3 Development and application of a theoretically underpinned, systems-based accident analysis method;
- '4 In-depth analysis of led outdoor activity accident and incidents; and
- '5 Development of a led outdoor activity accident causation model and associated failure taxonomies.'

Two recent incidents, one with a happy ending, the other without, are instructive. The Victorian cabinet minister missing on Mount Feathertop was news across the country. Fortunately he had tent, food and water with him, and was found and rescued.

The other incident was on Lake Burley Griffin, where an experienced outdoor worker (it is not clear if he was on a surf ski or sit-on-top kayak) was lost in cold blustery conditions. He had not been wearing a PFD, and it was eight days before his body was found. A common perception is that lakes are safer than the sea, but topographic influences on the wind on shallow water can make them nasty.

Several conferences and other events are listed in these pages. One that is not, mainly because the dates are not yet final, is a Flatwater Skills course in late October or November. If you're interested give Ian Heard a call at Canoe SA: 8240 3294.



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## 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 2009-2010

Chair: Mike Meredith

Treasurer: Phil Noble

Secretary: Nick Glover

Assistant Secretary:

Editor and webmaster: Peter Carter

Sub-Editors: Clay Hunter

Committee: Scott Polley, Peter Kellett, Cath Jenner, Dale Hobbs, Andrew Govan, Mick Dennis, Julie Engelhardt, Kim Wood, Darryl Spencer, Meridee Shearing, Danielle Meuring

## Chairman's report

...continued

performance of our auctioneer Dave Rawson. There were many contributions to the night in terms of donations for the auctions and prizes and a big thank you must go to Andrew Govan and his team for assisting with this. Daniel Polkinghorne, who once again did a splendid job as MC leading us so 'entertainingly' through the evening must also be thanked. (New joke book for next year.)

OEASA would like to thank the following organisations for their support of the evening: Paddy Pallins for the very important job of taking the bookings, and The Scout Outdoor Centre, Paddy Pallins, Vertical Reality Climbing, Griffin Wines, Adelaide Canoe Works, Wilderness Escape and Venture Corporate Recharge for donations. Without their valuable contributions the night would not have been such a success. I would encourage all members to express your support of these organisations wherever possible with your patronage. Frank and his team of caterers must also be thanked for providing such a wonderful venue, fine food and drink to complement our celebration.

### On other matters:

1. Coming up later this year is an evening seminar session on Friday 30 October at the EDCH. The evening will be a series of presentations with an outdoor theme. Andrew Pope, *Outdoors in Chile*; Mike Meredith, *Outdoors in the Solomons*, and a session from Peter Kellett on *Aboriginal perspectives in OED*. 6:30 for 7:00pm. Free to members. Nibbles and drinks will be provided for what should be an entertaining evening. Contact Nick Glover on 0421 612 340 to book a place.
2. The Network of Outdoor Education Associations (OEA) has continued to meet by teleconference discussing national issues including the national conference in Perth, outdoor education in the national curriculum and the matter of incorporation for the association.
3. The 16th National Outdoor Education Conference is being held in Western Australia Perth 10-13 January 2010. Visit the *Outdoors WA* Web site for registration details: [www.outdoorswa.org/page.php?id=20](http://www.outdoorswa.org/page.php?id=20).

OEASA is prepared to provide some financial assistance to members planning on going to the conference.



If you are interested in receiving a 'stimulus payment' then contact the treasurer Phil Noble on 0418 854 474. The amount provided will be determined by your circumstances and the numbers applying, but hopefully should assist with flights or conference costs.

4. Rec SA have their Aquatics/Recreation conference on 15-16 September 2009 at the EDCH. Contact Rec SA on (08) 8351 2644 for details.
5. The Port Augusta Aquatic Centre is running their Instructor Training Week 28 September to 2 October 2009. This is a great week with kayaking, canoeing, snorkelling, sailing, powerboat handling and CPR courses on offer. If you are interested and want more details contact Matt Stringer on 0408 830 191 or <paa.oac@bigpond.com>. Their Web site also has some information on the centre: [www.augustaoutdoors.com.au](http://www.augustaoutdoors.com.au).
6. An interesting activity being planned by national outdoor bodies including OCA is the Great Aussie Camp Out (GACO) planned for Saturday 17 April 2010. It's still in planning stages but the idea is to get as many people out camping that night as possible, e.g. schools, community groups, etc. to focus attention on responsible use of outdoors and healthy outdoor activity. More information will be available later but keep the date in mind. It should be a good activity for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages. Details are at [www.greataussiecampout.org.au](http://www.greataussiecampout.org.au).
7. Our next committee meeting is planned for Friday 4 December at the EDCH starting at 6:30 pm.

If you have any feedback on how or where we are going as an organisation, any thoughts for 2010, requests for activities or professional development, etc, etc. please drop one of the committee a line, as we would love to hear from you.

It is as always a pleasure to be of service.  
Yours in the outdoors...



### OEASA Seminar session

Education Development Centre Hindmarsh

Friday 30 October 2009

6:30 for a 7:00pm start

Informal presentations by current practitioners discussing opportunities for Outdoor experiences in Chile by Andrew Pope; The Solomon Islands, Mike Meredith, and incorporating Aboriginal perspectives into Outdoor Education programmes with Peter Kellett.

This event will be free for members with drinks and food provided. Non members a donation of \$5.

Register your interest in attending the evening by phoning Nick Glover on 0421 612 340.

## News and notes

### BLSA news

Andrew Govan

Rob Mclean has accepted a position on the TAA panel recently along with Simon Young and Chris Hodgson.



We are sad to no longer have Gordon Lehmann assisting on the TAA and Board. Gordon has recently had to withdraw from both crucial roles in BLSA due to personal reasons. I would like to extend our thanks to Gordon who has contribute so much to the development of BLSA over many years. Thank you.

New trainee program, Wirrabarra: We had 24 new people participate successfully in the program.

We would like to remind current trainees to visit the Web site [www.bushwalkingleadership.org.au](http://www.bushwalkingleadership.org.au) for the current training program. Also to contact their advisor about your intentions over the next year so that people can complete the assessment process.

This also applies to people that have become inactive in relation to their status and would like to be part of the program again.

If you are unsure of who your advisor is please or would like to be assigned a new advisor, contact Andrew through email at [andrewg@venture.net.au](mailto:andrewg@venture.net.au)

### Vale

The Outdoor Education community wishes to express our support and condolences to Catherine Jenner, Simon Young and India who recently lost their newborn son and brother, William. Family and friends, several being members of SA's Outdoor Education community, gathered at Henley Beach to offer their support to the family and acknowledge the loss of a precious life in a 'Walk for William'.

### Wilderness First Aid Course

The Scotts Creek Outdoor Centre is looking to host a Wilderness First Aid Course (WFA4 32 hours, 4 day) in 2010.

Approx Cost \$555 course + \$120 Food and accomodation

The proposed dates are:

Term 1 Week 10 Monday 29 March to Thursday 1 April

Term 2 Week 9 Monday 14 June to Thursday 17 June.

Interested people please email Phil Noble preferred dates by September 30, and contact Phil for further information.

Phil Noble  
(08) 8540 2231  
0418 854 474  
[pnoble@pac.edu.au](mailto:pnoble@pac.edu.au)

### 16th National Outdoor Education Conference

Notre Dame University, Fremantle, Western Australia, January 10-13, 2010

Outdoor Education Australia in association with Outdoors WA presents the 16th National Outdoor Education Conference to be held at Notre Dame University in Fremantle, Western Australia from January 10 to 13, 2010. The Conference provides an excellent incentive to bring friends, partners and families to Western Australia for a relaxing summer holiday and an outstanding professional development experience. Perth experiences mid-summer conditions in January, making for hot days and glorious summer nights! Outdoor Educators are invited to come early or stay on after the conference and enjoy the Western Australian summer: beaches, wineries, BBQs, diving... Local outdoor educators and conference organisers will be on standby to assist your holiday aspirations. The conference itself will be a relaxed event featuring international, national and local presentations, workshops and associated activities.

For registration details visit the Outdoors WA Web site: [www.outdoorswa.org/page.php?id=20](http://www.outdoorswa.org/page.php?id=20)

### The Great Aussie Camp Out Saturday 17 April 2010

The Great Aussie Camp Out (GACO) will bring together thousands of Australians for one big night where they will share the experience of camping out under the stars... in their back yards, on a river bank, in a camp, a National park, a caravan park: in fact, anywhere they might feel like!

With the long term goal of promoting healthy active lifestyles by encouraging individuals, families, friends and clubs to enjoy the great outdoors, GACO will coordinate a one night 'camp-out' across the country with the aim of introducing people to the fun and adventure of camping out.

People will be encouraged to stay at a residential camp or caravan park, pitch a tent, sleep under the stars, grab a barbie, organise some games and get away from their normal weekend routine.

It is anticipated that a range of come'n'try activities will also be offered on the day of the GACO by community groups such as Scouts/Guides, bushwalking clubs, canoeing clubs. Residential camps will also be able to offer activities such as high ropes, flying fox, atlatl and archery. National Parks could arrange to have Park Rangers on duty to conduct interpretation activities for the night.

In this way participants will be able to sample adventure activities and experiences in the outdoors in a controlled and supported environment.

More at [www.greataussiecampout.org.au](http://www.greataussiecampout.org.au)



## OEASA Awards 2009

The following people were presented with awards or recognised for their leadership achievements at the annual OEASA presentation dinner held on Friday 21 August 2009 at the Unley Council function centre.

### Secondary Awards, presented by Mike Meredith

**Deinion Jones:** Certificate of Excellence (Westminster). He achieved a 19/20, has completed his Gold Duke of Edinburgh award in 2008–2009, is an accomplished lead climber, XC skier, sea kayaker and white water paddler, a volunteer CFS member and has Commenced BLSA and SAREA courses in 2009.

**Daniel Spencer:** Certificate of Excellence (Westminster). He achieved 19/20, has completed his gold Duke of Edinburgh award in 2008–2009, is an accomplished climber, kayaker and bushwalker, has been involved in a tree planting and propagation program and commenced a youth environmental group at school. He has started his BLSA and SAREA courses. Currently working as an instructor whilst attending university.

**Darren Horne:** Certificate of Excellence (Westminster). He achieved 19/20 has completed his gold Duke of Edinburgh award in 2008–2009, is an accomplished XC skier, kayaker and bushwalker. His multi media environmental presentations and environmental interpretations have been excellent.

**Brad Baldwin:** Certificate of Excellence (Westminster). He achieved 19/20, has completed his gold Duke of Edinburgh award in 2008–2009, is an accomplished XC skier, climber, kayaker and bushwalker. His environmental interpretations were excellent.

**Kerri-Anne Phillips:** Certificate of Excellence (Thomas More). She achieved a Merit Award in OED2, showing exceptional environmental ethic and being a great role model to others. She has been heavily involved in a great diversity of extra curricular school activities. Currently studying to be a teacher.

**Shane Librandi:** Certificate of Excellence (Thomas More). He achieved a Merit award in OED2, developed and showed great leadership skills throughout the expeditions. He has demonstrated an excellent understanding of environmental issues.

### Mark Auricht Award

**Alex Kindlen-Cheung:** (Westminster). He was recognised as the top student receiving a 20/20, has completed his gold Duke of Edinburgh award in 2008–2009. He is an accomplished lead climber, kayaker and bushwalker who demonstrates outstanding environmental interpretation. He has commenced his leadership training with BLSA and is currently working as an instructor while waiting to start at university.

### TAFE Award

**Emma Wadey:** Has been an outstanding student in all aspect of her work. She has been dedicated and resourceful in achieving excellent result.

### Uni SA Awards, presented by Peter Kellett

**Anna Jones:** Certificate of Merit. She has achieved an outstanding performance in UNI SA courses and has shown leadership and example to other students. She has undertaken additional tasks including working with Aboriginal youth at Nepabunna and organising the Uni SA Group dynamics camp.

**Geoff McCaul:** Certificate of Merit. He has shown significant skill development in kayaking, bushwalking and climbing and has displayed impressive leadership qualities on the group dynamics camp.

**Tom Duigan:** Certificate of Merit. He has worked hard to achieve a high GPA displaying exceptional leadership skills and environmental ethic. Currently completing BLSA and kayaking instructor awards whilst working in the field as an outdoor leader.



Darren Horne



Brad Baldwin



Kerri-Anne Phillips



Shane Librandi



Alex Kindlen-Cheung



Emma Wadey

**Alexander Longbottom:** Certificate of Excellence. He achieved the highest GPA in the Uni SA course. Showed excellent leadership ability during the organisation and conduct of the first year camp. Is completing leadership qualifications in bushwalking and kayaking. Shows excellent people skills in all his endeavours. Currently working in Canada as an outdoor leader where his qualities are highly regarded.

**Recreation SA Awards, presented by Wayne Hooper, Libby Robertson and Peter Vandeeper on behalf of Rec SA**

It is with great pleasure that I speak about the achievements of **Bicycle SA**.

Bike SA is a not for profit organisation delivering a range of programs to get 'More South Australians Cycling More Often'. As well as community programs for all ages and abilities, enabling the general public to enjoy cycling in a supportive environment, Bike SA runs numerous Education programs.

The Bike-Ed program in schools has been very successful. Over three terms last year 5,871 students in 77 schools, both metropolitan and country participated. In addition five programs with 51 students were run for youth at risk. In the past there have been very comprehensive programs run in the Anangu/Pitjanjatjara Lands.

Also, from time to time Bike SA runs cycling awareness programs on behalf of local councils enabling participants who wish to cycle commute or recreate to develop the confidence to participate fully in the activity. During the school holidays local councils have sponsored Bike SA programs for local children.

Bike Maintenance Courses are run regularly for the general public and in 2008 224 participated in these courses which help facilitate confident involvement in cycling.

Rides which cater for children and families such as Amy's ride and the children's Fun ride around the Tour down

Under last day circuit, are examples of activities which raise awareness of cycling in the community.

In order to run these activities Bike SA has a Ride Leadership Development program to train its leaders.

As well, Bike SA has a strong advocacy role promoting the development of cycling infrastructure and highlighting issues which effect the cycling community.

A worthy recipient of this Award.

(Wayne Hooper)

**Maureen Merrick** is the President of Bicycle SA and also the Volunteers Coordinator. She works tirelessly to increase people's participation in recreational and commuter cycling.

When I first met Maureen six years ago, she was organising the food, camping facilities and volunteers at the Maitland Easter Bike SA camp. Her warm welcome, enthusiasm and inclusion of novices, such as me, into the



Maureen Merrick

busy weekend's program has become synonymous, for me, with her ability to engender a love of recreational cycling for so many ride programme participants.

Whether it is liaising with some of the 350 Bike SA volunteers, working with her husband Ray on planning cycle routes, putting up and pulling down

signs, being part of the sagwagon team, or doing the hidden things such as checking that there is soap in the bathrooms, she quietly gets on with the job and makes all participants feel special.

Her roles as administrator, liaising with volunteers, attendance on activities ranging from half a day to two weeks and the fact that on every occasion I ring the Bike SA office she is present, indicates her selfless commitment to Bike SA. Bike SA would not have achieved the success it has without the dedication of volunteers like Maureen.

(Libby Robertson)

### **BLSA Leadership Awards**

Bushwalk Leader Certificate (2008–2009)

Kate Roberts, Richard Drogemuller, Shelby Miller, Phil Noble and Simon Baccanello, Clay Hunter, Ray Prideaux, Daryl Porter, Nick Glover

Advanced Bushwalk Leader Certificate (2008–2009)

Dave Rawson, Rob McClean and Julie Engelhardt

Day Walk Leader (2008–2009): Julie Anderson

### **Canoe SA Awards**

Presented by Canoe SA Development Officer, Ian Heard

Flatwater Lifeguard: Karl Basedow, Amy Fletcher, Max Haselgrove, Belinda Kasearu, Donald McLean, Louise Philcox, Joshua Pratt, Wade Stringer

Flatwater Instructor: Matthew Bailey, Russell Black, Jeff Bowey, Peter Cahill, John Castleton, Lee Cockerill, Mick Dennis, Mei French, Roger French, Scott Hedges, Elizabeth Robertson (Assessor), Annie Jenkins, Anna Jones, Tyson Leech, David Mallett, Adam Pfeiffer, Raymond Prideaux, Leigh Richardson, Fiona Shone, Jessica Stace, Rob Tanner

Sea Instructor: Warwick Noles (FWI, Assessor)

Sea Leader: Hugh Avey

Whitewater Instructor: Stephen Ellis

Sprint/Marathon Official: Ian Hume

### **OEASA Awards, presented by Peter Kellet**

**Margaret Watchow:** Primary Education Award. Margaret is a teacher at Edwardstown Primary. She holds a BLSA certificate and maintains an interest in conservation through initiatives such as The Childrens Forest in Kyeema, Trees for Life and currently runs a garden club at her school, educating children about native plants. She has always maintained a component of Outdoor Education in her teaching and continues to promote the outdoors through her teaching at school. Her efforts in developing and promoting positive outdoor experiences for our young people is to be admired and her efforts held in great esteem.



Margaret Wattchow



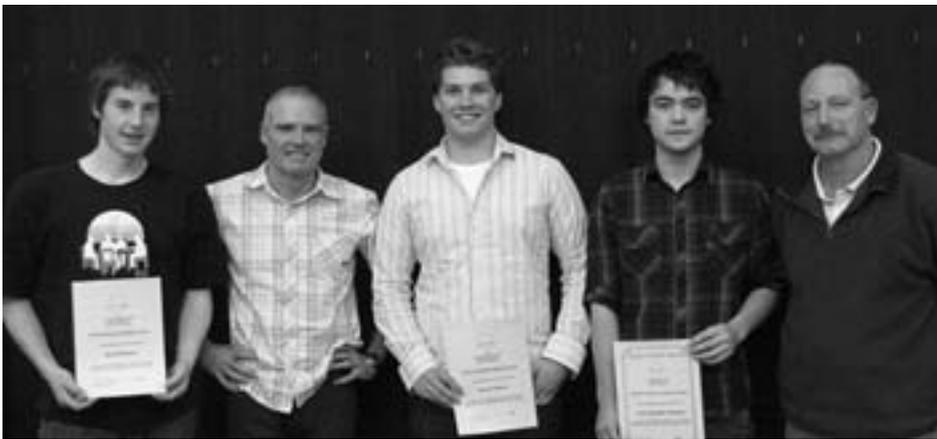
BLSA awardees: Phil Noble, Nick Glover, Kate Roberts, Rob McLean, Julie Engelhardt, Dave Rawson

**Ian Jones:** Kris Mosher Award, presented in memory of a passionate environmentalist. Ian has shown a passion for the environment through his work to establish and maintain a native animal enclosure at Urrbrae Agricultural HS some 18 years ago, which has allowed students from across the state to have direct experiences with a great variety of native animals including kangaroos, bettongs, snakes and lizards. He displays this same environmental ethic in his own life where he has established a feral-proof block on his property to breed native animals. Through his design and technology courses he has encouraged students through project work to live in a more sustainable manner. His efforts are greatly acknowledged.

**Peter Vandeeper:** Service to Outdoor Education. Peter has been a long term OEASA member who has displayed an energetic and enthusiastic commitment to the outdoor community over many years. He commenced the first TAFE outdoor leader course in South Australia which is now seen as the benchmark for courses Australia wide. He has supported many Outdoor Leadership programs including BLSA and Canoe SA through his involvement within the organisations and by his efforts to facilitate



Peter Vandeeper



The Westminster group—Brad Baldwin, Gordon Begg, Darren Horne and Alex Kindlen-Cheung—with Mike Meredith

agreements with TAFE for leadership qualifications. On a national level Peter has contributed to Australian Canoeing, ORCA, established Recreation SA with John Shepherd and others, and helped in developing recreation in South Australia. He has had a longstanding commitment to Outdoor Education and recreation on a state and national level always endeavouring to benefit those involved. On his retirement, it is truly time to acknowledge the great work and advances made for the Outdoor community by Peter. We congratulate and thank him for an exceptional commitment to furthering the outdoor community in Australia.

### Award Night Sponsorship

OEASA would like to gratefully acknowledge the following organisations for their donations and sponsorship of the award night:

- Paddy Pallins
- The Scout Outdoor Centre
- Griffin Wines
- Vertical Reality Climbing
- Adelaide Canoe Works
- Wilderness Escape
- Venture Corporate Recharge



MC, Daniel Polkinghorne, models a jacket for auction



Mick Dennis and Libby Robertson



adelaide  
canoe  
works



Wilderness  
Escape  
Outdoor Adventures



## Education Outside the Classroom

### Second Report of Session 2004–05

Scott Polley

I thought I would draw your attention to a House of Commons Report, available from [www.parliament.the-stationery-office.com/pa/cm200405/cmselect/cmmeduski/120/120.pdf](http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.com/pa/cm200405/cmselect/cmmeduski/120/120.pdf)\*. You may be interested the following excerpt from the report:

‘During this inquiry, the Committee has become convinced of the value of education outside the classroom in its broadest sense. Outdoor learning supports academic achievement, for example through fieldwork projects, as well as the development of ‘soft’ skills and social skills, particularly in hard to reach children. It can take place on school trips, on visits in the local community or in the school grounds. Yet outdoor education is in decline. Provision by schools is extremely patchy. Although some schools offer an active and well-planned programme of outdoor education, which contributes significantly to teaching and learning, many are deterred by the false perception that a high degree of risk attaches to outdoor education as well as by cumbersome bureaucracy and issues of funding, time and resources. Neither the DfES or local authorities

have done enough to publicise the benefits of education outside the classroom or to provide strategic leadership or direction in this area.

‘Risk is often cited as the main factor deterring schools from organising school trips. We have found no evidence to support the perception that school trips are inherently risky. Visits organised in accordance with health and safety guidance should not lead to avoidable accidents or unfounded legal claims against teachers. The DfES needs to work with teacher unions and schools to ensure that teachers do not feel vulnerable to vexatious litigation and that they are aware of the law as it now stands. We also strongly recommend that the NASUWT reviews its advice to members not to participate in school trips.

‘In contrast, the bureaucracy now associated with school trips is a major problem. Some schools and local authorities are demanding excessively lengthy risk assessments and we have found evidence of needless duplication in the system. The Government claims to be actively reducing public sector bureaucracy in general and specifically the burden on schools. We are therefore extremely surprised that it can allow the current situation to persist.’

\* The report is 1.4MB, 236 pages. – Ed

## Port Augusta Aquatics and Outdoor Centre

### Instructor Training week: 28 September to 2 October

This is a great week with kayaking, canoeing, snorkelling, sailing, powerboat handling and CPR courses on offer.

#### Accommodation

Swag style accommodation is available (free of charge) at the Centre with self-catering facilities. Other accommodation details are available on request

#### Transport

A 12 seater Toyota bus will leave Adelaide Central Bus Station at 4 pm Sunday 27 September and will return on Friday 2 October at 7:30 pm. Cost \$35 one way, \$60 return

If you are interested and want more details contact Matt Stringer on 0408 830 191 or [paa.oac@bigpond.com](mailto:paa.oac@bigpond.com).



The Joy of Tech: [www.joyoftech.com/joyoftech/joyarchives/1278.html](http://www.joyoftech.com/joyoftech/joyarchives/1278.html)

## Book Review

**Wagstaff M, and Attarian A (Eds), *Technical skills for adventure programming: A curriculum guide*, Human Kinetics, Champaign, 2009**

**Scott Polley**

It takes quite a while to digest this tome, (all 882 pages plus CD of the lesson plans) and you may need to reinforce your library shelving to hold it. It is like 12 books on different adventure-based activities in one unit. As with all Human Kinetics volumes, the production is very high standard, and it is logical and easy to find what you want to know.

The book is written for all Adventure-based activity leaders, guides, teachers. Because of the excellent information that is contained it could also serve as a text book for tertiary students, and would have application as a resource for senior secondary outdoor education or outdoor recreation students.

The book is North American, of course, and includes some activities that are unlikely to be taught too often in the average Australian education setting (ice climbing and mountaineering). All the more likely activities (eg bushwalking, caving, climbing, canoeing, sea kayaking, rafting) as well as some of the activities that are often harder to get good teaching resources (mountain biking, rafting, Nordic skiing, snowshoeing) are here. To cover all activities would likely be impossible, but it would have been great to see the team get to work on sailing, given the prevalence of this activity in some settings.

All the authors are North American based, having extensive teaching experience, are primarily academics, company owners, leadership trainers or similar. Many have written other volumes in their discipline, and have good credentials to be part of the writing team.

The opening chapter ('Teaching Adventure-Based Activities') is a great synopsis of the primary teaching and learning considerations for the teaching of technical skills. It makes for a good foundational reading for any technical instructional course. The focus is on experiential learning and teaching methods to support this, with just enough depth to engage without losing most budding leaders. Greater depth in teaching methods would have been justified, in my view. A brief discussion of constructivist methods would not have been out of place.

Although a discussion of learning styles is included, you will need to go elsewhere for specific teaching considerations, such as including folks with disabilities, learning difficulties, inter-disciplinary teaching, and using adventure-based activities as a tool for broader education or therapeutic outcomes.

You will also need to go elsewhere for specific technical information. The detail included in the placement of protection in the rock-climbing section would not be enough to safely teach this activity.

The book is divided into three parts: land-based units, water-based units and snow- and ice-based units. Within these parts, each chapter is divided into lesson plans of

varying lengths, sequenced to support foundational studies in each of the activities. Each of the lessons includes activities to reinforce the body of knowledge contained within the program.

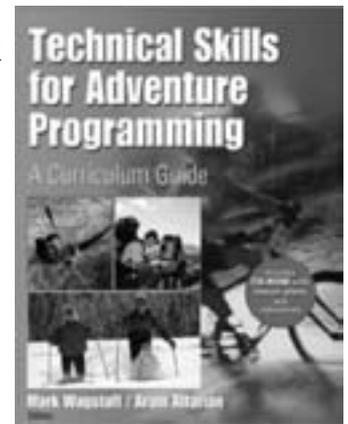
Included are summaries of the rationale for the content of the lesson, the learning objectives, the equipment needed and risk management considerations. The sequence includes both indoor and outdoor lessons for each skill.

Although the lessons are prescriptive, it is unlikely, and in some cases impossible, for the average Australian outdoor education teacher or outdoor recreation instructor to apply directly the program outlined. There would be many differences of opinion regarding some of the technical aspects discussed (the rescues in sea kayaking, the method of getting up after a fall in Nordic skiing, the belay technique advocated in rock-climbing for example). There is also some information not relevant to Australia (hanging up food for bears, for instance) but Australian and New Zealand educators are pretty used to filtering and adapting information for the Southern Hemisphere. For these reasons, the volume should be seen as a reference and a stimulus, as well as providing some possible activities to reinforce learning. But it is not possible to follow each lesson exactly as outlined.

The lesson sequences are not suitable for all learners. An example can be found in the rock-climbing chapter, where the first lesson commences with an extensive discussion of the equipment. This approach might work with some senior secondary and tertiary groups, but others might need more direct experience with rock-climbing first.

An aspect that I found particularly useful was the inclusion of lesson plans for Leave No Trace principles. Again, there might be some contentious points, such as the methods of fire construction as they might apply in arid or peat soil based environment, but some useful points are raised. Many outdoor educators might not place these principles at the end of a learning sequence as indicated, but again the lessons might best be used as a guide only. It was great to see environmental stewardship embedded in each section, and some useful ideas on how to promote this were included.

Some sections are highly in-depth (e.g. backpacking) whilst others less so. One section that might have been developed further was the mountain bike section. Areas that might have been expanded upon include group management with a group of cyclists, expeditioning, and management in mixed environments. The lesson plans were great for developing foundational skills and knowledge of bikes and bike riding, but not for safely travelling anywhere.



The diagrams and pictures were the usual high quality Human Kinetics standard, and students will generally find these easy to follow. One diagram that was of some concern was in the rock-climbing section, where a spring loaded camming device (SLCD) was placed in a non-parallel sided crack: not exactly ideal and potentially dangerous.

In summary, a great collection of lesson plans from most of the potential adventure-based activities that might be encountered in outdoor education and/or outdoor recreation. The lesson plans will not suit all learners, learning contexts or learning objectives. For many, the lesson plans will be used to stimulate ideas for their practice, and provide some activities for both classroom and outdoor learning.

It is not a bible, but makes an excellent addition to any institutional library where adventure-based activities are undertaken. It is most relevant to tertiary institutions, but schools conducting senior secondary education will also find many useful ideas. It may be expensive, but is excellent value for money given the broad range of topics presented. It is of course, very North American, and a similar volume by Australian authors would be an exciting prospect!



## New paddling books

### Peter Carter

I recently spotted two new books from Pesda Press in Dymocks, one on paddling the now near-ubiquitous sit-on-top kayak, the other a detailed guide to kayak surfing.

Both are written by experienced paddlers, and are well illustrated and laid out. The SOT book is aimed at the beginner, the surfing volume at paddlers with some experience. More details, and a sample chapter of the SOT book, are at [www.pesdapress.com](http://www.pesdapress.com).

*Sit-on-Top Kayak: a Beginner's Manual*

By: Derek Hairon

ISBN: 978-1-906095-02-4

Format: 210x160 mm, 96 pages in full colour

'A complete beginner's guide to the sit-on-top kayak.

'Sit-on-top kayaking is fun and easy to learn. Anyone can do it! Paddlers, newcomers and those curious about the sport will find all the answers to their questions in this book.

'Using colour photos and clear descriptions, this book is the perfect introduction to sit-on-top kayaking. Choosing the right kayak, how to store and transport it, how to get the most fun out of your boat and how to stay safe whilst doing so are explored in detail.

'Snorkelling, fishing and scuba diving are some of the other activities that benefit from using sit-on-tops and these are also covered.'

*Kayak Surfing*

By: Bill Mattos

ISBN: 09547061-0-2

Format: 160 pp on 170 gsm silk paper, colour photos, 210x160 mm

'A modern guide to kayak surfing by one of the leading exponents of the sport, aimed both at expert kayakers and those considering taking it up. Stunning photos from pioneering surf sessions all over the world. The book covers basic principles of surfing, surfing etiquette, advanced technique, and the psychology and philosophy of ocean wave-riding.'



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