



“without risk we may not grow”

June 2011 - News Bulletin

History - Organisational Profile

The Outdoor Training College is a division of Above & Below Adventure Company, which has been operating commercially since 1981, firstly as an adventure Company conducting activities throughout Australia and South East Asia with the development of a tourism climbing area in Sarawak, northern Borneo. The organisations principal Assessor, John Norman, has been providing Outdoor Recreation services since 1976 and for 5 years training and leading Outdoor Recreation programs for the NSW State Government.

From 1994 until 2009, in addition to training and assessment for people within the outdoor recreation sector, the director opened and operated an indoor climbing facility in Sydney NSW. Also coordinating and running National and International climbing competitions in Australia, USA, and Asia.

During this time there was considerable development of the first National Training Package, in which we were actively involved with the process and industry workshops. 1999 became the year that the development of the training Package was Endorsed by ANTA (Australian National Training Authority).

1999, Above & Below Adventure Company became a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) endorsed to deliver Training and Assessment in the field of Outdoor Recreation throughout Australia and have been doing so since the inception of the Training Package SRO99 and its revisions.

2009, E-Cademy Solutions began developing an Electronic Learning System which was launched in May 2010 for students to undertake the “Core” units of competency component of their course via the internet - anywhere at any time of the day or night giving flexibility for people to study when it suits them but still within a timeframe allocated to the Course. This still required a face-to-face practical component associated with the activities selected, but reduces the time allocated in the classroom.

The Outdoor Training College currently has some 377 students Australia wide, with 315 of these people completing Certificate III, IV or Diploma and are currently working or volunteering within the sector. The remainder of these students are completing Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation and after completion of their studies will venture into the sector and continue their studies in outdoor recreation and assist with the skills shortage that affects many organisations

**Outdoor Training College and Adventure Resources And Promotion Services, are
Divisions of Above & Below Adventure Company**

Course Information: www.outdoortrainingcollege.com.au **Email:** info@outdoortrainingcollege.co.au
Phone: (02) 4579 0677 **Fax:** (02) 4579 0371

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What did and does this mean to the Outdoor Recreation Sector?

For the first time, there is available to the outdoor recreation sector the ability for the Australian Government to assist with the funding of training Guides and Instructors.

Traineeships for Outdoor Recreation are available at Certificate II, Certificate III and Certificate IV

- Traineeship what does this mean? Employer incentives, e.g. \$ paid to the employers who take on a trainee under this scheme
- Payment of an enrolment fee only and the Government fund the balance of the training and assessment costs
- Other forms of Government Training Funding Assistance e.g. Productivity Places Programs, (PPP's), where funding was available for existing workers within the outdoor recreation sector to have their experience recognised and the issuing of appropriate qualifications at different levels, basically funded by the Australian Government
- Schools are now also commencing Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation as an Assistant Guide level, and the development of a career pathway for people into the outdoor recreation sector.
 - Expanding the school student's range of career choices that would contribute towards their final years of schooling, e.g. Credit points towards their H.S.C.

Without the development of and endorsement of the National Training Package these courses and funding assistance would not be available to the outdoor recreation sector.

*Now that we have discussed funding assistance the sector also need to be aware that if funding is granted and the sector only uses a portion of the allocation then the Government, as governments do, will **REDUCE** the next round of allocation to the sector, simple mathematics really*



The Outdoor Training College, in conjunction with Above & Below Adventure Company, Trading as Adventure Resources And Promotion Services (RTO # 90473), has joined to deliver quality courses in Sport & Recreation, Outdoor Recreation, First Aid, Remote First Aid and Workplace Training & Assessment

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