



Outdoor News

Journal of the Outdoor Educators' Association of South Australia
Volume 30 No 3, October 2012



The Pipeclay Creek weir, September 2012. Flows are about to decrease

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From the Editor

Peter Carter

You probably didn't need a reminder that the year is rapidly drawing to a close, this being the final issue for the year, coming amid exams, moderation and all those other end of year activities.

Mike has some observations of the situation along the Murray, which has been flowing strongly for the first time in years, although flows are now starting to diminish. Many areas have been rejuvenated, but we need to remember that the Murray can be an intermittent stream. Scott Polley has an update on progress with Outdoor Education Australia, with an important part of the work being responding to the Health and Physical Education shaping paper.

Luke Adams has been travelling and climbing again, as he relates in these pages, and you can hear an account of his travels at the seminar on Friday 2 November. Also featured will be SA Adventurers of the Year, cyclists Adam Kilpatrick and Stephen Smith. Details of the meeting are on a later page.

This issue's personal profile is of Kylie Pointon of Operation Flinders, who shares something of her background and optimism for the future of Outdoor Education.

In any discussion of the history of Outdoor Education in South Australia the place of UniSA and its preceding SACAE will be prominent. Few in the sector will be without influence of the institution and its key people. It's fitting, therefore, that we have a brief report of the recent alumni events.



In an earlier issue there was mention of the Aus Canoeing Education and Safety Technical Committee meeting in Devonport. Decisions made at that meeting have now been incorporated into the current issues of the *AC Award Scheme Handbook* and *Safety Guidelines*. There are some changes to the Flatwater Instructor and Guide requirements and the Introduction to Sea Skills has been reintroduced to close the gap between Basic Skills and Sea Skills. More details, and a calendar of Canoe SA courses are on a later page.

In recent weeks I've been doing the SA Sea Rescue Squadron Seamanship course. Aspects like powerboat handling and anchoring are new to me, but the fundamentals of navigation, tides, weather interpretation and so on were not, although it has been interesting to see a different perspective. The sea is a demanding environment, whatever the size and power of our craft.

Enjoy your summer...



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

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From the Chairman

Mike Meredith

Greetings and welcome to the October edition of *Outdoor News* for 2012.

During September it is time for my Year 12 students to conduct their self reliant expeditions. A chance to demonstrate their learning from all aspects of the course and in particular demonstrate their self reliant ability to manage risk, conduct a safe yet challenging activity whilst avoiding the devastation shown in Priest's models of adventure education. Some students chose to head up to Chowilla where now for two consecutive years large quantities of water flow hastily through the backwaters of the Murray bringing a revitalisation to the previously dead or dying backwaters.

Of interest while shadowing the students were grey marks on the banks and trees indicating most recent flood levels, now multiple rows of young River Red Gums lining what would have been earlier flood levels during the past few years where conditions have suited the germination of stands of sapling gums which with luck some will grow to maturity and replace their long dead older relatives. Thinking back two years ago, I was paddling in very narrow channels lined with reeds paddling hard to get through the sometimes choked channels. Not now, the reeds have been well and truly cleared out (for now!) and backwater channels are as wide as the main river as the waters flood relentlessly over the now well watered flood plains hidden well below the somewhat clearer murky waters of the Murray. The water levels in the Punkah/Chowilla backwaters are up several meters



from 2010 so that campsites that are usually well above the waterline are submersed below the swirling life bringing waters. Lake Littra which not long ago was being filled by pump to save a dying ecosystem is now full by natural means and teeming with bird life which brought about an interesting issue.



How do you explain to those who have never seen it how desperate the river was a few years ago? For those seeing the backwaters for the first time they are flourishing with bright green foliage and wildlife abounds in what appears a pristine natural environment. Pointing out the many dead trees seems irrelevant when everything else seems in good order. But alas, those that have been about for a few seasons know the good years do not go on for ever and they will be replaced eventually by leaner times and eventually drought. Those working on a four year cycle, i.e. politicians, may not conceptualise the importance of planning for a sustainable future, putting in place policy and practices that will ensure sustainable use and access to our valuable water resources and the natural environments inexplicably linked to them. The traditional custodians of the Riverland were able to create sustainable management yet with all our supposed current knowledge we seem unable to understand or manage the river environment in a manner that will ensure an enduring legacy for those yet to come.

For those who have been following the Australian Curriculum Outdoor Education developments within the HPE curriculum the news has been very positive. There is now a specific Outdoor Education representative nominated through OEA on the ACARA HPE writing group. Steve McMurtrie from Victoria was accepted on to the ACARA writing group for the HPE curriculum statement. This was in direct response to the feedback received to the HPE Draft Shaping Paper which clearly expressed the desire and need for outdoor experiences to be more clearly outlined in the HPE curriculum. Steve was agreed on by OEA and was one of a number of people who were nominated for this position. This is a very positive step toward getting all Australian young people access to quality Outdoor Educational experiences. There is still a way to go so please keep tuned to any developments that may need your voice or action.

The UniSA Reunion dinner for graduates of UniSA Outdoor Education & Recreation courses, including SACAE courses, was held at the Unley Town Hall, on Friday 24 August. For those in attendance this was a great night celebrating many years and generations of Outdoor Education. It is planned to hold this event again in the future and I would recommend anyone who has been involved get on board as it was indeed a great night.

From the Chairman

...continued

Outdoor Education week was run from 27 August to 2 September. It was great to see SA represented by a number of schools and organisations in this year's event. Whilst we as practitioners recognise OED's immense value not everyone does. If we can show off what we do and achieve with young people it will only help in the long run. I hope the event will continue to run but would ask more schools to register an outdoor activity and get involved. The more people who get involved the higher the profile of Outdoor Education and ultimately the better for Outdoor Education in the future.

The Great Aussie camp Out was held on Saturday 13 October and intended to get people outside and involved in camping and outdoor activities. The idea was to log on to the website indicating you are involved and camp out that night in the back yard, caravan park, national park, etc. There was no cost involved and the event helps promote healthy and respectful use of outdoor places. If you missed out this year get involved next year it can be great fun.

The next planned activity is an Outdoor Seminar session. This will be conducted at the Education Development Centre Hindmarsh on Friday 2 November. At this session we will hear a presentation from the SA Adventurers of the Year Adam Kilpatrick and Stephen Warren-Smith on their amazing bike ride to Sweden, and also from Luke Adams (Paddy Pallins) on his latest adventure climbing in Europe. Set to commence at 6 pm for a 6:30 pm start, with food and drink provided. It's free for OEASA members, \$5 for anyone else. It would be great to see you there.

The final committee meeting for this year will be held on Friday 16 November 5:30 pm at the EDCH. As always members are welcome to attend. If you have any ideas for next year please speak to one of the committee members or come along to the meeting!



2012 Outdoor Seminar Series

When: Friday 2 November, 6 pm for a 6:30 pm start

Where: Education Development Centre Hindmarsh

Who: Double feature

SA Adventurers of the Year, Adam Kilpatrick and Stephen Smith, on their amazing cycle trip from Australia to Sweden

Luke Adams on his latest adventure climbing in Europe (story featured in this edition)

Free for members, \$5 for non members

Food and drinks provided

Come along. It should be a great night of adventure, camaraderie food and drink!

Please contact Nick Glover on 0421 612 340 or nicks_mailbox@yahoo.com to confirm attendance and reserve a place (for catering purposes)

Calendars

OEASA

Committee meetings, 5:00pm (Venue: EDCH)

- Friday 16 November (T4 Wk 6: end of year drinks)

Outdoor Education Week

- August 27–Sep 2, OEA to coordinate

Great Aussie Campout (GACO)

- Saturday 13 October, ACA to coordinate

Outdoor News deadlines

Closing date for next issue:

End Term 4 (14 December), for February 2013 edition. Your assistance in getting interesting submissions to the editor, Peter Carter, would be greatly appreciated.

Canoe SA

Sea Skills and Leadership (inc Sea Weekend 2013), Flatwater Skills, Flatwater Lifeguard: see p 11.

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Update Oct 2012

Scott Polley

Outdoor Education Australia continues to exist! For those that are a bit unsure what OEA is all about, here is an excerpt from the web site <www.outdooreducationaustralia.org.au>:

“Outdoor Education Australia: Who we are:

Outdoor Education Australia (OEA) was established in 2006 as a national network of outdoor education associations. OEA follows on the good work conducted by on the antecedent organisation of the Australian Outdoor Education Council. Its member associations represent thousands of practising outdoor educators, teachers and organisations across Australia. The primary purpose of Outdoor Education Australia is to facilitate communication between state and territory outdoor education associations about the practice and delivery of outdoor education throughout Australia.”

Each full OEASA member has contributed \$10 to Outdoor Education Australia in 2011 and 2012, as has or will each member from VOEA, OEAQ, ACTOEA and ORIC (NSW). Outdoors WA remains unresolved, and the Tasmanian OTA is currently not active but staying in communication.

The secretariat was with the VOEA up until January this year, when it passed to OEASA. It is envisaged that it will move to another state at the conclusion of the April 2014 National Conference.

The funds from OEASA’s contribution in 2011 assisted the VOEA to establish the website, maintain communication. In 2012, the funds from all states have contributed to the following:

1. Establishment of new website (OEASA: Peter Carter). Website includes material developed by Peter Martin, Scott Polley and others.
 - a. Guidelines for teachers
 - b. Guidelines for tertiary institutions
 - c. Guidelines for response to ACARA
 - d. Outdoor Education national and international conferences
2. Outdoor Education week (OEAQ: Mark Munnings and Maroon Outdoor Education Centre)
3. Quarterly teleconference (OEASA)
4. Organisation of responses to ACARA (all)
5. Representation to ACARA (Stephen McMurtrie, VOEA)
6. Communication with OCA
7. Working towards incorporation (Nick Glover OEAQ)
8. Provide comment to the media

Without doubt one of the biggest achievements for OEA was to coordinate the distribution of a recommended response to ACARA regarding the Health and Physical

Education shaping paper. The result of this was a significant number of responses that required ACARA to report the statistics of the responses both including and not including Outdoor Education responses. This has led to the final shaping paper mentioning Outdoor Education and Outdoor Recreation specifically, and at least saying the word 14 times, up from two in the draft. In addition, OEA were asked by ACARA to nominate a representative to provide feedback regarding the soon to be released curriculum document for public comment. This is the first time that anyone with an outdoor background has been invited to the table since March 2011 when I was asked by ACHPER to be at an initial focus group workshop.

The priorities for 2012 for the moment are:

1. Continue OE week
2. Finalise incorporation
3. Continue communication between states and with aligned organisations such as the Outdoor Council of Australia and the Australian Environmental Education Association
4. Work towards a regular newsletter
5. Develop an online resource to assist with research, evidence and practice
6. Develop a list of prominent Australian supporters who support the aims of Outdoor Education for every Australian school student
7. Develop stronger connections with international organisations
8. Assist with development of 2014 National Outdoor Education program.

OEA continues to function largely due to the hard work of volunteers passionate about helping all children connect with natural environments. Many thanks go to Peter Martin, Tonia Gray, Stephen McMurtrie, Peter Carter, Mark Munnings in particular for this year’s activities.

Hopefully OEA continues to do small things well, and continues to provide a national voice for Outdoor Education in Australia.

If there are any questions about OEA there is a list of contacts on the website.



Europe 2012

Luke Adams

It had been a couple of years since we'd been away so Greg Rolton and I came up with a plan to return to the Swiss Alps. Greg was heading to the Olympics to join his wife Gill who was judging the equestrian competition and he could fit in three weeks in the mountains beforehand. We left for Switzerland on 1 July. Paul Badenoch was to join us two weeks later.

Arriving in Zurich, we collected the hire car (a Citroen) and drove south towards St Moritz and the Piz Badille area (i.e. the Bregaglia). Unfortunately the weather forecast was for rain and snow at altitude for the next seven days. We were unsure what to do but decided to keep going into Italy. We spent our first night in a small campground just over the border. Feeling jetlagged, it was a quick pizza and beer and then an early night in the tent. We were considering heading to the Verdon Gorge in France but then Greg befriended our neighbours and checked their road map. The drive to Verdon would have meant that we would not have had time to come back to the Piz Badille area.

I had climbed around Arco on Lago di Garda in northern Italy in 1990. I remembered it as being fantastic so we decided to head there until the weather cleared in the mountains. We set off early in the morning and stopped at the town of Lecco near Lake Como. Adam Sabic had lent me the Swiss Plaisir Sud guidebook (which also covers parts of Italy) and after a couple of false starts we found a local crag called Gialbrate. The weather was warmer than in the Alps. Greg and I led three 20m routes at about 5c (17-18) and we then jumped back into the car and drove for another three hours to Arco.

The valleys around the ancient town of Arco offer over 100 crags varying from bolted single pitch high quality limestone to multipitch trad on big walls. We found a campground, bought a guidebook and settled into sampling some of the best climbing in Europe. We spent five days climbing at nine crags. Our system was to find a crag early in the morning, head back to camp for lunch, wait out the midday heat and then move on to a different crag in the afternoon. Dinner was usually pizza and a couple of cheap beers. Highlights included:

- The Norax (5a), a five pitch slab next to the lake followed by a leap into the freezing water
- L'Orto, a new area high above Arco with fantastic routes
- The boulders of Massi di Prabi next to the campground in the town
- The valley of Croz de le Niere, 25 km north of Arco, a beautiful crag surrounded by pine forest.

The stats for the week were 39 pitches from 5a to 6+. We would both lead each pitch, draws in hand.

We left Arco and drove back to Switzerland on 9 July. We wanted to acclimatise and get back into climbing fast on alpine granite. The aim was to climb the classic Cassin Route on Piz Badille but we needed three days of good

conditions to get on it. The weather still was unstable but looking more promising. We decided to head up to the Lake Albigna climbing area nearby. We arrived about 3 pm and took the cable car up to the huge dam (1 million cubic metres of concrete!) It was 50 minutes walk to the Swiss Alpine Club (SAC) hut. We settled into our own room as a hailstorm blew through. Getting up early the next morning, we were greeted with more rain. The weather improved at about 9 so we set off for a route called Modern Times (5a) on the Punta Albigna. The approach included a creek crossing and took about 30 minutes. Greg got the first pitch, a wet granite slab with four pieces of gear: a bit scary! I got the next pitch, 40m of damp lichenous slab with minimal gear. The third pitch was soaking so we decided to follow another party up an easier route nearby. Five more pitches of 4c on damp rock then a 150m scramble up a gully and we were on top. The walk down was almost as exciting with lots of traversing and descending big slabs. Eventually we reached the moraine and thus to the hut. We enjoyed a much appreciated mug of Coke from the warden.

The climbing highlights for the next couple of days were Classica*** on the Bio Pillar (290m, 5b) and the North East Direct route (Nigg Variant, 300m, 5c) on the other side of the dam. The weather was still unstable and we would get rain, hail and sunshine in the course of an hour.

On Friday 13 July the forecast was for two days of bad weather so we packed up our kit, paid for our stay and headed down to the car in the rain. We arrived at the local campground at Vicosoprano and had much needed showers and cleaned gear. In the afternoon we drove to St Moritz and went grocery shopping. The next idea was to meet Paul and have a go at Piz Bernina (4049m) via the Biancograt.

We met Paul on the Sunday morning and went to the small crag of Sasso Bianco just over the border in Italy, about a 30 minute drive. We spent the afternoon ticking four leads each ranging from 5b to 6a, again cleaning the routes in between turns.

The next day we packed up and drove up to the Piz Bernina trailhead. We phoned the SAC hut at the base of the mountain and set off on the three and a half hour walk in. The plan was to stay at the hut overnight, climb the mountain via the Biancograt and descend the other side to the Monte Bianco hut. However, on arrival at the SAC hut, we were surprised to discover that the Monte Bianco hut was fully booked for the next seven days! We were shattered and decided to go straight back down to the car and find another 4000er while the weather was looking settled. The first fine days for a couple of weeks meant that a lot of the huts were full. We camped in Silvaplana that night then headed for the Weissmies (4017m) in the Saas valley near Zermatt.

We arrived in the town of Saas Grund, packed gear, put on mountain boots and took the cable car up to the Hohsaas hut. This establishment was privately operated,

Europe 2012

about SF75 per night, and had a degree of luxury not usually found in alpine huts. We set off the next morning about 5:30, stopping to rope up for the glacier. The route was well travelled so it was only a matter of following the trail in the snow. We crossed a crevassed area of the Trift Glacier then ascended steeply to a balcony which led to the southwest ridge. It was then just a slog up the ridge to the summit. The wind picked up from the north and we had to make a couple of stops to put on warmer clothes and gloves. The ridge narrowed near the top and we had to take care as a fall could have been deadly. We summited about 9 and were rewarded with a spectacular view on a clear blue sky morning (although the wind was making standing around very cold). We spent about 10 minutes on top before heading down. The descent was uneventful other than discovering a fresh avalanche on the glacier which included some room-size blocks of ice. We picked up our gear from the hut, took the cable car down for a late lunch and beers in Saas Grund and then drove to Paul's favourite campground at Visp. It's cheap, well grassed, occasionally has hot water and is the campground of choice for trainspotters.

The next day the weather was predicted to change so we were not keen to be too high in the mountains. We opted to do a route on a cliff above the town of Zermatt.

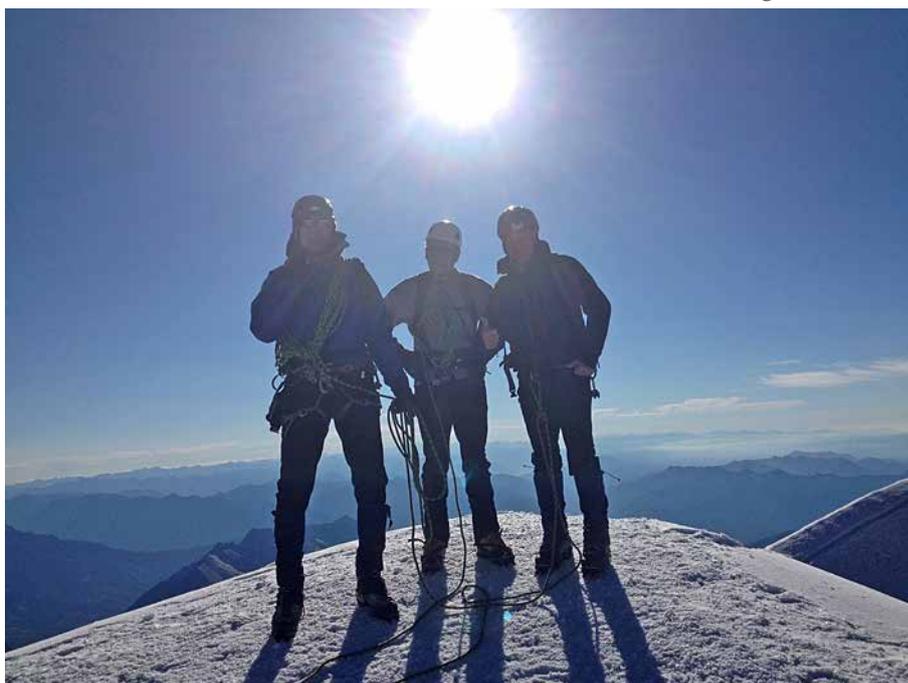
The Riffelhorn (2928m) is a small peak towards Monte Rosa used by local guides to train clients. We had one false start: Paul led a pitch but decided it must have been an easy instructional climb so we searched further along the cliff until we found the start of a route called D'Sezz (5c). The route followed a natural weakness up the highest part of the cliff with four pitches of 30–45m. We topped out and found our way off the back of the hill (which included a short abseil). It was a pleasant two and a half hour walk back down to Zermatt (and we saved the SF35 return fare). The views to the Matterhorn and beyond were spectacular as cloud and mist swirled in. Back in Zermatt, there was time for some shopping then dinner and beers at an old English-themed pub called the Brown Cow. We took the late train down to Täsch and thus back to Visp.

The next morning Greg left to catch up with his mate Reto (who used to live in Adelaide) and then go on to London. The weather forecast was for more rain so Paul and I packed up and headed to France bound for the Verdon Gorge. It was a long day of driving but we made it to La Palud by about 6 and found a campground. And who would be waiting at the office but ex-Adelaide climbers Lorien and Tim: the climbing world is indeed a small place! We then found a bar as we needed to rehydrate. We couldn't get a meal to after 8pm so we went for a drive along the top

of the gorge to check out the cliffs. As Paul is anybody's after one beer on an empty stomach, I found it an exciting drive sitting in the passenger's seat perched over sheer drops of up to 700m.

The Grand Canyon du Verdon is a spectacular 25km gorge rising above the Verdon River. The routes are reached from the top by abseil. The trick is then to climb back out. We found an easily accessible area called the Belvedere de la Carelle that we could start at the next morning. I lowered Paul into the first climb so he could sample the rock and check how polished the routes were. He topped out and give it the seal of approval so we both abseiled about 45m to a hanging belay. The sector was in the shade in the morning so the climbing was comfortable and fun. We each led Face au Public (5b+) and Mami Nova (5b+). It was starting to heat up so we drove back to the village for baguettes and Coke. In the afternoon we went back to the Carelle area and abseiled about 180m to a large shady ledge (2 x 60m ropes). We then shot up a route called Chlorochose (5b+) which offered pleasant sustained climbing. It was still quite warm but we had taken plenty of water. We packed one of the ropes in the daypack and the second had the job of carrying it and the water. We topped out about 5:30. I led pitches 1, 3 and 5 and Paul 2, 4 and 6. The ambience was disrupted at one point with the helicopter rescue of a party of three near the top of a nearby climb: evidently they'd been on it most of the day and had had enough. For dinner that night I ordered the tartare de boeuf which I thought might be a meat pie but it turned out to be raw mince seasoned with a raw egg. The culinary adventures continued!

The next morning we were up at 6 and climbing at Carelle again by 7. We each ticked Tarpet Farceur (5b+), Opera Verticouenne (5c) and A Moi les Vivants (5b+). Over lunch I convinced Paul that the building cloud



On the summit of Weiss Meiss

Europe 2012

would mean the long route we wanted to do that afternoon would be in the shade. We rappelled into the gorge more easily this time as we knew where the anchor points were. Back on the big shady ledge, we started up Les Dalles Grises (5c). I got most of the leads as Paul was feeling the effects of the heat: the cloud cover had burnt away. I lead pitches 1, 2, 4 and 6 and Paul cleaned up 3 and 5. We topped out about 3:30 and headed back to the Alps, driving on the B roads towards Grenoble. We found a campground and had a beer and a quick meal. The ground was stony and I wasn't particularly comfortable on my half-mat that night.

Up early and on the road by 7, we drove to Courmayeur in Italy for a crack at the Dent du Géant (4013m). We arrived about 2pm, packed our gear and took the cable car up to the impressive three-storey Torino hut. I was feeling the effects of three weeks of climbing, the traveling and the altitude and took a three hour nap before dinner. During the night the wind picked up and low cloud came in. We were up at 5 for breakfast and, after lingering a bit to see what the weather would do, we set off across the glacier. We walked for about an hour in whiteout conditions. I think, given the weather, we both felt apprehensive about getting in the loose gullies in which Paul came to grief in 2009. When a couple of parties in front turned around citing the lack of visibility we decided to do the same. We arrived back at the hut about 9 and headed down. When the cloud began to lift we noticed the top of the Dent was plastered in ice, not ideal conditions for a peak that is essentially a technical rockclimb. We decided to drive to Chamonix through the Mt Blanc tunnel. The €45 tariff is steep but it's a quick and easy way to get from Italy to France. We found the campground we had stayed at previously and then drove to the popular local crag Les Gaillands. The place was mobbed but we found a small crag up the hill that we had to ourselves. A pleasant afternoon was had ticking almost every climb, the standout being Dingo (6a+). Late in the afternoon it started to rain lightly. I'd had enough but Paul slipped in one last climb, Moustikul (4c), in the wet.

Wednesday 25 July was my last climbing day before heading back to Zurich. Paul had soloed a peak called L'Index in the Aiguilles Rouges in 2004 and was keen to tick another in that area. We took the day's first cable car to near L'Index and walked around to the south ridge of the Chapelle de la Glière (2663m). It took about an hour to find the start of the route and get going. We did a couple of very loose pitches (including one on scary steep grass) before getting onto the route proper. Paul led the superb albeit polished corner of pitch 4 at about 5c. We ended up swinging leads on about 11 pitches including a picturesque slab/arete hand traverse.

We started down about 3:30 but couldn't find the recommended descent. We found ourselves in a long scree-filled gully with lots of short cliffs to negotiate. There



Descent from the summit

were a few old abseil stations which came in useful.

We had only taken one rope so it was slow going. Paul showed his experience in this sort of terrain whereas I wasn't enjoying the descent at all. Once down, we had to hustle to make the last cable car. It was a great adventure and one of the best days of the trip. We'd earned our beers back in Chamonix that night!

The next morning we packed up the tents and had the traditional coffees and *pain au chocolats* in the cafe opposite the train station. We said our farewells as Paul was heading for some 'R&R' in the south of France and I was taking the train back to Zurich. Overnighting in a hotel (my first of the trip) near Zurich airport, I dried my tent and repacked my bag. Friday I started the journey home.

In conclusion, while not being able to tick some of the planned routes, we had a fun, varied and productive trip. I came home feeling that it had been worthwhile. I probably wouldn't go to the Alps in July again but would wait for the more stable weather in August.



Ten Questions with... Kylie Pointon (nee Agnew)

1. How many years have you been involved in Outdoor Education?
Since I left High School in 1998, so 14 years.

2. What got you started?
Thinking back to my own positive experience with Outdoor Education as a student at John Pirie Secondary School, I wanted to make a career around something I was passionate about, so chose to study Outdoor Education at university.

3. Are you working as an Outdoor Educator now? Where?
I am not an Outdoor Educator in a school, but still working in the outdoor education sector as the Manager of the Follow Up program at Operation Flinders Foundation (see www.operationflinders.org for more information). I am also a team leader and coordinate the Peer Group Mentor program. I still help out with occasional surf camps and other activities with private schools.

4. Did you intentionally undertake training or study to get there, or did the job come to you?
I did a degree in Human Movement with a major in Outdoor Education, I have also complete post-graduate studies in Rehabilitation, Secondary Education and now I have studied Psychology whilst working at Operation Flinders.

5. Can you describe your dream job?
I feel like I have it at the moment with my fantastic job at Operation Flinders. Maybe with more surfing on beautiful tropical islands incorporated into my job it would be a dream job...

6. Do you have (a) favourite pursuit(s)?
Surfing



7. Who inspires you?
My mum and people who follow their dreams no matter how big or small.
8. What is your 'Everest' (i.e. ultimate personal peak adventure)? Do you have a plan to get there?
So many to choose from: I would like to return to the remote mountains of West Papua for a 15 day trek, scuba dive the Raja Ampat islands, travel overland north to south through South America.
9. What keeps you passionate about Outdoor Education?
Seeing the young people we work with get enthused about the outdoors and all the teamwork, leadership and appreciation of nature that comes along with their enthusiasm.
10. Are you confident about the future of Outdoor Education in South Australia?
Yes, strong connections throughout the industry will keep Outdoor Education going into the future. 

OEASA Supporter levels

Gold: \$1500+

- 12 months OEASA membership
- Front page logo acknowledgement as Gold Supporter
- Half page advert in Outdoor News
- Verbal acknowledgement at all conferences, dinners and meetings
- Visual acknowledgement at OEASA dinner
- Provision for banners, merchandise or other at OEASA Dinner
- Complimentary catering for one member at all OEASA functions

Silver: \$750+

- 12 Months OEASA membership
- Front page logo acknowledgement as Silver Supporter
- Visual acknowledgement at OEASA dinner

- Verbal acknowledgement at all conferences, dinners and meetings
- Provision for banners, merchandise or other at State Dinner

Bronze: \$350+

- 12 months OEASA membership
- Front page logo acknowledgement as Silver Supporter
- Visual acknowledgement at OEASA dinner
- Verbal acknowledgement at all conferences, dinners and meetings
- Provision for banners, merchandise or other at State Dinner

Green: \$150+

Blue: <\$150

University of SA and SACAE Outdoor Education Alumni events

Nick Glover

Late last year an idea was conceived to recognise the existence of an alumni of Outdoor Education specialist graduates, and staff. This concept, it was hoped, would reconnect and invigorate a growing but perhaps disconnected outdoor community that included those that have some common ground through higher education and interest, but perhaps no longer as professionals. This idea culminated in two events being held in August, a dinner with speakers and a family BBQ.

The evening of 24 August, 40 alumni of the UniSA and SACAE attended the dinner to celebrate almost 40 years of the Outdoor Education specialisation programs at those institutions. The dinner was held at the gracious and spacious Unley Town Hall, and a superb three-course meal was provided by Francesco and his team from Tailor Made Catering (the writer is still working off that third canoli!).

Throughout the evening the gathering heard from graduates and staff of years past who shared some of their memorable experiences in outdoor education at the university or college. Tom Trewartha told of how his training had prepared him for working in the world of corporate training, while Peter Kellett reminisced on

the 'looser days' of risk management (risk what?), as he and fellow students canoed down the river Torrens in flood, from the gorge to the city. Nerilee Flint shared her stories as student and lecturer at a number of campuses, and Rob Hogan rightfully staked his claim as the very first Alumnus! Scott Polley rounded off the evening with some words of wisdom and hopes for the future of Outdoor Education at UniSA.

Although fewer than expected attended the dinner, this was an inaugural event and it is hoped that future biennial events will attain stronger support, particularly given the very enjoyable nature of the evening.

There was also a 'family day' held on Sunday 26 August at Heywood Park, catering for those who preferred a less formal event. Thanks to those who attended.

Thanks go to the entertaining speakers and wonderful caterers for a great evening. Also to the organising committee: Nick Glover, Jo Barton, Belinda Emanuele, Brad Newton, Bianca Barbon, MC Nick Glover, Promotional team Jos Rankin and Rob Stillwell.



Rob Hogan, Liz Liebig and Nerilee Flint



Belinda Emanuele and Jo Barton

Paddling news

Peter Carter

Recent changes to ACAS 2008

Following the meeting in Devonport in May the Aus Canoeing Education and Safety Technical Committee has made a number of changes to the AC Award Scheme. The current editions of the *Award Scheme Handbook* and *Safety Guidelines* are both dated 19 August 2012. The amendment list in *ASH* reads:

Throughout, specific prerequisites may be replaced by equivalent skills and knowledge.

Units relating to multi-day and overnight expeditions have been removed from Guide and Instructor awards and placed into the Overnight Camping Endorsement (p 23). This change makes it easier for would-be Guides and Instructors who will be working only on single day activities to become qualified.

Introduction to Sea Skills

This award has been reintroduced (p 41).

Club Leader

This award has been discontinued.

Flatwater Instructor

Requirements to train trainers have been deleted.

Whitewater Rescue awards

Suggested equipment lists have been added.

Sea Instructor

Requirements to train trainers have been deleted, and understanding of leadership styles added.

In practice, in South Australia at least, Flatwater and Sea Instructors are not involved in training instructors, so the changes remove unnecessary requirements, but Sea Instructors must now be familiar with the range of leadership styles. Although it is not mentioned in the *ASH* amendment list, Flatwater awards may now be assessed in sit-on-top craft, which are often used interstate.

Current holders of Flatwater Instructor and Guide awards will be credited with the Overnight Camping Endorsement (OCE) at their next reregistration. Would-be Instructors and Guides must request assessment for OCE if they require it. Likewise, assessment for the Moving Water Endorsement must be requested as part of the process.

The reintroduction of Introduction to Sea Skills closes the large gap between Basic Skills and Sea Skills and makes for an easier progression for beginning sea paddlers.

Please contact me directly if you want current assessment documents.

New Marine VHF qualification

The Aus Communications and Media Authority has been reviewing the qualification required for use of Marine VHF equipment. In a media release dated 5 October, ACMA announced the new Australian Waters Qualification (AWQ), which will become the new mandatory qualification for recreational boaters.

The plan is to introduce the AWQ over the next two years, retaining the existing MROCP and MROVCP for commercial operators and those using MF/HF. More details as they come to hand, and you can check with ACMA at www.acma.gov.au.

Upcoming courses

There will be a range of courses offered by Canoe SA through coming months:

Flatwater Skills

Thurs 17, Fri 18 January 2013

Tues 9, Wed 10 April

Flatwater Lifeguard

Mon 14, Tues 15 January

Sat 6, Sun 7 April

Together, these courses are the induction into the Flatwater Instructor program.

Sea Programme

Summer Sea Workshops Series

Sea Workshop 1: Sun 25 Nov

Sea Workshop 2: Sat 23, Sun 24 February (Seacliff to Christies, Metro beaches overnight)

Sea Workshop 3: Sun 7 April (Rough water)

Sea Workshop 4: Sat 20, Sun 21 April (KIs crossing)

Evening seminars: dates and Instructors to be finalised

Waves, tides and currents

Navigation

GPS for navigation

Introduction to marine radio

Sea Weekend 2013

Pre-weekend Briefing: Friday 1 March, 7:30–9:00 pm at Canoe SA

Friday 15 7:00–9.00 pm, Saturday 16, Sun 17 March based at Victor Harbor Beachfront Holiday Park

For more details and registration forms, see the Canoe SA site, www.sa.canoe.org.au.



Outdoor Educators' Association Of South Australia

ABN 26 588 063 701

Membership form

Membership subscription for period 29 Feb 2012 to 28 Feb 2013

Type of Membership:

Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/>	New member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual \$70			<input type="checkbox"/>
Student \$45 (with AJOE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 (without AJOE)	<input type="checkbox"/>
School/Organisation/Corporate/Family \$80	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Electronic Member ((Newsletter and emails) \$20	<input type="checkbox"/>		

(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.

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 and Outdoor Education 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 or organisation you are connected with?

Forward to:

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Kent Town SA 5067

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