

# *Transformation in the Outdoors*

## Combined State Outdoor Conference

# Conference Notebook

Hosted by:



19-20 June, 2004

Alexandra Park Conference  
Centre, Alexandra  
Headlands Sunshine Coast

Proudly Sponsored by



# **Transformation in the Outdoors**

## **Combined State Outdoor Conference**

**19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2004**

**Alexandra Park Conference Centre**

**Alexandra Headlands**

**Hosted by:**

**Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation**

**Queensland Camping Association**

**Outdoor Educators' Association of Queensland**



# Transformation in the Outdoors <sup>1</sup>

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## Acknowledgements

The Conference Organising Committee, consisting of representatives from the three host organisations, would like to thank all those speakers who have given freely of their time to make a valuable contribution to the Conference.

A number of students involved in outdoor recreation-related courses at both Cooloola Sunshine TAFE and Griffith University volunteered to assist at the Conference. Their services have proved invaluable and we hope that they have also gained knowledge to assist them in their careers and availed themselves of the networking opportunities which the Conference provided.

In addition, considerable in-kind support has been provided to the Conference, including the use of equipment and buses to facilitate transport for delegates, and the Organising Committee wish to express their gratitude for this assistance that has enabled the cost to delegates to be kept at a minimum.

Finally, the Conference Organising Committee gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship provided to the Conference from:



**Queensland Government**  
Getting more people active  
through sport and recreation

**Sport and Recreation Queensland**



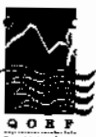
**Mountain Designs**

We hope you have an enjoyable time at the Conference and gain much from networking with your colleagues and discussing issues with them.

Rebecca Fox  
President, QORF

Mark Lee  
President, Qld Camping Assoc

Robert Hales  
President, OEAQ



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## About the Conference

The three Conference host organisations, the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation (QORF), the Queensland Camping Association (QCA) and the Outdoor Educators' Association of Queensland (OEAQ) have in the past each held conferences either individually or in partnership with another organisation but this is the first year that all three associations have combined their efforts to host a state Outdoor Conference. In doing so, we hope that the networking and learning can be enhanced and the administration burden and cost to delegates reduced.

The Conference has attracted a diversity of delegates with an interest in outdoor activities including those who deliver outdoor education programs, those who run outdoor businesses or facilities, those who participate in outdoor activities for recreation, and those who plan for or manage the natural and built resources. Through our involvement in outdoor activities in these various ways we are all facing dynamic times with changes to legislation, leadership requirements, processes, procedures and indeed the natural environment which we use for our outdoor activities, hence the conference theme of "transformation" or change in the outdoor community. The theme also carries through to the personal changes that we hope to achieve through the delivery of quality outdoor programs for clients. The Conference program has been structured around three different streams which focus on this theme:

- Outdoor Education and Programming
- Facility Management and Business Development
- Outdoor Recreation Planning and Issues

The Conference program will offer delegates a combination of sessions including:

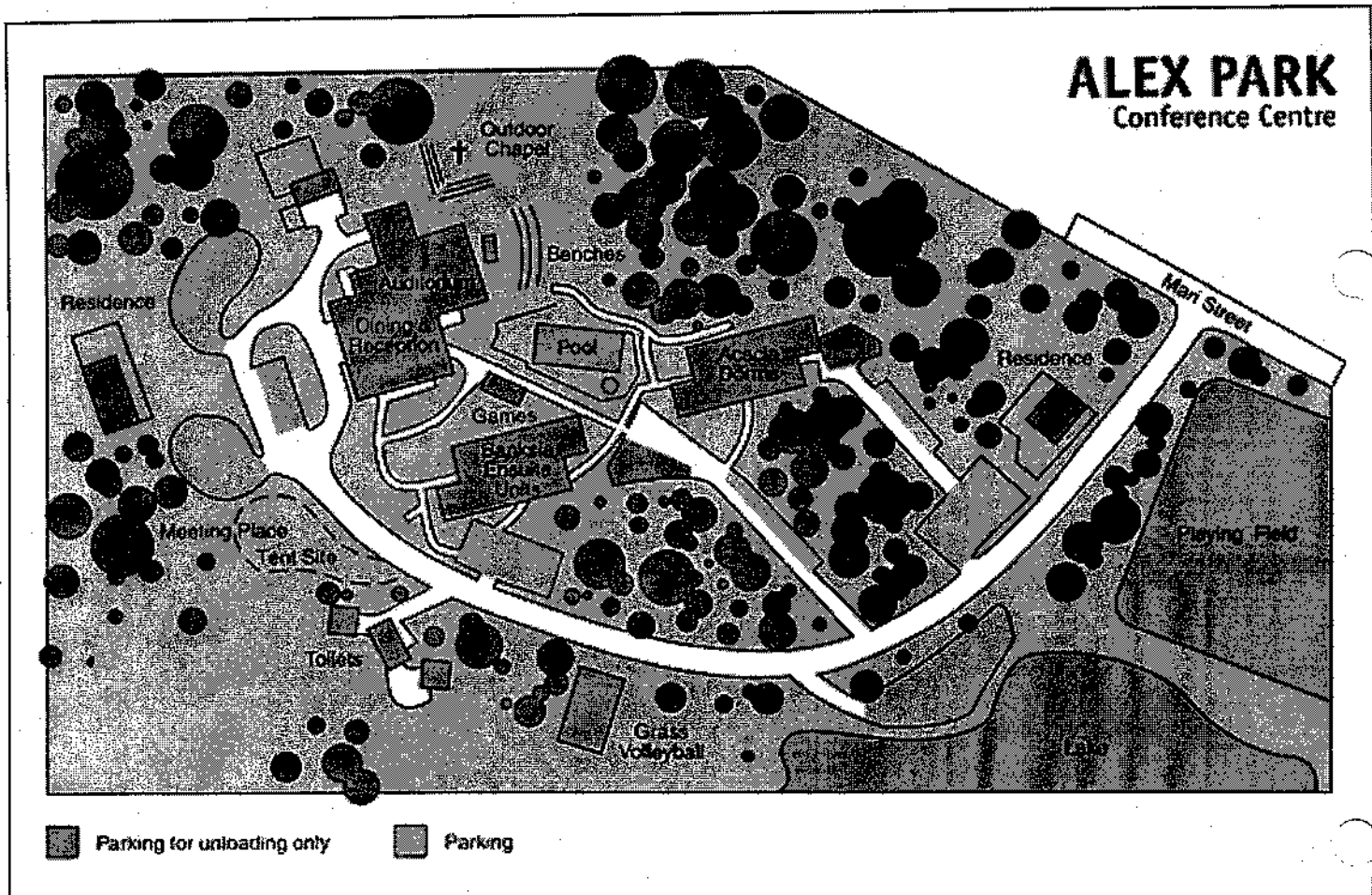
- A Keynote speech
- Formal presentations
- Facilitated discussions
- Case studies
- Workshops
- Practical activities
- Panels
- Field trips
- Trade display



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## Map of Conference Venue and Meeting Room Location



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## Session Program and Room Allocations - Saturday

TIME	TOPIC				
0845 to 0900	Welcome from local indigenous representative - <b>Auditorium</b>				
0900 to 0915	Conference Opening - <b>Auditorium</b>				
0915 to 1000	Keynote Address - <b>Auditorium</b>				
1005 to 1030					
1030 to 1130	Good Old Fashioned Caring in a modern world - <b>Auditorium</b>	Food Safety Program - <b>Acacia</b>	Management Round Table – <b>Games Room</b>	The Resource – How do we access suitable sites for recreation? - <b>Banksia</b>	
1130 to 1230	Adolescents and Resilience: Knowing what to do when you don't know what to do - - <b>Auditorium</b>	Fire Legislation - <b>Acacia</b>	Budgeting - <b>Games Room</b>	The Client: Who is using the "great outdoors" and what do we need to know about them? - <b>Banksia</b>	
1330 to 1415	Evaluating Ironbark: An approach to program evaluation - <b>Games Room</b>	Resilience and social change through the work of Outdoor Education - <b>Banksia</b>	Workplace Health & Safety - <b>Acacia</b>	The Latest in Audio & Visual - <b>Auditorium</b>	Field Trip – Mt Coolum – <b>Meet at Reception</b>
1415 to 1500	Sharing approaches to processing group activities - <b>Games Room</b>	UnPACKing the Training PACKage - <b>Banksia</b>		Booking Systems and Administration procedures - <b>Auditorium</b>	
1530 to 1615	Professional Development Electives			Outdoor Recreation Planning: Policies, Strategies and Plans - <b>Banksia</b>	
1615 to 1700	"Sandcastles" – <b>Meet in Games Room</b> From Blank minds ..... to real experiences – <b>Meet in Auditorium</b> Ropes Course Maintenance & Inspection Issues - <b>Meet at Reception</b> The A-Z of Student led Mountain Bike Journeys – <b>Meet at Trade Display</b> Site visit to Luther Heights Youth Camp - <b>Meet at Reception</b>				
1830	Pre Dinner Drinks – <b>Dining Room</b>				
1900	Conference Dinner - <b>Auditorium</b>				





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## Session Program and Room Allocations - Sunday

TIME	SESSION TOPICS			
0900 to 1000	Working with Murri kids - <b>Games Room</b>	Accreditation – Update on new National Program - <b>Auditorium</b>	Implications of AAS, Accreditation and NOLRS for land managers and the tourism & outdoor community - <b>Acacia</b>	GIS: What is it and how is it used? - <b>Banksia</b>
1030 to 1130	Making the Food Safety Legislation work on expedition - <b>Banksia</b>	Management Round Table - <b>Games</b>	Marketing - <b>Upstairs Room</b>	Risk Management for Land Managers: Issues and Strategies - <b>Acacia</b>
1130 to 1230	Looking after our outdoor leaders: Research & Practice - <b>Auditorium</b>	Outdoor Recreation – VET connections in Schools - <b>Banksia</b>	Understanding the Industry - <b>Upstairs Room</b>	Liability and Insurance: Current issues and solutions - <b>Acacia</b>
1330 to 1415	Innovations in Programs <b>Auditorium</b>	Asset Management - <b>Upstairs Room</b>	An Industrial Award for Outdoor Leaders - <b>Banksia</b>	Minimising Environmental Impact: Facility Design Solutions - <b>Acacia</b>
1415 to 1500	Innovations in Programs (cont'd) - <b>Auditorium</b>	ACA and CCI update - <b>Upstairs Room</b>	An Industrial Award for Outdoor Leaders (cont'd) - <b>Banksia</b>	Minimising Environmental Impact: Management Solutions - <b>Acacia</b>
1500 to 1530	Developing emotional intelligence and coping through outdoor education – practical tips (3.00pm to 4.00pm) - <b>Acacia</b>	Conference Plenary - <b>Auditorium</b>		
1530 to 1700		OCA AGM - <b>Auditorium</b> Drinks/Social -		
1700		BBQ		



# TRANSFORMATION IN THE OUTDOORS – COMBINED STATE OUTDOOR CONFERENCE

## SESSION SELECTOR

Please either print this form, complete and fax to (07) 33699355 OR click in the boxes, save and email the document to [andrew@qorf.org.au](mailto:andrew@qorf.org.au). Thanks

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

### SATURDAY

SATURDAY					
TIME	SESSION TOPICS				
0845 to 0900	Welcome from local indigenous representative				
0900 to 0915	Conference Opening				
0915 to 1000	Keynote Address				
1005 to 1030	Morning Tea				
1030 to 1130	<input type="checkbox"/> Good Old Fashioned Caring in a modern world	<input type="checkbox"/> Food Safety Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Management Round Table	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Resource – How do we access suitable sites for recreation?	
1130 to 1230	<input type="checkbox"/> Adolescents and Resilience: Knowing what to do when you don't know what to do	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Legislation	<input type="checkbox"/> Budgeting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Client: Who is using the "great outdoors" and what do we need to know about them?	
1230 to 1330	Lunch				
1330 to 1415	<input type="checkbox"/> Evaluating Ironbark: An approach to program evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> Resilience and social change through the work of Outdoor Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Workplace Health & Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> The Latest in Audio & Visual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Professional Development Field Trip
1415 to 1500	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharing approaches to processing group activities	<input type="checkbox"/> UnPACKing the Training PACKage		<input type="checkbox"/> Booking Systems and Administration procedures	
1500 to 1530	Afternoon Tea				
1530 to 1615	Professional Development Electives				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Recreation Planning: Policies, Strategies and Plans
1615 to 1700	Select <b>One</b> of the following <input type="checkbox"/> "Sandcastles" <input type="checkbox"/> From Blank minds ..... to real experiences <input type="checkbox"/> Ropes Course Maintenance & Inspection Issues <input type="checkbox"/> The A-Z of Student led Mountain Bike Journeys <input type="checkbox"/> Site visit to an Outdoor Centre				
1830 1900	Pre Dinner Drinks Conference Dinner				



# SUNDAY

## SESSION TOPICS

TIME	SESSION TOPICS				
0900 to 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> Working with Murri kids	<input type="checkbox"/> Accreditation – Update on new National Program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implications of AAS, Accreditation and NOLRS for land managers and the tourism & outdoor community	<input type="checkbox"/> GIS: What is it and how is it used?	
1000 to 1030	Morning Tea				
1030 to 1130	<input type="checkbox"/> Making the Food Safety Legislation work on expedition	<input type="checkbox"/> Developing emotional intelligence and coping through outdoor education – practical tips	<input type="checkbox"/> Management Round Table	<input type="checkbox"/> Marketing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Risk Management for Land Managers: Issues and Strategies
1130 to 1230	<input type="checkbox"/> Looking after out outdoor leaders: Research & Practice	<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Recreation – VET connections in Schools	<input type="checkbox"/> Budgeting	<input type="checkbox"/> Understanding the Industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Liability and Insurance: Current issues and solutions
1230 to 1330	Lunch				
1330 to 1415	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Innovations in Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Asset Management	<input type="checkbox"/> An Industrial Award for Outdoor Leaders	<input type="checkbox"/> Minimising Environmental Impact: Facility Design Solutions	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication Technology
1415 to 1500		<input type="checkbox"/> ACA and CCI update		<input type="checkbox"/> Minimising Environmental Impact: Management Solutions	<input type="checkbox"/> Where to ...., How to ...., Resources for Planners and Participants
1500 to 1530	Conference Plenary				
1530 to 1700	OCA AGM and Drinks/Social				
1700	BBQ				





drinks commencing from 6.30pm and dinner at 7.00pm. Winners of the photo competition will be announced at the dinner.

## **Photo Competition**

Details of the photo competition can be downloaded from the QORF website, go to:

<http://www.qorf.org.au/downloads/PhotoCompFlier.pdf>

Winners will be announced at the Conference Dinner.

## **Trade Displays**

There is still some room available to set up Trade Displays at the Conference. For more details contact QORF.

## **What to Bring**

Don't forget, for those staying at the Alexandra Park Conference Centre, you are required to supply your own linen, including towels.

## **What to Bring for Field Trips**

As the field trips/professional development activities will be in the outdoors, we suggest that you bring hat, sunscreen and water bottle and wear closed shoes/comfortable walking shoes.

## **Transport Arrangements**

If you require transport to/from the conference venue, please notify QORF of your arrival/departure times as soon as possible so that transport can be arranged.

## **How to get there**

When travelling from Brisbane take the Sunshine Motorway turnoff and follow the Motorway as if going to Noosa, take the Buderim off-ramp (about 10km from Bruce Highway) keep to the right once on ramp, turn right at lights, follow signs to Alexandra Headlands Beach. The Entrance is in Mari Street (off Alexandra Parade) which is opposite the Alexandra Headlands Surf Club.

## **Car Parking**

Parking is available on site at the Conference Centre.

## **Further Questions/Enquiries**

If you have any further questions regarding the conference, you can contact the QORF staff at the office until Thursday afternoon on Tel: 3369 9455 or via Mobile from Friday morning:

Kathy Kingsford: 0428 699 455

Andrew Barkham: 0402 845 731

Tim Coles: 0407 677 134

Looking forward to catching up with you at the conference.

Kind regards

Tim Coles

Membership Services

Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation Inc

Ph: 3369 9455 Fax: 3369 9355

Email: [tim@qorf.org.au](mailto:tim@qorf.org.au)

15/06/2004



Ames Neal

**From:** Tim Coles [tim@qorf.org.au]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 12 June 2004 03:08  
**To:** Ames Neal  
**Subject:** Combined State Conference - Important Information

## "Transformation in the Outdoors" State Outdoor Conference

Hello and thanks for your registration to attend the Combined State Outdoor Conference which is being supported by Sport and Recreation Queensland.

Please find attached the conference session selector to provide us with information on your preference for sessions for the weekend. **Could you please complete this form and return it either electronically or via fax by Wednesday the 16th of June.**

**Please note that some practical sessions** (eg "*the A-Z of a Student Led Mountain Bike Journey*") **have maximum numbers.** QORF will allocate positions to these sessions on a first-in-first served basis.

Detailed Conference Speaker Information can be downloaded from the link below, providing details of each conference session:

<http://www.qorf.org.au/downloads/StateConferenceSpeakers.pdf>

## Post Conference Workshops

Vacancies are still available for the post conference workshops. Fliers are available for download from the QORF website: go to:

<http://www.qorf.org.au/app/index.asp?page=currentnews>

## Where to Register

Registration will take place at Reception (see the attached Map) at the following times:

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 4.30pm to 9.30pm

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm to 5.00pm

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June 8.30pm to 5.00pm

## Accommodation Allocation

We have begun allocating room numbers for those people who indicated that they required accommodation at the conference venue. There will be a room list available at the venue from Friday onwards. For those people who wish to know their room beforehand or who are arriving earlier than Friday, then please contact Andrew on (07) 33699 455 or email [andrew@qorf.org.au](mailto:andrew@qorf.org.au)

## Conference Dinner

The Conference Dinner will be taking place on site at the centre on Saturday evening with



# Transformation in the Outdoors

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## Session and Presenter Details





INTRO BY CRAIG MATTHEWSON - STANDARD SRQ INTRO

# Transformation in the Outdoors

## SESSION 1: KEYNOTE ADDRESS SATURDAY 9.15am - 10.00am

Dave Batt, Sport and Recreation Qld  
Kathy Kingsford, QORF *GENERAL APPRECIATION  
OF OUTDOOR ISSUES.*  
Dave is currently Principal Recreation  
Planner within the Policy, Planning and *INTERACTION  
DEVELOPMENT* Division of Sport and *BETWEEN AGENCIES.*  
Recreation Queensland (SRQ).  
Kathy is currently Executive Officer of the  
Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation  
(QORF)

## SESSION 2: SATURDAY 10.30am - 11.30am

**Good old fashioned caring in a modern world**  
Rob Hales

The world is getting smaller and our lines of communications are getting better or so we are told.

Whilst climbing up a rock face you can email a photo of yourself to your mates making sure they see you in your socially appropriate outdoor clothing. After the experience you can download your exploits onto the web for others see. You can even tell others how to follow in your footsteps if you give them the beta through the net. The implications of this scenario (reality) is that Nature and Adventure are now commodified experiences or objects that play an integral part in shaping an individual's identity.

The rise of communication technology is but one of many new situations that outdoor educators deal with on their unique path of teaching and learning. As an aid to make this path smoother, I suggest that outdoor education can teach an ethic of care to help people navigate appropriate ways of being in an ever changing and complex world.

Rob has been working in the outdoor education and outdoor recreation sector for 16 years. He currently works at Griffith

University teaching in the Leisure Management undergraduate course focussing on outdoor recreation and leadership. He is also keeping a postgraduate outdoor education course "alive" in a climate of rationalisation of higher education opportunities. He is currently undertaking a Phd thesis examining the teaching and learning aspects of the development of an ethic of care for the environment.

**Food Safety Program**  
Brett Esbensen (Queensland Health)

Queensland has several pieces of legislation regulating food handling. These include the Food Act 1981, Food Hygiene Regulation 1989, Food Standards Code and Food Safety Standards. This presentation provides a brief update on the responsibilities for kitchen operations and food handling, including registration and licensing requirements.

Brett is Senior Project Officer, Food Reform Implementation Team, Queensland Health

**Management Round Table**  
John Woods

You're a manager. You have to make big decisions. You have to be aware of many aspects. Employment Practices, GST, FBT, Privacy Legislation, Tax Rates, Insurance Issues, just to name a few. Meet together with your peers to discuss the broad range of issues affecting you in today's world.

John Woods is Manager of Edmund Park Adventure Education

**The Resource - How do we access suitable sites?**

A series of case studies presented by different users groups who gain access to both public and private land for outdoor recreation. The case studies will highlight the different requirements encountered, as well as the issues.



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## **SESSION 3: SATURDAY 11.30am – 12.30am**

### **Adolescents and Resilience: Knowing what to do when you don't know what to do**

*Yvonne Hawke*

Resilience has been described as "knowing what to do when you don't know what to do." It is implicit that a resilient person has strengths they can draw on in times of need.

Young people in 2004 have been described as "the millennial kids", "the Nintendo generation" and some say they are "the most watched over generation ever." Adolescents today have their own unique set of life experiences which help shape the way they see the world. Researchers have also attributed particular characteristics to this generation of young people. It's important when helping young people develop resilience to understand their special characteristics and to be aware of the trends which may impact on them. These points will be developed in the presentation.

This presentation will then promote the notion that it is possible and important to develop and nurture resilience in young people. Research findings have indicated that families, schools and the community have an important role in promoting an adolescent's resilience. Factors such as hope, humour, connectedness, friendships, relational competence, problems solving skills and a sense of autonomy have all been identified as being important in developing resilience, and these factors will be explored in this presentation.

It is expected that participants will be able to identify some key principles that underpin the development of resilience in young people, and apply these principles to their own professional and personal situations.

*Yvonne has been working with young people in high schools since 1967 when she started her teaching career as a Physical Education teacher. Her experiences in schools includes teaching in New South Wales, ACT, Queensland and Canada. She has studied at*

*Sydney Teachers' College, the University of Calgary, the University of Alberta and Harvard University.*

*Currently Yvonne is Deputy Principal at Hillbrook Anglican School. In this role she is able to continue to teach and to be involved in Hillbrook's extensive Outdoor Education Program. Recently her School Council offered her the opportunity of study leave to pursue her interest in adolescents and resilience. This research, along with her teaching, administrative and parenting experience will form the basis of the presentation.*

### **Fire Legislation**

*Allan Wendt (Department of Local Planning and Government)*

This explanatory presentation is provided to determine whether certain buildings listed in the following list are 'Budget accommodation buildings', as per Building and Other Legislation Amendment Act 1992 (BOLA), and for the application of the prescribed Fire Safety Standard. In addition, it provides expansion for the list of buildings found in the Fire Safety Standard Guideline publication 'Budget Accommodation Buildings'.

### **Managing Your Finances (Budgeting)**

*Mark Lee (U.C. Conference Centres)*

More and more campsites are becoming accountable to their owners and operators for better financial management and performance. In this presentation issues such as income streams, margins, expense control and capital expenditure will be discussed.

### **The Client: Who is using the "great outdoors" and what do we need to know about them?**

*QORF staff*

This presentation will build upon the information contained within the SEQ and CQ Outdoor Recreation Demand Studies and analyse in more detail:

- (a) the different types of user groups and motivations for outdoor recreation



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# Transformation in the Outdoors

- (b) the different disciplines within specific outdoor activities and the implications of this on the provision of sites.

## **SESSION 4: SATURDAY 1.30pm – 2.15pm**

### **Evaluating Ironbark: An approach to program evaluation**

*Phil Harrison*

The process of formal program evaluation has been ongoing at Ironbark since 1999. The process was developed as a way of better understanding student perceptions of both the program as a whole and specific program elements.

The Ironbark program evaluation process will be discussed as an example of the steps involved in the development of program specific evaluation. The focus will be on the role of educators or practitioners as researchers of their own programs.

The data collected over the last five years has provided significant insights into student perceptions and has informed the decision making process at Ironbark. The experience of one practitioner in developing and implementing a formal evaluation process may be of value to other practitioners seeking to evaluate their own programs.

*Phil Harrison works as an Outdoor Education Teacher at "Ironbark", the outdoor campus of St Peters Lutheran College. Phil has been an Outdoor Education Teacher for 9 years. In 2000 he completed a Masters degree in Outdoor Education at Griffith University.*

### **Resilience and Social Change: lessons from future studies**

*Graham Shaw, Project Manager, Connect Project: resilience enhancement for primary school aged children*

Resilience is defined as a process of achieving good outcomes despite, or even because of, exposure to adversity. As such, resilience is often conceptualised as stemming from a set of attributes of

individuals. Many attempts to build resilience focus on teaching and coaching individuals to develop the skills and personal attributes that lead to good outcomes when things are tough.

There is another side to developing resilience related to cultural practices, relationships, and social supports. How can we as outdoor educators contribute to empowering groups of people to create the type of communities that nurture the spark of resilience in everyone?

*Graham has been involved in outdoor education with schools, through Griffith University and Qld Corrections. Areas of interest include psychologist adventure based programs, behaviour management in schools, counselling and family work. Graham is currently researching the possibilities for resilience enhancement through Primary State Schools.*

### **Workplace Health and Safety**

*James Chalmers, Department of Industrial Relations*

The legal environment for workplaces is dynamic. There are many skills that managers and employees need to enable them to work effectively and lawfully in the workplace environment. In recognition of this, this presentation aims to assist managers and employees to minimise workplace risks by providing an update on the roles and responsibilities of all concerned.

*James is a Senior Inspector - Workplace Health and Safety Qld and is based in Nambour. His current focus & experience centres around Construction and Industrial Safety. James was previously a teacher of Tech. Ed/HPE Teacher*

### **The Latest in Audio and Visual?**

*Ken Acworth (Teknon Computers)*

If you're a device-and-gadget junkie, leave your cheque book in the room, but definitely come to hear from "The Wiz Kid" about the latest in audio, visual and computer technology. You'll love the demonstrations.



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## Field Trip – Mt Coolum

Dave Batt

This field trip to Mt Coolum will provide the Conference delegates with the opportunity to look at "on the ground" outdoor recreation planning issues from a land manager's perspective and to discuss possible solutions.

## SESSION 5:

**SATURDAY 2.15pm – 3.00pm**

### Sharing approaches to processing and group activities

Kathleen Clayton; Heidi Smith; Peter McKenna

An opportunity to experience and share ideas on group activities and to explore approaches to processing these and other outdoor education experiences.

*Kath, Heidi and Peter all work at Maroon Outdoor Education Centre. They share a variety of experiences from academic study, teaching in schools and working at a range of outdoor education facilities.*

### UnPACKing the Training PACKage

Darren Osmond

UnPACKing the Training PACKage - a framework for understanding how the National Outdoor Recreation Industry Training Package works. A look at the state of play with vocational training in Australia from the point of view of TAFE. The session aims to clarify what skills and experience graduates from VET Outdoor Recreation courses have, and how VET training corresponds with other industry-based accreditation systems such as NOLRS and Australian Canoeing.

*Having completed the Graduate Diploma in Outdoor Education at Griffith University, Darren Osmond has been an Outdoor Recreation teacher at the Tropical North Qld TAFE in Cairns since 1998.*

### Workplace Health and Safety (cont'd)

James Chalmers, Department of Industrial Relations

## Booking Systems and Administration procedures

Wayne Grady (U.C. Conference Centres)

Wayne will lead delegates on a tour of the Uniting Church Conference Centre's Booking system with a "hands on" look at the software and booking process.

*Wayne has been involved with camping for a large percent of his life. He has worked fulltime for the Uniting Church for the past 23 Years in the capacity of Centre Manager, firstly at Shannon Park (near Toowoomba) then at Coolwaters (Yeppoon) and for the past nine and a half years here at Alexandra Park Conference Centre.*

## Field Trip – Mt Coolum (cont'd)

Dave Batt

## SESSION 6:

**SATURDAY 3.30pm – 4.15pm**

### Sandcastles: Experiential outdoor environmental education meets the beach

Rob Hales

#### Practical activity

When doing experiential education I have often wondered about the transfer of lessons from outdoor activities to the 'real world'. I would like to share an activity that overcomes this problem. In this activity I hope to introduce a fun and simple way of getting people (of all ages) to experientially understand and facilitate greater spatial sense of place attachment and identity. Through building 3D sand sculptures of the places in which we live, the 'real world' becomes the sculpture and the ideas surrounding the place we have created are also 'real world issues'. You never know, you may get attached to your sculpture?

### From blank minds ... to real experiences

Deborah Parkin, Project Nature-Ed

Whether it's planned or incidental, environmental interpretation can value add to your outdoor activity. All you need is a take



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# Transformation in the Outdoors

home message, a pair of eyes and a bit of imagination!

So if you're wanting to conduct an interpretive program but feel limited by your knowledge, then join this hands-on workshop. You'll investigate the use of themes and different media to plan and conduct interpretive activities for your clients. And then we'll "take a walk on the wild side" and put it all into action.

## **The A-Z of a student led Mountain Bike journey**

*Don Hamley & Andrew Fellows, Toowoomba Grammar School*

This session will utilise the Toowoomba Grammar School Year 10 Mountain Biking Journey as one example of how to go about the task. The session will commence with a quick discussion of the Students' Planning Manual (supplied) before we taking to the bikes for a ride where many of the more practical issues can be explored, including common bike maintenance and repair scenarios as well as accident prevention.

**Please Note: Maximum 14 participants**

*Don Hamley is the Director of the Abingdon Outdoor Education Centre. Don has worked in a number of centres both within Australia and overseas where the Journey metaphor is used to elicit deeper learning and understanding.*

*Andrew Fellows is a member of staff at the Abingdon Centre, has worked as a trip guide for Tasmanian Expeditions and was formerly a member of the Tasmanian Institute of Sport for Mountain Biking.*

## **Ropes Course Maintenance and Inspection Issues**

*Steve Whitmore Project Adventure*

Practical activity at Luther Heights High and Low Ropes Course to discuss issues associated with equipment maintenance etc.

## **Visit to Luther Heights Youth Camp**

Practical activity

## **Outdoor Recreation Planning: Policies, Strategies and Plans**

This presentation of case studies by local and state government staff, industry associations and consultants will provide an insight into the type of outdoor recreation planning that is currently being undertaken, both generic and activity specific, and the issues associated with this planning.

## **SESSION 6:**

**SATURDAY 4.15pm – 5.00pm**

## **Experiential learning for the environment "Sandcastles" (cont'd)**

## **From blank minds ... to real experiences (cont'd)**

## **The A-Z of a student led Mountain Bike journey (cont'd)**

## **Technical Workshop: Ropes Courses (cont'd)**

## **Visit to Luther Heights (cont'd)**

## **Outdoor Recreation Planning: (cont'd): How can we do it better?**

*Robyn Kiss*

This session will commence with an overview of the hierarchy of plans/planning processes and will then focus on what differentiates a good plan from a bad plan. Barriers to the implementation of plans and examples of what plans have been implemented in Queensland will be highlighted to summarise the effectiveness of the original planning processes. The facilitated discussion following this presentation will provide the opportunity for critical review of the current planning processes conducted by state and local government agencies and possible solutions to issues raised.

*Ms Robyn Kiss is a Principal Recreation Planner within the Policy, Planning and Development Division of Sport and Recreation Queensland*



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**SESSION 7:**  
**SUNDAY 9.00am – 10.00am**

**Developing programs with Murri kids**  
*Phil Blake*

Phil Blake from the Beaudesert State High School and Boystown will be talking about his experiences with murri kids in south-east and more remote parts of Australia. This enlightening and engaging session will help teachers and leaders to develop more culturally appropriate ways of teaching and developing programs.

**Accreditation – Update on new National Program**  
*Jo Prior and Arthur Crichton*

Since September 2003 the Outdoor Council of Australia has been facilitating discussions between the Australian Camping Association (ACA) and the Outdoor Recreation Industry Council of NSW (ORIC) to merge their accreditation schemes to form one true scheme with national services. Discussions have been lengthy and extensive, qualified by a tremendous amount of good will for what is best for the industry. The main aim of bringing the two schemes together is to minimize duplication, streamline services, assist in making accreditation more user-friendly, accessible, and affordable, and to assist organisations in professionalising their services and maintaining good safety standards. The merged scheme will also provide the capacity to include clubs and associations in the accreditation process.

Representatives from the ACA and ORIC will provide an outline of the revised scheme, due to be launched mid 2004.

*Jo Prior is Executive Officer of the Victorian Camping Association and Secretary of the Australian Camping Association. Arthur Crichton is President of the Outdoor Recreation Industry Council of NSW*

**Implications of AAS, Accreditation and NOLRS for land managers and the tourism & outdoor community**  
*Kathy Kingsford*

After years of discussion and development, the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme (NOLRS) is finally being implemented. Leaders can currently register in five activity areas:

- Abseiling Natural Surface
- Abseiling Artificial Surface
- Bushwalking Guide
- Challenge Ropes Course
- Climbing Artificial Surface

A national accreditation scheme, applicable to organisations, facilities, clubs and associations which conduct outdoor activities, will be launched mid 2004. The Victorian Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) which provide minimum operating standards for 18 different outdoor activities, are being reviewed by government agencies across Australia to determine their relevance and applicability outside Victoria.

What is the status of these initiatives in Queensland and how can land managers (both state and local, public and private) use these initiatives to better manage visitors?

*Kathy Kingsford is the Executive Officer of the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation and has been actively involved in discussions relevant to standards, accreditation and registration within the outdoor industry for the last 12 years.*

**GIS: What it is and how it is used**

*To be advised due to late cancellation of speaker due to family illness*

Use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is becoming the norm in many areas associated with planning and plays an important role in planning for outdoor recreation. This presentation will provide information about the many ways in which GIS is being used to assist in planning processes



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## SESSION 8: SUNDAY 10.30am – 11.30am

### **Making the Food Safety Legislation work on Expedition** *Innes Larkin*

With the food safety legislation being passed in 2000 it is important that Outdoor Educators apply these laws not only in the centre but also out on the trail. This session is aimed at informing delegates about the legislation and providing as many practical ways to satisfy the legislation on expedition.

*Innes Larkin has been teaching internationally and nationally for the past eight years. In 2002 he completed a Masters of Outdoor Education. Presently he is the Manager of an Eco-tourism destination called Mount Barney Lodge.*

### **Management Round Table** *(cont'd) John Woods/James McIntosh*

### **Marketing** *Mark Lee, U.C Conference Centres*

Huge expense does not guarantee huge results. Learn about what is effective even on small budgets, and how to sift the good ideas from the bad and how to set realistic goals.

### **Risk Management for Land Managers: Trends, Issues and Strategies** *Simon Grant, Dept Justice and Attorney General; Brett Waring, QPWS*

How are local and state government agencies approaching risk management in the context of visitor management and outdoor activities? What is working and what isn't? What are the implications of the Civil Liability Act 2003 for land managers and their risk management?

*Simon Grant is the Principal Legal Consultant, Strategic Policy, Dept of Justice and Attorney-General and was actively involved in the drafting of the Civil Liability Act 2003. Brett Waring is the Manager, Visitor Facilities and Management, QPWS and has been involved in planning for and managing*

*visitors on public land whilst employed with several government agencies.*

## SESSION 9: SUNDAY 11.30am – 12.30am

### **Looking after our outdoor leaders: Research and Practice** *Carol McIntosh & Rebecca Fox*

Carol will start the session by presenting research findings of the stresses reported from working in outdoor education and some of the reported strategies for coping with the stressors.

Bec Fox manages a centre that employs over 25 staff per annum and has a low staff turnover. Bec and her staff immensely enjoy working at the centre. Bec will discuss ways in which she is motivated, and how she has empowered other staff to be as highly motivated and reduce burn out. All employees are supported to embrace work life as a family and social lifestyle.

Following the two presentations, both Carol and Bec will facilitate a workshop on empowering staff and reducing burnout and turnover.

*Carol has about 7 years experience in Outdoor Education. She started her career working freelance with a wide range of client groups. Currently, she is Co-Director of Brisbane Girls Grammar Outdoor Education Centre with her husband. Her Masters thesis focused on staff burnout which investigated causes of stress and what outdoor educators do to cope with and manage stress.*

*Rebecca has several undergraduate and post graduate qualifications in Outdoor Education, and over 15 years in the field. Currently Bec works as the manager at Kindilan OECC where she has built up the centre from scratch since 1999. The centre now services over 5000 clients from a broad range of community, school and corporate groups.*



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## Outdoor Recreation – VET Connections in Schools

Mike Tolley and Gavin Daly

VET Training in Schools – Who, what, why, when and where. Mike will be reporting on Tropical North Queensland TAFE's involvement in VET in Schools from the point of view of being an RTO and currently overseeing five school programs.

*Having completed the Graduate Diploma in Outdoor Education at Griffith, Mike Tolley has taught at MOEC, Boyne River Natural Science School, Ontario, Canada, Chevalier College NSW directing a Wilderness Studies Program, The Gap SHS establishing an Outdoor Adventure Leadership Studies course and an indoor adventure challenge and climbing facility. Most recently he has been an Outdoor Recreation teacher at the Tropical North QLD TAFE in Cairns.*

## Understanding the Industry

Mark Lee (U.C. Conference Centres)

Does your centre primarily provide activities and programming or does your centre primarily provide accommodation and conference facilities? This presentation provides information about how our industry is segmented into two distinct areas and outlines the various changes and trends that have occurred within the camping industry over the past few years - kitchen operations, accommodation standards, staff qualifications and of course, accreditation.

## Liability: Current issues and solutions

Simon Grant, Ian Jones, David Ferris, Brett Waring, Paul Davenport.

Panel including legal experts, land managers and representatives from the insurance industry (brokers and underwriters) to discuss the ongoing issues and answer questions from delegates.

## SESSION 10:

SUNDAY 1.30pm – 2.15pm

## Innovations in programs

Facilitated discussion

A selection of outdoor education centres and operators will provide a summary of innovative programs or processes, followed by facilitated discussion.

## Asset Management

Wayne Rodgers

Stocktaking and spot-checking of assets is a fundamental business activity that should be conducted by all companies, partnerships and sole traders.

Correct and accurate stocktake programs give guidance and confidence to both internal and external managers that assets are being well managed and maintained and insurance requirements can be met.

Failure to execute a comprehensive and effective stocktaking and spot-check program may lead to the wasteful and negligent management of limited resources.

Asset Management Services provides a detailed list on a database for assets owned by companies.

*Wayne Rodgers joined the Army in 1979 and became involved with asset management from very early in his career.*

Asset management in the Defence Department has included the following with government rules and regulations in place for the accounting for assets from nuts & bolts, radios, weapons, ammunition, food, fuel and general supplies using a defence database.



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## **An Industrial Award for Outdoor Leaders**

*Michael Taylor, HMT Consulting*

In 2004 QORF is working to establish an Award for Outdoor Leaders and other associated staff. This Award will be the first in Australia to address the employment conditions specific to outdoor leaders in an industry that has, until now, been Award free. The establishment of an Award is the culmination of three years' work, starting with a survey of Employers and Employees within the industry in 2002. Following consultation to establish "best practice" or template contracts, the industry requested that employment conditions be formalised into an Award. This presentation will provide the latest draft as the basis for discussion.

*Michael has had an extensive career addressing Industrial Relations/Employment Relations issues and currently manages a Consultancy service specialising in these areas.*

## **Minimising environmental impact: Facility Design solutions**

*Dave Meakin & Mark Harvey, QPWS*

What works and what does not. Discuss the latest construction techniques, their advantages and disadvantages.

## **Communication Technology**

*Marine Solutions International / Mooloolaba Radio Services*

Ever wondered what the latest in satellite phones, mobile phones or radios was? Which model is best for your application? Come along and be impressed by the latest in technology.

## **SESSION 11:**

**SUNDAY 2.15pm – 3.00pm**

### **Innovations in programs (cont'd)**

## **An Industrial Award for Outdoor Leaders (cont'd)**

## **Australian Camping Association and Christian Camping International update**

*Jo Prior and Ken Pullen*

## **Minimising environmental impact: Management solutions**

*Kelli Messer, BCC; QPWS staff*

A facilitated discussion to look at the range of management strategies currently being implemented by land managers, the successes and failures.

**SUNDAY 3.00pm – 4.00pm**

## **Developing Emotional Intelligence and Coping through Outdoor Education – Practical tips**

*Simon Crisp*

Research is increasingly supporting the centrality of *Emotional Intelligence* (EI) in learning and the development of coping with stress. This paper provides an overview of the empirical basis of both EI and coping, and then discusses practical strategies for the development of EI and productive coping styles through Outdoor Education.

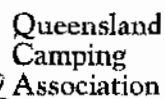
*Dr Simon Crisp is a Clinical Child Adolescent and Family Psychologist and Adjunct Research Fellow at Swinburne University. Since 1992, Simon has developed, implemented and evaluated both traditional and Wilderness Adventure Therapy® interventions that promote coping and Emotional Intelligence. He consults to schools, youth organisations and mental health services: [www.youthpsych.com.au](http://www.youthpsych.com.au)*



## 19

**Time:** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 8.45am – 9.00am

## Session Summary:



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**Session Title:** Conference Opening Address

**Presenter(s):** Craig Matheson

**Organisation:** Sport and Recreation Queensland

**Time:** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 9.00am – 9.15am

**Session Summary:**



## Outdoor Recreation in Queensland – the Big Issues

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Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation (QORF)

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### **Disclaimer**

*This document is not a statement of Government policy or intent. It is not a statement of any policy or intention on behalf of any of the agencies or organisations identified in the text.*

*Reasonable effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate and current. Given that the situations described in this paper are complex and involve rapidly changing matters of policy, demand for recreation, legislation, and organisational priorities, it is strongly advised that you check specific details directly with appropriate sources from the relevant organisations.*

*The Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation expressly disclaims any and all liability for any loss or damage arising from any reliance upon any information in this document.*

### **Introduction**

Queensland, like elsewhere in Australia and the rest of the world, is a dynamic society. It is changing constantly - sometimes with surprising speed - in response to many interactive factors. The influences on societal change include changes in:

- Climate and weather (droughts or wet periods, global warming) and other fundamental environmental factors;
- The size and geographical distribution of the human population;
- Demographics and related factors - age distribution, sex, birth and death rates, ethnic origin, educational background, health, wealth, fitness, knowledge, experience and culture;
- Knowledge and understanding of the biophysical sciences, economics, ecology, law, the social sciences, and other academic disciplines;
- The supply and availability of natural resources;
- Economics - national and world trade, market behaviour, commodity and labour prices, etc;
- Community values;
- Political institutions and power structures;
- Legislation;
- Interpretations of common law and statute law;
- Government organisational structures;
- Land use decisions and their effects;
- Technology;
- Art, fashion and music;
- Recreation trends, preferences and fads; and
- Management fads (and fantasies).

Changes in these factors have always been subtly and not so subtly affecting recreation in general and outdoor recreation (See Appendix 1 for a definition) in particular. Some changes are complex and/or confronting and/or expensive. The complex interplay between these changing factors defines the how outdoor recreation occurs – *What activities we do; Where and when we do them; How we do them and Who does them.* Individual outdoor recreators, the organisations that represent particular outdoor recreation interests and the public, community and private/commercial organisations that provide outdoor recreation services need to understand and respond to these changing circumstances.



## Outdoor Recreation in Queensland – the Big Issues

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In particular, leading outdoor recreation organisations should be responding to the issues or trends or changes that will affect the **diversity, quality and quantity** of the places in which we recreate. These responses need to be thoughtful and considered rather than vitriolic denunciations of whoever is deemed to be the source of annoying decisions to ration access, to protect against litigation, to require permits, to reduce ecological impacts, to conserve soil, native plants and native animals, to preserve cultural heritage or to give higher priority to non-recreation land uses.

To do this, we need to understand what is going on, who has a legitimate interest and what their perspectives on particular issues might be. We need to understand our fundamental resources (ie. the places that we use for outdoor recreation), the quality and precision of our information about those places and the people that use them and how to negotiate with other parties who may have legitimate interests in the places that we use. For outdoor recreation to prosper, its advocates need to contribute to the resolution of complex issues. The issues discussed in the following pages are not mutually exclusive. In fact, they are interrelated and interactive. It is not possible to deal with any one of these issues without considering the others.

In case anyone thinks that we claim to have the answers to all outdoor recreation issues – **we do not make such a claim**. This paper will identify and discuss some of the significant issues facing outdoor recreation in Queensland. Where appropriate, options for resolving these issues will be suggested. At least some of this information may be relevant to other States or Territories in Australia.

### **Outdoor recreation is a legitimate land use.**

Like agriculture, mining, conserving nature, forestry, water catchment management, maintenance of indigenous cultures, roads, airports and industrial, residential or retail development, outdoor recreation is a legitimate use of land. This does **not** mean that outdoor recreation in general (or, for that matter, any particular outdoor recreation activity) is more important than any other land use - just that it does deserve serious consideration in land use decision making. In some cases (Refer to *Shrinking* on page 4), a decision to allocate an area to one of more outdoor recreation activities is also a decision to exclude all, or some, other uses of that area. Conversely, a decision to allocate an area to a non-recreation use is often explicitly or implicitly a decision to exclude one of more outdoor recreation activities.

One of the implications of this is that outdoor recreation should not be considered as some miraculous social good or artefact, unconnected with the realities of the physical, ecological, social, economic and political worlds in which we live. The social benefits of outdoor recreation cannot be provided without accounting for its biophysical, political and economic costs. If outdoor recreation is to be treated as a legitimate land use, the advocates, managers, participants and promoters of outdoor recreation need to recognise and respond to all of the issues and influences that affect other legitimate land uses. These issues and influences include:

- Legislation and the legal obligations on public sector agencies and private landholders;
- The land tenure system and the tenure of particular areas;
- Indigenous people's land rights;
- Private landholders rights and obligations;
- Public sector landholder statutory obligations;
- The finite amount of available land and the consequent competition for it;
- Obligations for management of fire, weeds and feral animals;
- The biophysical carrying capacity of areas;
- The nature of the impacts associated with particular outdoor recreation activities;
- The relationships between recreational and non-recreational land uses;
- Risk management;
- The financial costs of providing outdoor recreation opportunities or services; and
- The need for regulation and education to ensure the diversity, quality and quantity of outdoor recreation opportunities are maintained.

## Outdoor Recreation in Queensland – the Big Issues

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Planning and managing for outdoor recreation is no easier than planning and managing for other purposes. It isn't a lightweight or unnecessary or simple addition to other "serious" land use decisions. This is especially so given the magnitude and diversity of demand for outdoor recreation opportunities. As such, outdoor recreation requires a substantive understanding of, and considered response to, all of the issues listed on the following pages.

### Limitations of the resource

The basic outdoor recreation resource (ie. somewhere to do it) has three unfortunate characteristics. These are:

#### 1. The amount of space is *finite* -

If we ignore land tenure for a moment and consider the whole landscape and seascape - the area we have now is all we will ever have. Like real estate and water - *they ain't making any more of it*. Once we use up what we currently have, there is no more. We cannot go somewhere else to satisfy the unmet demand for outdoor recreation.

A crude analysis of the amount of land that **might** be generally available for outdoor recreation in southeast Queensland is instructive. The total area of southeast Queensland (from the NSW border north to include Noosa Shire and west to Toowoomba) is about 2,229,500 hectares. About 16% (or 358,740 hectares) of this is publicly owned open space (Anon, 1999). Most of the remaining open space is private freehold (eg. small crop farms, grain farms, cattle grazing properties and the larger residential blocks) and most of this is not generally available to the public for outdoor recreation. It is fair to say that, currently, outdoor recreation is strongly focused, if not dependent, on the public land estate in southeast Queensland. The reasons for the lack of access to private freehold and leasehold lands are discussed in the section of this paper entitled "*Private sector involvement in provision of outdoor recreation opportunities is limited*".

In 1996, the population of southeast Queensland was 2,214,372. The gross area of public open space land available per person (using the 1996 population figures) about 1620 m<sup>2</sup> or a space measuring about 40.25 x 40.25 meters. Note that this figure does not include inshore waters, such as Moreton Bay, much of which are generally available for boating, sailing, fishing, swimming, surfing and diving - so the actual area that is available for outdoor recreation is larger. Much of the public land estate also has significant value for non-recreation uses including scenic amenity, food and fibre production, forestry, water catchment management, nature conservation and cultural heritage. Of the 358,740 hectares of public open space land in southeast Queensland:

- about 121,347 hectares (or 5.44% of the region) is national park or conservation park;
- about 208,053 hectares (or 9.33% of the region) is state forest or forest reserve (Note that the Queensland Government has indicated an intention to implement the South east Queensland Forest Agreement by converting much of the existing state forests and forest reserves to national park or some other form of protected area);
- about 29,339 hectares (or 1.32% of the region) is other types of reserve, lakes or dams.

Of these areas, the national parks are managed primarily for nature conservation (Refer to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, Section 17), although recreation is recognised as a legitimate use provided it is both nature-based and ecologically sustainable. Section 33 of the *Forestry Act 1959* states that the cardinal principal of the management of state forests is to provide timber and to protect water catchments. Again recreation is a legitimate, but secondary, use. For example, most of the road network within state forests was composed of temporary roads and snig tracks for timber extraction rather than permanent roads and for recreation. Despite popular belief, there was never an intention to maintain all of the timber extraction roads and tracks. A significant proportion of the current state forest estate is plantations of non-native pine trees which are grown to be harvested for timber. The major dams in south east Queensland have all been built to provide water for domestic and industrial consumption with recreation as a secondary (and, in some cases, incidental) use. As a result, not all of these 358,740 hectares of public open space land was ever intended to be available for outdoor recreation – especially involving large numbers of people and motorised transport. Of the areas that are generally available for outdoor recreation, a proportion may be temporarily closed to recreation for activities such as timber harvesting, prescribed burning, feral animal control or weed control.

In effect, we are asking the 16% of the landscape remaining in public lands to satisfy all outdoor recreation demands and to provide most of the non-recreation benefits or ecosystem services (eg. to

## Outdoor Recreation in Queensland – the Big Issues

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supply water, timber, clean air, scenic amenity and to conserve biological diversity) that the whole landscape once provided.

### 2. Places for outdoor recreation are not renewable -

Unlike netball courts, skate board bowls, tenpin bowling alleys, golf courses, swimming pools, theme parks and football fields, we cannot build another mountain range, or section of coastline, or wild river, or desert, or coral reef - the types of places we use for most outdoor recreation activities – when the ones we have are worn out. Contrived substitutes for both rural and natural settings, such as theme parks, lack the authenticity of the real places they supposedly replace and ultimately cater for different types of recreational clients with different needs and tastes from those seeking to recreate in rural or wild and natural places.

We are also (usually) unable to successfully return a natural area to its pre-impact condition once it has been damaged or changed. Restoration of natural and/or rural and/or urban landscapes and rehabilitation of sites degraded by erosion, soil compaction, weed or soil pathogen invasion, extensive physical damage to vegetation (including clearing), mining or chemical pollution is expensive and usually takes too long to be a meaningful option for management of areas used for outdoor recreation.

As mentioned in *Outdoor recreation is a legitimate landuse* (see above), a land use planning decision to allocate an area to a non-recreation use is often explicitly or implicitly a decision to exclude one or all recreation activities. Many land use planning decisions are for all practical purposes irreversible – they cannot be undone – because of the social and/or financial costs. For example, a native eucalypt forest – that might once have provided a rich and interesting environment for walking, horse riding, camping, mountain bike riding, or off-road vehicle use in addition to providing habitat for at least some native plants and animals - which has been converted to a housing development is effectively lost to those recreational uses forever.

### 3. The amount of space available for outdoor recreation is shrinking -

As some land use decisions allocate areas of land and water to uses that are incompatible with some or all outdoor recreation activities and/or as the impacts of land uses (including the impacts of outdoor recreation) accumulate - **the diversity, quality and quantity of places in which outdoor recreation can occur decrease**. Examples of land use decisions that exclude some, or all, forms of outdoor recreation include decisions to:

- Develop major tourist resorts;
- Allocate an area to residential, commercial or industrial development;
- Allocate both public and private open space exclusively to a single non-recreation use (eg. Mining, quarrying, plantation timber, grazing, cultivation, etc); and
- Develop transport infrastructure (eg. roads, railways, and airports) through near-urban open space networks.

Even decisions to allocate areas to particular recreation activities may result in other recreation activities being excluded or displaced. For example, a decision to develop a rugby league field will exclude horse riding, netball, picnicking, trail bike riding, golf and walking-the-dog from that same place – at least for the duration of the rugby league matches. This would only be a problem if the displaced activities had nowhere else to go that had the right characteristics and was convenient and well managed. However, it is often the case that the diversity of outdoor recreation activities, and the consequent diversity of recreation spaces required to satisfy that range of activities, is not recognised in land use allocation. We would not expect a football field to be concurrently used for rugby league, rugby union, basketball, cricket, dressage, target shooting, soccer, tennis and lawn bowls. Quite sensibly, we segregate those different activities by time or by providing separate specifically designed spaces with different types of supporting facilities. Meanwhile in near urban bushland, we expect walkers – with and without dogs, runners, orienteers, mountain bike riders, horse riders, trail bike riders, bird watchers, bushwalkers and picnickers to share the same spaces at much the same times without affecting the quality of the recreational experience that each one of this diverse group of users has and without animosity.

The clearest examples of these sorts of decisions in Queensland are in the regions where urban expansion and population growth are fastest – the southeast and the Cairns area. In both regions, rapid population growth has driven rapid urban expansion and development of transport networks. Recreation

## Outdoor Recreation in Queensland – the Big Issues

activities that have been particularly vulnerable to urban expansion in these regions include orienteering, horse riding, motorsports (especially trail bike riding) and hunting. The result has been that some outdoor recreation activities have been displaced and additional pressure has been placed on the remaining areas that are both suitable and available for outdoor recreation.

Given these three factors - if we wish to continue to have the opportunities for outdoor recreation that we currently enjoy and if we wish to retain some options for new outdoor recreation demands in the future, we have no choice other than to preserve and skilfully manage the remaining available areas and to increase the size and variety of places where outdoor recreation can be provided.

### Diversity of Outdoor Recreation Demands

There is a wide range of outdoor recreation activities including:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Abseiling;   | 12. Off-highway or off-road four wheel driving;  |
| 2. Cycling: road bikes & mountain bikes – touring, downhill, single track, cross-country, etc;              | 13. Picnicking;  |
| 3. Camping: tent, caravan, campervan, etc;  | 14. Power boating: jet skis, motor boats of any sort;  |
| 4. Caving: including cave diving;   | 15. Sailing: yachts, sailboards and any other wind powered vessels;  |
| 5. Climbing: rockclimbing, canyoning, mountaineering;   | 16. Scuba diving and snorkelling   |
| 6. Canoeing & kayaking: white water, flat water, sea;   | 17. Surfing: surfboards, boogie boards, surf skis, etc ;   |
| 7. Fishing: line, spear, net, etc;  | 18. Swimming: body surfing, unstructured recreational swimming in rivers, creeks, waterholes, estuaries, the sea, etc. |
| 8. Gliding: hang gliding, paragliding, parachuting, etc;  | 19. Walking: walking & running;  |
| 9. Horse riding;  | 20. Water-skiing;  |
| 10. Hunting and shooting: with firearms, spear, with bow and arrow, etc;                                    | 21. Snow skiing – downhill, cross country on skis and snow boards, etc.  |
| 11. Off-highway or off-road motorcycles and all terrain vehicles: trail bikes, trikes, quads, skidoos, etc; |  |

Some of these activities include many distinctly different disciplines – each with specific types of equipment. For example, off-highway or off-road motorcycle riding includes trail bike riding (road registered motorcycles with licensed riders over long routes possibly including public roads, farm tracks, forestry roads and tracks, etc), motocross (unregistered off-road racing motorcycles where the winner is the first to complete a set number of laps of a defined rough terrain racing circuit), observed trials (usually unregistered off-road motorcycles designed to be ridden over very rough terrain and obstacles at relatively slow speed) and dirt track (unregistered off-road racing motorcycles where the winner is the first to complete a set number of laps of a defined unsealed or dirt road racing circuit). White water kayakers need complex and challenging rapids while flat water kayakers and canoeists look for relatively placid rivers, lakes and in-shore waters. Camping covers everything from a tiny hiking tent carried in a backpack to large dual axle caravans towed by trucks or buses.

While no attempt is made in this paper to list all possible variants of each of the activities listed above, it is clear that the term outdoor recreation encompasses many different outdoor recreation activities. One consequence of this variety is that the space or place required for each outdoor recreation activity is different. For example, surfing requires a combination of underwater topography, shoreline terrain and wind conditions that produces waves and provides safe places to launch and land. That same place probably would not be suitable for sailing or water skiing or motor boating. A camp site for a hike tent may too small for a large dual axle caravan and tow vehicle. A motocross circuit can fit into a four hectare site while trail bike riders can cover over 400 kilometres in a day without riding in the same place twice.

People choose to undertake each of these outdoor recreation activities in a wide range of settings from wild, natural places that have no motorised access and few people; through rural areas where the pre-European landscape has been at least partially modified to meet the needs of grazing and agriculture; to highly modified open space areas within cities that retain only remnants of their natural condition and where solitude is

## **Outdoor Recreation in Queensland – the Big Issues**

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unlikely, if not impossible. Individuals may also have specific biogeographic preferences, although the preferences of given individuals vary in response to many factors. For example, some people prefer mountainous terrain. Others prefer coastal areas, deserts or riparian areas. Some people prefer rainforests while others prefer open forests or heath. Some individuals will use all of these biogeographic settings at different times for different reasons.

There is also variation in the motivations of different individuals at different times in their lives. Sometimes people just want to practice particular skills or to use particular types of equipment. The same individuals may sometimes use the same outdoor recreation skills and equipment to experience particular environments or cultures. Sometimes, they may participate in competitive events - to be fastest or most skilled or strongest or most resilient.

In summary, we have diversity in activities, in equipment, in setting preferences, in expectations, in biogeographic preferences and in motivations. These variations are driven by differences in demographic factors including age, sex, ethnic origin, educational background, health, wealth, fitness, knowledge, experience and culture. To satisfy all of this diversity - that is, each and every combination or permutation of all of these factors - is the great challenge for outdoor recreation planning and management. The difficulty in doing this is increased by the fact that many aspects of recreation diversity are constantly changing as technology and cultures change.

### **Magnitude of the demand for outdoor recreation**

Our understanding of the magnitude of demand for outdoor recreation has, until recently, been poor. The problem is that unlike major sports events where the number of people attending can be easily counted, the people participating in outdoor recreation seldom enter the areas that they use through turnstiles. Instead, they are so dispersed in space and time (except perhaps at the peak periods over Easter and the Christmas holidays at the prime destinations) that they are effectively hidden. Counting participants in outdoor recreation in the field is both very difficult and quite expensive.

Outdoor recreation demand studies done for south east Queensland in 1997 and 2001 and for central Queensland in 2000 are now providing some reliable data on which to base a regional scale understanding of the size and diversity of demand for outdoor recreation. (The two south east Queensland outdoor recreation demand studies and the 1999 central Queensland outdoor recreation demand study have been published on a single CD. This CD can be ordered through the QORF website). Combined with the projections for population growth (or decrease) throughout Queensland, these studies indicate the current and future demand for outdoor recreation.

Population growth in several regions in Queensland is amongst the highest in Australia. For example, in southeast Queensland, the population is expected to increase by approximately 1 million (to about 3 million people) by 2016 (SEQ Regional Framework for Growth Management 2000, page 17). The areas with the highest population growth rates in Queensland are:

- South east Queensland;
- Wide Bay;
- Cairns - Wet Tropics area; and
- Townsville area.

It can be expected that the demand for outdoor recreation in these regions will increase simply because of population growth even without any increases in participation. It is also reasonable to expect that there will be some difficulties in meeting those demands for the reasons previously outlined in this document.

For example, the total population in southeast Queensland in 1996 was about 2,214,000. Recent research (SEQ Outdoor Recreation Demand Study 1998) shows that 25% of the population of southeast Queensland went camping at least once a year (ie. 553,500 people living in south east Queensland went camping for at least one night in the year prior to the survey in August 1997). The median number of times they went camping is 2.1. This equates to about 1,162,000 camper/nights (ie. one person camping for one night) per year.

It is worth noting that even this figure may be a significant underestimate of the magnitude of participation in camping since the outdoor recreation demand study did not cover length of stay. Camping permit statistics for national parks and state forests show that the average length of stay in 1997 was about 4 nights. The actual participation in camping in 1997 may have been as high as 4.4 million camper/nights. However, for

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the purposes of the rest of this discussion, estimates of use or demand are based only on data from the 1998 *South East Queensland Outdoor Recreation Demand Study*.

By 2021, the population in southeast Queensland is expected to reach about 3 million. Assuming the camping participation rate does not change and the population increase estimates are correct, demand for camping will increase to 1,575,000 camper/nights per year - an increase of over 400,000 camper/nights. However, if participation in camping increases or the population increases to a significantly higher figure, the demand for camping could be much higher.

Looking specifically at bushcamping in the wild-natural areas without motorised access, built structures and much evidence of other people (ie. the 153,835 hectares of southeast Queensland classed as natural non-motorised), the figures are equally daunting. Of the people who live in southeast Queensland and who went camping in 1997 (553,500), about 28% (154,980) did so in wild-natural areas without motorised access, built structures and much evidence of other people. Again, the median number of times people camp in this type of setting is 2.1. This equates to about 325,450 camper/nights (ie. one person camping for one night) per year.

Assuming the demand for camping in such a setting continues to 2021 and the population increase estimates are correct, demand for camping in wild-natural areas without motorised access, built structures and much evidence of other people will increase to 420,000 camper/nights per year - an increase of 94,550 camper/nights. Most of the currently available campsites on the public sector estate in southeast Queensland are already used to their maximum capacity at peak times of the year. Of the campsites on lands managed by public sector agencies, most, if not all, of those in wild-natural settings are rapidly degrading in quality (through erosion, litter, over-crowding, fire scars, etc). There are few, if any, options within southeast Queensland for new bushcamping sites in wild-natural places.

Estimates of the magnitude of participation in other outdoor recreation activities from the 1997 data for south east Queensland are provided in the following table.

**Table: Outdoor recreation use-events for south east Queensland in the period September 1996 to August 1997.** (Figures are derived from the 1998 *SEQ Outdoor Recreation Demand Study*.)

<i>Outdoor recreation activity</i>	<i>% SEQ population participating</i>	<i># SEQ residents participating (based on population in 1996)</i>	<i>Median frequency of participation</i>	<i># use events*</i>
Picnicking	65	1439100	4.5	6,475,950
Walking/nature study	60	1328400	10.3	13,682,520
Swimming (excluding constructed pools)	39	863460	6.3	5,439,798
2WDing on unsealed roads or off road	31	686340	3.7	2,539,458
Motor boating	26	444820	3.3	1,467,906
Bicycle riding	25	553500	12.2	6,752,700
4WDing on unsealed roads or tracks	20	442800	3.1	1,372,680
Using non-motorised watercraft	17	376380	2.5	940,950
Horse riding	7	154980	2.4	317,952
Abseiling or rockclimbing	7	154980	1.8	278,964
Riding trail bikes, quads and similar vehicles	7	154980	4.2	650,916

- Use events are a measure of the magnitude of use derived by multiplying the participation rate by the population (in this case the population of southeast Queensland from the 1996 census) and then by the median frequency of participation. Use-event figures more accurately reflect the actual magnitude of participation in outdoor recreation than participation rates or other measures. The significance of these use-event numbers lies in the fact that each type of activity requires a different type of space or place. (Refer to the discussion of outdoor recreation diversity above). In turn, this has consequences for land use planning and management – the processes by which each type of space or place can be found, made available and managed.

### Recreation Succession

Recreation succession is the process by which the quality or condition of recreation settings deteriorate and/or change as a consequence of the impacts of recreational use and/or the actions of management. This is the main outdoor recreation issue, especially in the high growth areas of the State where the demand for outdoor recreation is highest.

Recreation succession ultimately causes a change in the recreators/participants who use a particular site and/or the types of recreation activities that can be undertaken there. It can occur at a specific site or across large areas (Bryden, 2002).

Recreation succession occurs when the quality or character of a recreation setting changes beyond the tolerance of the existing users. New users who are tolerant of the new condition replace those displaced by the changes. In turn, the new users generate impacts which continue to change the inherent character of the site. Recreation succession can be accelerated by attempts by management agencies and other landholders to mitigate or control the impacts of recreational use. Typically, management agencies and other landholders attempt to mitigate or control the impacts of recreational use through a range of means including access restrictions, provision of built facilities, on-site supervision, signage and site hardening. Recreation succession can also be accelerated by land use decisions that change the character of the places where people recreate. The result of recreation succession is that particular users, recreation activities or particular styles of recreation activities are displaced from where they once occurred.

This has less significance while new suitable sites that can meet the displaced users' expectations and preferences are available. However, for some activities in some areas (eg. extended bushwalking in wild, natural areas; trail bike riding and horse riding near major residential areas and small, dispersed vehicle-accessible camp sites with minimal facilities near major urban centres) the supply of new sites is already exhausted. In effect, recreation opportunities (ie. the opportunity to undertake a particular recreation activity in a particular recreation setting) are lost through recreation succession (often acting in association with land use decision making).

This is no minor matter. In some communities, people who have chosen particular locations to live because of the recreation opportunities provided from the natural or undeveloped character of those locations, could have their lives (not just their lifestyles) disrupted by recreation succession. A real example serves to illustrate this point. The Scenic Rim in southeast Queensland is the major focus for wild area recreation (especially bushwalking) in that region. All of the major bushwalking routes and prime campsites have rapidly deteriorated from erosion, trampling of ground cover, over-crowding at peak periods, inappropriate disposal of litter and faecal waste, weed invasion, excessive fire wood scavenging, etc since 1978 when I first saw the area. The loss of recreation quality and diversity has been dramatic.

I have personally observed this pattern of site deterioration and loss of site quality elsewhere in Australia (eg. south west Tasmania, the Victorian Alps, the Great Barrier Reef, the Wet Tropics, the Blue Mountains). This deterioration is a major concern for the public sector land management agencies that carry the burden of much of Australia's outdoor recreation demand.

Loss of recreation opportunities can occur through loss of open space to residential, tourist, industrial or commercial development. It can also happen as a result of developing infrastructure, access and social conditions that are not appropriate to a particular recreation setting. This process can occur, and has occurred, on a regional basis. Returning to southeast Queensland, a regional scale analysis of the landscapes based on the *recreation opportunity spectrum* (ROS) (see Clark and Stankey, 1979) was completed in 1993 (Wood and Swartz, 1993). Note that this analysis did not consider the tenure of the land



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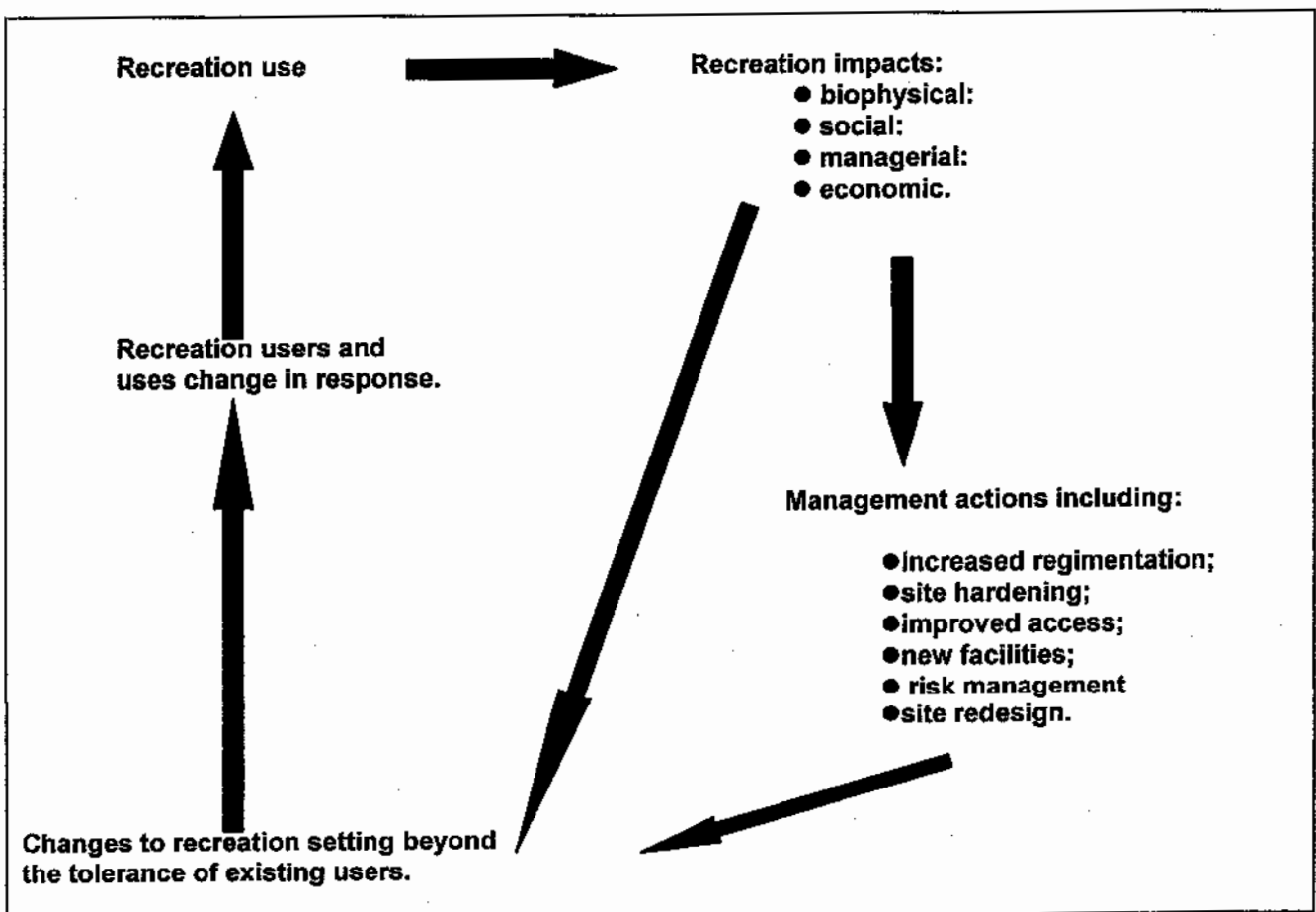
(eg. whether or not an area was national park, state forest or private freehold). Rather it focused on the biophysical, social and managerial attributes on which the ROS is based. This analysis showed that:

- no wilderness (as defined by the authors) remains in southeast Queensland;
- 6.9% of the landscape (about 153,835 hectares or about 70m<sup>2</sup> per person in SEQ using the 1996 population figures) could be classed as natural without motorised access;
- 10.1% of the landscape (about 225,180 hectares) could be classed as natural with motorised access;
- 6.4% of the landscape (about 142,688 hectares) could be classed as semi-natural;
- 67.9% of the landscape (about 1,513,830 hectares) could be classed as semi-developed;
- 11.2% of the landscape (about 249,704 hectares) could be classed as developed; and
- 0.5% of the landscape (about 11,148 hectares) could be classed as highly disturbed.

This means that less than 7% of southeast Queensland remains in the two most "natural" ROS classes for outdoor recreation or any other land use. Of this 7% of south east Queensland, at least some is not accessible to the public for recreation either because it is on private freehold land or because recreation causes unacceptable impacts on the non-recreational values of an area. Many of the prime destinations and most frequently used routes in these most "natural" parts of the region are already under stress from existing levels of recreational use. As demand increases either from increases in the population or from an increased proportion of the population participating, this stress will increase.

The need to provide the greatest possible recreation diversity by providing the greatest possible range of recreation settings should be the guiding principle of regional scale outdoor recreation planning. Just as importantly, outdoor recreation participants need to minimise the all types of impacts that their activities cause. This requires recognition of the impacts that each activity causes, careful selection and application of minimal impact techniques, careful selection of appropriate sites, appropriate management of sites, user education and, if necessary, enforcement.

**Figure: Recreation succession.**





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### **No single State or Local Government agency has responsibility for all outdoor recreation services**

Before discussing this issue, it is necessary to define outdoor recreation services and what types of organisations are responsible for them. Outdoor recreation services may be provided by state and/or local government agencies and/or other public sector landholders (eg. some statutory authorities) and/or volunteer-based non-government organisations and/or private or commercial landholders. Outdoor recreation services include:

- Planning (eg. local government recreation plans for specific areas; the recreation components of open space plans, management plans - which incorporate recreation sub-plans - for National Parks, Marine Parks, State Forests and other public land tenures, etc.);
- Basic custodial management (eg. wildfire suppression, weed control, feral animal control and fencing);
- Resource/land management (eg. erosion control, prescribed burning, management of noise, water or air pollution; landscaping, etc);
- Infrastructure design, construction and maintenance (eg. road and track construction and maintenance, provision of water, toilets and sewerage, repair of vandalised structures, etc);
- Enforcement (eg. patrols by enforcement staff, on-the-spot fines, confiscation of equipment, directions to leave an area or to stop doing a particular activity, etc);
- Education and interpretation (eg. direction and educational signs, guided walks, guided drives, spotlighting, campfire talks, posters, information sheets, brochures, books, videos, maps, etc);
- Outdoor recreation activity programs (eg. organised outdoor recreational walking, skills instruction, training for participants and officials, etc);
- Provision of supervision, first aid, search and rescue (eg. Surf Life Saving, Coast Guard, pool supervision, etc);
- Organising external suppliers (eg. food and beverage suppliers, cleaners, entertainers, first aid, etc);
- Marketing (eg. promotional events and advertising signs, brochures, books, videos, maps, etc); and
- Financial and other forms of support to non-government outdoor recreation interest groups.

It is acknowledged that some of the activities listed above (eg. wildfire suppression) are not usually classified as recreation services. However, as I have argued elsewhere in this paper, outdoor recreation is considered to be a landuse. All of the activities listed above may influence the quality, quantity and diversity of outdoor recreation settings and opportunities.

Outdoor recreation tends to be dispersed in space and time. It occurs on some private lands and almost all lands and waters that are managed by public sector agencies. In Queensland, much, **but not all**, of the suitable, desirable and accessible areas on which outdoor recreation occurs are directly managed by various State Government agencies. The outdoor recreation services provided by particular agencies sometimes overlap with those of other agencies. They may also be defined by complex, and sometimes inconsistent, legal and jurisdictional frameworks.

However, no single agency has responsibility for all of the outdoor recreation services detailed elsewhere in this paper. To put this another way, no single agency has the legislative mandate, geographic scope, thematic responsibility or management resources to provide high quality recreation services across the full range of recreation activity and setting combinations at all places in the landscape where they might occur. **Single agencies working in isolation and restricted to particular small pieces of the landscape are doomed to failure because they can only address small fragments of a much bigger issue.**

The following information is an overview or summary of a complex situation that changes frequently and therefore requires frequent updating. It is possible that some information is already out of date as you read this. Consequently, I strongly recommend that you check the details with the relevant agencies. The major state government agencies with *tenure specific* and *quasi-tenure specific* responsibilities for outdoor recreation in Queensland are:

- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (previously the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service and now part of the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency) –
  - National Parks, Conservation Parks, Resource Reserves, World Heritage Areas, Coordinated Conservation Areas and other protected areas that are managed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and
  - State Marine Parks as defined in the (Queensland) *Marine Parks Act 1984* and
  - State forests, timber reserves and forest reserves that were previously State forests - all of which are managed under the *Forestry Act 1959*.

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- (Queensland) Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) - Stock Routes, roads, state leasehold land and (through trustees such as Local Governments) Reserves for Community Purposes.
- (Queensland) Recreation Areas Management Authority – Recreation Areas as defined in the *Recreation Areas Management Act*
- Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) – National Parks, State Forests and other lands covered by the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area near Cairns in far north Queensland.
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) – the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
- Brisbane Forest Park Authority – Brisbane Forest Park.

Of these six agencies, only the Recreation Areas Management Authority and the Brisbane Forest Park Authority were established specifically for outdoor recreation management. Neither of these organisations has exclusive management responsibility for particular land tenures. Rather they are responsible for outdoor recreation management frameworks that overlie land tenures such as national park, state forest or private freehold (*Recreation Areas Management Act 1988* and *Brisbane Forest Park Act 1977*). In all of the other agencies, recreation is subordinate to other resource or land use outcomes (*Nature Conservation Act 1992*, *Forestry Act 1959* and *Marine Parks Act 1984*).

Dams and water storages are managed through three slightly different arrangements with varying amounts of government involvement. SunWater - a state government corporation established (by privatising part of the then Department of Natural Resources in 2000) now manages many dams (eg. Tinaroo, Burdekin, Fairburn, Moogerah, and Maroon Dams in Queensland). The South East Queensland Water Corporation (until 1999 a statutory authority called the South East Queensland Water Board) manages the three major dams in south east Queensland – Wivenhoe, Somerset and North Pine. Various local councils or groups of local councils manage dams including Copperload (near Cairns), Ross River (near Townsville) and Baroon Pocket (near Maleny) Dams.

The primary purpose of these three management arrangements is to provide water for domestic, industrial and rural uses. Recreation is usually a secondary consideration. Neither SunWater nor the South East Queensland Water Corporation currently regard recreation as core business and they are setting up contracts with external organisations to provide recreation services on the areas they control or, where possible, simply not providing any recreation services.

A second group of agencies has outdoor recreation responsibilities that are *thematic issue specific*. This group includes:

- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service - hunting or taking of native wildlife;
- Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol - enforcement of marine safety and both commercial and recreational fishing regulations (including seasonal closures, gear restrictions and bag limits) on the sea and on navigable rivers and water storages/dams;
- Queensland Transport – laws governing the on-road and off-road use of both motorised and non-motorised vehicles, provision of recreation infrastructure to support recreation boating (eg. boat ramps), marine navigation infrastructure;
- Maritime Safety Queensland – registration of recreational boats and marine safety regulation and education, production of marine charts.
- Queensland Department of Primary Industries
  - management of diseases and movement of livestock (including horses, donkeys, camels, alpacas, etc that are used for recreation);
  - management of both recreational and commercial fishing including setting seasonal closures, gear restrictions and bag limits
- Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy - management of recreational fossicking in Queensland; and
- Queensland Police Service - regulation of recreational shooting including firearms licenses and certification of firing ranges; enforcement of laws governing the use of motor vehicles and motor vessels.

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A third group of agencies has outdoor recreation responsibilities that are neither tenure specific nor thematic issue specific. This group includes Sport and Recreation Queensland – a Division of the (Queensland) Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation.

Note that government agencies are subject to frequent changes in names and responsibilities. The information presented here is current as at 19 June 2004, but may change substantially in the near future.

In addition to these major State public sector land management agencies, local governments are taking an increasing significant role in the acquisition and/or management of open space areas for outdoor recreation and provision of built facilities for outdoor recreation (eg. cycle paths, walking tracks, picnic areas, regenerated urban bushland, surfing beaches, etc). Many local governments are raising funds through special purpose levies to purchase land for nature conservation, outdoor recreation and sport. In Queensland, local governments have significant part land use planning responsibilities. The head of power for this comes through the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*. Local government planning schemes that identify and protect open space for outdoor recreation close to where people live and work are critical to the supply of spaces that can satisfy the demand for outdoor recreation.

Because many different landholders and many different public sector agencies are involved in providing outdoor recreation services, there is a need for coordinated or complementary multi-agency or multi-tenure or multi-jurisdictional arrangements outdoor recreation research, planning and management.

The options for this range from discretionary and informal agreements between agencies at officer level, through quasi-contractual agreements (eg. the Memorandum of Agreement binding the Commonwealth, State and Local governments to the South East Queensland 2021 Regional Framework For Growth Management) to formal cooperative planning and management frameworks based on statute law (such as Recreation Areas under the *Recreation Areas Management Act 1988* and Coordinated Conservation Areas and Wilderness Areas under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*). Work on developing these concepts continues but, apart from the four Recreation Areas declared over Green Island, Fraser Island, Inskip Point and Moreton Island, there are few successful examples.

### **Poor understanding of the distribution, extent and condition of outdoor recreation resources**

Currently, there is no consistent, or even comparable, inventory system for the public and private sector land/sites/areas that are used for outdoor recreation in Queensland. Reliable and comparable data covering the location, size, recreation setting class, condition, tenure and ownership or management arrangements of areas used for outdoor recreation, are needed to inform and support outdoor recreation related policy, planning, management and resource allocation.

At present, public sector agencies develop management plans (or equivalent documents) that focus on their own estate as isolates in the landscape. There are cogent political and organisational reasons for this. However, the result is that few, if any, agencies ever have a thorough enough understanding of their own outdoor recreation estate and the relationships of those areas to those of other agencies or the private sector to make really well informed decisions about outdoor recreation on their own estate.

A single comparable system should be used by all public sector land management agencies and, if they choose to participate, private landholders so that the data can be shared and compared between different agencies and landholders and aggregated and analysed at sub-regional, regional or statewide scales. A functional cross-government outdoor recreation inventory and monitoring system would:

- Support outdoor recreation planning and management and monitoring the condition of outdoor recreation areas;
- Supports integration and coordination of public, private and community sector outdoor recreation service delivery;
- Provide the basis for advice on outdoor recreation business opportunities to the private sector and marketing information to people seeking outdoor recreation opportunities.

Any such system should be designed to provide a platform for integrating outdoor recreation planning and management with other land and natural resource uses. It should also be designed to provide answers to a range of outdoor recreation planning questions such as:

- Where does each outdoor recreation activity currently occur?
- Who owns or manages each site where an outdoor recreation activity currently occurs?

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- To what degree is any place used for outdoor recreation modified from its natural condition by modern human activity?
- Where does each specific combination of outdoor recreation activity and setting currently occur? Is the condition of those activity-sites stable, improving or degrading?
- What specific combinations of outdoor recreation activities and landscape settings are either over or under supplied?

Such a system could provide key data for public sector land managers and planners involved in outdoor recreation and could provide the data necessary for Web accessible marketing and permit issuing systems. Ultimately, the proposed system could help determine new outdoor recreation opportunities and distribute existing demand for particular outdoor recreation activities to the most appropriate locations for those activities.

Individual public sector agencies and private landholders could retain the right to determine what combinations of outdoor recreation activities and settings they could provide given the nature of areas they manage, their statutory obligations and their resources. However, the proposed outdoor recreation inventory system could have the potential to provide the widest possible range of high quality combinations of recreation activities and settings within a region to satisfy the diversity of demand while ensuring the sustainability of the base resource – places to recreate in the outdoors.

However, acceptance of a single cross-government outdoor recreation inventory system (that might eventually be extended to areas controlled by local governments and private lands) and by all relevant agencies would be difficult for many reasons. Some agencies have considerable investment in particular recreation management systems and data sets that are unique to that individual agency. Others have particular statutory obligations and/or agency policies and resource constraints that result in recreation receiving a relatively low priority in agency budget allocations. Despite these impediments, most local governments in southeast Queensland, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Brisbane Forest Park Authority and the South East Queensland Water Corporation were active partners in a pilot project to develop such a system between 1998 and 2000.

The future of outdoor recreation service delivery depends upon the development of the cross-government outdoor recreation resource inventory system that is consistent regardless of the tenure or management intent of the land it covers. Whether, or not, a system that ultimately satisfies this need can find a champion in the Queensland Government and be developed is yet to be determined.

However, it is essential that and such a system be based on two key concepts - **recreation opportunities** and the relative naturalness of the places in which people recreate. Recreation opportunities are defined as particular combinations of recreation activities (eg. swimming) and recreation settings (eg. an Olympic pool, a wild, natural and remote mountain stream, a patrolled surfing beach, a remote coral reef, etc). Each combination of *activity and setting* represents a different recreation *opportunity*.

In management and marketing terms, each recreation opportunity (ie. combination of activity and setting) represents a distinct product that will attract particular users, requires particular skills and/or equipment, generates expectations of particular recreation experiences and requires particular management inputs to ensure both user satisfaction and resource sustainability. It is well established that recreation settings can be defined by their biophysical, social and managerial attributes (derived from the work on the *Recreation Opportunity Spectrum* by Clarke and Stankey) and classified by their degree of naturalness. In this case, "naturalness" is expressed on a range from completely wild - natural - remote to completely modified - built - developed depending on the proportion of natural and human-modified elements in any given place.

Figure: Range of naturalness of outdoor recreation settings.

Wild Natural				Urban Built Developed
Antarctica	Extensive grazing	Intensive agriculture	Suburbs	City centre

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It should be understood that this is a range of *naturalness* rather than *quality*. The more natural settings are not inherently better than the less natural settings. However, they are **different**.

Separating *naturalness* from *quality* is important. This is because it is equally as possible to have a high quality rural or highly developed-urban site for an outdoor recreation activity as it is to have a high quality wild-natural site for an outdoor recreation activity. Outdoor recreation planning and management systems must be able to produce distinct products (ie. combinations of activities and settings) that reflect the diversity of demand and the attributes of the resources. "Consumers" (or participants) may then choose the combination of activity and setting that best meets their needs (provided that they have access to appropriate information to support their decision).

### **Access to large areas of open space is essential for outdoor recreation**

The basic resource for outdoor recreation is somewhere to do it. That is, the basic resource for outdoor recreation is **access** to areas of land and/or water.

However, areas of land and water that are suitable for outdoor recreation activities may also be suitable for other resource uses. Non-recreation resource uses include timber production, water catchment protection, mining, nature conservation, agriculture, protection of historical artefacts and sites, scientific research, military training and maintenance of the traditional cultures of indigenous peoples. Depending on the situation at a specific location, these non-recreation resource uses may, or may not, be compatible with all, or some, outdoor recreation activities.

As land values rise and as competition for land among fundamentally incompatible land uses increases, the need to protect areas for outdoor recreation through planning schemes and legislation becomes more and more critical.

For example, in southeast Queensland, significant areas of rural land that had previously been (either potentially or actually) available for outdoor recreation have been lost to urban expansion in the past 30 years. Much of this land was private freehold and its loss has placed additional recreation demand and stress on the public sector lands remaining in the region and on the agencies that are responsible for managing them. It may be possible to better meet the current and future demands for outdoor recreation, especially near the major urban growth areas, by one or more of the following strategies:

- Acquiring and managing new large areas of public open space specifically for outdoor recreation purposes;
- Establishing cooperative cross-jurisdictional recreation planning and management arrangements between public sector agencies with adjoining relatively small areas of open space in their control to manage these as larger consolidated areas; and
- Encouraging the private sector to provide outdoor recreation opportunities on private land.

### **Outdoor recreation can be either compatible or incompatible with other land uses**

Given that there is increasing competition for land for all types of land uses in the faster growing regions of the State, there is a need for multiple uses of some areas to ensure that the available land/water resource is used efficiently. This applies to both public and private lands.

However, multiple use of particular areas or sites is constrained by a number of factors including:

1. An imperative to ensure that the primary or inherent value/s or function/s (eg water catchment protection, agricultural production, forest production, nature conservation) are maintained;
2. The biophysical attributes (eg soil, slope, climate, seasons, area available, etc) which determine the physical "*carrying capacity*" for any particular land use;
3. The need to respect the legal rights, management intentions and/or statutory obligations of the landholder (eg. many private landholders choose not to allow recreation on their properties and some recreational activities are prohibited by law in certain circumstances); and
4. The fact that some land uses are so incompatible that they cannot occur concurrently at the same sites (eg. feral animal control and/or chemical control of weeds and camping; prescribed burning and horse riding, camping or bushwalking; timber harvesting and trail bike riding; conservation of crocodiles and swimming).

Issues of compatibility can and do occur between competing recreational uses of a site. For example, some horse riders prefer to share spaces with trail bike riders rather than mountain bike riders because the horse riders can hear approaching trail bikes and move their horses off-track. However, mountain bikes travelling at speed can come upon horse riders with much less warning, surprising both horses and riders and causing horses to shy or even throw their riders. Many people who don't ride trail bike riders find the impacts of trail bike riding (especially noise, dust and erosion) unacceptable. The fact that trail bikes typically travel at higher speeds than other vehicles can be a safety issue if they use the same roads and tracks.

Determining the degree of compatibility between different uses of the same site and how any incompatibility issues might reasonably be managed requires appropriately detailed information about matters such as the magnitude of current and future use, the types of activities intended, the requirements of particular activities for space, particular landscape features, terrain and built facilities, the alternative sites available for particular uses and finally, user expectations and tolerance limits.

### **Private sector involvement in provision of outdoor recreation opportunities is limited**

It is quite likely that some private properties contain sites or areas that would be very attractive and suitable locations for some outdoor recreation activities. However, at present, it appears that very little of the demand for land for outdoor recreation is met by the private sector. The reasons for this are not well understood. It is possible to speculate that the major reasons for the limited provision of outdoor recreation opportunities by the private sector include:

1. Concerns about injuries and consequent litigation;
2. Lack of knowledge about outdoor recreation related demand, markets and business opportunities;
3. Constraints imposed through Local Government planning schemes; and
4. Limited understanding of outdoor recreation strategies tools and techniques – especially those not reliant on built facilities and investment in built infrastructure.

Despite these problems, there is considerable potential for private landholders and private enterprise to provide outdoor recreation opportunities on private freehold land. One result of this lack of involvement from private enterprise is that most of the demands for land for outdoor recreation are placed on the public sector - on public lands like state forests and national parks. This may not always be appropriate for the public lands in question or the best use of the available freehold or leasehold land within a given region.

In some situations, rural landholders **may** be able to supplement, or even increase, their incomes by providing recreation opportunities on a fee for service basis. For example, some farmers **may** be able to supplement and diversify their incomes by providing opportunities for outdoor recreation. Like most other land management decisions, whether, or not, a private landholder or lessee allows access to their property for recreation remains a matter of choice for the individuals concerned.

Encouragement of voluntary provision of outdoor recreation opportunities on private or leasehold land by private landholders should be a major goal of regional scale outdoor recreation planning and management. In some cases (but certainly not all) private enterprise may be able to provide some outdoor recreation opportunities more efficiently and effectively than can the public sector. If those private landholders also make a profit from such enterprise - so much the better.

### **Inappropriate distribution of public open space lands for outdoor recreation**

In Queensland, most of the large areas of public open space are located considerable distances from the major centres of population in the coastal towns and cities. For example, the largest national parks are located in the far southwest and on Cape York Peninsular and the largest state forests are located in the western Darling Downs and the central west of Queensland. This distribution pattern is an artefact of several factors including:

- The primary purpose of state forests in Queensland is timber production in perpetuity and protection of water catchments - not recreation. Similarly, the primary purpose of national parks in Queensland is nature conservation rather than recreation. With few exceptions, both national parks and state forests in Queensland have been declared primarily for purposes other than recreation – especially in the way it is currently expressed.
- The cost of, and competition for, land tends to increase as proximity to the major centres of population increases. This means that it is relatively more expensive to acquire land for outdoor recreation or any other public/community purpose along the coastal strip or near major towns.
- There is currently no program for the acquisition and management of large areas of open space specifically for outdoor recreation purposes in Queensland. Historically, large areas of open space have never been acquired specifically for outdoor recreation.

The result is that there are now relatively few large areas of publicly owned open space available for outdoor recreation that are close to the major centres of population along the eastern coast. Consequently, demands for some types of outdoor recreation experiences or activities cannot be met close to where most of the people who wish to undertake those activities live.

Suitable areas for some outdoor recreation activities are simply unavailable in the public land estate in Queensland. To rectify this situation, careful identification of open space with potential for outdoor recreation, an adequately funded acquisition program and public sector land management agencies with appropriate resources to manage those areas acquired are required. Alternatively, and/or in addition, Government support (in terms of appropriate land use policies, planning processes, planning approvals etc) for private landholders to provide for this demand will need to be developed.

### **All outdoor recreation activities cause biophysical and social impacts**

All outdoor recreation activities, even the so-called “passive” ones, cause biophysical and social impacts. This is the case even where the impacts are neither obvious nor known to the people whose activities cause the impacts. The evidence for this assertion is overwhelming (Conroy and Harden 1997; Hammitt and Cole 1987; Stankey et al 1985; Sun and Walsh 1998; Bamford 1990; Burger 1998; Cessford 1995; Liddle 1991; Mosisch and Arthington 1998).

Furthermore, the evidence indicates that the rates (in terms of numbers of users, length of stay etc.) at which impacts occur is much faster than the rate at which sites can recover to their pre-impact condition. Short term (say less than 5 years) closure of sites to allow recovery is usually not successful.

The result is that without careful site management and users who are committed to minimising their impacts, there is an inevitable loss of site quality. If all of the sites in a large area degrade over time, there can be large scale loss of recreation quality and diversity.

From a land or natural resource management perspective, outdoor recreation, adventure tourism, outdoor education, adventure therapy and eco-tourism present very similar issues. This is because outdoor recreation, adventure tourism and eco-tourism frequently involve the same types of outdoor recreation activities. These outdoor activities generate the same types of social, managerial and biophysical impacts even though they may be undertaken for quite different purposes. For example, orienteering, rock climbing, canoeing, bushwalking, camping etc. generate the same types of biophysical, managerial and social impacts whether they are part of an outdoor education program undertaken by school students, part of an adventure therapy program for children at risk, part of a commercial tour undertaken by tourists, undertaken by members of a club or simply an informal outdoor recreational activity undertaken by local residents.



## **Outdoor Recreation in Queensland – the Big Issues**

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### **Recreation and tourism are not the same things**

This is a fairly confrontational statement. However, it can be argued that planning and policy decisions that support tourism do not necessarily support recreation in general or, in particular, outdoor recreation and nature based recreation. The reason for this is that most tourism enterprises - including most eco-tourism enterprises - tend to be based on the existence of infrastructure (eg. roads, airports, shops, resorts, hotels, motels, casinos, wharves, harbours, etc.) rather than the natural attributes of a particular location.

Tourism enterprises tend to dominate the physical and social character of places where they are located. Recreational activities or styles that do not require built facilities or large numbers of people tend to be displaced from those locations. Local communities or particular outdoor recreational groups can lose access to large areas or prime sites for outdoor recreation (eg. swimming holes on freshwater streams in the Cairns area, mooring sites on the Great Barrier Reef) in this way.

Tourist developments also tend to be based on built infrastructure that is designed to concentrate clients at specific locations where they can be charged for services (eg. accommodation, transport, food, guided tours, souvenirs, etc). Conversely, outdoor recreation tends to be dispersed in location and time and large numbers of participants can fundamentally change the nature of the experience.

However, it is also fair to say that tourism and outdoor recreation can be compatible in some circumstances.

### **Outdoor recreation is the basis of the eco-tourism and adventure tourism industries**

In Queensland, the locations that have relatively large scale and robust eco-tourism and adventure tourism industries include the Wet Tropics, the Whitsundays and the southeast corner. The common characteristic that these regions have is a wide diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities. The greater the variety of outdoor recreation settings and activities from which to choose, the larger and more robust is the tourism industry.

For example, within 3 to 4 hours travel of Cairns tropical rainforests, white water streams, coral reefs, tropical savanna country, coastal swamps, cane fields, granite mountains, mangrove swamps, tall open forests, rural landscapes, Karst areas, etc are all available as settings for outdoor recreation activities such as hiking, climbing/abseiling, rafting, sailing, SCUBA diving, horse riding, four wheel driving, fishing, two wheel driving, camping and hunting. I suggest that this unusually wide diversity of outdoor recreation settings and activities - rather than the existence of casinos, restaurants and five star hotels - is the actual basis of tourism in the region.

This proposition could be tested, at least hypothetically, by speculating on the consequences of radically reducing the range and quality of outdoor recreation opportunities available in the Wet Tropics. Would tourists continue come in equivalent numbers if the only attractions were the casino, the souvenir shops, the hotels and restaurants? How would the Cairns - Wet Tropics area compete with all the other places that have casinos, souvenir shops, hotels and restaurants? Would tourists spend less on goods and services and restrict their expenditure to the Cairns central business district rather than spreading it across the Wet Tropics region? Answers to these questions that are supported by appropriate data are not available for this paper.

However, an indicative answer can be found by comparing Cairns with towns in similar circumstances. Rockhampton is similarly located on the east coast, services a large hinterland and has roughly equivalent transport services. However, Rockhampton does not have the wide diversity of outdoor recreation settings that are present close to Cairns. Rockhampton's tourist industry is smaller and it has less recognition as a tourist destination.

The distinctive biophysical and cultural characteristics of the Wet Tropics region are the fundamental elements that distinguish Cairns and surrounds from elsewhere on the planet. They give Cairns its tourism identity and shape the expectations of many tourists.

Given this situation, it can be argued that the basis of eco-tourism and adventure tourism is:

- A wide range of high quality places in a wide range of landscape or recreational settings to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities (eg rock climbing, sailing, scuba diving, white water rafting, horse riding, canoeing, swimming, surfing, bushwalking, hang gliding, trail bike riding, bird watching, camping, four wheel driving, etc);



- People who can competently deliver experiences/services based on those activity and setting combinations; and
- People and planning and management systems that ensure that outdoor recreation site or setting quality and diversity do not diminish.

### Conclusion

In Queensland, the leading outdoor recreation organisations in both the public and private sectors have much to do to successfully respond to the challenges currently confronting them and those that will inevitably arise in the future. Some of these challenges have been identified and discussed in this paper. However, there are others at least as important. Some (eg. risk management and litigation) are being widely debated and are being addressed elsewhere. Others (eg. indigenous peoples land rights) are very complex and I have insufficient time or space in this paper and expertise to speculate on how and when they might be resolved. However, those challenges also demand a thoroughly informed and considered response from the outdoor recreation community.

Narrow focused single interest groups (eg. some advocates for some outdoor recreation activities) that cannot see the bigger picture and that continue to avoid dealing with these realities may, in the short term, win some battles for **themselves**. However, in the longer term, we will end up with a chaotic assemblage of irrational and incompatible one-off decisions based on cronyism and/or political expediency without coherent ethical and factual bases for dealing with other legitimate interests. As people who participate in outdoor recreation, we must recognise all of the realities, complexities and obligations inherent in being custodians of the areas that we use.

As was stated earlier in this document, outdoor recreation is a legitimate land use, but this does **not** mean that outdoor recreation is necessarily more important than any other land use - just that it does deserve serious consideration in land use decision making. It is not some miraculous social good or artefact, unconnected with the realities of the physical, ecological, social, economic and political realities in which we live. The social benefits of outdoor recreation cannot be provided without accounting for its ecological, social, political and economic costs.

If we want to maintain the quality, quantity and diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities to which we all aspire (and which contribute in no small way to the quality of life in Australia) for future generations - **we have some work to do.**

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## Outdoor Recreation in Queensland – the Big Issues

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## Outdoor Recreation in Queensland – the Big Issues

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### Appendix 1.

#### Outdoor Recreation:

Recreation activities that:

- Are undertaken outside the confines of buildings (ie. in the outdoors); and
- Can be undertaken without the existence of any built facility or infrastructure; and
- **May** require large areas of open space land, water and/or air; and
- Require open space areas that may range in character from predominantly natural through rural to urban.

Outdoor recreation is a sub-set, or a component of, *recreation*. Outdoor recreation activities include (but are not limited to) **non-competitive**:

1. Abseiling;
2. Cycling: road bikes & mountain bikes  
– touring, downhill, single track,  
cross-country, etc;
3. Camping: tent, caravan, campervan,  
etc;
4. Caving: including cave diving;
5. Climbing: rockclimbing, canyoning,  
mountaineering;
6. Canoeing & kayaking: white water,  
flat water, sea;
7. Fishing: line, spear, net, etc;
8. Gliding: hang gliding, paragliding,  
parachuting, etc;
9. Horse riding;
10. Hunting and shooting: with firearms,  
spear, with bow and arrow, etc;
11. Off-highway or off-road motorcycles  
and all terrain vehicles: trail bikes,  
trikes, quads, skidoos, etc;
12. Off-highway or off-road four wheel  
driving;
13. Picnicking;
14. Power boating: jet skis, motor boats  
of any sort;
15. Sailing: yachts, sailboards and any  
other wind powered vessels;
16. Scuba diving and snorkelling
17. Surfing: surfboards, boogie boards,  
surf skis, etc ;
18. Swimming: body surfing,  
unstructured recreational swimming  
in rivers, creeks, waterholes,  
estuaries, the sea, etc.
19. Walking: walking & running;
20. Water-skiing;
21. Snow skiing – downhill, cross country  
on skis and snow boards, etc.

Note 1: Facilities, site modification or infrastructure may be provided to manage the impacts generated by the activities or to support participation. However, outdoor recreation activities are not inherently dependant on facilities, site modification or infrastructure and can be undertaken without them.

Note 2: Competitive versions of some of the above non-competitive activities exist. While competitive activities have much in common with non-competitive activities, policies, planning outcomes, infrastructure and initiatives that support competitive activities do not necessarily support non-competitive activities. For example, competition often focuses on speed, technical difficulty and increased risk taking – each of which reduces safety margins. Consequently, competition often requires exclusive use of areas that could otherwise be concurrently available for several non-competitive outdoor recreation activities.

For this reason, non-competitive and competitive activities require separate recognition in planning and management and specific outcomes in decision-making processes.

# Transformation in the Outdoors

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Session Title: Keynote Address

Presenter(s): Ms Kathy Kingsford and Mr Dave Batt

Organisation(s): Qld Outdoor Recreation Federation; Sport and Recreation Qld

Time: Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 9.15am – 10.00am

## Session Summary:

GOOD DETAIL. DIDNT LIKE HANDING FROM ONE  
TO THE OTHER. SHOULD HAVE LET DAVE DO IT ALL  
PRESENTED TO MAIN ISSUES: THE DIVERSITY IN  
USER/USERS AND THE CHANGING SHAPE OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT.  
EMPHASISED COOPERATION BETWEEN GROUPS.



# Transformation in the Outdoors

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**Session Title:** Caring in a Modern World  
**Presenter(s):** Rob Hales  
**Organisation(s) :** Griffith University  
**Time:** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 10.30am – 11.30am

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## Session Summary:

We live in a 'hurry' culture. Not only do we experience time pressure as we grow up through our increased responsibilities in life, but the demand placed upon us through changing societal demands also contributes to time pressures. In the conference brochure, I presented a situation where there was merging of consumption, technology, activity and image of the modern climber. This example crudely demonstrates that the uncritical adoption of values and actions in modern life do play a major part in the determination of experience in the outdoors. The point I would like to make is that the financial cost for someone to maintain this sort of behaviour is high and leads to a spiralling cycle of work and consumption where there is less and less 'free' time to experience the activity. This spiralling erodes the core motives of the activity. That is, time to enjoy their benefits of their pastime.

As outdoor educators we can fall into a similar trap but the consequences are slightly different. The merging of consumption, technology, activity and image for the outdoor educator as both a consumer and provider of experience has personal and program implications. As educators we are consumers of the outdoor education provider experience. Consuming the latest GPS technology as part of good risk management activity is important because we must be seen to be using the latest gadget otherwise we are not a good outdoor educator. I question this way of thinking because 1) are the outdoor education outcomes any better for it? 2) where will we get the time to be up to date with the latest technology 4) won't we have to work harder to get more money to pay for the things we must have. 5) will we have time for the participants in our care if we become hurried in daily work life?

So far I have not talked about care. Developing the care of ourselves, other people, and nature is at the heart of outdoor education. How the cycle mentioned above impacts on our time available to care will be focus of the presentation. Time to care in modern world needs consciousness and intention. I call upon outdoor educators to be aware of and resist certain societal pressures so as to remain true to the care ethic, one of our core principles.

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**Session Title:** Adolescents and Resilience: "Knowing what to do when you don't know what to do!"  
**Presenter(s):** Yvonne Hawke  
**Organisation(s):** Hillbrook Anglican School  
**Time:** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 11.30am – 12.30am

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## Session Summary:

Resilience has been described as "knowing what to do when you don't know what to do." It is implicit that a resilient person has strengths they can draw on in times of need.

Young people in 2004 have been described as "the millennial kids", "the Nintendo generation" and some say they are "the most watched over generation ever." Adolescents today have their own unique set of life experiences which help shape the way they see the world. Researchers have also attributed particular characteristics to this generation of young people. It's important when helping young people develop resilience to understand their special characteristics and to be aware of the trends which may impact on them. These points will be developed in the presentation.

This presentation will then promote the notion that it is possible and important to develop and nurture resilience in young people. Research findings have indicated that families, schools and the community have an important role in promoting an adolescent's resilience. Factors such as hope, humour, connectedness, friendships, relational competence, problems solving skills and a sense of autonomy have all been identified as being important in developing resilience, and these factors will be explored in this presentation.

It is expected that participants will be able to identify some key principles that underpin the development of resilience in young people, and apply these principles to their own professional and personal situations.

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**Session Title:** The Client: Who is using the "great outdoors" and what do we need to know about them?  
**Presenter(s):** Andrew Barkham, Andrew Graham, Kelly Stock  
**Organisation(s):** Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation  
**Time:** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 11.30am – 12.30am

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## Session Summary:

The "Great Outdoors" hosts a huge number of recreational and commercial activities.

Recreational styles, motivations and activities continue to "evolve" particularly as technological advances become more affordable. The landscapes and environments that are utilized for recreation encompass virtually all natural and modified landforms and biological communities. Examples of the broad ranges of "disciplines" and settings for cycling, canoeing and walking are presented.

It appears that there is very limited statistical information on recreational and/or physical activity for Australian society as a whole. The available data are often in broad activity categories that do not reflect the diversity of disciplines and settings. In contrast, there are numerous more detailed surveys focused on members of specific "activity groups" including tourists. Recalculated data from the SEQ Outdoor Recreation Demand Study are used to show how age-class activity statistics provide a valuable tool for understanding the recreational behaviour of different sections of the population.

In the SEQ region, dramatic population growth as well as demographic and socio-economic changes mean that planning for future recreation opportunities is a priority task. There may be exciting opportunities to model some aspects of recreation activity and demand based on population growth and age-class data on a regional (spatial/GIS) basis. Just as important are the tasks of recording and publicizing existing recreation sites and identifying, preserving and, if necessary, creating new locations for outdoor recreation activities.

COVERED GEN PARTICIPATION STATS AS WELL AS

MTB AND KAYAKING, AND WALKING.

\* LANDFILL - MOUNTAIN BIKE COURSE.



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Queensland  
Camping  
Association



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**Session Title:** Evaluating Ironbark: An approach to program evaluation

**Presenter(s):** Phil Harrison

**Organisation(s):** "Ironbark", St Peter's Lutheran College

**Time:** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 1.30pm – 2.15pm

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## **Session Summary:**

The process of formal evaluation has been part of the Ironbark program since 1999. The process was implemented as a way of better understanding student perceptions of both the program as a whole and of specific program elements.

Evaluation is a specific form of research that relates to the value, worth or effectiveness of a program. Program evaluations are used to inform decisions about improvements to existing programs as well as future program developments.

Action or practitioner research describes research carried out in the context of a researcher's own teaching or program environment. The teacher or practitioner is responsible for all aspects of the research. By its very nature action research is specific to a particular teaching environment. The findings cannot be generalized beyond the scope of the focus program. One of the key features of action research is the opportunity for individual practitioners to reflect on their own practice and implement change within their own programs. It is this process of structured or formalised reflection, as part of an experiential learning cycle, that makes action or practitioner research such a powerful tool for the improvement of professional practice and program effectiveness.

The Ironbark program evaluation was developed as a way of gaining formal feedback from students about their experience of the program. Whilst anecdotal evidence was overwhelmingly positive, the need to collect more detailed and specific data was identified. The tool developed to collect data was a short survey. Students were asked to indicate on a five point Likert scale their response (from strongly disagree to strongly agree) to a series of statements about specific aspects of the Ironbark program. The evaluation contains 24 statements, organised around the five broad aspect labels of physical, social, intellectual, spiritual and general.

Data has been collected from five complete cohorts of year 10 students (1999 – 2003 inclusive) at the end of the year in which they participated in the Ironbark program. Data has also been collected from some students at the end of year 12, over two years after they



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participated in the Ironbark program.

The analysis of the survey data has provided a detailed picture of student perceptions of the Ironbark program. Aspects of the program that students have rated quite highly have been identified, as have those aspects of the program that students have been ambivalent in their responses. This information has then informed the decision making process, not only at the practitioner level, but also at centre and whole school levels.

For general information about Ironbark see the St Peters Lutheran College website  
[www.stpeters.qld.edu.au](http://www.stpeters.qld.edu.au)

For more information about the Ironbark program evaluation contact Phil Harrison  
<tmfib@bigpond.com>



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**Session Title:** Resilience and social change through the work of outdoor education

**Presenter(s):** Graham Shaw

**Organisation:** University of Queensland

**Time:** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 1.30pm to 2.15pm

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## **Session Summary:**

Studies of resilience have established a research base that gives us some confidence in the direction that we need to go to enhance resilience for young people. For the purposes of the presentation resilience is defined as the process of achieving good outcomes despite hardship or adversity. All people experience adversity to some extent. Studies have identified reliable correlations between protective factors and evidence of resilience. The most consistent associations are with aspects of relatedness with others and with engagement in meaningful activity.

If the goal of a resilience initiative is to enhance resilience for all, a look at risk factors (or the flip side of protective factors) reveals that the skills and opportunities to build supportive relationships within a competitive culture are not equally shared. A drive for the survival of family, culture, and way of life can obliterate compassion and consideration for others and we can see around the world graphic and tragic examples of desperate people resorting to horrific violence both to people and the natural environment.

The goal of developing resilience needs and invites consideration of the wider social environment people find themselves in. Outdoor education- through forays into adventure therapy and values education- has learned the lesson that individual change is difficult to sustain in an environment where new behaviours are not supported. Moreover, the belonging and connectedness that are linked to resilience have been shown to be associated with shared purpose and recognition for valued participation in meaningful activity.

Skills and knowledge are important yet alone cannot shape a culture or build a team. People need goals and dreams to thrive and it is in this area that Outdoor education has a pedigree and a golden opportunity to make a contribution to the lives of the young people we work with. The presentation will consider practical ideas and fantastic hopes to ride with outdoor educators as they consider the range of ways they can add value to their programs.

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**Session Title:** The A-Z of a student led Mountain Bike Journey

**Presenter(s):** Don Hamley and Andrew Fellows

**Organisation:** Toowoomba Grammar School

**Time:** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 3.30pm to 5.00pm

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## **Session Summary:**

Toowoomba Grammar School has been successfully conducting student led Journeys with their year 10 students for the past 6 years. Past students routinely point to these experiences as the pivotal outdoor moment which changed their view from a passive consumer of outdoor experiences to a "self initiating Adventurer".

This session will utilise the Toowoomba Grammar School Year 10 Mountain Biking Journey as one example of how to go about the task. The session will commence with a quick discussion of the Students' Planning Manual (supplied) before we taking to the bikes for a ride where many of the more practical issues can be explored, including common bike maintenance and repair scenarios as well as accident prevention.

Don Hamley is the Director of the Abingdon Outdoor Education Centre. Don has worked in a number of centres both within Australia and overseas where the Journey metaphor is used to elicit deeper learning and understanding.

Andrew Fellows is a member of staff at the Abingdon Centre, has worked as a trip guide for Tasmanian Expeditions and was formerly a member of the Tasmanian Institute of Sport for Mountain Biking.

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**Session Title:** Outdoor Recreation Planning: Policies, Strategies and Plans

**Presenter(s):** Jocelyn Palmer, Andrew Graham, Angela Wright, John Wood

**Organisation:** Ipswich City Council; QORF, Redland Shire Council; Tread Lightly! Australia

**Time:** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 3.30pm to 4.15pm

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## Session Summary:

*Jocelyn Palmer:*

Overview of the following Ipswich City Council Outdoor Recreation Planning documents:

- 1996 Ipswich Open Space and Recreation Development Plan
- 1997 Regional Recreation Network
- 1997 Greenbank-Flinders Greenspace
- 1998 Recreation Use of Post Mining Land
- 1998 Canoe Trails
- 1998 Waterside Parks Strategy
- 1999 Conservation Estate Management Plans
- 2002 Strategic Planning Review of Recreational Opportunities for Conservation estates
- 2004 Risk Management for Walking, Bushwalking and Nature Study

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*Andrew Graham:*

The SEQ Regional Trails Vision

The vision for the SEQ Regional Trails Project largely originated from the 2000 SEQ Regional Framework for Growth Management. The current phase of the project aims to develop a strategic plan for "an integrated network of regionally significant recreation trails for the rapidly growing SEQ population". The funding partners are the SEQ Regional Organization of Councils, Queensland Health, Sport & Recreation Queensland, Natural Resources Minerals and Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Key motivations are potential health benefits and overcoming threats to future recreation trail opportunities from high regional population growth and development. Important objectives include provision of opportunities to appreciate general open space landscapes (not just protected areas) and a short access traveling time for a wide range of users of various ability levels. While it was expected that the project would encounter numerous challenges, the current administrative and resourcing problems (associated with recent changes in departmental responsibilities) were not anticipated. This situation reinforces the view that regional trails are not seen as "core



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business" by any single government entity.

*John Wood:*

National Trends in the Use, Management and Control of Trail Bikes and a Possible Queensland Response

The presentation provides an overview of recent trends in the control, management and planning for trail bikes across Australia. It will then focus on the contents of a Draft Trail Bike Strategy which the South East Queensland Trail Bike Forum presented to the Queensland Government for consideration as part of a 2003 Inquiry into this matter.

*TALKING ABOUT DTBS AND IMPLICATIONS OF TB.*

*Angela Wright:*

Regional Trail Bike Site Survey

Project partners include Redland and Beaudesert Shire Councils, Logan and Brisbane City Councils and Sport and Recreation Qld. Project purpose is to find suitable sites in any of the above local authority areas suitable for any type of trail bike riding. Sites include private and public land of any size. A selection criteria, based on planning principles and structured to be IPA friendly, is then applied to each site that is suitable and has land owner approval. A report is then developed for each site. The final report will include site reports and a series of local and regional recommendations. For further information contact [angelaw1@redland.qld.gov.au](mailto:angelaw1@redland.qld.gov.au).

*SEE HANDOUT.*



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**Session Title:** The invention of climbing in Queensland and eastern Australia

**Presenter(s):** Associate Professor Mike Meadows

**Organisation:** Griffith University

**Time:** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 8.00pm

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## **Session Summary:**

This presentation examines the European idea of climbing as it was 'invented' by a changing cohort of early Queensland adventurers. Aboriginal people had inscribed every aspect of the landscape into their own cosmology for tens of thousands of years before the first Europeans ventured into their country. As European invasion and settlement expanded, European concepts of the mountains and climbing slowly began to emerge. Drawing on European influences, a growing band of climbers in the southeast established themselves and in doing so, 'invented' their own ways of engaging with the peaks of eastern Australia, creating the first mass climbing movement in the country. This presentation will use around 150 photographs and other images to illustrate the story of the emergence of modern rockclimbing in Queensland.

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# Transformation in the Outdoors

## List of Conference Delegates





FIRST	SURNAME	ORGANISATION
Ken	Acworth	Teknon Computers
Ian	Adie	Rockhampton Grammar School
Tom	Aitken	Army - Adventurous Training Wing
Neal	Ames	Sport & Recreation Qld
Robert	Ashton	Sport & Recreation Qld
Andrew	Barkham	Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation
Dave	Batt	Sport & Recreation Qld
Richard	Bauer	Griffith University
Peter	Beames	Maroon OEC
Andy	Bell	Edmund Park OEC
Phil	Blake	Beaudesert State High School
Craig	Boardman	Kindilan OECC
Andrew	Boyle	Co-Efficient
Martin	Bradbury	Elanda Point Canoe Company Plus
Caroline	Brown	Edmund Park OEC
Tarryn	Brown	Boystown
James	Chalmers	Dept of Industrial Relations
Kathleen	Clayton	Maroon OEC
Steve	Coleman	Ignatius Park College
Tim	Coles	Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation
Amy	Connolly	QPWS
Stewart	Cooke	Recreation Industry Training Company
Darren	Copland	Emu Gully Adventure Education Group Inc
Arthur	Crichton	ORIC NSW
Dr Simon	Crisp	Youth Psych Consulting
Gavin	Daly	Trinity Anglican School
Kevin	D'Arcy	The Outlook
Paul	Davenport	Affinity Risk Management
Mark	Davies	Griffith University
Owen	Derrick	Bowen State High School
Andrew	Devenish	Hillbrook Anglican School
Mark	Devery	
Jane	Dewar	
Mark	Dingle	VOEA
John	Doidge	NTORC
Gordon	Duff	Outdoor Recreation Centre Inc
Carolyn	Eaton	Cooloolah Sunshine Institute of TAFE
Ian	Edgar	UC Conference Centres
Matthew	Edwards	Kinchant OEC
Brett	Esbensen	Queensland Health
Steve	Evans	Edmund Park OEC
Philip	Fagg	Maroon OEC
Janette	Faulkner	Meebunn-bia
Andrew	Fellows	Toowoomba Grammar School
Dr Eve	Fells	
Alistair	Ferries	Emu Gully Adventure Education Group Inc
David	Ferris	Munich-American Risk Partners
Michael	Foran	PCYC Qld - Adventure Development
Rebecca	Fox	Kindilan OECC
Danielle	Goodridge	Cooloolah Sunshine Institute of TAFE



# 2004 State Outdoor Conference Delegates

Sarah	Gow	Cooloolah Sunshine Institute of TAFE
Andrew	Graham	Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation
Simon	Grant	Dept of Justice & Attorney General
Heather	Grenon	Kindilan OECC
Amanda	Guihot	Cooloolah Sunshine Institute of TAFE
Rob	Hales	OEAQ, Griffith University
Don	Hamley	Toowoomba Grammar School
Phil	Harrison	"Ironbark" OEC
Mark	Hayward	Pembroke School
Ian	Heath	Scouts Australia (Qld)
Leandra	Herbert	Booringa Shire Council
Jon	Hodges	Gregory Terrace OEC
Geoff	Houghton	Shalom College OEC
Gordon	Howitt	Sunshine Orienteers
Frances	Hudson	Brisbane City Council
Stephen	Jacobs	St Augustine's College
Margaret	Jacobson	Brisbane City Council
Jim	Johnson	Brisbane Grammar School
Ian	Jones	AON Risk Services
Phil	Keen	Sport & Recreation Qld
Kathy	Kingsford	Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation
Robyn	Kiss	Sport & Recreation Qld
Rod	Kleinschmidt	Kinchant OEC
Innes	Larkin	Mt Barney Lodge
Dave	Lee	Luther Heights Youth Camp
Mark	Lee	Queensland Camping Association
James	Leech	
Allan	Legge	Brisbane Boys' College
Kathy	Mann	ACT OEA
Clare	Marder	Cooloolah Sunshine Institute of TAFE
Craig	Matheson	Sport & Recreation Qld
Richard	McDonald	Crows Nest Shire Council
Greg	McGhie	QIEU
Carol	McIntosh	Brisbane GGS
James	McIntosh	Brisbane GGS
Peter	McKenna	Maroon OEC
Doug	McKenzie	Higher Ground Australia
Mike	Meadows	Griffith University
Kelli	Messer	Brisbane City Council
Stacey	Milhollin	Griffith University
Bob	Millen	Progress in Play
Glen	Mollenhauer	The Outlook
Marcel	Muller	Army - Adventurous Training Wing
Tye	Naismith	Cooloolah Sunshine Institute of TAFE
Ron	Neller	University of the Sunshine Coast
Yolande	Ng	Kindilan OECC
Bev	Nielsen	Guides Queensland
Darren	Osmond	Tropical Nth Qld Institute of TAFE
Geoff	Owens	Team Discovery Pty Ltd
Renae	Owens	Team Discovery Pty Ltd
Jocelyn	Palmer	Ipswich City Council

# 2004 State Outdoor Conference Delegates

Danny	Parkin	Project Nature-Ed
Deborah	Parkin	Project Nature-Ed
Graham	Pringle	
Jo	Prior	Camping Association of Victoria
Ken	Pullen	CCI Australia
Clare	Ravenswood	Griffith University
Simon	Roberts	Hillbrook Anglican School
Barry	Rodgers	Emu Gully Adventure Education Group Inc
Lynda	Rodgers	Emu Gully Adventure Education Group Inc
Belinda	Rodgers	Sport & Recreation Qld
Margaret	Rowe	Kindilan OECC
Patricia	Rowe	Education Queensland
David	Rowland	Camps R Us
Rachael	Ryan	Maroon OEC
Todd	Samorowski	Intrinsic Alliance
Leigh-Ann	Sample	QERA
Bob	Sample	QERA
Tina	Schefe	Googa OEC
David	Schefe	Googa OEC
Jan	Scudamore	Treadlightly! Australia
Andrew	Scudamore	Googa OEC
Courtney	Sharp	Kinchant OEC
Graham	Shaw	Connect Project
Aaron	Shum	Cooloolah Sunshine Institute of TAFE
Heidi	Smith	Maroon OEC
Matt	Smyth	Higher Ground Australia
Ian	Spink	Sport & Recreation Qld
Brett	Stanford	Googa OEC
Satu	Stephenson	University of the Sunshine Coast
Justin	Stevenson	Glendyne Education & Training Centre
John	Stewardson	Miriam Vale Shire Council
Kelly	Stock	Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation
Aaron	Sullivan	Kindilan OECC
Laurie	Tate	Emu Gully Adventure Education Group Inc
Rick	Tate	Emu Gully Adventure Education Group Inc
Michael	Taylor	HMT Consulting
Stephen	Tillston	PCYC Qld - Adventure Development
Mike	Tolley	Tropical Nth Qld Institute of TAFE
Geoff	Turner	Recreation Training Queensland
Peter	Vanderpeer	Rec SA
Jenny	Vran	Gregory Terrace OEC
Julie	Waldron	University of the Sunshine Coast
Peter	Walker	Googa OEC
Brett	Waring	QPWS
Anne	Warmbrunn	Noosa Council
Jeff	Watson	VOEA
Allan	Wendt	Dept of Local Government & Planning
Steve	Whitmore	Project Adventure
Dean	Whitson	Coolum State High School
John	Wood	Treadlightly! Australia
Elizabeth	Woods	Sport & Recreation Qld

## 2004 State Outdoor Conference Delegates

John	Woods	Edmund Park OEC
Angela	Wright	Redland Shire Council
Ray	Young	Kinchant OEC
Pam	Douglass	Maranatha Rec Camp
Ellie	McAllister	Maranatha Rec Camp
James	Mulgrew	Maranatha Rec Camp
Nadine	Larkin	