



ASPA AGM Report VP NSW

Wednesday 4th Nov 2009

1 Overview

During 2009, the main focus for the VP NSW role has been to enhance the level of contact with NSW Ski Patrols, and to support the NSW AEC Courses.

All member patrols were visited, and feedback obtained to build on the work done by VP Education and RTO CEO in previous years in obtaining stakeholder feedback on ASPA's level of support. The main areas of feedback (from all patrols) related to Training Delivery, Equipment needs, Skidoo Training, and Snowsafe.

All NSW AEC Courses were attended; Sydney as a candidate and course director, Jindabyne and Thredbo as an instructor and as support for the respective Course Directors.

2 NSW Patrol Liaison

Training delivery

There is wide support for the changes that have been made to AEC Courses in recent years.

There is also support for "graded" results, which are perceived as a means to promote excellence – something that has been seen as missing from course participants since the advent of competency based assessment.

Attendance at recent courses by patrollers who are doing a course for the first time is a necessity at times for member Patrols. The general view is that first timers who have been assessed by their own resorts as suitable should continue to be allowed to attend.

The Thredbo course (refer below) did not cover costs, however the importance of having this course run regularly is borne out by the demand expressed by patrol members, and by the difficulties accommodating additional candidates at the Jindabyne pre-season course when the Thredbo course has not run.

It has been proposed that a North Eastern Victoria course be conducted to cater for the Victorian candidates. However, it should be noted that one of the significant benefits of both the pre- and post-season courses at the present time is the opportunity for patrollers from the different states to compare notes and network. This same outcome could probably be achieved by staging one of these two courses in NE Victoria, if a suitable venue is available.

In either case, it is recommended that ASPA conduct both pre- and post-season courses, accepting that at least the post-season course may not cover costs.

Smaller patrols (Selwyn, Charlotte Pass) have a need to have their patrollers re-certified annually in CPR, Defib etc – however they do not have the resources to do this alone. It has been agreed by the ASPA Executive that members of smaller patrols be permitted to attend the May Snowy course for CPR and Defib (and any other) annual recerts (in addition to any candidates who are attending anyway).

Equipment needs

CPV and Selwyn do not have Defib training units. CPV have the option of going to Perisher for assessments. Selwyn do not. These smaller resorts would benefit from the availability of Defib trainers.

After further discussion within the ASPA Executive recently, it has been agreed to purchase a 5th Defib trainer for the NSW Trailer. This will enable one trainer to be loaned out to each resort for the winter period, with one retained in the trailer for other specific training purposes. Arrangements for loan equipment over winter will then be coordinated with resort representatives through VP NSW and the relevant AEC Course Directors.

Skidoo Training

Following some earlier (2008) supportive feedback, member patrols were asked early during the season for specific feedback on their skidoo training needs. No formal responses to this request for proposed content have been received from members.

NSW resorts were asked again in 2009 for their current views on the need for ASPA –developed Skidoo Training, whether under the RTO auspices or not. Mixed views were expressed on whether ASPA should develop and offer a standard training program or guideline, or not. Concerns include:

- Guidelines need to allow resort specific practices to be overlaid, whilst not contravening anything in those practices.
- Trailers, and passengers in and on trailers, are difficult from an RTA (NSW) point of view. Gathering of legislative information and a combined approach from ASPA would be advantageous.

As a result of the feedback received, ASPA are to investigate the legislative situation around skidoo trailers and provide a report to members as an initial step.

Snowsafe

Snowsafe is poorly supported in NSW resorts. The relevance of the material on offer, and the lack of communications and consensus, are significant barriers to success. Several NSW resorts have elected not to pay their annual Snowsafe subscriptions, and have cited these concerns as their reasons.

This feedback is being discussed with Snowsafe.

Other

After feedback from a senior individual patroller, the ASPA Executive has agreed that the overview of Federal Government funding applications (projects, values etc) be communicated to all member patrols.

It has also been suggested that the make up of member patrols has varied significantly during the period since the ASPA Constitution was last reviewed (1993), and that it would be useful to review the constitution for any amendments needed.

3 NSW AEC Courses

Three courses were run in NSW in 2009:

- Sydney, March/April 2009 – 61 candidates
- Jindabyne, May 2009 – 51 candidates
- Thredbo, October 2009 – 28 candidates

All courses received positive feedback from candidates. The relatively high number of candidates at the Jindabyne course is background to the feedback received from NSW patrols (referred above) concerning the delivery of training.

Refer to VP Education report for further details of the AEC Course program.

4 NSW Ski Patrol Liaison

The NSW Ski Patrol Association (NSWSPA) is a separate organisation to ASPA. One of the primary areas of activity to coordinate the process of applying for and distributing NSW State Government grant monies to NSW Ski Patrol members.

ASPA has not been involved with NSW State Government grants in the past, and it is not intended that this occur in the future. However, there may be an opportunity for ASPA and NSWSPA to coordinate their efforts in fundraising, grant applications, and other member support activities for mutual benefit.

Preliminary discussions have been conducted with NSWSPA executives concerning the VP NSW attending NSWSPA meetings as a guest, to explore this further.

It is recommended that these discussions continue more formally in 2010, with a view to enhancing the level of cooperation between the two organisations.

5 2010 Strategy

It is proposed that the NSW VP continue working on the following priority areas in 2010:

- Continue the program of regular liaison and feedback with NSW patrols, in consultation with other ASPA Executive roles
- Continue to support the NSW AEC Courses delivery
- Facilitate cooperation between ASPA and the NSW Ski Patrol Association



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