



Outdoor Council of Australia
Annual Report
2011

Vision

To develop and promote a professional community that provides quality outdoor experiences.

Mission

The Outdoor Council of Australia will provide services to support: Professional conduct
Environmental sustainability Cultural and social sensitivity Risk minimisation

Role

The role of the Council is to represent to the community, industries and all levels of government, the views and needs of outdoor educators, leaders and guides as well as organisations that support leadership or are otherwise involved in the training of outdoor educators, leaders and guides via their state and national peak bodies.

Value Statement

- The Outdoor Council of Australia values:
 - outdoor experiences
 - the intrinsic worth and fragility of all natural environments;
 - equity
 - diversity of:
 - environments
 - groups/individuals
 - activities
 - experiences

Objectives

Representation

- To represent the views and needs of members to the community, industries and all levels of government.
- To facilitate communication between outdoor educators, leaders and guides, and between these stakeholders and external interest groups including:
 - the wider community
 - land managers
 - all levels of government
 - the legal and insurance professions
 - educational groups
 - tourism industry
 - indigenous groups
 - volunteer associations
- To liaise with other relevant National and State bodies with similar objects

Advocacy

- To identify, examine and report on key issues affecting the outdoor community.
- To develop policies, strategies and actions on key issues affecting the outdoor community.
- To work with government to develop policies, strategies and actions that support and encourage Outdoor Recreation and Outdoor Education.
- To raise the awareness of the wider community of the value and benefits of Outdoor Recreation and Outdoor Education.
- To co-operate with relevant National and State bodies to establish national networks, standards and policy for outdoor leadership.

Influence on Resource Management

- To promote a philosophy and practice of sustainable environmental living, conservation and positive attitudes towards the use of the natural environment.
- To encourage planning and management for ecologically sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Outdoor Education.
- To encourage and facilitate protection of the full diversity of outdoor settings by promoting increased open space and an understanding of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) and other emergent issues.
- To encourage the development of a diverse range of outdoor opportunities to satisfy the range of community needs for Outdoor Recreation and Outdoor Education in so far as such needs are consistent with 2.9 above.

Quality

- To promote the professional exchange of information between members and other related organisations through such activities as conferences and publications.
- To assist the advancement of professional development within Outdoor Recreation and Outdoor Education.
- To recognise outstanding achievements that support and encourage Outdoor Recreation and Outdoor Education.
- To promote safe and quality outdoor experiences
- To encourage organisational development within the outdoor community to enhance the delivery of services that are appropriate, ecologically sustainable, equitable and of a high standard.
- To promote best practices in standards and quality of leadership and instruction through the support of quality education and training within outdoor leadership.
- To undertake such monitoring and research activities that might contribute to the overall standard of the outdoor community.

Research

- To assist the advancement of research within the outdoor community in order to provide accurate information to all stakeholders that will promote best practice in outdoor leadership and enhance community awareness and understanding. This research should investigate (but not be restricted to) statistical data re accidents; value of outdoor activity; economic significance of outdoor activity; safety and risk management; best practice in outdoor leadership and education; ecologically sustainable best practice.

Introduction

The Outdoor Council of Australia (OCA) was incorporated on the 25th March 2003.

This **Annual Report** is for the period January 1st 2011 to December 31st 2011.

The OCA Board

President:	David Petherick
Vice President:	Donna Little
Treasurer:	Ken Pullen
Secretary:	John Norman
Members:	John Marshall
	Tony Carden (resigned August 2011)
	Ian Dewey
	Phil Harrison
	David Carter
Secretariat:	Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation

OCA Membership 2011

Above and Below
Adventists Outdoors
Anglican Church Grammar School
Australian Camps Association
Australian Canoeing
Bushwalking Australia
Christian Venues Association
Guides Australia
Leave No Trace Australia
Mountain Bike Australia
Outdoor Recreation Centre
Outdoor Recreation Industry Council
Outward Bound Australia
Outdoors WA
Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation
Recreation SA
Richard Hyde
Scouts Australia
Skills Alliance
Outdoor Education Australia

President's Report 2011

Dear OCA members,

I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow OCA Board members for their continuing support and hard work during the past year. Despite limited resources available to the OCA and the fact that all Board members are very busy, they each continue to work towards better outcomes for the outdoors sector through the OCA.

I would also like to thank Victoria and Donna at QORF for their work in the role as the Secretariat for OCA. They make a contribution significantly greater than what we could reasonably expect from them.

The OCA has made a proposal to Standards Australia to develop an Australian Standard for Flying Foxes and Challenge Ropes Courses. The outcome of this proposal will be known in the next couple of months.

The OCA is also heavily involved in two important pieces of research: the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, Outdoor Youth Programs research into the benefits of led outdoor adventure programs and the Monash University Accident Research Centre research into human factors in led outdoor adventure activities.

A report on phase one of the benefits research should be available to distribute to OCA members in the next few weeks and work will commence soon on phase two of this project.

A full report is already available for stage one of the Monash University project on the OCA website and stage two is now getting underway - it has been re-named the UPLOADS Project.

The OCA has continued to be represented with Service Skills Australia on their Industry Advisory Committee and this has meant that we have the opportunity to consult around the training package and workplace training and development.

Finally, the OCA has continued to commit to the NOLRS. Changes are occurring as the system moves to the SIS10 Training Package, and we continue to negotiate with established providers of non-VET training to see where synergies might lie. For example, recently current registration with Australian Canoeing has been accepted as a direct pathway to demonstrate competence within the NOLRS. This came from some mapping of the AC process with the training package, and our recognition that the AC system is well-recognised and established within the sector.

NOLRS itself is not a system the OCA sees as mandatory. Where this is the case, that decision has been made by individual state bodies, or organisations. We believe NOLRS offers a level of professional assurance for our sector, and have made a commitment to continue to improve its capacity and credibility.

David Petherick

President

22 March, 2012

Treasurer's Report 2011

This report is prefaced with thanks to the QORF Office for the efficiency with which the accounts of the Outdoor Council of Australia have been maintained in the past year.

The Audited reports as circulated show the Outdoor Council of Australia has experienced a surplus of \$3,662 for this financial year, against a budgeted loss of \$7560.

The budgeted loss of \$7650 was expected as a result of cautious evaluation of the 2010 accounts following that year's loss of \$10,226 and the Management Committee's expectations for 2011.

It is pleasing to note that through the excellent administration of the Secretariat the NOLRS program has brought in \$4,742 more than budgeted and the AJOE Royalties \$4,198 more than budgeted.

The increased income and the overall reduction in expenditure of \$3,903 (ultimately in reduced Secretariat costs) has resulted in the year producing a significantly better result than projected.

These results show that the Outdoor Council of Australia remains in a financial position where there is very little room for movement. All projected costs over a two to three year period should be met. However changes as little as 8% in receipts or expenses will bring added tension.

I am of the opinion that the Outdoor Council of Australia Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due over the current and projected requirements for the next 12 months.

The Auditor has expressed the opinion that the attached financial report of Outdoor Council of Australia Inc. presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Outdoor Council of Australia Inc. as of 31 December 2011 and of its financial performance for the year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ken Pullen".

Ken Pullen

Hon. Treasurer

7 March, 2012

Ref. Appendix 1. Financial Report

NOLRS Update

The OCA continues to manage the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme. During 2011 the administration of the NOLRS moved from WA to QLD and in this time the NOLRS has been reviewed by the OCA board and the NOLRS sub-committee. The NOLRS administration, under the guidance of the NOLRS sub-committee, has worked to refine the registration requirements and prepare for the introduction of the SIS10 Sport, Fitness and Outdoor Recreation Training Package.

Applications have been steadily increasing during this time and registrant records have been moved to a database to improve record keeping. The ongoing focus is to move towards a computer based system to streamline the registration process while ensuring the integrity of the scheme. The OCA looks forward to further developments in 2012.

Appendix 1

Financial Report 2011

OUTDOOR COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA INC.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

CONTENTS

	Page
Income statement	1
Balance sheet	2
Notes to the financial statements	3
Statement by the board of management	5
Independent audit report to the members	6

OUTDOOR COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA INC.

**INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011**

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Income		
AJOE Subscriptions	14,847	14,954
AJOE Royalties	6,198	846
Interest Received	710	930
Membership	8,292	9,700
National Outdoor Leadership Registration	12,742	7,151
Other Income	-	7
	<u>42,789</u>	<u>33,588</u>
Expenditure		
AJOE Expenses	16,038	8,278
Audit Fees	890	540
Bad Debts	-	1,139
Bank Charges	444	279
Consultancy Fees	-	796
Contractors	13,163	13,436
Donations	-	455
Insurance	1,907	1,803
Internet & Computer Expenses	533	380
Meeting Expenses	1,195	5,044
National Outdoor L'ship Scheme Expenses	2,382	10,199
Postage	9	160
Printing & Stationery	41	6
Research & Development	-	1,299
Travel & Accommodation	2,525	-
	<u>39,127</u>	<u>43,814</u>
Net profit/(loss) from operating activities	<u>3,662</u>	<u>(10,226)</u>
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year	<u>36,546</u>	<u>46,772</u>
Retained profits at the end of the financial year	<u>\$ 40,208</u>	<u>\$ 36,546</u>

OUTDOOR COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA INC.

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2011**

	Note	2011 \$	2010 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash assets	2	44,945	41,554
Receivables	3	8,904	14,923
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>53,849</u>	<u>56,477</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Intangibles	4	17,000	17,000
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>17,000</u>	<u>17,000</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>70,849</u>	<u>73,477</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	5	7,072	7,829
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>7,072</u>	<u>7,829</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	5	23,569	29,102
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>23,569</u>	<u>29,102</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>30,641</u>	<u>36,931</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>\$ 40,208</u>	<u>\$ 36,546</u>
EQUITY			
Retained Earnings		40,208	36,546
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>\$ 40,208</u>	<u>\$ 36,546</u>

OUTDOOR COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA INC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

1 Statement of significant accounting policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Qld). The board of management has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

a. Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the Association operates solely as a non-profit, sporting organisation and accordingly is exempt from income tax under Section 50-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

b. Property Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a straight-line basis over their useful lives to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to that asset are transferred to retained profits.

c. Revenue

Revenue is recognised when invoices are raised. Interest revenue is recognised when received.

Distribution revenue is recognised when the right to receive a distribution has been established.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

d. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense.

Receivables and payables in the Balance Sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

e. Leased Assets

Lease payments are charged as expenses in the period in which they are incurred.

f. Inventories

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned on an average cost basis.

OUTDOOR COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA INC.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011**

	2011 \$	2010 \$
2 Cash Assets		
Current		
Cash at Bank - General Account	81	27,614
ING CM Account	14,647	13,940
Suncorp - Cheque Account	30,217	-
	<u>\$ 44,945</u>	<u>\$ 41,554</u>
3 Receivables		
Current		
Trade Debtors	8,904	14,923
	<u>\$ 8,904</u>	<u>\$ 14,923</u>
4 Intangibles		
Non-Current		
Intellectual Property	22,000	22,000
Less: Accumulated Amortisation	(5,000)	(5,000)
	<u>\$ 17,000</u>	<u>\$ 17,000</u>
5 Payables		
Current		
GST Payable	(128)	1,615
Trade Creditors	7,200	6,214
	<u>\$ 7,072</u>	<u>\$ 7,829</u>
Non-Current		
Trails Aust Contributions in Advance	13,819	14,102
Murdoch Childrens Institute	9,750	15,000
	<u>\$ 23,569</u>	<u>\$ 29,102</u>


OUTDOOR COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA INC.
STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

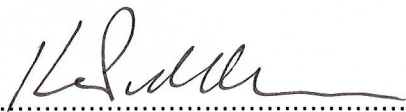
The Board has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Board, the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 4:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Outdoor Council of Australia Inc. as at 31 December 2011 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Outdoor Council of Australia Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Management and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:


.....
President


.....
Treasurer

Dated this TWENTY SECOND day of MARCH 2012

OUTDOOR COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA INC.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF OUTDOOR COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Outdoor Council of Australia Inc. (the Association), which comprises the balance sheet as at 31 December 2011, and the income statement, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by the board of management.

Board of Management's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The board of management of the Association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) 1981 and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The board's responsibilities also include designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the board's financial reporting under the Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) 1981. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Outdoor Council of Australia Inc. presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Outdoor Council of Australia Inc. as of 31 December 2011 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) 1981.

A M Giles & Co
Chartered Accountants

Brisbane 24 February 2012