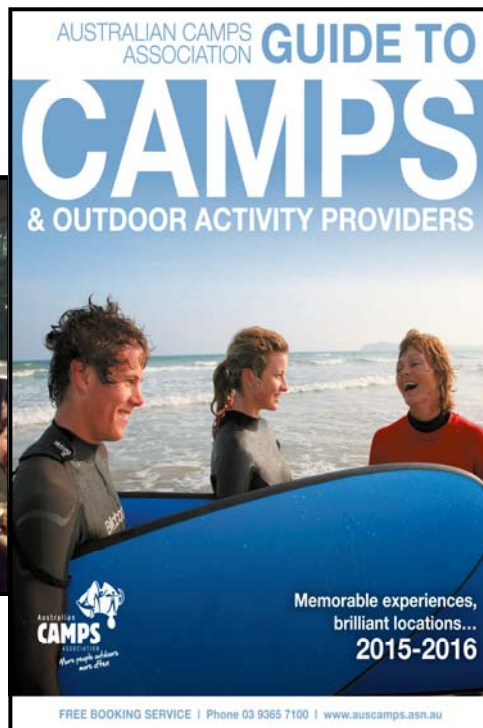


ACA

Annual Report



2014-2015

Australian Camps Association

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Table of Contents

Australian Camps Association.....	4
President's Report.....	5
Treasurer's Report	6
Auditor's Report.....	7
Chief Executive Officer's Report.....	7
Acknowledgements	8
Attachment 1: Audited Financials.....	9



About Australian Camps Association

Representation

The Australian Camps Association represents the interests of the following businesses, organizations and individuals:

- Residential campsite owners and operators
- Outdoor activity providers
- School/community owned campsites
- Group accommodation providers
- Retreats and conference centers
- Adventure learning centres and providers
- Training and service providers to the outdoor industry
- Schools, community organizations and other users of camps and outdoor education and recreation providers
- Individuals with a keen interest in the outdoor industry

Objectives

1. To strengthen the ACA's position as the peak organisation for camps and adventure activity providers in Australia.
2. To increase participation by Australians in Camps and Adventure Activities
3. To strive to improve the quality of, and outcomes from, the camp and adventure activity experience.
4. To improve the management of the risks inherent in camps and adventure activities.
5. To have high standards of governance and be a financially well managed organisation.

Our mission

To increase participation in high quality camps and adventure, environmental and cultural activities.

ACA Staff 2014-2015

Chief Executive Officer:	David Petherick (Resigned October 2015)
Business Manager:	
Membership Manager:	Stephen Hamilton
Accounts Manager:	Louise Johnston
Events & Communications Manager:	Jessica Hough
People Outdoors Camp Coordinator:	Gosia Barcikowska
People Outdoors Team Leader & Volunteer Coordinator:	Heike Fleischmann
People Outdoors Day Activity Coordinator:	Marnie Broomhall
People Outdoors Staff (Casual)	Jade de Valle



President's Report

Although I commenced the 2014/15 year as ACA President and am again back in that role, thanks to Liz Leyshan (ACA President Nov. 2014 – July 2015) for all her dedication and effort. After much consideration, due to significant communication challenges and availability issues, Liz decided to step down from the role during July 2015. I know this was not an easy decision for Liz and I must acknowledge Liz's tireless commitment and professionalism towards the important work of the ACA.

Whilst along with the day to day business of the ACA, there have been some significant highlights, 2015 has also been a year of significant losses. Not financial losses affecting our P & L statement, rather deeply felt losses of friends and colleagues past that have over the years made enormous contributions to the ACA.

- Gary Hayley (CAV Board member and inaugural ACA President)
- Gale Orford (ACA President and Accreditation Advisor)
- Mark Tomney (ACA Board member)

We remember them fondly and with respect and trust they will remain in our hearts.

This year has again seen the ACA, through our staff and our members, make a significant contribution to the continuing growth and development of the camping and outdoors sector across Australia and abroad. Some of the more noteworthy achievements this past year include:

International Engagement

The International Camping Congress – Turkey October 2014

This congress saw the largest ever contingent of more than 20 Aussies attend. Furthermore, there were several Australians engaged in the conduct of workshops, pre-conference events and presentations. Once again it was a wonderful opportunity to network on the global camping stage.

Inaugural China Camps Education Conference – Beijing April 2015

Again the ACA and our members were front and center at this event. Four Australian trainers/presenters plus several other Australian delegates waved the Aussie flag. The growing opportunities to engage with the Chinese/Asian market continue to be explored.

International Camping Fellowship and Asia Oceania Camping Fellowship

The ACA continues to be very involved with each of these organisations and the tireless work of Bill Oakley is here acknowledged. Bill has travelled many thousands of miles, much at his own cost, to represent us all. Thanks Bill!

Training

The ACA Board has determined to increase the provision of training opportunities for camping professionals. A big thankyou to the training sub-committee convened by Maree Feutril for all their work in this space. Training events this year have been well attended and feedback has been excellent. Training has included:

- ICDC Adelaide 2014
- Childwise Child Protection Training
- Anaphylaxis management
- Critical Incident response
- Joint QORF conference

People Outdoors

Led by a great team of staff, our team of over 200 volunteers has again been committed to delivering more than 40 camps for people with special needs. This important work provides great experiences for campers and respite for families. Well done to the P.O. team.

Research Collaborations

The ACA has again been very engaged in two significant ongoing research projects. The Outdoor Youth Programs Research Alliance, (investigating the benefits of camp programs) and the UPLOADS accident and injury research project. This is a very important piece of work and results and reports will begin to flow soon.

As usual there is a multitude of other work undertaken by the ACA on behalf of our members and the sector. The list is too long to provide detail here, however only through member engagement and feedback will the services of our association stay relevant to your needs. Please do not hesitate to speak with a Board member or staff person whenever necessary.

Lastly, a big thankyou to my fellow Board members, who along with already busy work and family lives find the time to dedicate to ensuring the ACA is the best it can be.

Andrew McGuckian
President



Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the annual financial report and accounts for the ACA for the year ended 30th June 2015. This year we returned to “the black”, with a surplus of almost \$52,000, more than recovering the deficit of the previous year, and bringing our retained earnings to over \$200,000. For a small organisation like ours, it is important to maintain a healthy level of reserves to help us ride out rough periods, and to give us the confidence to embark upon new ventures. This level of reserves is still only about 20% of our annual turnover. I believe we need to get to a level of approximately 50% of our annual turnover to feel comfortable. So while this year's result is a good step in the right direction, we still have some way to go.

This result has been produced from a slight level of increase in revenue and a considerable amount of “belt tightening” in the expense area, Our CEO David Petherick, and his staff have continued to be able to do more with less, and they are to be congratulated again on a very frugal operation. However the long term financial security of ACA can only come from generating increased revenue from a variety of different sources. Our surplus has come in part from a reduction in our staff. This limits our capacity to explore, evaluate and try new ways of generating revenue. We remain heavily reliant upon People Outdoors as the principal source of income. The introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme over the next few years presents both opportunity and threat to People Outdoors. I believe it is high time we pursue options to add new sources of revenue for ACA.

The new ACA Constitution means that the number of Board members who are elected is reduced to give the Board the opportunity to appoint some Board members with skills and expertise which it is considered we need on the Board. I retire at this Annual General Meeting, and as there are no vacancies for elected positions I will not be standing for election. After being on the Boards of ACA, and CAV before it, for most of the last thirty years; and with the Board actively reviewing its strategic direction, perhaps this is a good time to step back and make way for some newer and younger members. It has been a pleasure and an honour to be on the Board of ACA, and I hope I will still have the opportunity to contribute to the work of ACA in the background.

Bill Oakley
Treasurer



Auditor's Report

Please note: Auditor's Report and copies of the Profit & Loss are provided as attached handouts with this booklet.



Chief Executive Officer's Report

CEO's Report for ACA Annual Report 2014/15

This will be my final report as CEO of the Australian Camps Association because after 10 wonderful and privileged years I have tendered my resignation to take up an opportunity closer to home.

It has been a great honour to work with the many ACA Board Members over the journey but I would like to make special mention of the Presidents I have worked with: Gale Orford, John Woods, Liz Leyshan and Andrew McGuckian. I have appreciated their support and their wise counsel has been invaluable.

I would also like to thank Bill Oakley, who has been Treasurer for almost my entire time at the ACA. There have been some difficult times but Bill has always been steadfast and pragmatic.

Thanks also to the many Board Members I have worked with during the past 10 years. The vigorous debates we have had have always been respectful but passionate.

A special thank you to all of the ACA staff and volunteers past and present for the fantastic work you do and for your continued support. All members should be very proud of the level of commitment ACA staff and volunteers give to the organisation.

I am pleased we have achieved such a good financial result in my final year and I feel confident that, whilst the ACA needs to continue to build reserves, we are in a good financial position.

The ACA has been pivotal in getting two major research projects up and running and both projects are now in full swing and we will all start to see good results in the next year or two. I look forward to watching them from a distance.

Finally a thank you to all of the ACA Members I have had the great pleasure to meet over the years. I have appreciated your passion and your welcoming attitude. I was overwhelmed and touched by your messages of support when I announced my resignation.

Thank you

David Petherick
(formerly) CEO



Acknowledgements

ACA Board of Directors		
President:	Andrew McGuckian	UC Camping (VIC)
Treasurer:	Bill Oakley	(VIC)
Other Members:	Mark Tomney	(SA) (deceased)
	Pete Griffiths	The Outdoor Education Group
	Andrew Govan	Wilderness Escape Outdoor Adventures (SA)
	Bec Fox	Exceeding Expectations (QLD)
	Liz Leyshan	Mittagundi (VIC)
	Daniel Findley	DOXA Youth Foundation
	Brendan Smith	YMCA Camps Victoria (VIC)





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