

Australian Camps Association

National peak body for camps and associated providers

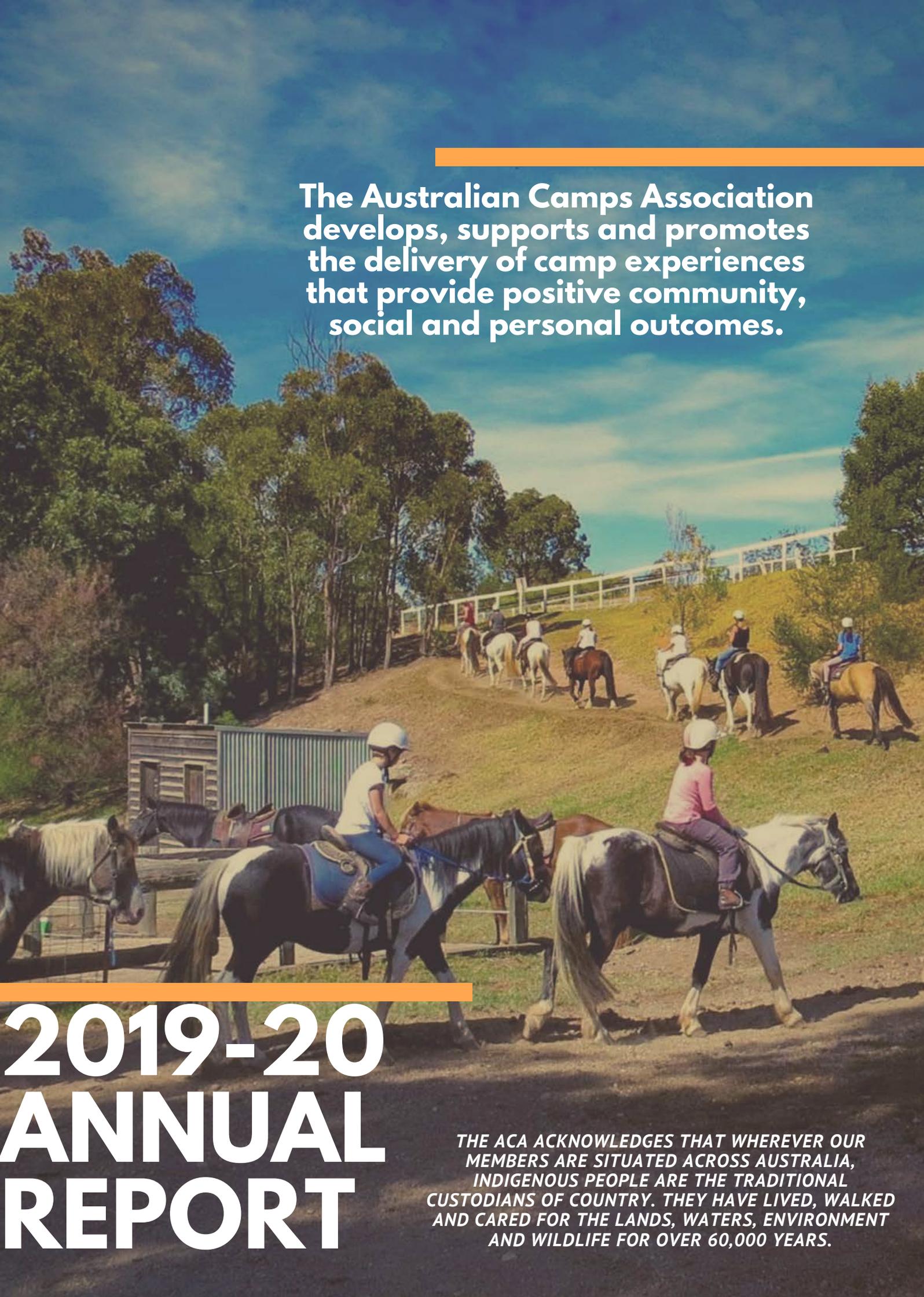
2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT



ACA



AUSTRALIAN
CAMPS ASSOCIATION®
auscamps.asn.au



**The Australian Camps Association
develops, supports and promotes
the delivery of camp experiences
that provide positive community,
social and personal outcomes.**

2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT

THE ACA ACKNOWLEDGES THAT WHEREVER OUR MEMBERS ARE SITUATED ACROSS AUSTRALIA, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ARE THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF COUNTRY. THEY HAVE LIVED, WALKED AND CARED FOR THE LANDS, WATERS, ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE FOR OVER 60,000 YEARS.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I commenced my 2018/19 President's Report with the words:

"I have been contemplating the "state of play" for the camping sector across Australia in 2019 and the role of the Australian Camps Association (ACA). I'm sure I don't need to tell you about the ever-changing environment in which we operate and what may seem like almost daily changes happening around us that we must respond to."

In the words of the recently passed Helen Reddy:

"Hindsight is wonderful. It's always very easy to second guess after the fact."

But we don't have the benefit of hindsight in responding to the challenges of COVID-19 that we have faced together over these past months. This is all new and changes are indeed happening almost on a daily basis.

In this past year, perhaps more than ever before, the need for a strong and united Australian Camps Association has been imperative. I am so very proud to be able to say with confidence that this is in fact exactly what the ACA has demonstrated throughout 2019/20.

Commencing with the early onset of the 2019 bushfire season and rolling straight in to Covid -19 the ACA at all levels has been united, pro-active, professional and has provided strong industry and sector leadership. The way ACA has performed through this period is predominantly through the fantastic leadership of our CEO Pete and the great support of his staff team. A huge thanks to all!

Underpinning this great staff effort, the ACA Board has performed very well over the year. With increased meetings and tough decisions to be made, the Board Directors have given careful and caring consideration at every turn. Thanks to all Board Directors, and in particular thanks to our two retiring Directors.

In response to our newly adopted Constitution that limits a Director's term to nine years, Bec Fox and Andrew Govan will be leaving at the end of 2020. They have each given 100%+ to the ACA Board, representing the particular interests of members from their home states of Queensland and South Australia, whilst also making huge commitments to support excellent governance and support to all members.

Then a huge thank-you and congratulations to all members. Through the toughest of times members have continued to support our Association. Attendance at events, messages of support to the team and feedback to the Board have all given great encouragement. This has been topped off with the overwhelming rate of membership renewals for the 2020/21 year. Thanks to all members, old and new, for your vote of confidence in the ACA.

Even working within the Covid-19 world, the ACA has continued to forge ahead with several strategic objectives to continue the advancement of camps across Australia.

Some of the strategies that are now in place to provide a great platform for the Australian Camps Association and the sector into the next phase include:

- **People Outdoors successful transition to NDIS and regional expansion.**
- **Increasing the credibility of the QTF Camps & Adventure Accreditation Scheme:** A revised MOU with the Australian Tourism Industry Council has been finalised to ensure the ACA can support a robust and respected accreditation scheme.

- **Improved financial sustainability, control and stewardship:** thanks to Treasurer Angela Chandler and the great Finance Sub-Committee the ACA has a strong foundation and is well positioned to continue growing services to members.
- **Sector Engagement:** ACA has strong and truly collaborative partnerships with many state peak bodies and is working alongside other sector bodies including Christian Venues Association and Outdoor Council of Australia.
- **Focus on our members and being truly national:** each year more events are being delivered in all states as we continue to build national capacity.

Once again thanks to all concerned, the Australian camps community under the banner of the ACA have done ourselves proud through this difficult period. Together we are better and side by side we will continue to endure. Ultimately we will all return to doing what we love most: enabling communities both young and old to enjoy the benefits of the camp experience.



Andrew McGuckian



CEO'S REPORT

Dear members, colleagues in the outdoor sector and supporters of the Australian Camps Association,

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2019-20. While we cannot avoid noting the challenges that the Australian Camps Association and our members faced in the latter part of this reporting period, it is important to reflect on, and celebrate, all that we achieved before the disruptions of first widespread bushfires and then COVID-19. Those successes were many and should not be overshadowed by what was to dominate 2020.

The ACA ran a number of very successful events during the year, including the annual Life Member and Southern Cross Awardee Dinner which brings together the people who were, and who remain, influential in shaping the ACA. It's always a pleasure to spend time with this group of significant contributors to our sector and at least some of the stories that came out during this evening are potentially true...

The location of our Annual General Meeting alternates between states, with Adelaide taking its turn to host the 2019 meeting.

The 2019 AGM included a presentation from ACA members Risky Kids on the value of allowing young people to take on responsibility for play and exploration. It was lovely to see so many South Australian members and guests in attendance, a reflection of the thriving camp sector in that state.

The 2019 International Camp Directors Course was held in NSW at Camp Wombaroo in the Southern Highlands, and yet again proved its value in sharing knowledge and forming long lasting and valuable professional networks within the sector.

A number of ACA members travelled to Malaysia for the 2019 International Camping Congress hosted by MYLEAF in October. I was able to make a presentation on the importance of camps for older people as a part of the ACA's commitment to increasing diversity and inclusion in our sector.

Speaking of which, it was great to be able to work with the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation (QORF) in introducing the Great Getaways (camps for over 55's) to the Queensland camps sector via webinar. Whilst COVID-19 has slowed this project we hope that it will resume now that camps are once again able to operate.

Meanwhile, the project continues apace in Victoria with two very successful Great Getaways being run at member camps. The Great Getaway community has stayed in touch via Zoom meetings and we are looking forward to getting our older friends back out there in early 2021.

Another project that has been sent in unexpected directions is one funded by the Victorian government to look into an integrated camp / study program for student groups from Malaysia, Vietnam and China.

Clearly it will be a while until camps are able to host international groups, so this project 'pivoted' to camps for international students unable to return to their home countries. Nevertheless, the learning regarding international groups has been universal and invaluable for all camps no matter where they are in Australia. You can see the promotional videos on our website - <https://auscamps.asn.au/camps-activities/international>.

Our second collaborative camp with Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (A&AA) followed on from the high bar set by Camp Yarramundi in NSW in early 2019. This year's camp was hosted by UC Merricks in Victoria and brought together dietitians, counsellors, allergy professionals and kids from around the country to help build confidence and independence for young people living with severe food intolerances. The next camp is being planned for WA in 2021. By the way, the ACA sponsors the A&AA's 'Preparing for Camp with Food Allergies' e-book, which can be found at <https://allergyfacts.org.au/resources/e-books/preparing-for-camp-with-food-allergies>.

The Australian Camps Association Board met very regularly to keep abreast of the evolving COVID-19 situation and its impact on you, the members, and us, the Association. The ACA was able to ramp up our member services by providing regularly updated resources in Outdoor Business Online, free webinars, e-bulletins (we have sent out an average of two e-bulletins a week since mid-March) and by simply being available to chat things through (often at great length) over the phone.

One thing that has been very pleasing is the outdoor sector's willingness to work together for the common good of our various members, constituents and user groups. The Australian Camps Association has worked very closely with the Christian Venues Association, the state outdoor peaks, the Outdoor Council of Australia and each state's Tourism Industry Council to lobby and advocate for the safe resumption of service as soon as it has become possible.

This collaborative approach has been a powerful one, but even this group hasn't been immediately successful in all instances, despite camps and outdoor activities clearly being a powerful tool in addressing the stresses and anxieties brought on by social isolation, remote teaching and limited mobility brought on by COVID-19.

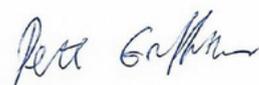
People Outdoors, the branch of the ACA devoted to providing outdoor experiences for people living with disability, celebrated its 30th birthday in late 2019, a significant milestone for any NFP operation. Now fully operational under the NDIS, the staff team have grown the program's reach into regional Victoria with the appointment of Simon Milligan as our Ballarat based Inclusion Manager. Again, this project was paused as the pandemic took hold but I'm excited to see it reach its potential as a stepping stone to offering People Outdoors programs nationally in the coming years.

I must sadly note the passing of Southern Cross Awardee and old friend, Colin Kneebone. Col was a long-term outdoor leader, a founder of AdventurePro (check out his videos on YouTube, such as this one for Trangia pizza: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=co-YDSSfzjs>) and instrumental in the development of canoe trails, amongst many other achievements. Our sincere condolences to Robyn and his family.

Finally, I want to recognise the positive spirit and strong work ethic of the team here at the Australian Camps Association, particularly since mid-March. Reduced hours, extended lockdowns and working from home has not been without its challenges, especially when the workload has remained uniformly heavy, but it remains a pleasure to work with such a great staff team. Thank you!

Let's hope that the 2020-21 FY concludes in a better fashion than it started.

Kind Regards,



Pete

ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN CAMPS ASSOCIATION

National peak body for camps and associated providers.

234

Members across Australia

Decades of Experience in the Camps and Outdoor Sector

The Australian Camping Association, a collaboration of the Camping Association of Victoria (CAV), Camping Association of South Australia (CASA), Queensland Camping Association (QCA) and the Camping Association of Tasmania (CAT), was formed in 1997 in response to a perceived need for a national body that could deal with federal grants and form international connections. The CAV formally amalgamated with the Camping Associations of Tasmania, South Australian and Queensland to form the Australian Camps Association in 2005.



ABOUT ACA EVENTS 2019-2020

National peak body for camps and associated providers.

11

Professional development and networking events, 10 at no charge to members

164

Attendees across 106 organisations

WEBINARS AND FACE-TO- FACE EVENTS

Hosted in three different states throughout the year.

FOUR SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

plus six additional COVID-19 update / strategy interim Board meetings

ICDC

International Camp Directors Course hosted in New South Wales

AGM

Hosted in Adelaide, South Australia

BOOKING SERVICE - THE STATS

The total number of enquiries (business leads) generated by the Australian Camps Association's on line enquiry system fell from 482 to 368 this financial year. This represents almost \$920k less in potential business for members.



Table 1

This is a direct result of COVID-19 arriving in March, as enquiry levels at the end of February were actually well in excess of those of the previous financial year (see table 2).

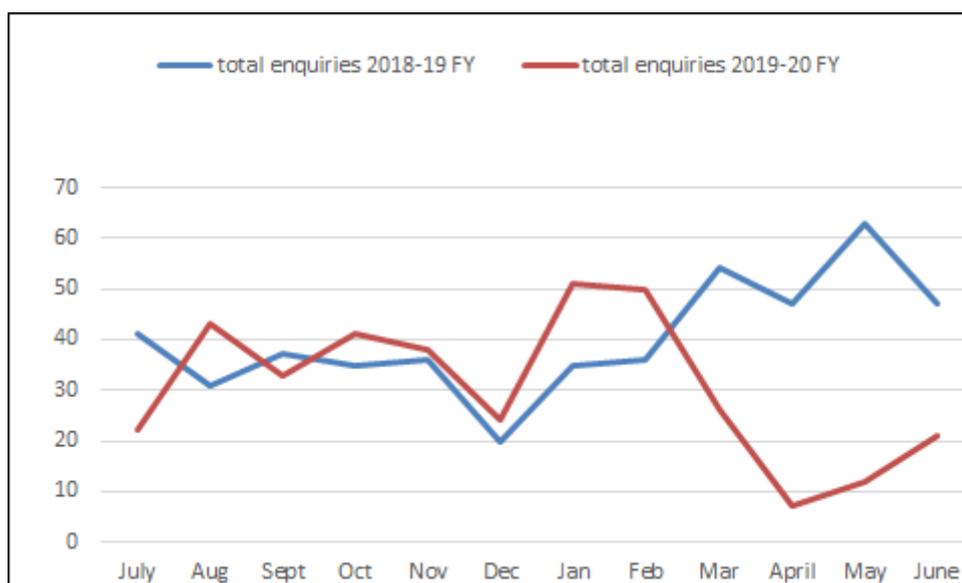


Table 2

Not surprisingly, enquiries from March onward tended to push more into 2021 and indeed 2022, particularly as optimism regarding a return to normal day to day life began to wane as the year progressed.



MILESTONES

PEOPLE OUTDOORS 30TH BIRTHDAY

In early October 2019 we celebrated the 30th anniversary of People Outdoors, the arm of the Australian Camps Association that provides camp programs for people living with a disability. We estimate that since 1989, People Outdoors has delivered in excess of 500 camps and helped over 4,000 people living with a disability enjoy the many benefits of the camp experience.

A wonderful day was had reminiscing with past and present volunteers, staff, campers and their families. We had a photobooth and a mix of activities including indoor bowling and colouring - which were a great hit! A video that People Outdoors had input to back in the 1980's was played and a myriad of old images, uniforms and newsletters were on display for all to see.

Thea Calzoni, People Outdoors volunteer and parent of long-time camper Julian, said that the celebration was "*such a peaceful, professionally delivered but friendly event*".

Of course, a birthday celebration isn't really a celebration without cake! We were honored to have past People Outdoors Manager, Jenny Cater and long-time camper and helper, Julian Fleckner 'cut the cake' in celebration of our 30 year achievement.

A big THANK-YOU to all campers, staff, volunteers and families past and present for being a part of People Outdoors over the past 30 years, your contribution has helped us get to where we are today. Here's to many more years providing outdoor experiences for people living with disabilities.

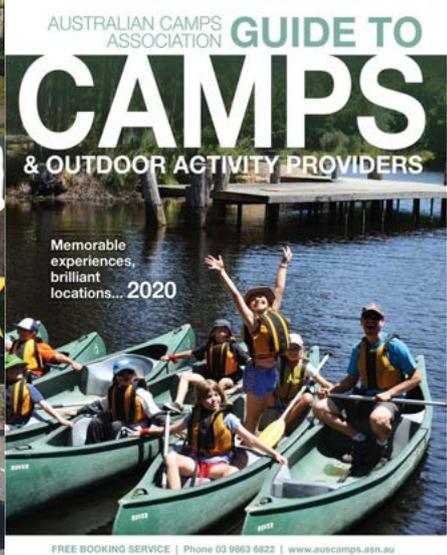




BEFORE

AFTER

Pictured: ACA Car Wrapped!



AUSTRALIAN CAMPS ASSOCIATION GUIDE TO CAMPS & OUTDOOR ACTIVITY PROVIDERS

Memorable experiences, brilliant locations... 2020

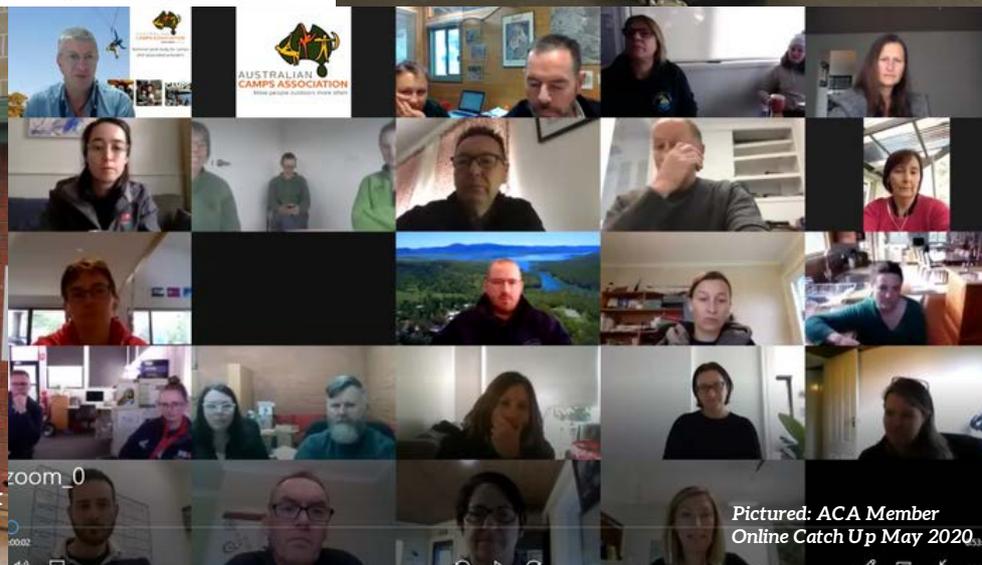
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Pictured: ICDC 2019 NSW



Pictured: Team at Karoonda Park received orienteering kit after damage from fires early 2020.



Pictured: ACA Member Online Catch Up May 2020.



Pictured: Members at Comcater Commercial Cooking Demo Day



Pictured: Great Getaways participants Anglesea Recreation Camp.



Pictured: Great Getaway participants Ferngully Lodge.



Pictured: Member Afternoon Tea at Coonawarra Farm Resort.



TREASURER'S REPORT

I have pleasure in presenting the audited annual accounts for the Australian Camps Association (ACA) for the year ended 30th June 2020.

I am happy to report a financial year surplus of \$38,889 which is \$34,388 better than budgeted at the beginning of this year. It has been a pleasure to work alongside CEO Pete Griffiths, accounts Manager Louise Johnston and the team for the fourth year in a row as they work to deliver on the ACA's Strategic Plan.

Despite the significant uncertainties thrown at us this year by COVID-19, the ACA has finished the year with a positive financial result, underpinned by the fact we started the year in a strong position. Whilst we had forecast only a minimal budget surplus, this had reflected planned investment in some growth initiatives for the longer term, and meant that although we have had to curb planned expenditure in some areas we have been in a solid position to weather the significant impact on our operations.

Government initiatives such as JobKeeper and the Federal Government's Cash Flow Boost for Employers (contributing around \$116K in 2019-20), have allowed us to maintain our staffing profile during periods of business restriction, and to continue to provide valuable ACA member services.

Pete and his team have been particularly adaptable and responsive to the uncertainties of COVID-19. With the pausing of People Outdoors (PO) programs in March 2020, budgeted revenue and expenditure was significantly lower than anticipated, which has been disappointing at a time when PO was seeing demonstrative growth as we found our feet running camps under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

However, having gotten to a position where regular NDIS camps were being operated with bigger numbers, I believe we are in a comfortable position to resume PO camp operations profitably when appropriate.

We have expended grant funding of almost \$45,000 in 2019-20, however will carry over unspent funds of around \$143,000 into 2020-21 in relation to postponed / rescheduled programs. We have met our grant reporting obligations in relation to this funding.

Membership Manager Steve Hamilton's work with members and suppliers continues to reap dividends with an 8% increase in membership fees and a 4% increase in revenue from preferred suppliers, even with the reduction in camp operations from Term 2, 2020. We encourage members to continue to access the services of our Partners and Preferred Suppliers, as the rebates received by the ACA from these organisations are used to support member services including advocacy, professional development and training. Whilst the next financial year will present both the ACA and industry with many financial and operating challenges, a strong and consistent membership base will help us remain a viable organisation.

Our current Board position is to maintain a reserves position equivalent to three months of payroll and associated expenses. As at 30 June 2020, our Balance Sheet showed a positive Members Equity position of \$324,597 and I am comfortable the ACA currently has sufficient cash reserves to meet all recognised financial liabilities and to fulfil this requirement. In addition, we currently hold \$129,277 of our reserves in a higher yielding term deposit.



Angela Chandler, Treasurer

FINANCIALS

AUSTRALIAN CAMPS ASSOCIATION

ABN 35 115 082 212

Detailed Statement of Financial Performance

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Income		
Digital advertising	6,150	16,065
Group schemes	152,963	145,744
Membership fees	204,610	189,757
Administration- other	39,840	104,842
Grants- administration	32,100	71,580
NDIS income- people outdoors	592,940	316,127
Grants- people outdoors	105,658	285,060
Accreditation	5,475	-
Export market development	9,472	-
Education tourism	51,000	-
Together more active	25,000	-
Volunteer training	1,818	-
Camper/volunteers	470	-
Interest received	3,751	4,682
Jobkeeper payment	54,000	-
Cash flow boost- government subsidy	62,500	-
Total income	<u>1,347,747</u>	<u>1,133,857</u>
Expenses		
Accounting & audit	14,652	11,134
Accreditation expenses	-	173
Bank fees & charges	1,503	1,353
Board Expenses	12,546	-
Bushfire relief	98	-
Conference & seminar costs	-	46,617
Computer maintenance costs	2,273	5,664
Computer software & website development	3,872	4,633
Depreciation	10,261	7,537
Depreciation - right of use asset	68,294	-
Edu tourism grant	49,688	-
Fundraising consulting	20,594	-
Grant expenses people outdoors	99,475	86,226

These financial statements are audited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Auditors Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.

FINANCIALS

AUSTRALIAN CAMPS ASSOCIATION
ABN 35 115 082 212
Detailed Statement of Financial Performance
For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Grant - joyful project	6,204	-
Insurance	6,392	5,857
Interest charges - right of use asset	3,437	-
Legal fees	9,630	-
Loss on sale of assets	1,694	-
NDIS camp costs	285,195	166,875
Marketing	19,803	17,046
Office occupancy costs	6,734	-
Outdoor sector development project	32,062	19,260
Paid parental leave	6,949	6,186
Postage	1,903	2,325
Printing & stationery	4,326	10,557
Professional development	1,518	-
Provision for annual leave	6,913	6,000
Provision for long service leave	(423)	3,623
Rent on land & buildings	-	50,896
Rental of photocopier	283	-
Salaries - ordinary	467,824	419,450
Senior Vic project/ great getaways	20,336	19,526
Supporting Vic sport & recreation project	-	25,901
Staff amenities	1,615	3,336
Staff training	11,335	4,347
Subscriptions	6,765	6,877
Sponsorship costs	5,500	-
Superannuation	44,536	42,324
Telephone & Internet	5,753	6,235
TAM project	-	42,900
Together more active grant	24,865	-
Travel	19,714	34,065
Uploads	8,500	8,500
Workcover	6,640	6,882
Workshops	9,599	20,731
Total expenses	<u>1,308,859</u>	<u>1,093,036</u>
Net Profit from Ordinary Activities	<u>38,889</u>	<u>40,821</u>

These financial statements are audited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Auditors Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.



THE 2019/20 ACA BOARD

Pictured: ACA CEO and Board Members at 2019 AGM, South Australia



ANDREW MCGUCKIAN
PRESIDENT

*The Outdoor Education Group
(VIC)*



ANGELA CHANDLER
TREASURER

Cave Hill Creek (VIC)



REBECCA FOX
PAST PRESIDENT

*BECFOX - Unleash Your Power
(QLD)*



LUKE JANSONS

Active Education (SA)



AMANDA CRESTANI

Illuka Retreat & Camp (VIC)



ANDREW GOVAN

*Wilderness Escape Outdoor
Adventures (SA)*



PAM KAPPELIDES

*LaTrobe University
(VIC)*



GENEVIEVE COLAGIURI

Encompass Outdoors (NSW)



GRAHAME SHARPE

*Department of Local Government,
Sport and Cultural Industries - Sport
& Recreation (WA)*



DANIEL WHYKES

*Urban Camp Melbourne
(VIC)*



WHY ARE CAMPS AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION EXPERIENCES SO ESSENTIAL?

Australian educators believe that their number one challenge is supporting students with mental health conditions and more than 80% of them believe that the tension between supporting student wellbeing and teaching the curriculum is increasing(1). With the nearly four million students enrolled in Australian schools projected to increase substantially in the next decade, these tensions can only increase if schools do not now actively work to reduce them.

Independent research(2) shows that camps and outdoor education programs play a key role in addressing these concerns. Camps have been shown to reduce anxiety, increase connection to school, increase connection to peers and increase efficacy, all strong markers of good mental health.

Camps and outdoor education programs involve increased physical activity and connection with the natural world – also important in addressing wellbeing concerns.

Many employers have strong concerns about the inadequacy of school leavers' capabilities, including their lack of self-management, planning and organisational skills (45% of employers); and problem solving, initiative and enterprise skills (41% of employers)(3).

Camps and outdoor education programs focus on building interpersonal and intrapersonal skills such as independence, resilience, leadership, communication and respect for others. The development of these skills and characteristics address these employer concerns and will be ever more important in preparing students for future employment, as two-thirds of all jobs will be people-skill intensive by 2030(4). The recent *Looking to the Future report*(5) identifies the development of such skills as being an essential element of Australian education delivery in the years to come.

The Camps and Outdoor Education industry believes that universal access to led outdoor experiences in schools is key to producing happy, healthy and employable young people.

References

1. *Future of Education 2020*, McCrindle Research Pty Ltd
2. *Outdoor Youth Programs Research Alliance* www.oypra.org.au
3. *Australian Industry Group (2018), Skilling: A national imperative.*
4. *Soft skills for business success. Deloitte. (2017). Sydney, Australia: Access Economics.*
5. *Looking to the Future, Report of the review of senior secondary pathways into work, further education and training, Education Council, June 2020*

THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank
YOU

Throughout 2019/20 members of the Australian Camps Association, and the camps and outdoor sector, were supported by a variety of companies and organisations. We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our Partners and Preferred Suppliers.

OUR PARTNERS



Food Services



Insurance & Finance



HYPERSONIC
INDUSTRIES

Bunk Beds



Gas Services



Outdoor Equipment

OUR PREFERRED SUPPLIERS



First Aid & Training
Supplies



Business Coaching



rhsports.com.au
Sporting Goods &
Apparel

THE WORK OF THE ACA IS SUPPORTED BY

The Australian Camps Association gratefully acknowledges project funding support from the Victorian State Government.



How you can support the work of the

AUSTRALIAN CAMPS ASSOCIATION

Become a MEMBER

The 'not-for-profit' Australian Camps Association (ACA) is the national peak body for camps and associated providers. We develop, support and promote the delivery of camp experiences that provide positive community, social and personal outcomes.

Membership is open to camp operators, activity providers and individuals or organisations with an interest in camps. Today we provide information, training, resources and services to well over 230 members located across the country.

For more information about membership with the ACA, please contact our Membership Manager, Stephen Hamilton on 03 9863 6822 or visit www.auscamps.asn.au/about/join-aca

Volunteer your Time with PEOPLE OUTDOORS

People Outdoors runs camp programs for people living with a disability (Children from 6yrs+, teens and adult programs). Camp programs of varying length provide people living with disabilities the opportunity to experience the social and developmental benefits of adventure outdoors.

People Outdoors utilises the services of many dedicated volunteers to ensure that our programs operate to a high standard. As the number of different programs that we offer increases so does our need for more volunteers - recruitment is a constant and ongoing process.

Volunteers need to be at least 16 years of age and be willing and able to provide support to our campers. Groups stay in group accommodation at ACA member campsites and all transport, accommodation and meal costs are covered for volunteers.

For more information on volunteering opportunities, please contact the People Outdoors Office on 03 9863 6824.

Contribute to the PEOPLE OUTDOORS FUND

Our charity, the People Outdoors Fund, assists financially disadvantaged individuals living with a disability to attend People Outdoors camps by contributing to their travel, support and other program expenses. Individuals apply to the Fund for support on a case by case basis.

All donations to this worthy cause are gratefully received. To donate, please go to <https://www.peopleoutdoors.org.au/Appeal/donate>

Australian Camps Association

National peak body for camps and associated providers

2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT



ACA



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