



Outdoor News

Journal of the Outdoor Educators' Association of South Australia
Volume 33 No 3, February 2016



A reminder of explorations past: the replica HMB *Endeavour* arrives at Outer Harbor, 19 February

Photograph by Peter Carter

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19th National Outdoor Education Conference

29 March–2 April, Sunshine Coast

OEASA sponsors

Gold



Silver



Bronze

Scout Outdoor Centre

Access Canoes

Adventure Kayaking SA

Griffin Wines

From the Editor

Peter Carter

National Geographic magazine began the year with 'This is Your Brain on Nature' in its January issue: "When we get closer to nature—be it untouched wilderness or a backyard tree—we do our overstressed brains a favour." If you haven't already, go read it.

In this issue there are items in preparation for the AGM: the minutes of last year's meeting and the financial reports for the 2015 year. Together with those, we have a membership list and the criteria and form for this year's OEASA Awards.

Doctoral researcher David Marsden of Victoria University in Melbourne is conducting a survey of outdoor professionals who provide services to schools, aiming to identify what is required of Australian outdoor leaders. Details are on page 5.

On page 9 Wayne and Libby have an account of an Operation Flinders Peer Group Mentor Bushwalk, an event held last September. Operation Flinders, in common with many other organisations, welcomes volunteers to assist with programs for young people.

How often have you been bitten, eaten, or worse by some creature in the Australian bush? On page 10 Prof Chris Daniels questions whether our country really has such dangerous creatures as some make out. Interesting. (The curious juvenile magpies were at Snowden Beach one morning.)

Canoe SA held another assessment day at West Lakes on Sun 16 Feb. (The place was busy with a dragonboat regatta: something to be avoided next time.) When all the

paperwork is finalised there will be some new Flatwater Instructors, Guides and Lifeguards, together with two new Assessors. Kudos to Jim Townsend for organising the day.



A draft document arrived for checking the other day, listing a 'prussic loop'. Not sure what a chemist would make of that, since prussic is hydrogen cyanide, HCN, a poison. The knot, a hitch actually, was devised by Austrian climber Dr Karl Prusik (1896–1961). One expects OEASA members can tell the difference.

As if you needed any more reminding that learning outdoors is beneficial, see the blog at www.bachelorsdegreeonline.com/blog/2012/11-proven-benefits-of-outdoor-learning.

One for the calendar: the Canoe SA Team Paddle Challenge for this year will be Sat 5–Sun 6 November.

Another non-OEASA item in the calendar is the 2016 South Australian Championship for OEG's Hillary Challenge on Sat 14–Sun 15 May. Details are at www.oeg.org.au/hillary-challenge.

Yes, I thought it was time for a new pic. (There is a Prusik loop in that mess on deck, but it's hard to spot.) 

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 2015–2016

Chair: Mike Meredith

Assistant Chair: Chris Hodgson

Treasurer: Phil Noble

Assistant Treasurer: Andrew Stace

Secretary: Nick Glover

Assistant Secretary: Bel Emanuele

Editor and webmaster: Peter Carter

Committee: Scott Polley, Bianca Newton, David Edwards, Micha Jensen, Dave Walker, Simon Wilson, Luke Duncan, Rob Stillwell, Ray Prideaux, Emma Lowing

From the Chairman

Mike Meredith

Welcome to the first edition of *Outdoor News* for 2016. I hope you all had a very safe, restful and enjoyable break and are now back at work in the thick of things and getting ready take those youngsters into the great outdoors.

During the break I was lucky enough to visit two very beautiful areas, the Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas. What great places they are and such beautiful natural areas in the national parks of Innes, Coffin Bay and Lincoln. So much on offer to such diverse groups of people who can access these magnificent areas whilst they are simultaneously protecting amazing natural ecosystems of such significance. Aren't our parks so wonderful?

The easy access to some areas caused a little concern as at a few campsites we were met with considerable amounts of rubbish. Nothing that a garbage bag couldn't fix, but my goodness, it has been a while since I have seen such deliberate spoiling of our natural places. The thought that some people just do not get it worries me. They have clearly visited these magnificent places, enjoyed their stay (from the copious and varied leftovers) but left the mess for others. I am sure they would complain bitterly if they turned up to a campsite and were met with such a mess. Thus it falls to us as Outdoor Educators to educate as many young people as possible in matters of environmental care and wise stewardship of our fragile natural places to ensure these are isolated and decreasing incidence's of people misusing and harming our treasured natural places.

The upcoming 19th National Outdoor Education Conference will focus on our roles in educating young people travelling in and learning about themselves, others and the environments they traverse. I hope many of you will make the effort to attend. In fact OEASA can help fund your attendance! If you are self-funding to get there see later in this edition for funding of up to \$500 to help get you there, stay there or get in the door.

There are a number of other activities planned for 2016 some of which are annual events and others new initiatives. The details of this year's major calendar activities are listed throughout this edition and will be available on the OEASA website. I urge you to mark them on your calendar now so you are able to attend and can help make them successful and worthwhile events.

I would particularly like to draw your attention to the following important events which have occurred or are planned for this year:

OEASA SACE Stage 2 teachers meeting

A very successful meeting of 20 Stage 1 and 2 Outdoor Education teachers was held on Friday 12 February. This meeting was a chance to come together discuss and share ideas on the course and task sharing for improving their course in 2016. Next year we plan to look at more detail into Folio Tasks and Investigation topics to help teachers improve student learning in Outdoor Education.

AGM 2016

The 2016 AGM will be held on Friday 18 March, 6:00 pm (for a 6:30 pm start) at The Seven Stars Hotel, 187 Angas Street.

Agenda:

- Welcome
- Apologies
- Previous minutes
- Chairperson's report
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's report
- Election of office bearers 2016
- AOB

It is hoped that people attending will stay for a chat, meal and drinks after the AGM. The Hotel has a fine à la carte menu and Beer and Burger specials for you to choose from. Once we have finished the AGM everyone is encouraged to stay for a meal and catch up with fellow outdoor enthusiasts. You will be well situated to make it a night on the town once we have finished.

19th National Outdoor Education Conference

The NOEC is coming and is the most important event on the Australian Outdoor ED calendar.

Highlights include:

Three Keynotes—Exceptional visionaries in education, research and the environment

35 concurrent presentations across four streams:

- Contemporary Issues
- Pedagogy and Curriculum
- Program Design, Delivery and Outcomes
- Risk and Safety Management

One full day of in-the-field workshops—12+ activities in the Sunshine Coast region exploring innovations in OE practice

Trade displays, fantastic sponsor support and great networking opportunities

Attended by up to 200 outdoor educators and interested individuals/parties from across Australia and New Zealand

Lunch, morning and afternoon tea, welcome dinner and conference dinner and drinks package included

Value-packed conference, low-cost accommodation and transfers available

Student pricing and volunteer attendance options are available.

Check out the website for more details: outdooreducationaustralia.org.au/noec-2016

Can we help fund your conference participation? The OEASA committee has set aside some funding to assist any of our members who are self-funding to attend the conference. If you would like to be considered for funding assistance of up to \$500 please contact Nick Glover: 0421 612 340 or oeasa.secretary@gmail.com.



From the Chairman

...continued

The Outdoor Presentation Dinner will be held on Friday 17 June, hopefully at the Unley City Council Chambers with a new caterer to be determined as Frank and his crew have unfortunately ceased business. This evening recognises the achievements of those involved in the outdoor community and is one not to be missed. An Award Nomination form and award details have been included later in the newsletter if you have someone in mind.

Outdoor Education Week (October dates TBC) is another fixture on the calendar. This event run each year helps raise public awareness of Outdoor Education and by continuing will help in our ultimate goal of getting quality curriculum driven Outdoor Education experiences for all students in all year levels across the country. Any positive promotion of what we are doing with young people in the outdoors helps get the message out there. Check out the website: www.outdooreducationweek.com.au/.

The GACO (Great Aussie camp Out) is planned for October (date TBC) and is intended to get people outside and involved in the great outdoors. The idea is to log on to the website indicating you are involved and get out that night in the back yard, caravan park, national park, etc. There is no cost involved and the event helps promote healthy and respectful use of outdoor places.

OEASA Committee meetings

5:30pm at PAC 'Red Centre' Gym (McBride room)

Friday 19 February (T1 Wk 3)

Friday 27 May (T2 Wk 4)

Friday 12 August (T3 Wk 3)

Friday 18 November (T4 Wk 5, end of year drinks) at EDCH

Outdoor News deadlines

We plan to produce four issues of *Outdoor News* each year. The deadline for submitting articles, etc. for inclusion is the end of term, aiming to get the newsletters out early in the school term.

To this end dates for submission of articles are:

End Term 1, Friday 15 April for the May edition

End Term 2, Friday 8 July for the July edition

End Term 3, Friday 30 September for October edition

End of Year, for February 2017 edition.

Your assistance in getting interesting articles, etc. in to the editor, Peter Carter, would be greatly appreciated.

Get involved and let your students/parents/teachers know about it as well.

The Outdoor Seminar Series will be conducted in third term to keep members updated on exciting happenings in Outdoor Education. The first session will be at the Mawson Lakes Planetarium on Friday 2 October, 6:30pm for a 7pm start using the planetarium to view 'Aboriginal Skies'. More on this later in the year.

OEASA Outdoor Conference 'Learning through the Outdoors' is planned for later in the year, Thursday 17 November, starting in the evening and continuing on Friday 18 at the Education Development Centre Hindmarsh. If you have a session you would like to present or sessions you would like to know more about please let us know. later in the year but check the calendar of events and set the dates aside.

I look forward to catching up with as many people as possible at the AGM, Outdoor Presentation Dinner or other activities planned throughout the year. If you have any comments or ideas for upcoming events please do not hesitate to contact either myself or one of your committee members, or come along to a committee meeting where you would be most welcome.

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



AABAT Forum

Adelaide 2016, 8-10 April

Bush Adventure Therapy: "Explore"

The Australian Association for Bush Adventure Therapy (AABAT) is pleased to host the 8th Annual Forum in Adelaide, South Australia, 8-10 April 2016.

The Forum is designed so that people along different stages of their journey can immerse themselves in this experience; not just at the Forum, but also within the Pre and Post Forum program.

For more information about Bush Adventure Therapy and Forum 2016, including presentation and workshop information, check out the AABAT website or contact sa@aabat.org.au: www.aabat.org.au.

Bronze sponsors



GRIFFIN
ADELAIDE HILLS

Access Canoes



The Australian Outdoor Education Leadership Survey

David Marsden

Are you an outdoor leader, educator, guide, instructor, coordinator or manager in the outdoor industry in Australia? If the answer is yes then doctoral researcher David Marsden from Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia would love your assistance by contributing to The Australian Outdoor Education Leadership Survey.

The online survey is the first national phase of a research study aiming to identify the knowledge, skill, and practical experience required of outdoor education leaders in Australia

The survey is targeted at outdoor professionals who provide services to schools. This may range from residential campsites, to outdoor adventure providers, international expeditions, and outdoor education providers.

Several stages of the research have already been completed and have successfully identified a range of knowledge, skill and practical experience through the Victorian

focused phases and it is now vital to test these findings in a national context.

For the national survey to be successful and to provide critical information to improve outdoor education leadership in Australia it is imperative that this survey be sent to as many people in the outdoor sector in each state/territory as possible. Your assistance in distributing the survey through your networks is crucial and greatly appreciated in achieving this goal.

The survey is simple to complete and completely anonymous.

You can access the survey via the following link: https://vuau.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_5gAyBAuTj7VXuEB.

If you would like more information regarding this research or have an interest in outdoor education leadership please contact David via david.marsden2@vu.edu.au



You can make a difference to the outdoor industry
The Australian Outdoor Education Leadership Survey
Online Now
coordinators, managers, outdoor educators, leaders, guides, camps, journeys, expeditions

Treasurer's Report 2015

Phil Noble

The 2015 year for the Outdoor Education Association of South Australia (OEASA) was a lot quieter with no national conference to organise. Our membership database has 143 members with 112 being paid financial members. The breakdown is as follows:

- Life Members: 6
- Individual Members: 12
- Student Members: 1
- Family Members: 4
- School Members: 34
- Electronic Members: 4
- Organisation Members: 1
- Award Winners: 8
- Complimentary Members: 41
- Gold Sponsors: 4
- Unpaid Members: 31

The two major events for OEASA for the year were the Award dinner and the seminar series presentation from Kelly Thorpe.

The Award Dinner had 61 people attending this great night. Throughout the night raffles, the auction and prizes kindly donated by several of our members and sponsors raised \$729.20.

OEASA started the year with \$35,258.50 in the bank. Throughout the year we had an Income of \$9,371.52 and Expenses of \$11,496.95. This saw us with a loss of \$2,125.43 and a closing bank balance of \$33,133.07.

OEASA 2016 AGM

Friday 18 March, starting at 6:30 pm
Seven Stars Hotel, 187 Angas Street
Program

6:00–6:30 pm: Drinks and Nibbles

6:30–7:00 pm: AGM

7:00–8:00 pm: Stay for a chat and order a meal from the à la carte menu or Beer and Burger specials.

All members are encouraged to attend and support your association.

Calls are made for nominations from among our members to serve as office bearers of the association. Nominations with a seconder for the following positions may be made prior to or at the AGM: Chairperson, Assistant Chair, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Sub editor and committee members.

Nominations and RSVP for numbers if attending/staying for a meal to Nick Glover by phone to 0421 612 340 or oeasa.secretary@gmail.com by Tuesday 15 March 2016.



OEASA Financial Report 2015

For the period 1 Jan–31 Dec

Phil Noble

Opening Balance	\$35,258.50
Income	
Bank Interest	\$164.52
Award Dinner	\$2,047.00
Auction	\$1,455.00
Membership Individual(12)	\$840.00
Membership Student (1)	\$45.00
Membership Electronic (4)	\$80.00
Membership Family (4)	\$320.00
Membership School (34)	\$2,720.00
Membership Corporate (1)	\$80.00
Membership Organisation (1)	\$40.00
Membership Award Winners(8)	\$0.00
Membership Complementary (41)	\$0.00
Membership Life Members (6)	\$1,580.00
Members 143 (112members, 31 unpaid)	
Total	\$9,371.52

Expenditure	
Newsletter, Editing	\$264.75
Newsletter, Printing	\$286.00
Postage	\$714.70
Stationery	\$338.98
Membership (CEASA, OEA)	\$1,419.50
Public Liability Insurance	\$511.00
Donations	\$2,736.34
Award Dinner	\$2,930.80
Journals	\$1,395.00
Meetings	\$522.50
Internet	\$377.38
Total	\$11,496.95
Summary	
Total Income	\$9,371.52
Less Total Expenditure	\$11,496.95
Profit/Loss	-\$2,125.43
Balance at 31 December 2015	\$33,133.07

Minutes of the 2015 OEASA AGM

Astor Hotel, 13 March 2014

AGM opened: 18:50

Present: Nick Glover, Mike Meredith, Scott Polley, Wayne Hooper, Libby Robertson, Peter Carter, David Edwards, Peter Kellett, Kelly Thorpe, Rob Stillwell, Emma Lowing, Bel Emanuele

Apologies: Chris Detmar, Andrew Stace, Micha Jensen, Bianca Newton, Tim Gill, Dave Walker, Kylie Pointon, Rob Hogan, Liz Liebig, Phil Noble, Mike Foot, Matt Randell, Cath Warnecke, Ben Lovell, Nick Sward

Welcome from the chairman and proceedings for the AGM.

1. AGM minutes from 2014 were read and accepted by DE, seconded by WH.
2. Chairman's report was given by Mike Meredith as follows:

Welcome to the 2015 OEASA AGM. OEASA has had another very busy year in 2014.

The association has represented its members as best possible and provided service to outdoor professionals in South Australia. A national conference was conducted in April 2014. National Outdoor representation has continued with OEASA running the administration for the National Outdoor Education Association (OEA) until the National conference now handing over to QOEA, who are hosting the 2016 national conference.

I would like to thank the committee members for their significant efforts and help throughout the year particularly with their work on the conference. Without their

assistance and efforts little would be achieved and we as an organisation would provide little to our members. Everyone has supported the organisation with dual hats helping out on the National Conference Committee which was a monumental task for all.

Bob and Hazel West have moved on from the Riverland and Bob was granted life membership at the annual presentation dinner. We will miss the regular updates on the Riverland.

I would like to particularly thank Nick Glover and Phil Noble who have continued their work as secretary and treasurer respectively. Luke Duncan, Marc Breschi and Micka Jensen must be thanked for their fantastic efforts toward sponsorship for the presentation dinner, Peter Carter for his efforts as editor and looking after the website. Scott Polley has again made significant contributions to OEA and work on the National HPE curriculum. Thanks and well done.

What has the OEASA committee been up to since the 2014 AGM?

- Last year's AGM was attended by 20 members at the Astor Hotel and concluded with a great meal at the hotel
- Continued cooperation with outdoor leadership organisations including BLSA, SAREA and Canoe SA
- Successful running of the 2014 National Outdoor Education Conference at PAC 14–16 April 2014, attended by 165 people and a very successful event. Thanks to the organising committee for a splendid job. Partnered with ACHPER to run a very successful joint conference 15–16 April 2013. This combined

Minutes of the 2015 OEASA AGM

conference had a very significant OED content. Well done to those that presented

- Organised a very successful Outdoor Presentation Dinner attended by 85 people with the presentation by numerous bodies of their leadership and achievement certificates. The Unley City Council venue was great again as was Frank's superb cooking
- Major Awards presented at the dinner to Phil Noble and Nick Glover for service to OED, Life membership to Bob West and David Doherty was awarded the Kris Mosher Award
- Three newsletters and e-news were distributed. Thanks to Peter Carter for his excellent editorial work and PAC for printing.
- Two editions of National Journal of OED distributed.
- Website has been maintained by Peter Carter. Reminder we are always after material to include
- Bianca Barbon has maintained an OEASA face book page
- Bel Emanuele nearing completion of a new OEASA logo
- Discussions have continued with other state Outdoor Education Associations for Outdoor Education Australia: A Network of OED associations. We have been custodians of the finances and secretarial role and have now handed over to QOEA who are hosting the 2016 National Conference
- We have maintained membership of CEASA, OSA, ACHPER, OEA and links with RecSA
- Facilitated attendance of 15 members at a presentation by Andrew Lock "14 summits"

- Participated in Outdoor Education week, 26–31 October 2014. Once again a significant contribution was made by SA schools and organisations to support this annual event, which coincided with Outdoors October
- Participated in GACO on 11 October 2014 with ACA
- Responded to numerous DENR requests for feedback and input into park proposals and draft management plans
- Phil Noble was awarded 'Recognition of Excellence' award at the CEASA world teachers' day celebrations
- Conducted a viewing of Nature Play *Project Wild Thing*, with donation made to Trees for Life
- Ran a SACE Stage 2 teacher meeting on 6 February 2015 attended by 12 teachers
- Initiated meetings for the reintroduction of Trek 2015
- OEASA has maintained a healthy financial state and is in a position to maintain services into the near future.

I would like to thank our many sponsors for their valuable support during the year. In particular our Gold sponsors: Macpac, Outgrow, Paddy Pallins, Venture Corporate Recharge and Wilderness Escape, Silver sponsor Prince Alfred College and Bronze sponsors: Vertical Reality Climbing Gym, Snowy's Outdoors and Griffin Wines. All must be thanked for their generous donations and support of OEASA and the presentation dinner. Please show your support to all these organisations with your patronage and help to repay some of their support. I would like to acknowledge the support given by Prince Alfred College throughout the year in producing the newsletter.

New Ropes Course



**Ask us about our
new ropes course at
Douglas Scrub...
Book in NOW!**

**12m Climbing Tower with up to 12 ropes
Over 15 High Ropes elements
Available from 11th February 2014**



www.venture.net.au info@venture.net.au Ph 08 8165 2033

Minutes of the 2015 OEASA AGM

In summary, I would like to once again thank the committee on behalf of the members for their efforts throughout the year and our many sponsors, supporters and people who have helped OEASA.

I look forward to another busy year in 2015 with the International ACHPER conference 13–15 April at PAC, the presentation dinner on 19 June, a possible Trek 2015 and the OEA: Network continuing to represent a strong national body, and providing ongoing input into developing OED content for the Australian HPE curriculum. I hope 2015 will be a good year for all and that activities and programs being run by or for OEASA members are enjoyable and successful.

3. Secretary's Report 2014

The past year has proved to be not dissimilar to recent years at the secretary's desk. The major tasks undertaken continue to be the dissemination of relevant information to the OE community, as well as assisting in coordinating OEASA calendar events.

Late last year a couple of new initiatives were undertaken, including firstly an e-news. This was mainly to be able to distribute a number of newsworthy points in one hit, but a smaller amount of content than is usually presented in ON, and this may be useful in the future between ON editions if the need arises.

Secondly, a survey of the membership was undertaken to better understand how the committee might be of service to them. The responses were overwhelmingly positive in their support of what we currently do, and popular suggestions included to coordinate some social outdoor activities for members and their families such as walks and rides; and also to facilitate trade in pre-loved outdoor gear via a car-boot sale, and/or listings in ON. Stay tuned.

I recently met with representatives from OEG, and we welcome them as a new gold level supporter of OEASA, alongside Macpac, Outgrow, Paddy Pallin, VCR and WEOA.

It is a pleasure to continue to fill this role for OEASA.

4. Treasurer's Report 2014

The 2014 year was once again a successful one for the Outdoor Education Association of South Australia (OEASA). Our membership database has 141 members with 69 being paid financial members. The breakdown is as follows:

Life Members:	5
Individual Members:	32
Student Members:	4
Family Members:	4
School Members:	41
Electronic Members:	14
Organisation Members:	9
Award Winners:	5
Complimentary Members:	22
Gold Sponsors:	4
Unpaid Members:	37

The two major events for OEASA for the year were the Award dinner and the NOEC Conference.

The Award Dinner had 84 people attending this great night. Throughout the night raffles the auction and prizes kindly donated by several of our members and sponsors raised \$1983.50.

The NOEC conference took up most of our time in the first part of the year and was a huge success. Throughout the week we had a number of great speakers and concurrent session with our dinners and auctions raising some vital funds. We were able to donate \$500 to the Fred Hollows Foundation and \$1000 to the Wilderness Society. We ended up with a profit of \$5,472.68 to be split with the OEA for the next conference.

OEASA started the year with \$28,628.29 in the bank. Throughout the year we had an Income of \$83,586.29 and Expenses of \$76,956.08. This saw us with a profit of \$6,630.21 and a closing bank balance of \$35,258.50.

4. Election of officers

Officers were elected as follows:

- Chair person: Mike Meredith returned
- Vice Chair person: Chris Hodgson returned
- Treasurer: Phil Noble returned
- Assistant treasurer: Andrew Stace returned
- Secretary: Nick Glover returned
- Assistant Secretary: Bel Emanuele returned
- Newsletter Editor/Webmaster: Peter Carter returned
- Sub-editor: not filled
- Committee: Scott Polley, Bianca Newton, David Edwards, Micha Jensen, Dave Walker, Simon Wilson, Luke Duncan, Rob Stillwell, Ray Prideaux, Emma Lowing, Chris Hodgson
- OSA rep: Mike Meredith returned
- OSA rep to OEASA: Gordon Begg returned
- CEASA reps: Nick Glover and Mike Meredith returned
- OEA: Scott Polley and Mike Meredith returned

8. Outdoor Education Australia

Scott Polley gave an update on the status of the national curriculum.

9. 2015 events

A list of confirmed 2015 OEASA events was provided to all present, which was not different to that already distributed to members earlier in the year.

10. AOB

A debate was had on how OEASA can best support the outdoor sector by maintaining relationships with other organisations representing this same sector, namely Outdoors SA and Recreation SA. As a first step it was proposed that reinstating membership with RecSA would be positive. Further discussions are to be had at the next committee meeting.

11. Next AGM to be held in mid-March, 2016.

AGM closed 7:50pm.



Operation Flinders Peer Group Mentor Bushwalk

Wayne Hooper and Libby Robertson

Operation Flinders Foundation is a South Australian based charitable organization that runs a world leading wilderness adventure program for young offenders and young people at risk. The program takes participants between the age of 14 and 18 years on an eight day exercise in the far northern Flinders Ranges, providing an opportunity for its participants to break away from their past and grow as valued members of the community.

The Foundation offers a unique program that presents its participants with a new direction in life. Teams trek 100km through the spectacular Flinders Ranges with the aim to develop personal attitudes of self esteem, leadership, motivation, team work and responsibility. They learn basic bush survival skills, are taught to abseil, discover Indigenous culture and learn of the rich history of the Flinders Ranges. Unlike other aspects of their lives, there is not an opportunity for the participants to 'opt out'.

Each team, of between eight and ten, is led by a team leader skilled in navigation and bushcraft. The young participants live out and sleep on the ground, prepare their own food, navigate through the Flinders Ranges and learn the values of team work and respect.

Young people who do well on the exercise have the opportunity of joining the PGM program.

Peer Group Mentors (PGMs) are graduates of the Operation Flinders program. They are the bright light on top of a hill shining as beacons of possibility, personal growth, and hope. These are young people who have responded to the team ethos of the Operation Flinders experience, and who have learned the thrill and satisfaction of physical adventure and have found the courage and mental toughness within, to relish the challenges. Furthermore, following further training provided by Operation Flinders, they then return to our wilderness program to help other 'first-timers' who are going through what they once did. These are young people who

have been willing to reach down and lift up others to help them achieve their goals.

When OEASA advertised the possibility of resurrecting the TREK concept where groups of young people undertook a continuous series of walks along the Heysen Trail, we nominated a section to be walked by the Operation Flinders PGM program.

On the weekend of September 12–13 2015 five PGMs took part in an overnight bushwalk on the Heysen Trail in the Southern Fleurieu region. We walked twenty five kilometres over two half days starting near Myponga and finishing at Inman Valley. The Heysen Trail in that area is quite demanding with steep ascents and descents on rough walking trails through Conservation Parks, pristine scrub and following markers across paddocks. We were blessed with temperatures in the mid twenties, wonderful views and wild flowers in bloom.

The group consisted of two experienced PGMs, Candace and Erin, Basil who is keen to take part in the next exercise in the Northern Flinders and Jordan and Seb on their first training weekend. The group were enthusiastic and committed. They worked well together, demonstrating excellent teamwork and communication. We, as leaders, were impressed that the group broke camp independently on Sunday morning and were ready to depart at 7:30 am, demonstrating their camp-craft skills and organisation. Everyone showed interest in navigation and the new experience of cooking on a methylated spirit stove. All handled the demanding walk well.

The programs, run by Operation Flinders, relies on a range of volunteers to fulfil the tasks necessary to provide young people with a successful experience. Roles include: preparation of stores, vehicles and equipment, set-up and pull down of camps in the Northern Flinders, Team Leaders, Assistant Team Leaders and Base Staff..Anyone interested in a role with the Foundation is encouraged to make contact to explore the possibilities: (08) 82452 6666, www.operationflinders.org.au.

Calendar

19th National Outdoor Education Conference

29 March–2 April (T1 Wk 9)

Sunshine Coast

OEG Hillary Challenge

2016 South Australian Championship Sat 14–Sun 15 May

An outdoor team competition aimed at developing leadership, environmental stewardship, resilience, creativity and the ability to work together.

See www.oeg.org.au/hillary-challenge.

Outdoor Presentation Dinner

Friday 17 June, 6:30 pm for 7 pm start (T2 Wk 7)

Unley City Council

Outdoor Seminar Series 'Learning through the Outdoors'

'Aboriginal Skies': Mawson Lakes Planetarium, Friday 2 September, 6:30 for 7 pm start (T3 Wk6)

Great Aussie Campout (GACO)

Saturday 8 October (TBC)

ACA to coordinate

Outdoor Education Week

October, TBC

OEA to coordinate

Outdoor Conference 'Learning through the Outdoors'

Thursday 17–Friday 18 November, 6:30 pm for opening (T4 Wk5), EDCH

Does Australia have the most dangerous wildlife on the planet?

Or are we a nation of scaredy cats?

Professor Chris Daniels

Summer is descending upon Australia—and you know what that means. Spider, snake and shark stories will clog the print media and the airwaves. Australia (apparently) abounds with lethal wildlife just waiting for the warm weather to lure us from the couch. Once outdoors the ferocious beasts will exterminate us once and for all....right? Well, no actually.

Australia is not a country of particularly overly lethal animals (at least compared to the rest of the world). But it is a country in which people are animal phobic and have an overinflated and unreasonable fear of being bitten.

I am continually concerned about our overemphasis on venomous, poisonous and dangerous creatures that apparently stalk our gardens. The media also continually promotes Australia as 'the deadliest country on Earth'. This is absolutely not the case. In fact our risks from wildlife are much less than that found in almost all other countries.

Wildlife all over the globe uses poison for protection and venom to kill prey — Australia is not special. Well, it is in that we have the only venomous mammal, but has anyone every really been harmed by a platypus?

While one spider, a couple of ants and about two dozen snakes have very potent venoms, realistically only one species is ever encountered in Australia — the eastern brown snake — and that also rarely bites. The highest death rates due to snakes occur in South East Asia and they are thousands of times greater than ours, while our death rate due to snake bite is about the same as the United Kingdom and Holland (neither of which have any truly deadly native snakes). The funnel-web spider is lethal but nowhere near as consistently deadly as North African scorpions which kill tens of thousands of people each year.

Our wildlife is also relatively free of lethal bacteria, viruses and parasites. Fruit bats might have lissa and Hendra virus, but that is nothing compared to the diseases that overseas wildlife carry. And I am not just talking about malaria (gone from Australia since the 1940s). Australian animals do not carry rabies, black death, ebola or hunta virus. In the northern hemisphere, one of the 'deadliest' animals is the squirrel. And don't get me started on the most lethal of all United States animals, the chipmunk! Every year, northern hemisphere rodents kill lots of people and pets by transferring diseases in bites.

And of course we don't have large biting animals such as leopards, lions or hippopotamus. We might get an occasional kick from a kangaroo, but be grateful we do not have bears! We do have sharks, crocodiles, sea-snakes and stinging jellyfish it is true, but then so do all the other countries in our Indo-Pacific region, and we don't hear them bleating on about it.

Our mortality and morbidity levels due to wildlife interactions are a minute fraction of those in North America,

Asia and Africa, and are similar or lower than most European nations. Our venomous, poisonous and biting species tend to be rare, small, few in species number, shy or live in remote or inaccessible locations. We coastal city dwellers just don't come in contact with many dangerous animals. Even the common brown snake is rarely seen and they love our backyards.

In fact now our most dangerous (mortality and morbidity causing) species are all imports — fire ants, redback and fiddleback spiders, European wasps and bees. The most poisonous of all introduced invertebrates is the monarch caterpillar — ever eaten one?

Same with vertebrates. The most poisonous Aussie amphibian is the imported cane toad, while the most physically dangerous mammal is the feral pig.

In reality the overwhelming majority of animal-related injuries come from bees, horses and dogs. Native species come a long way back and most attacks are from swooping nesting birds like magpies which are actually the biggest regular injury-causing native animal.

So what's the harm if there's an unrealistic level of fear of our wildlife? Isn't it better to be more cautious than to risk our health?

My concern is that the continued depiction of Australia as being chock-full of dangerous species leads to excessive fear, distrust of the outdoors, lack of use of national parks, calls for culls and even the killing of many relatively harmless animals.

We need people understanding and enjoying our natural environment, not becoming so terrified of it that they will not go outside.

So this summer, remember that nature is not out to get you (at least no more so than in a Danish forest) so please get out and enjoy the great outdoors. And if you do encounter wildlife while you are outdoors — **Don't panic!** It is more afraid of you.

UniSA Professor of Biology, Chris Daniels, loves getting up close and personal with nature. In this Research Spotlight column, he urges Australians to do the same and put aside a fear of wildlife.

Source: w3.unisa.edu.au/unisanews/2015/December/story4.asp.



Dangerous? Who? Us?



Adventure Activity Standards

Heather Kennett

The development of the Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) was discussed in Melbourne in December, with members of the project Steering Committee coming together from around Australia. Key agenda items included identifying trends in outdoor adventure activity participation and project planning.

The working groups will be responsible for the drafting of the AAS. Once completed the draft AAS will then be open for public consultation and feedback.

The working groups will be made up of highly experienced adventure activity 'experts' with skills, knowledge and experience in delivery and management in a wide range of contexts. The first working group to be formed will look at the 'common content' that can be applied to all adventure activities.

The first working group was recently established to work on drafting the Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAS). South Australian and Recreation SA Life Member Peter Vandepier is contributing to the panel, along with Margot Hurrell (Chair), Clare Dallat, David Chitty, David Clarke, Dave Simpson, Graham Sharpe, Julian Atherstone, Peter McKenna and Phil Harrison. The group has met twice and work on drafting the document is progressing well.

It is hoped this is an indicator that there will be strong participation in the public consultation phase by highly

experienced and qualified practitioners. This will further enhance the outcome from the development process. With so much planning work having been completed, it is very exciting that development work has now started.

To find out more about the Australian AAS or subscribe to the Australian AAS newsletter, please go to www.australianaas.org.au.



Submission guidelines

Contributions on any and all Outdoor Education and related matters are welcome in *Outdoor News*, and may be submitted directly to the editor at pcarter@acslink.net.au.

The first line of a file is to be the item's title, the second, the author's name (without 'By'). Include captions for any accompanying images, with details of who, which, what, when, where, etc.

Text may be as text file (.txt), RTF (.rtf) or Word format. If your file is a Word .doc or .docx, or RTF, please use appropriate styles for headings, list items, etc. (See 'Wordprocessing right and wrong', *ON* Vol 28 No 3, October 2010, p 14.)

Do not embed Web URLs in Word hyperlinks: list them in full.

Photographs must be submitted as image files, JPEG or TIFF, and **not** embedded in Word files (ever). Line art may be submitted in TIFF, EPS or Illustrator format. Where there are several images they may be sent as a ZIP archive.

Advertisements from sponsors or other organisations must be submitted as PDFs. Half page advertisements may be one column or landscape. Payment, where applicable, must be made through the OEASA Treasurer.

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Student Members

Andrew Senyszyn



Do children climb trees anymore?

Fewer people live on properties with big-big trees. I hear of teachers scolding children for climbing in the school yard—young primates being disciplined for their biology. I see the City prune low branches—‘hazards’ or ‘ugliness’—in ways that make public trees unclimbable by small people.

I want my daughters to climb trees—grow strength with nature. If allowed, climbing trees grows powerful, dextrous bodies. And trees grow powerful psychologies too. Children build determination in the face of fear—learning that fear can be found and known, and surmounted too.

I want my daughters to climb trees—learn to find sanctuary in nature. People who spend time with nature and natural places live happier, better lives. When stressed and unwell, people recover faster when they can take refuge in nature.

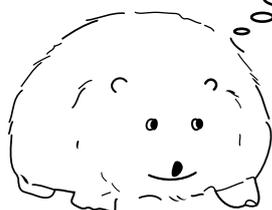
I want my daughters to climb trees—have a relationship with a living thing bigger and longer-lived than themselves. Children who love trees gift them to the future, their children, and their childrens’ children.

I want my daughters to climb trees. But where will they climb? To heck with pretty trees and safe trees. I want trees for children—climbing trees.

Source: sciblogs.co.nz/politecol/2016/01/19/climbing-trees.



There is always space in *Outdoor News* for your contribution



OEASA Awards

OEASA Awards are presented annually at the Certification Presentation Dinner.

The following awards may be approved by the OEASA committee, following submission of an application for selection of an appropriate award.

The application should state:

- 1 Candidate’s full name, address, phone number and email if applicable
- 2 Nominator’s full name, address, phone number, fax number, email and institution(s) they are associated with
- 3 The Award that the candidate is being nominated for.

Conditions:

- 1 One candidate nomination per application
- 2 Nominator may nominate multiple candidates
- 3 The nominator does not need to be an OEASA member
- 4 The decision to accept the nominator’s recommendation lies with the OEASA committee
- 5 Successful awardees will be advised by OEASA, and invited to attend the certificate presentation dinner
- 6 Awards may not be awarded in all categories every year.

Awards:

- 1 A certificate will be issued by OEASA, signed by the chair, bearing the OEASA logo
- 2 The award will be posted out to candidates that are unable to attend the certificate presentation dinner
- 3 Awardees will be provided with state OEASA membership for 12 months
- 4 Mark Auricht Award, Tertiary Award and Krish Mosher Award students will be offered membership to the Australian Outdoor Education body, including receipt of the national journal
- 5 Mark Auricht Award, Tertiary Award and Kris Mosher Award will be provided with a small prize
- 6 All awardees and their friends and family are invited to attend the OEASA Certificate Presentation Dinner, at OEASA member rates
- 7 The committee may from time to time provide awardees with limited means with financial assistance to attend
- 8 The OEASA tertiary award will also be recognised by Uni SA Alumni in the graduation ceremony
- 9 All senior secondary, tertiary and professional awardees will be invited to join the OEASA committee.

Categories:

- 1 Student
 - a. Primary Education
Open nomination, including teachers, principals, volunteers and others.
 - i Significant application to outdoor or environmental education
 - ii Involvement in outdoor journeys and/or environmental action
 - iii Role model for other primary outdoor or environmental education students.

OEASA Members

- b. Secondary Education (Stage 2 Outdoor Education)
Nominated by teachers of Stage 2 Outdoor Education
- Achieves a result of 20 (pre-scaling) for Stage 2 Outdoor Education
 - Demonstrates application to outdoor journeys and/or environmental action
 - Is a role model for other Outdoor Education students.
- c. Mark Auricht Award
Nominated by the Chief Moderator/SACE Board, Outdoor Education.
- Achieves the highest mark for Stage 2 Outdoor Education
 - Demonstrates application to outdoor journeys and/or environmental action
 - Is a role model for other Outdoor Education students.
- d. VET/TAFE Outdoor Recreation award
Nominated by the Program Director, Diploma of Outdoor Recreation.
- Achieves a high academic standing within the Diploma of Outdoor Recreation
 - Demonstrates application to outdoor journeys and/or environmental action
 - Is a role model for other Outdoor Recreation students.
- e. Tertiary Outdoor Education Award
Nominated by the Outdoor Education study stream coordinator.
- Achieves a high academic standing within studies of Outdoor Education
 - Demonstrates application to outdoor journeys and/or environmental action
 - Is a role model for other Outdoor Education students.
- f. Certificate of Merit in Outdoor Education (all students)
Open nomination, including teachers, principals, volunteers and others.
- Demonstrates a high level of application to Outdoor Education studies
 - Demonstrates application to outdoor journeys and/or environmental action
 - Is a role model for other Outdoor Education students.
- 2 Professionals and Volunteers
- a. Service to Outdoor Education
- Demonstrates significant and sustained application to the provision and improvement of Outdoor Education and/or Outdoor Recreation
 - Demonstrates significant and sustained impact on the provision, quality or development of Outdoor Education in South Australia
 - Is a role model for other Outdoor Education/Outdoor Recreation/Environmental Education professionals or volunteers.

- b. Krish Mosher Environmental Education Award
- Demonstrates significant and sustained contributions to Environmental Education and/or Earth Education and/or Environmental Action
 - Demonstrates significant and sustained impact on the provision, quality or development of Environmental Education and/or Earth Education and/or Environmental Action
 - Is a role model for other Environmental Education and/or Earth Education and/or Environmental professionals or volunteers.
- 3 OEASA Life Member
- Demonstrates significant and sustained service to the Outdoor Educators' Association of South Australia
 - Is a role model for other Outdoor Education/Outdoor Recreation/Environmental Education volunteers or professionals.



The Great Aussie Camp Out, October

GACO brings together thousands of Australians for one big night where they 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 and Guides, bushwalking clubs, canoeing clubs. Residential camps will also be able to offer activities such as high ropes, etc. 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.

There will be more information about the Great Aussie Camp 2016 so stay tuned: www.greataussiecampout.org.au.

Outdoor Educators Association of South Australia

Outdoor Education Award

For people who have demonstrated a high level of involvement and commitment to Outdoor Education.

Nominations to be received by 18 May. To be presented at the Certificate Presentation Dinner in June.

Candidate Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Category

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Primary Education Award | <input type="checkbox"/> | Secondary Education Award | <input type="checkbox"/> | TAFE Outdoor Recreation Award | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tertiary Outdoor Education Award | <input type="checkbox"/> | Certificate of Merit in Outdoor Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Service to Outdoor Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | Kris Mosher Award | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Life Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | |

Statement Addressing Criteria

Nominee: _____ **Organisation/Institution:** _____

Address to

OEASA Secretary: Nick Glover, <oeasa.secretary@gmail.com>, c/- 80 Price Ave Clapham SA 5062

OEASA Committee _____

Recommendation: Accept/Not Accept

Comments

Outdoor Educators' Association Of South Australia

ABN 26 588 063 701

Membership form

Membership subscription for period 1 March 2016 to 28 Feb 2017

Type of Membership:

- Renewal New member
- Individual \$70
- Student \$45 (with AJOE) \$20 (without AJOE)
- School/Organisation/Corporate/Family \$80
- Electronic Member ((Newsletter and emails) \$20

(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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Phil Noble
21 Flinders Street
Kent Town SA 5067

0418 854 474
pnoble@staff.pac.edu.au