

Outdoors Victoria News: Invest Outdoors, grants, and more

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Outdoors Victoria News

August 2015



A word from the Chair...

Earlier this year, around 50 senior figures in our state's outdoor community gathered in Geelong to discuss the big issues shaping our common future. You, the leadership of our community, told us that you had four major priorities: building our workforce, developing shared messages about the value we create, increasing participation, and encouraging better government investment in outdoors programming and infrastructure.

We are acting on these insights. Outdoors Victoria provided a summary of these priorities to the Committee of Australian Sport and Recreation Officials, which is the main national forum for state and territory departments with responsibility for sport and recreation. We have been informed that this contribution was well received by the working

Invest Outdoors priority list - we need your feedback!

For the past few months, Outdoors Victoria has been seeking your views on what the most visionary projects and programs for the outdoors community might be. Today, we're proud to release a draft list of the [16 highest priority investments](#), based on what you have told us is most exciting and important for our community.

These projects include a mix of programs, like universal outdoor education in our schools, more funding for parks maintenance and expansion, and establishing a well-funded kids in nature program in Victoria, similar to programs in the UK, US and other Australian States. We've also identified 8 key tracks and trails investment that could be cornerstones of regional tourism. Finally, we think there is a strong case for investment in environmental protection, alongside investments in our community facilities - everything from scout and club halls, to boating access facilities, to improved visitor facilities in key parks.

Most importantly, we want to know from you whether we have the balance right. Are the projects sound, or are there important ideas we may have missed?

We're taking September to consult with the outdoors community in its broadest sense, to make sure we have a list of priority investments that stacks up. In October, we'll finalise this list and start actively encouraging Victoria's political leaders - across the spectrum - to support these projects.

Our goal is clear: we would like more funding dedicated to helping people enjoy Victoria's wonderful natural environment, and

supporting the natural and built assets and the organisations that make that happen. We hope you'll join us!

Funding opportunity for nature-based tourism

Tourism Victoria is in charge of Victoria's allocation of funding for the Commonwealth "Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure" program. This funding will match dollar-for-dollar investments in tourism infrastructure, which could include investments in parks and other natural areas, tracks and trails, and supportive tourism-focused programs like workforce development, destination planning, and so forth. More info [here](#), and get on to this one quickly - the application deadline is 9 September!

OV in the news: camps in the modern economy

Have a look [here](#) for the first of what we hope will be regular offerings in Victoria's regional press by Outdoors Victoria. This one focused on the role of school camps in the modern economy, and appeared in the local papers in Ballarat, Albury-Wodonga, and Warrnambool. By the way, if you're interested in raising the profile of your activity or area of interest in the press, get in touch with us! Happy to help out with editing & placement of articles that highlight the importance of outdoor experiences.

Recruitment for key positions

A couple of fantastic opportunities in the outdoor sector have come our way:

- 1) The Outdoor Youth Program Research Alliance (OYPRA) is looking for Senior Instructors to work on the research project at Howman's Gap. Full details in the advertisement [here](#).
- 2) The Outdoor Education Group has advertised the position of [Chief Executive Officer](#), following the recent announcement that long-standing CEO and all-around outdoor hero Tony Pammer will be stepping down early next year.
- 3) If you're an OV member, feel free to send us any other job opportunities you'd like listed in OV News!

A new bag of tricks

All outdoor leaders have their own bag of tricks, right? I'm talking about your collection of games, icebreakers, stories, cooking innovations, and other special touches that make your expedition into something personal and memorable. Not to mention the nuts and bolts of gear checklists, safety checks, and so forth. Now Wild Exposure has created an App to help you expand your bag of tricks. Have look [here](#) to find out more about the "Outdoor Ed Bag of Tricks" App - it's not free, but for less than \$10 you could have a resource that you might end up using on every expedition.

UPLOADS reloads

Very big congratulations to Paul Salmon, Caroline Finch and Natassia Goode for securing an additional Australian Research Council grant of nearly \$500,000 for the UPLOADS project. The addition funding will ensure the project is funded through 2020, and will enable the project to develop a process for identifying effective countermeasures for the most important risks identified through the project. For more information see the project [website](#).

International Sea Kayaking symposium

group on active recreation, and has influenced the development of a nationwide set of active recreation priorities.

Closer to home, I am also very pleased to share with you Outdoors Victoria's [Business Plan for 2015-16](#), which follows through on these priorities you have identified.

Last year, we began delivering a real return to Victoria's outdoor community, in the form of policy shifts like increased funding for outdoor recreation courses, and events that allow us to come together as a community, like our Educations Outdoors conference.

This year our plan builds on these successes in the direction you've told us is most important for you. The draft list of investment priorities released today is a concrete example of this work. In the coming months, we'll have a series of exciting announcements regarding funding and other key development on these priorities - so keep your eyes peeled!

- Scott Chapman, Outdoors Victoria Chairman

A reminder to get on board for the [2015 International Sea Kayaking Educators Symposium](#), slated for November 30 - December 4 in Hong Kong. This is your best opportunity in a long while to spend serious time with the world's best sea kayak instructors, in a small and exclusive setting. All at a most reasonable price, in an extraordinary location. Register now!

Know of any happenings or information you think should go out to OV's mailing list? [Flick me a note](#) and I'll include it in our next update.

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