

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026



03 9863 6822



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Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Camps Association 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.

03 9867 6822



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2025-2026

COMPANY OVERVIEW



As Australia's leading advocate for camps, the Australian Camps Association (ACA) bridges the gap between groups seeking transformative experiences and our trusted network of camp and outdoor activity providers nationwide.

We champion the profound impact that well-designed camps and led outdoor experiences have on mental health, personal growth, and community connection.

From urban students experiencing their first bushwalk to individuals with disabilities conquering new challenges, we believe every Australian deserves access to the transformative power of the outdoors.



2025-2026

VISION & MISSION

Vision

Camps and Outdoor
Adventure For All

Mission



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



CHAIR REPORT

PAM KAPPELIDES
Chair



The past financial year has reinforced the important role the Australian Camps Association (ACA) plays in supporting, connecting and advocating for Australia's camps and outdoor sector. Across ACA and its People Outdoors program, we have continued to strengthen relationships, support our Members and create opportunities for people to experience the many benefits of camps and the outdoors. I am proud of the commitment, adaptability and professionalism demonstrated by our staff, Board, Members and Partners throughout the year, and of the progress we have continued to make in an environment that has required us to adapt and evolve.

At the same time, 2025-26 has been a challenging year for ACA and the broader sector. Rising operating costs and ongoing cost-of-living pressures have affected camps, families, schools and community organisations alike. Our members continue to balance increasing costs with the need to keep camp experiences accessible and affordable. This has placed considerable strain on budgets across the sector and reinforced the importance of ACA's role in advocating for and supporting our Members.

ACA has also needed to respond carefully to these financial pressures. Throughout the year, the Board and management have undertaken a considered review of expenditure and implemented a range of cost-saving measures. These decisions have not always been easy, but they have been necessary to protect the organisation's financial sustainability. Importantly, by acting when we did and making appropriate reductions in expenditure, we have avoided what could otherwise have been a significantly more difficult financial position.

One of the most positive changes during the year has been the relocation of ACA to La Trobe University's Bundoora Campus. The move has substantially reduced our rental and occupancy costs, providing important ongoing savings at a time when managing expenditure is critical. Beyond the financial benefits, the new location provides an opportunity to build connections and explore future collaboration within the La Trobe University community and broader.

The People Outdoors program remains an incredibly important part of ACA and our commitment to ensuring outdoor experiences are accessible to people of all abilities. The program continues to provide supported outdoor experiences that create opportunities for participation, connection, independence and adventure.

This year, however, changes to the NDIS funding structure have presented significant challenges for People Outdoors and the people who access the program. The changing funding environment has required us to carefully consider the program's operating model, costs and long-term sustainability. We remain strongly committed to the People Outdoors program and to advocating for funding arrangements that recognise the value and impact of supported outdoor experiences for people with disability.

CHAIR REPORT

Our advocacy work therefore remains as important as ever. ACA continues to represent the interests of camps and outdoor organisations, to ensure the issues affecting our Members are understood by governments, decision-makers and key stakeholders. We continue to build on the relationships established with government departments, industry stakeholders and community organisations and to promote the social, educational and wellbeing benefits that camps and outdoor experiences provide.

We have also continued to focus on practical ways to provide value to our Members. Our Partnerships program is an important part of this work, connecting Members with Partners who understand our sector and can provide relevant products and services. In a year when costs have been under considerable pressure, strengthening these relationships and identifying opportunities that can assist members to operate more efficiently and sustainably has become increasingly important. We also continue to work actively on the issue of insurance for our members.

Despite the challenges of the year, our fundamental purpose remains unchanged. We continue to believe strongly in the power of camps and outdoor experiences to positively influence people's lives. At a time when cost-of-living pressures are affecting families, schools and communities, ensuring these experiences remain accessible is both a challenge and an important responsibility for our sector.

The year has also demonstrated the value of strong governance and a willingness to make decisions with the long-term interests of the organisation in mind. The Board has worked closely with our CEO to respond to changing circumstances, manage expenditure responsibly and place ACA on a more sustainable footing. The significant reduction in rental costs achieved through our relocation is an important example of the practical steps taken to strengthen our position for the future.

As we look ahead, there is still considerable work to be done. The economic environment remains challenging, the implications of NDIS funding changes continue to evolve, and many of our Members remain under financial pressure. However, ACA enters the coming year with a clear understanding of these challenges, a more sustainable operating base and a continued determination to adapt, advocate and deliver value for our members.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to acknowledge CEO Peter McDougall and the ACA staff for their professionalism, dedication and resilience throughout the year. I also thank my fellow Board Members for their leadership and considered decision-making, particularly during a period when difficult choices have sometimes been required.

Finally, I thank our Members, Volunteers, Preferred Suppliers, Partners and Stakeholders for their ongoing support of ACA, its People Outdoors program and the wider camps and outdoor sector. It is the commitment and passion of this community that continues to drive our organisation forward.

While 2025 - 26 has tested us, it has also demonstrated our ability to respond, adapt and make the decisions necessary to strengthen our future. We move into the coming year with optimism, and a clear focus on supporting a strong, accessible and sustainable Australian camps and outdoor sector.

Dr Pam Kappelides
Chairperson

P. Kappelides



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

01. Inaugural Camps Census and Economic Impact Report Complete.
02. ACA National Conference 2025 held in Geelong, Victoria.
03. Successful media campaign around the National Census and the importance of camp.
Media Campaign at a glance:
04. 160 attendances on camp via our People Outdoors program (supported disability camps).
05. Ongoing active participation in Standards development significant to the sector.
06. Office re-location to La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria.

Total Placements

20+

Max Potential Reach

6.2M

Max. Ad. value equiv.

~\$505K

Negative Coverage

0%

CEO REPORT



PETER MCDOUGALL
Chief Executive Officer

I am pleased to provide my CEO Report for the 2025-2026 Financial Year. The last 12 months have proven to be extremely challenging on a number of fronts, particularly the significant changes to National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) funding and how this has impacted the performance of the People Outdoors program.

Outside of this, all other areas of the Australian Camps Association (ACA) have performed very successfully.

Dwight and I continued our regular **visits to Members** and some non-members. To-date we are averaging nearly 100 camp visits per year which is significant and very beneficial. These visits help us to stay in touch with the day-to-day challenges camps are facing in all states. We use this information to prioritise what we focus on to help our Members.

Advocacy is a vital part of what we do and a critical component for all of you. I have continued in the past year to meet with Members of Parliament or their advisors at Federal and State levels. It is very challenging to gain traction, but it is equally important that we continue to raise the profile of camps and the challenges that you are all facing.

I have been working closely with the Education Department in South Australia, and it was very pleasing to see them announce free camps for year 7 students, for four years, commencing in 2027.

We continue to push for similar initiatives in other states and for all states to introduce vouchers for families to use for camps. This will help families pay for their child to attend camp instead of the child having to attend school whilst the rest of their classmates are away on camp.

The National Insurance Program is getting closer but not close enough. I would have liked the program to be up and running by now, but I am informed that it is getting very close. We have been receiving many enquiries about this program and I cannot wait to be able to inform you that it is ready to go.

Our first-ever National Census and Economic Impact Report was launched after Christmas, and we achieved great reach through various media platforms. The feedback from government at all levels has been overwhelmingly positive. Special mention to David Strickland from the Victorian Government for funding this project.

The census was the catalyst for launching our **National Media Campaign**, which was aimed at creating greater exposure for camps via electronic and print media platforms across the country. The reach of this campaign extended to over 7 million people and we received great support and exposure from the Ch 9 Today Show, A Current Affair, and Ch 10 News. We conducted many radio interviews across each state and overall, the campaign was a huge success.

The past financial year has seen a significant drop-off in the number of participants attending our **People Outdoors Program**. The program was down \$427,723 in gross revenue, a significant drop that is very difficult to absorb mid year. Throughout the year we have continued to pivot and make changes to minimise the financial impact. Head Office staffing levels were cut by 50% to reduce our expenditure on this program, but unfortunately this did not make enough of a difference to balance the books.

We have implemented a number of initiatives and strategies to recruit more campers, and the most common response was that they would love to attend but because of their funding cuts, they cannot afford to attend. We will continue to exhaust all options to keep the program viable, but it will be a challenge.

Our **ACA events** continue to be a success, and this is due to the support of our Members who not only turn up, but contribute to making each event a valuable opportunity for our community to get together and share the wealth of knowledge that you all have.

The **financial** performance was extremely disappointing. Ricky Lu will provide the details in the Financial Report, but I would like to highlight the main areas that have contributed to this year's performance.

In the main, the changes in the NDIS system have had a significant impact on our revenue. We have made multiple changes from reducing the number of staff to relocating our office and also cutting back in every area we can to minimise the impact of the NDIS.

In addition, revenue was down on the previous year from some of our providers, which in turn impacts ACA. I urge all members to utilise our Partners, and by doing so allows us to continue to help you.

All other areas of the ACA financials performed in-line with our budget but unfortunately this was not enough to make up for the loss of People Outdoors.

To the **ACA team** of Jess Hough, Louise Johnston, Olivia Digiglio, Gosia Barcikowska, Trudi Donnelly and Dwight Hulme, a big thank you for your continued commitment and efforts for ACA over the past 12 months. You have all worked tirelessly over the past 12 months and your contribution to ACA and our members is greatly appreciated.

To the ACA Board led by ACA Chair, Pam Kappelides, thank you for your support and contribution to ACA. As volunteers, good people are hard to find, and we are very fortunate to have a quality group of people sitting on our Board.

Finally, to all our Members, Partners and Preferred Suppliers, a big thank you for your support of ACA, it is greatly appreciated, and I look forward to continued collaboration in the future.

Whilst many challenges lie ahead of us for the next 12 months, we are well prepared to meet them with lots of energy and enthusiasm.

Many thanks,
Peter McDougall
Chief Executive Officer



AUSTRALIAN CAMPS ASSOCIATION
**GUIDE TO
Camps**
& ASSOCIATED PROVIDERS

AUSTRALIAN
CAMPS ASSOCIATION
More people outdoors more often

*experience
new
adventures*

**MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES.
BRILLIANT LOCATIONS.**

2026

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AUSTRALIAN CAMPS ASSOCIATION

CAMP VISITS
EACH YEAR

**3.96
MILLION**

CONTRIBUTION TO
AUSSIE ECONOMY

**\$1.7
BILLION**

New national
census highlights
importance of

*Camps for
young people*

communities and
Australian economy.

AUSTRALIAN CAMPS ASSOCIATION

**NATURE
+TEAMWORK
+CHALLENGE
= Confident
KIDS**

NATIONAL CAMPS CENSUS NATIONAL OVERVIEW



AUSTRALIAN
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2024 Participation



3.96M

Attended camp



71.9%

School/Educational participation



3.39M

Overnight
Participants



564K

Daytrip
Participants

Other
Participation

20.3%

Faith, corporate and special
interest groups (inc. corporate
and disability groups etc.)

7.8%

Independent travellers
and functions / events

Nationally, overnight
participant numbers equate to

48%

of Australian school aged
children in 2024.



CAMPS IN AUSTRALIA

523



AVERAGE STAY: 2 nights



CAMPS AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURE FOR ALL

The Australian Camps Association is the national peak body for camps and associated providers. This document reports on the inaugural National Census and Economic Contribution assessment of the Australian Camps sector.

www.auscamps.asn.au



ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

\$1.74B



NATIONAL SECTOR EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYED

15,346

VOLUNTEERS

7,488

ACTIVITY
CONTRACTORS

1,803

Activity contractors delivering
training, overseeing challenges and
experiences and leading tours.

OTHER
CONTRACTORS

2,329

Catering, food service, cleaning
and maintenance.

*Data from Australian Camps Association's
National Camps Census 2025 (Participation data for 2024).



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2025-2026

Finance Report



RICKY LU

Finance Director



It is my pleasure to present the Finance Report for the Australian Camps Association (ACA) for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

The 2025-26 financial year was a challenging one for ACA and the broader camps and outdoor sector. Ongoing cost-of-living pressures, rising operating costs and changes within the NDIS funding environment impacted both our members and our organisation. Despite these challenges, ACA remained focused on maintaining financial sustainability while continuing to deliver advocacy, member services and People Outdoors programs.

For the year, ACA recorded revenue of \$1.39 million and an operating deficit of \$311,203. The result reflects lower revenue, primarily within People Outdoors program and preferred suppliers' rebate, together with continued investment in supporting Members and delivering services during a period of significant NDIS change.

Throughout the year, the Board and management took proactive steps to strengthen ACA's financial position. A comprehensive review of expenditure was undertaken, resulting in a more sustainable operating cost base. A key achievement was the relocation of ACA and People Outdoors to La Trobe University's Bundoora Campus, which has reduced occupancy costs and will deliver ongoing savings in future years.

While cash reserves reduced during the year, ACA continues to maintain a solid balance sheet with net assets of \$533,782 and remains well positioned to meet its financial obligations. The Board will continue to closely monitor financial performance, rebuild reserves where possible and pursue opportunities to diversify revenue and strengthen long-term sustainability.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank our Members, staff, volunteers, partners and fellow directors for their continued commitment and support. Their dedication has enabled ACA to navigate a difficult year while remaining focused on its purpose of supporting camps and outdoor experiences across Australia.

As we look ahead, ACA enters the new financial year with a stronger cost structure, a clear focus on financial sustainability and a continued commitment to delivering value for our members and the sector.



Ricky Lu

Finance Director & Board Member
Australian Camps Association



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Financials



TOWARDS A VISION SHARED



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Audit Pty Ltd**

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Footscray VIC 3011
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**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
TO THE DIRECTORS OF
AUSTRALIAN CAMPS ASSOCIATION
ABN 35 115 082 212**

I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit for the financial year ended 30 June 2026 there have been:

- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- ii. No contravention of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Frederik Ryk Ludolf Eksteen CA
ASIC Auditor Registration Number 421448

Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd
127 Paisley Street
FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011

Dated this 5th day of August 2026

Financials



AUSTRALIAN CAMPS ASSOCIATION
ABN 35 115 082 212
AND CONTROLLED ENTITY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

		Consolidated		Parent	
	Note	2026	2025	2026	2025
		\$	\$	\$	\$
REVENUE	2	1,385,803	1,687,880	1,385,803	1,687,880
EXPENSES					
Administration expenses		176,815	131,904	176,815	131,904
Conference and training expenses		69,909	19,929	69,909	19,929
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	3	88,277	109,237	88,277	109,237
Employee benefits expenses		807,043	843,908	807,043	843,908
Grant & project expenses		552,343	696,498	552,343	696,498
Other expenses		2,619	7,206	2,619	7,206
Positive start in 2022-2023 program expenses		-	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) before income tax		(311,203)	(120,802)	(311,203)	(120,802)
Income tax expense	5	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to entity		<u>(311,203)</u>	<u>(120,802)</u>	<u>(311,203)</u>	<u>(120,802)</u>

AUSTRALIAN CAMPS ASSOCIATION
ABN 35 115 082 212
AND CONTROLLED ENTITY
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2026	2025	2026	2025
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to entity	(311,203)	(120,802)	(311,203)	(120,802)
Other comprehensive income after income tax	-	-	-	-
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	<u>(311,203)</u>	<u>(120,802)</u>	<u>(311,203)</u>	<u>(120,802)</u>
Total comprehensive income attributable to entity	<u>(311,203)</u>	<u>(120,802)</u>	<u>(311,203)</u>	<u>(120,802)</u>

Financials



AUSTRALIAN CAMPS ASSOCIATION
ABN 35 115 082 212
AND CONTROLLED ENTITY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

	Note	Consolidated		Parent	
		2026	2025	2026	2025
		\$	\$	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	6	480,858	810,654	480,858	810,554
Trade and other receivables	7	117,930	199,307	117,930	199,307
Other current assets	8	21,007	16,291	21,007	16,291
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		619,795	1,026,252	619,795	1,026,152
NON CURRENT ASSETS					
Financial assets	9	-	-	-	100
Property, plant and equipment	11	83,802	98,541	83,802	98,541
Intangible assets	12	54,599	86,949	54,599	86,949
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		138,401	185,490	138,401	185,590
TOTAL ASSETS		758,196	1,211,742	758,196	1,211,742
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Trade and other payables	13	47,025	101,213	47,025	101,213
Income received in advance	14	32,738	92,993	32,738	92,993
Short-term provisions	15	90,623	87,686	90,623	87,686
Income tax payable	18	-	-	-	-
Lease liabilities	19	31,304	69,153	31,304	69,153
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		201,690	351,045	201,690	351,045
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Long-term provisions	15	-	-	-	-
Lease liabilities	19	22,724	15,712	22,724	15,712
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		22,724	15,712	22,724	15,712
TOTAL LIABILITIES		224,414	366,757	224,414	366,757
NET ASSETS		533,782	844,985	533,782	844,985
EQUITY					
Share capital		-	-	-	-
Accumulated Funds/Retained earnings		533,782	844,985	533,782	844,985
TOTAL EQUITY		533,782	844,985	533,782	844,985

Financials



AUSTRALIAN CAMPS ASSOCIATION
ABN 35 115 082 212
AND CONTROLLED ENTITY
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

CONSOLIDATED GROUP

	Accumulated Funds/ Retained Earnings \$	Total \$
Balance as at 1 July 2024	965,787	965,787
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to entity	(120,802)	(120,802)
Total other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Balance as at 30 June 2025	844,985	844,985
Balance as at 1 July 2025	844,985	844,985
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to entity	(311,203)	(311,203)
Total other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Balance as at 30 June 2026	533,782	533,782

PARENT COMPANY

	Accumulated Funds \$	Total \$
Balance as at 1 July 2024	965,787	965,787
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to entity	(120,802)	(120,802)
Total other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Balance as at 30 June 2025	844,985	844,985
Balance as at 1 July 2025	844,985	844,985
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to entity	(311,203)	(311,203)
Total other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Balance as at 30 June 2026	533,782	533,782

Financials



AUSTRALIAN CAMPS ASSOCIATION
ABN 35 115 082 212
AND CONTROLLED ENTITY
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	Note	Consolidated		Parent	
		2026	2025	2026	2025
		\$	\$	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Receipts from customers		1,391,672	1,685,618	1,391,672	1,685,618
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,662,652)	(1,654,502)	(1,662,552)	(1,654,502)
Interest received		15,253	19,737	15,253	19,737
Interest and other finance costs		(2,802)	(3,276)	(2,802)	(3,276)
Income tax (paid)/refunded		-	-	-	-
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities	17	(258,529)	47,577	(258,429)	47,577
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment		-	-	-	-
Payment for purchase of property, plant and equipment		-	(2,584)	-	(2,584)
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		-	(2,584)	-	(2,584)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Dividends paid		-	-	-	-
Payments for Right of Use of Asset		(71,267)	(94,310)	(71,267)	(94,310)
Net cash used in financing activities		(71,267)	(94,310)	(71,267)	(94,310)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(329,796)	(49,317)	(329,696)	(49,317)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		810,654	859,971	810,554	859,871
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6	480,858	810,654	480,858	810,554

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

During the 2025-26 membership year, the Australian Camps Association (ACA) continued to strengthen its membership base, increasing total membership by 12 members, from 205 to 217 members.

Membership growth was recorded across all states and territories where ACA has an established presence, with the strongest increases occurring in South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania. The Association also experienced substantial growth in Individual Memberships, increasing by 70%.

ACA's core Camp Membership category continued to grow, reinforcing the Association's position as the peak body representing camps, group accommodation venues and activity providers throughout Australia. Growth in Service Provider Memberships further strengthened ACA's network of industry partners and suppliers, creating additional opportunities to deliver value to Members through professional development, sector collaboration, advocacy and commercial partnerships.

Current and ongoing projects include:

Camp Development

Accreditation

The ACA has continued to play a leading role in the review and implementation of accreditation across the camps and outdoor recreation sector. The review has now been completed, and the Australian Tourism Industry Council (ATIC) is implementing the recommended changes to the Quality Tourism Framework (QTF) accreditation program - specifically the Camps and Adventure Activities module.

To support the delivery of accreditation nationally, ACA has assisted several state tourism organisations by conducting accreditation assessments and helping address assessment backlogs, particularly in regional and remote areas. Following completion of QTF assessor training, ACA conducted accreditation site visits across multiple states and, in partnership with VTIC, developed a hybrid assessment model that reduces time spent on-site while maintaining assessment quality and integrity.

Throughout the year, ACA assisted with 11 accreditation assessments, including 4 in Victoria, 3 in Queensland, 2 in Tasmania, and 2 in South Australia.

Australian Standards

The ACA has continued to represent the camps and outdoor recreation sector through its involvement with Standards Australia. ACA contributed to the development of the new Australian Standard for Flying Foxes and Challenge Ropes Courses, with AS 2316.2:2025 (Safety and Operations) released in January 2026. The Standard addresses key industry issues, including SafeWork registration requirements and safety considerations for Crate Stacking activities. ACA also assisted the committee by facilitating load testing of crates, with the results incorporated into the final Standard, and worked with Team Systems to help ensure compliant crates are readily available to the industry.

ACA was also invited to participate in the review of AS/NZS 4220:2026 – Bunk Beds and Other Elevated Beds, which was released in July 2026.

To support Members in understanding the new requirements, ACA produced executive summaries of the key changes for both Standards and delivered a dedicated Member webinar on AS 2316.2:2025 (Safety and Operations) and its practical implications for camps and Activity Providers.

Through this work, ACA continues to ensure the interests of the sector are represented while providing Members with timely guidance on emerging standards, compliance requirements and industry best practice.

2025-2026

Outdoor Recreation and Leadership Qualification Review

The ACA has played an active role in the national review of the Outdoor Recreation and Leadership qualifications being undertaken by HumanAbility. Through representation on the Review Technical Committee, the ACA has ensured the interests of camp and outdoor education providers are considered as part of the review of more than 190 units of competency and qualifications covering guides, instructors, activity leaders, camp managers, and other outdoor recreation professionals.

Over the past 12 months, I have participated in 9 HumanAbility meetings, representing over 16 hours of scheduled meeting time on behalf of ACA members. More recently, I was appointed Chair of the Reviews Technical Committee, strengthening the ACA's ability to influence the direction and outcomes of the review.

While the project timeline has been extended due to several complex and at times contentious issues, the ACA continues to advocate for qualifications that are practical, relevant, support workforce development, and reflect the operational realities of camps and outdoor education providers.

Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAAS)

The review of the Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAAS), led by Dr David Marsden and overseen by the Outdoor Council of Australia (OCA) Advisory Board, is nearing completion and is expected to be finalised by the end of September 2026. The review has focused on ensuring the standards remain relevant to current industry practices, regulatory requirements, risk management expectations, insurer needs, and contemporary approaches to participant safety and inclusion.

The Australian Camps Association (ACA) has actively represented the interests of its Members throughout the review process. As ACA's representative, I have participated in more than 55 meetings, contributing over 100 hours to the review. While involved across the broader AAAS review program, my primary focus has been on the development and revision of the Core Standard, the overarching AAAS Standard, and the Good Practice Guide (GPG) for Challenge Ropes Courses.

Partnerships

The ACA would like to thank our 2025/26 Partners and Preferred Suppliers for their ongoing support of the Association and our Members. Their contribution continues to provide value through industry expertise, products and services, professional development opportunities, and exclusive member benefits.

New Partners & Preferred Suppliers welcomed in 2025/26:

- Aidaptive Consulting
- GlamXperience
- TubeCo

The ACA is pleased to welcome these new organisations to the ACA Partner Program and looks forward to working collaboratively to deliver value and opportunities for members across the camp, outdoor learning, and group accommodation sector.

2025/26 Partners & Preferred Suppliers

- PFD Food Services
- Hypersonic Industries
- Aubin Environmental
- ELGAS
- One Planet
- Affinity Insurance Brokers
- Offtrack Pty Ltd (Outdoor Equipment)
- Choice Energy
- New Ventures Worldwide
- Aidaptive Consulting
- GlamXperience
- TubeCo

The ACA also renewed its partnership and commitment to the International Camping Fellowship (ICF), strengthening international connections and supporting the exchange of ideas, resources, and best practice across the global camping and outdoor education community.

The ACA acknowledges the partnerships that concluded during the 2025/26 financial year with Harp Renewables, Camps3D, Microguard, and AB Phillips. We thank these organisations for their valued support of the Association and our Members and wish them continued success in the future.

Throughout the year, the ACA remained focused on strengthening the value of its Partnership Program through regular engagement with Partners, collaborative initiatives, Member communications, industry events, and networking opportunities. These activities helped ensure partnerships continued to deliver meaningful outcomes for both ACA Members and Partner organisations.

Member Visits

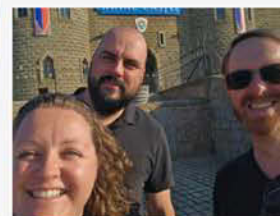
Engaging with Members through in-person visits remains vital to building strong connections across the sector.

These visits help ACA staff better understand individual sites, discuss current challenges and opportunities, explore business development initiatives, and share updates on ACA programs, events and advocacy. During 2025/26, ACA staff visited 91 Member sites across Australia. ACA sincerely thanks Members for their ongoing hospitality and willingness to share their experiences and insights.

Looking ahead, ACA remains focused on creating new opportunities to connect, support and innovate, while continuing to deliver value for members and the broader sector.

Dwight Hulme

Dwight Hulme
Membership &
Preferred Suppliers Manager



PEOPLE OUTDOORS UPDATE

The Australian Camps Association has been supporting individuals living with disability, including those who are neurodiverse or have intellectual or physical disabilities to participate in inclusive camp experiences for nearly 40 years through our People Outdoors program. We understand the benefits of experiencing camp, and support our participants to participate in a range of activities in a social setting.

The 2025-2026 Financial Year saw us provide 22 camps (including two in Queensland), with 160 attendances to the program. We are proud to have many returning campers to our program.

This year was our most challenging year due to the changes to the NDIS funding model and the impact it has had on our campers ability to attend the number of camps they would normally attend. There will be more changes impacting the program from the October 1, 2026, and we anticipate a greater impact than what we have experienced so far.

We have been reviewing and modifying our internal structure throughout the past 12 months. This has not been ideal, and it has been quite disruptive to the team, but unfortunately we have to continue to pivot and change to keep pace with the impact of the changes.

Our dedicated team of disability support workers continue to ensure that our participants are supported whilst on camp, allowing them to participate in activities and achieve their goals as per their NDIS Plans. We sincerely appreciate all of our support workers for their commitment to the program and the participants in our care.

Many thanks to the Australian Camps Association Member sites that support our program. It can be difficult to find venues that can accommodate our small numbers over the weekends, and we appreciate those who have been able to be flexible with their minimum numbers. You assist us to get kids, teens and adults living with disability on camp - thank you.

We look forward continuing to support participants at camp through our People Outdoors program in 2026-27.



EVENTS UPDATE



The 2025-2026 Financial Year saw us host 18 events throughout the year, including a mix of online and in-person Member Events;

Member Morning Teas

- QLD at Camp Somerset, Crossdale (July 2025)
- NSW at Great Aussie Bush Camp, Kincumber (July 2025)
- WA at Camp Fairbridge - Fairbridge Village, Pinjarra (October 2025)
- ACT/NSW at Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre, Murrumbateman (March 2026)
- VIC at Silverband Lodge, Halls Gap (April 2026)
- TAS at Camp Clayton, Ulverstone (May 2026)
- SA at Scouts SA - Woodhouse Adventure Centre (June 2026)

The **International Camp Directors Course (ICDC)** that was scheduled for 2025 was re-scheduled to the 2025-2026 Financial Year. Hosted at Camp Cottermouth in the ACT we had 12 participants complete the course in April 2026. The ICDC will transition to a biennial schedule, taking place every two years rather than annually.

The International Camp Directors Course (ICDC) is a professional development program designed for camp directors, managers, operators and experienced outdoor professionals. Recognised globally through the International Camping Fellowship (ICF) and delivered locally in partnership with the Australian Camps Association (ACA), ICDC offers practical, camp-specific training that builds leaders capable of enhancing operations, safety, and business sustainability in Australia's diverse camping sector.

The popular ACA/PFD Camp Cooking Demo Day was hosted in December 2025, showcasing the latest in Comcater and Rational commercial catering equipment. The day was filled with cooking demonstrations showing how this equipment can help operators save both time and money.

Online Events and Webinars

Our 25/26 online events covered a broad range of topics relevant to the business of camps. The events topics were:

- Aligning your organisation goals with your Risk and Insurance Strategy with ACA Partner Affinity Insurance Brokers
- Teambuilding That Works: Turning Camp Culture into Corporate Impact
- Reimagining Summer: How Camps Can Bridge Gaps in Health, Learning, and Equity
- Enhance Your Camp with International Volunteers - Info Session
- The Importance of Insurance for Outdoor Activities
- Ctrl + Alt + Delete: Reset Your Mindset, Reclaim your Message, and Rise Online (Even When You're Under Resourced)
- Introducing the International Camping Fellowship & Update on ICC 2026
- Beyond Compliance: Embedding a culture of child safeguarding in everyday practice.
- Blurred Lines - Compliance Changes for Adventure Activities with ACA Partners, Aidaptive Consulting

ACA National Conference 2025

Where Australia's camp and outdoor leaders converge - networking, collaborating and sparking ideas that shape the future of outdoor experiences!

September 2025 saw us host our biennial ACA Conference in Geelong, Victoria. The week was a fantastic opportunity for the camps community to come together and hear from many great speakers, visit some camps and network amongst their peers. A big thank you to all the attendees, presenters, our Major Sponsor, PFD Food Services, and all sponsors and exhibitors who exhibited their products/services. We also thank our member camps that camps we visited for our Pre-Conference Camp Tours: Angahook Holiday Camp, Baptist Camping Victoria - Camp Wilkin and The Y Camp Wyuna for hosting tours at their sites as part of our event.

Our aim for this year's event was to deliver delegates a vibrant and forward-thinking program filled with both professional and personal growth opportunities. Across two days, presenters inspired and informed delegates on a variety of compelling topics - from dissecting a decade 'in the bubble' of outdoor education with Beau Miles and embracing 'beautiful failures' through risk benefit programming, to mastering emergency preparedness tailored for residential camps. Delegates heard a sector update from the ACA's CEO and gained fresh insights from leadership strategist Scott Ko, who will dismantled leadership myths and provide practical frameworks to build high performing teams. We were informed with the latest in accreditation, safety, and inclusion as you explore updates to the Australian Adventure Activity Standards and the Outdoor Recreation and Leadership Qualification Review. Bryce Turner's 'Training with Purpose,' showed the audience how to align upskilling initiatives to your broader business goals and gained clarity on what camps contribute to the economy through ACA's first-ever Participation Census and Economic Impact session. All this, plus there was time to connect, reflect, and network, so delegates returned to their sites inspired, equipped, and ready to innovate.

The location of our 2027 Conference was announced at the 2025 event. We are excited to bring this event to Western Australia for the first time in ACA history. We look forward to all members joining us for this event as we head to Fremantle from 7-9 September, 2027. Please put these dates in your diary and we look forward to a great Conference in 2027.

"The Australian Camps Association Conference was a really worthwhile experience. The site visits were a particular highlight, providing valuable insights into different approaches.

The exhibitor displays were also excellent, showcasing a range of practical solutions to challenges we all face in the sector – from waste treatment and allergy management to dietary needs and equipment.

It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with other providers, understand the challenges they face, and hear some of the creative solutions they are implementing."

- Clayton Shaw Wilderness Escape Outdoor Adventures, South Australia

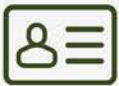




2025-2026



THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



Booking Service Enquiries

306 enquiries were distributed via our Booking Enquiry Service.



Direct Enquiries

643 direct enquiries via member website listings.



Industry Development Meetings

Over 51 hours of meetings representing ACA Members on Standards committees and industry advisory groups.



Member Events

18 Member Events held throughout the year, including the 2025 National Conference.



AUSTRALIAN
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2025 - 2026



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ACA Board - Current

- Pam Kappelides - Chair
- Helen Williams - Deputy Chair
- Rob Cummins
- Gemima Weiler
- Shawn Wilkey
- Luke Jansons
- Ricky Lu
- Emma Hollis

ACA Staff - Current

- Peter McDougall - CEO
- Louise Johnston - Accounts Manager
- Dwight Hulme - Membership & Preferred Suppliers Manager
- Jessica Hough - Events & Communications Manager
- Gosia Barcikowska - Project Coordinator
- Trudi Donelly - Program Coordinator
- Olivia Digiglio - Assistant Program Coordinator

Thank you to our Partners



ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026



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