



**The Outdoor Recreation Industry Council of NSW
Annual General Meeting**

4.45 pm Saturday, 15th August 2009

at

Novotel Hotel, Sydney Olympic Park



Annual General Meeting AGENDA

- Welcome and opening remarks
- Apologies
- Minutes of Previous AGM
- President's Report
- Financial Report
- Board Members' Reports
- Other Reports
- Election of Office Bearers
- General Business

2009 ORIC President's Report

It is easy to feel alive and invigorated with outdoor pursuits.

Population and environmental pressures dictate that rules and standards need to be followed, by all parties, when venturing into the great outdoors.

As an industry, we must exercise some controls or we will be controlled.

The past year has been busy. In a nutshell, we are tracking on our budget, moving ahead on our projects and processes and have increased our membership.

And of course, it is important to us to for us to continue to increase our members' benefits, and create a vibrant forum for our Industry in NSW.

It is fair to say that our focus has changed a little this year away from our membership services and workshops, and has intensified onto the Australian Activity Standards. We believe this is the way to go for NSW, so as we fall into line with the other states. Many ORIC members have loudly expressed the need in this area, and it is good to be answering the call.

The Board is a changing and dynamic entity, and we are constantly on the look out, as well as actively seeking out people of expertise, to broaden the makeup of it.

So if you feel you have something to add to the direction of ORIC, please take the time to talk to any of the board members and I encourage you to have your say, about your industry and your profession.

I would like to make special note of the members and non members who have given their time and knowledge to the technical working groups and steering committees of the NSW Australian Activity Standards.

ORIC has worked closely with Penny Spoelder of National Parks and I am pleased to see that the Commercial Licensing for National Parks now has the stamp of approval. This new scheme, through the input of ORIC, has provided longevity and reliability of licensed access for our commercial partners.

During the run up to the 2008 conference, the board decided that the incumbent president could make a separate award to recognize an outstanding contribution made to the Outdoor Recreation Industry Council of NSW. Dr Tracey Dickson, in 2008, was a most deserving recipient, and we thank Tracey for her efforts over many years.

Our EO, Kirstin Peralta, never fails to push and to push and go the second mile. She turns a part time job into a fulltime effort. She is about at all hours of the day and night. Thank you for your dedicated effort.

Kirstin is supported in the office by Cindy, and ORIC can only go ahead with such a great team into 2009/2010.

The Board has met regularly throughout the year and have worked hard to move ORIC forward. I thank them all for the substantial time commitment that they have made.

More importantly for our industry, I thank them for the generous manner in which they share their knowledge and expertise. Their intellectual property so freely given, is a gift.

Not only have they attended the board meetings and done their written homework; they have been involved with countless committee meetings involved in local, interstate and national issues, regarding our volunteer bodies, commercial, not for profit groups and other working committees.

My personal thanks go to the Department of Sport and Rec and particularly to Rob Ridley and Phil Anderson for the individual interest that they take in ORIC.

Thank you, to Rich Withycombe for your involvement and keeping the lines of communication between the Department and ORIC.

In closing;

I encourage you to reflect on how YOU can help to maintain a safe and healthy outdoor space; for the enjoyment of all- into the future.

Thank you

Arthur Crichton, ORIC President 2009

2009 Financial Report

ORIC financials for the year to 30 June 2009 have been prepared and verified in accordance with legislative requirements. Main financial indicators as on June 30 2009 are as under:

RECEIPTS	2009		2008		2007	
	\$	% of Receipt	\$	% of Receipt	\$	% of Receipt
Membership	37,539	21.78%	29,923	21.76%	28,360	24.63%
Conference & Workshops	54,239	31.47%	35,420	25.75%	33,403	29.01%
NOLRS	-	-	-	0%	755	0.66%
Adventure Activity Standards	28,000	16.25%				
Sponsorship Dept of Sport & Recreation	45,000	26.11%	45,000	32.72%	45,000	39.09%
Organisational Accreditation	-	-	18,125	13.18%	2,394	2.08%
Risk Management & other Books Sale	4,396	2.55%	3727	2.71%	2,694	2.34%
Others (Bank Interest)	3,165	1.84%	5,325	3.88%	2,510	2.19%
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$172,339	100%	\$137,520	100%	\$115,116	100%
EXPENSES						
Conference & Workshops	48,316	28.03%	32,336	23.51%	29,563	25.68%
NORLS	-	-	0	0%	539	.47%
Roping Consultants	3,000	1.74%				
Organisational Accreditation	950	.55%	15,806	11.49%	2,994	2.60%
Risk Management & other Books	4,374	2.54%	1,726	1.26%	3,405	2.96%
Project Work (AAS)	16,210	9.42%	5,737	4.17%	-	
OCA Subscription ; AJOE Journals	2,772	1.6%	2,659	1.93%	2,773	2.42%
OCA Industry Research	-	-	2,273	1.66%	0	
Monash Univ Research	2,000	1.17%				
Web site / Computers consumables	5,582	3.23%	3,216	2.34%	848	0.74%
Insurances	8,651	5.02%	6,137	4.46%	5,814	5.05%
Promotional Materials / Adverts	3,732	2.16%	2,296	1.68%	7,049	6.12%
Employment Expenses	56,931	33.04%	60,997	44.35%	46,958	40.79%
SUB TOTAL	\$152,518		133,183		99,943	
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES						
Rent – Office	6,000	3.48%	5,314	3.86%	5,200	4.52%
Postage & Stationery	2,536	1.47%	3,520	2.56%	3,481	3.02%
Accounting & Legals	3,047	1.77%	2,342	1.7%	2,600	2.26%
Meetings	2,994	1.75%	1,958	1.42%	1,823	1.58%
Telephones	1,887	1.09%	1,959	1.43%	1,856	1.61%
Bank Charges	1,371	.79%	1,047	.76%	1,005	.87%
Others	503	.29%	406	.30%	846	.73%
ADMN EXPENSES	18,338		16,546		16,811	
Depreciation	1,110	.64%	1,204	.87%	2,032	1.76%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$171,966	99.78%	150,933	109.75%	\$118,786	103.19%
OPERATING SURP/(DEF) for the YEAR	373	.22%	(13,413)	(9.75%)	(3,670)	(3.19%)

	2009	2008	2007
BANK BALANCES			
Business (adjusting money committed)	46,936	30,528	87,164
Common Fund	65,657	77,492	49,567
TOTAL	112,593	108,020	136,731
Less adjustment	(\$18,611)	(\$46,611)*	(\$66,000)*
2009 Conference – Advance receipts	(\$32,200)		
BALANCE	\$61,782	\$61,409	\$70,731

*2009 balance include \$18,611 deposit received from DSR for accreditation / AAS work (2008: \$46,611), 2008 Conference profit \$ 12,545 and 2009 Conf advance receipts.

NOTES:

The accounts have been prepared on accrual basis.

Operating surplus for the year ending June 2009 is \$ 373 (2008: Deficit \$13,413).

Receipts for the year are \$172,339 (2008: \$137,520), an increase of \$34,819 or 25.32% on 2008. Adventure Activity Standards Work, increased membership and conference receipts are the main drivers.

- Conference and workshops receipts are \$ 54,239 (2008: \$ 35,420).
- 2008 Membership receipts have increased by 25.4% to \$37,539 from \$29,923 (2008).
- Adventure Activity Standards work has generated \$ 28,000(2008: NIL) . In addition we have deposit of \$ 18,611 from DSR for AAS work in progress.
- Other increases are in Sale of Books (\$ 669).
- Sponsorship amount of \$45,000 received from Deptt of Sports & recreation makes 26.11% of our annual receipts.

Expenses for the year are \$ **171,966** (2008: \$150,933), an increase of \$ 21,033 or 13.9% on 2008.

. Following expenses incurred during 2009 (Nil in 2008)

-Roping Consultants	\$3,000
-Monash University Research	\$2,000

These activities are to enhance value of members' services and supposed to generate revenue for the organisation in the future.

. **INCREASES** are:

- Increases in Admn Expenses (Rent \$686, Bank Charges \$324, Meetings \$1036; Acctg \$705); Web site and computer consumables (\$2,366); Insurances (\$2,514); Promotional Exp (\$1,436) are in line with increased ORIC activities.

. **DECREASES** are:

- Employment expenses (\$ 4,066).
- Telephone (\$ 72); Postage & Stationery (\$ 984).

Total Bank Balance (Including Common Fund) of \$61,782 has increased by \$ 373 over 2008 year-end balance of \$ 61,409.

Rajesh Sethi
Accountant

Executive Officer's Report

Against a backdrop of economic challenges, media incident spotlight and changing environments, ORIC has continued to support members, assist in the growth of outdoor recreation and community appreciation of our industry sector, as well as position ORIC for greater recognition and resource allocation from government agencies. We have sought to actively play a leading role in promoting and developing the Outdoor Recreation Industry in NSW and to encourage and promote good industry practice.

A significant development for the outdoor industry in NSW, was the commencement of industry consultation to produce the NSW Adventure Activity Standards (NSW AAS). The NSW AAS information forums were conducted during April and May 2009 – a total of 17 forums were conducted with over 230 people in attendance, with 3,560 km covered in the process. Industry representation included commercial activity providers, schools, community based, volunteer organisations, training providers, land managers, the Department of Arts, Sport and Recreation, other government agencies and local Councils. From this foundation, and reporting through the Project Manger to the Steering Committee, 6 activity specific Technical Working Groups were established for Bushwalking, Canoe/Kayaking, Challenge Ropes, Rock Climbing, Mountain Biking and Abseiling. These groups offer expertise across a range of industry sectors and are tasked with reviewing industry comments and feedback and defining appropriate changes, provide technical and expert considerations and make recommendations regarding generic content to the Steering Committee for development of Draft 2 documents. Draft 2 documents will be made available to the public for a second round of comment.

Membership remains a key focus of ORIC's efforts, and it is pleasing to note that we have welcomed several new members to ORIC over the last 12 months, as increasingly, organisations see the benefits of joining ORIC and being a member of the peak body. The response to ORIC events and initiatives has been strong, and we look forward to this continuing with the ORIC's Annual Outdoor Recreation Industry Conference "*Piecing it Together*", to be held in August 2009.

ORIC Conferences continue to be powerful vehicles and a much anticipated event to bring industry together in discussion on hot issues, industry developments and key learning opportunities, along with great networking and professional development opportunities. The 2008 Conference attracted over 150 attendees per day for a full weekend of sessions, as well as two Pre-Conference Roping and Adventure Activity Standards Workshops.

ORIC has continued to provide input and cooperative working processes through its representation of the outdoor industry on various committees, and engaging with key government agencies, stakeholder organisations and other national and state bodies. During 2008-09 ORIC has worked closely with the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS), Service Skills Australia (SSA), NSW Dept. of Sport and Recreation (DASR), the Outdoor Council of Australia (OCA), Australian Camps Association (ACA), Christian Venues Association, TAFE NSW, Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation (QORF), Outdoor Recreation Centre (ORC) to name a few. The integrity of these working relationships, providing collaboration and opportunities for resource sharing are not to be underestimated, and we acknowledge and value the organisations and individuals with whom we share such relationships.

Establishment of inter-agency and departmental networks including Department of Education and Training (DET), the Department of Health (DOH) Work Cover and Tourism are also being fostered, as the significance of the affiliation between outdoor recreation with these departments is acknowledged explored. ORIC has attended workshops and opened discussions in several areas, and will continue to consolidate these links.

Just as importantly are the joint ventures that we have enjoyed in 2008, particularly with the establishment of a Strategic Alliance with Austbrokers Phillips Insurance and First-Aid sponsored workshop by All Aid First Aid as well as increased and highly valued liaisons with volunteer organisations such as Scouts Australia and Adventist Outdoors.

In September 2008 the OCA, in conjunction with ORIC and several other national organisations and state peak bodies released a literature review of research into the value and benefits of outdoor adventure activities. The Australian Outdoor Adventure Activity Benefits Catalogue is a useful reference to promote the widespread positive impacts and potential of participation in outdoor and adventure based pursuits and experiences.

More recently, ORIC has committed funds, along with other national organisations and state peak bodies, to the Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) Study into 'The Role of Human Factors in Reported Outdoor Incidents'. The aim of the research is to gain a better understanding of the involvement of human factors in reported outdoor education/ recreation incidents and to identify emerging research trends. It will involve comprehensive literature review, expert consultation, workshops and reports, establishment of an industry database and integration of industry reporting with this database, and the implementation of measures to reduce injury in outdoor education, and on-going reporting of incident data contained within the database, as well as regular review of data as it emerges from the industry database and annual reporting of findings, conclusions and recommendations.

Another exciting research opportunity is the "rewrite" of the Risk Management Document, being facilitated by a Reference Group involving Tracey Dickson, Tonia Gray, Margot Hurrell, Clare Dallat, Ian Boyle, Paul Colagiuri and James Neill. The "whole of organisation" approach being taken will make it a very useful resource that people will want to come back to for practitioners and students. Negotiations for publishing through Cambridge University are currently being pursued.

Consultation with ORIC by NPWS in the early development phase of their new Eco Pass New Licensing System and through specific ORIC member consultation forums, afforded us a great opportunity to partnership with them and provide representation on issues and activities pertinent to outdoor recreation and commercial operators.

Industry Accreditation is a continuing area of development for ORIC, through NARTA and ORIC Organizational accreditation, with several organisations having recently undertaken the NARTA process, as well those organisations who already hold this level of accreditation with ORIC. ORIC has also engaged in a review of the Australian Tourism Accreditation Program (ATAP) with Australian Camps Association. This required discussions down in Melbourne and an ongoing mapping process of current accreditation into the ATAP framework is underway. Progress on this will be provided.

Recently held Workforce Development Workshops and Training Package Consultation Forums, held specifically and individually for ORIC members by SSA, clearly demonstrates ORIC and it's members are recognised as a significant and distinct industry group, and it is gratifying to see this value placed on our sector. ORIC intends to continue to explore alternate and innovative training pathways with SSA as well as maintaining communications relevant to aspects of NSW AAS.

Industry development and acknowledging the achievements and future contribution to the industry of trainees is another area that ORIC is proud to be a part of. At the 4th ORIC Industry Awards Dinner, Ms Berenice Elton of Pathfinders, was awarded the "*ORIC Contribution to the Industry*" Award, an award that acknowledges and recognises exceptional achievers who have made a valuable contribution to the outdoor community.

"By day Berenice is a busy nurse who works in the Oncology Department of the Sydney Adventist Hospital. In her spare time Berenice voluntarily donates hours of her time in supporting the Pathfinder organisation in the Sydney region. She is also a member of the Pathfinder Advisory Board. She is the District Director for the South Eastern Pathfinder Region with 6 clubs - she serves as the 'mother' whenever they need advice. Berenice is a respected leader in Pathfinders. She is an excellent presenter of Pathfinder and Bushwalking units. She is a very creative person who is always exploring different methods of sharing skills in the outdoors. Berenice loves camping regularly with her club and she is often involved in Sydney-wide Pathfinder events. Berenice was a member of the committee that developed the active learning method of Pathfinder training called the 'Way to Go'. She is a practicing nurse and acts as the head medical person on any of our Sydney-wide Pathfinder events."

Also receiving an award was Dr Tracey Dickson, who was presented the President's Award for *Outstanding Services to ORIC* by the incumbent President, Mr Arthur Crichton. *"Tracey was the President of ORIC at the turn of the century. Tracey's time as President was a period of both consolidation and progress. She made great attempts to systematise the work of the organisation and set in train administrative frameworks that are still in existence today. Her management background resulted in a very well constructed and thoughtful strategic plan - the basis of which remains within current ORIC planning processes."*

This year, ORIC will provide the funding for the inaugural Tom Carr-Boyd Memorial Award for *Young and Inspiring Trainee Outdoor Educators*, as further recognition and support of our industry trainees.

A new and modern look prospectus, developed late last year provided the opportunity for inquiring organisations and the community to receive a professional document where they could "meet" the ORIC Board members, hear of the challenges and achievements and obtain a glimpse of ORIC's contribution to the outdoor recreation industry. ORIC intends to widen its exposure and increase its profile for the betterment of the industry and its members and will reproduce a newer and more comprehensive prospectus over the next months.

The coming year brings greater challenges as we continue to address the finite nature of funding currently available and the implications this has on our ability to engage in industry initiatives and growth projects. We will continue to work towards building our relationships and opportunities with members and the industry, and to engage with partners that that will serve to promote the interests of our members.

I invite you to join with us on this mission.

Kirstin Peralta

John Wells – Board Member

I am really enjoying being involved in the Outdoor Industry as a member of the ORIC Board. I am an active participant in the outdoors (Camping, bushwalking Flat Water Canoeing, Caving, Abseiling and training) with a volunteer organisation (Adventist Outdoors and Pathfinders). Being part of the board has given me an opportunity to have a greater understanding of the issues that the Outdoor Industry faces whether from a commercial view point or with the volunteer sector. I really appreciate the commitment of the board to addressing the needs of the outdoors and promoting best practice.

It has been great to be involved in the development of the NSW AAS project. I have enjoyed the opportunity to represent volunteers on the board and to represent ORIC when communicating with Government. I want to say that I really appreciate the leadership and commitment shown by both Kirstin and Arthur to the needs of the industry.

As for an update picture. I suspect what you have is better than anything I can find. I have the problem of often being the one behind the camera.

Thanks
John Wells

Kath Follers – Board Member

I have continued to be active in supporting ORIC, attending the majority of Board meetings held over the last financial year and have been involved with the workshops allocated to Board Members during Board meeting times.

As the current principal advisory person for water activities and an outdoor trainer for Girl Guides NSW & ACT, I have been able to bring volunteer issues to the attention of the Board and to ensure that volunteer organisations continue at all times to be represented and informed on best practice.

I supported Greg James, Project Officer at the NSW Adventure Activity Standards Industry Information Forum conducted at Lake Ainsworth's Sport and Recreation Centre at Lennox Head on the evening of 13th May. Members from a number of voluntary organisations as well as industry providers who attended found the session very informative and some were keen to be involved in developing future standards.

I was unable to attend the Sport and Recreation Workforce Development Strategy workshop held at Asquith Leagues Club on Wednesday 24th June due to hospitalisation but arranged for a member of Girl Guides NSW & ACT to attend in my place.

Kath Follers

Dave Carter – Board Member

It is that time again to put fingers to the keyboard. I have now been on the Board now for over 18 months and how that time has gone quick. Over that time I have seen a few projects get off the ground and one that has stalled on us.

The rope course project that we started last year in August has hit the wall. There was a great turn up from the owners, users and facilitators. Most had the same voice with concerns with the inspection processes. Some also explained the difference between each provider who conducted the inspections. Most were very dissatisfied with the service and the lack of commonality that each provider would charge. Some were very pricey and some were providing poor service.

The project has stalled mainly due getting the providers or the inspectors to come to the table and agree on a common outcome.

This issue has been raised again and during the Australian Camping Association (ACA) conference 31 July to 2 August 2009. ACA was able to get a large number of providers there to discuss the issues. All agreed to use the American ACCT standards with the some Australian standards on what was missing to cover any gaps that focus on our standards. ACA will try and gain funding to get the Australian Standards for this up and running again.

One other big project has been the Adventure Activity Standards (AAS). The AAS had gain momentum after ORIC found out that it was going to be in the new NSW NPW ECO Pass licensing. A project manager was found to help drive the process and Greg James has done an outstanding job to date.

The funding only allowed for six activities to start with one being the Challenge Ropes to link with the project previously mention. With that link a lot of issues should be resolved.

The AAS is progressing well with six technical committees and a steering committee. The technical committees are working hard to get a finished product out as soon as they can. At this point of time I would like to thank those involved helping the industry to move forward.

A project that is near to completion is the Outdoor Training Packages. Service Skills Australia (SSA) has been working on these and there has been some concerns with the content of a lot these training packages. The progress has been slow with this mainly due to a lot of technical points had been left out and some parties ignoring advice given by some members of the industry. As I am representing ORIC on the Outdoor Council Australia (OCA) Board I did advise OCA that ORIC members were not happy with the current form of the packages. OCA is working closely with SSA to correct the issues. It is hoped that by December that they will be completed for a release early next year.

Dave Carter

Stuart Clark – Board Member

My second year on the ORIC board has been interesting and challenging. Working on the Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) project has been the most positive experience for me and I have been very pleased to see this project move ahead in the last few months. I have no doubt that this will prove for positive change and increased awareness of risk across all spectrums of applied outdoor activities.

I have also been involved in many other smaller projects including the NARTA accreditation program which will also have a great affect on the industry in terms of safety and compliance.

I look forward to another exciting and busy year with ORIC to come, and see even more from this perspective how vital and constructive this industry is to our local and national community. Be it physical or mental health, personal development or the building of relationships and communication the outdoors is an amazing vehicle for change.

Stuart Clark

Ross Bowey – Board Member

Ross's role within ORIC has been to monitor changes to Food Standards.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand is a bi-national Government agency whose main responsibility is to develop and administer the "Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code" (the Code), which lists requirements for foods such as additives, food safety, labeling and GM foods.

Enforcement and Interpretation of the Code is the responsibility of State/Territory Health Departments within Australia and New Zealand. As Steve McCutcheon, the CEO of FSANZ, stated in his CEO message recently "The intention of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code is to ensure a safe food supply. Food standards in the code set out requirements for what goes into a food product, how it should be labeled and how foods should be handled... FSANZ adopts a very conservative approach. Our prime objective is to protect the health and safety of people in Australia and New Zealand." Should you wish to read more as information is being constantly updated the link for this site is <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/>. Fact sheets, media releases, News, Publications, Evaluations and Technical Reports are part of the service.

Ross Bowey

Liz Horne – Board Member

I am the newest member of the ORIC Board, I was approached to fill a vacant position in February 2009. I have found my involvement in both the board and committee meetings to be insightful and rewarding.

I am currently part of the Vocation and Standards Working Group. One of the big projects this working groups is leading is the creation of NSW Adventure Activity Standards, I personally see this project as a key service that ORIC can provide to its members. The level of consultation and involvement from the industry has been strong and the momentum is constantly increasing with Steering Committee and Technical Committees formed and meeting regularly.

I have also played a part in the Affiliations Working Group, this group's primary function is to liaise with other Peak Bodies in the industry. To outline all of these associations here would be extreme, suffice to say the ORIC Board has one of their functions is to remain current with statutory requirements and trends within the industry, represent the membership and communicate information back to members.

I have enjoyed the opportunity of meeting ORIC members and strategic partners in workshops and meetings as part of this process.

Liz Horne