



March 2008

It has been some time since a paper version of Asparations has been prepared, six months in fact. In the interim news articles have been posted on the website, which is a fundamental change to the way in which we present information.

There are a number of benefits for doing this, including:

- they are posted as soon as they are received (current)
- news items can be found at a later time easily
- the process of laying out the newsletter becomes less unnecessary, which is good as we still do not have the services of an editor

Notwithstanding the above it is recognised that it is still a good idea to produce a newsletter at intervals, if for no other reason but to summarise recent events and indicate what is available on the website. Hence as you read the articles that follow you will note frequent references to the full text which is not included.

We invite you to have a look at the news section of the site, and encourage you to supply local items for inclusion.

In this issue we see reports about:

- Changes to our look
- FIPS Update
- AEC Program Dates for 2008
- Education Updates
- Extended Care Module
- ASPA Projects
- Upcoming season opportunities

Contributions on what's happening in your resort should be sent to Jonathan Lillis.

[secretary@skipatrol.org.au](mailto:secretary@skipatrol.org.au)



**Australian Government**

**Department of Health and Ageing**

## CHANGES TO OUR LOOK

### Government Dept reshuffle – Health & Ageing

With Labour's success at the recent federal election the department that manages the funding that allows ASPA to deliver many of its programs has been changed to the Dept of Health and Ageing (DH&A). ASPA is still under the Dept of Sport, whose minister is now the Rt. Hon. Kate Ellis.

The staff who administer this department have not changed and the future looks as good as can be expected in this current fragile financial climate.

We have had to review all our stationery as the logo has changed and all references needed to be updated to reflect the change.

### AGM 2007, new executive members

The 34<sup>th</sup> ASPA AGM was held in early November, by teleconference as it the norm these days. Attendance was good with comprehensive reports tabled by many resorts.

The election resulted in 2 new members:

- Michelle Ware accepted the role of VP Education. She is an educator, lives in the Southern Highlands, and is a long serving patroller at Perisher.
- Ashley Merkur was confirmed in the role of VP NSW despite being overseas travelling with the Australian freestyle squad. She is also a Perisher Patroller, and we will see more about her travels later.

Also at the AGM, life membership was confirmed upon Robert Moreland, of Falls Creek. He has completed over 20 years as a paid patroller and has been on exchange a

number of times. His full bio is available on the life members' page.

Congratulations to all!!

## ASPA Website

The website continues to develop, with the addition of an online application facility that is linked to a SQL database that will over time allow you to log on and review your results, update profiles, and receive information directly through the site.

Resources for trainers and the RTO have also been added, these will require special access which will be supplied upon request. If you want this level of access please contact the secretary.

It is also planned to run another competition this year and keep your eyes on the lookout for this in the coming months.

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## FIPS ARTICLES & REPORTS

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### FIPS - Are, Sweden 2009 – Applications now OPEN!



The FIPS congress is now only 12 months away and planning is in full swing. Details of the resort, the selection criteria for ASPA sponsorship and application forms are now available for download on the website.

The final makeup of the Australian delegation will not be made until later this year, probably around the end of the ski season. If you are thinking of applying for sponsorship the time to start preparing is at hand, we all know how quick time can fly!

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## AEC PROGRAM DATES 2008

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The planned dates for Advanced Emergency Care Programs coming up are:

### Melbourne – April 12<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Location: Victorian Police Academy  
Contact: A J Simon (Course Director) ph 0418124017,  
email: [melb.dir@skipatrol.org.au](mailto:melb.dir@skipatrol.org.au) or

### Sydney – March 29<sup>th</sup> to April 12<sup>th</sup>

Location: Randwick Army Barracks  
Contact: Rowan Peck (Course Director) ph 0412 041 957  
email: [sydney.dir@skipatrol.org.au](mailto:sydney.dir@skipatrol.org.au)

### Hobart or Launceston – April 26<sup>th</sup> to May 17<sup>th</sup>

Location: To be confirmed

Contact: Peter Findlater ph 0417 358 293  
email: [findlaterp@bigpond.com.au](mailto:findlaterp@bigpond.com.au)

### Snowy Mountains – May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>

Location: Station Resort, Jindabyne  
Contact: Margot Hurrell ph 0412897373  
email: [thredbo.dir@skipatrol.org.au](mailto:thredbo.dir@skipatrol.org.au)  
THIS COURSE IS FULLY BOOKED ALREADY

### Snowy Mountains – October

Location: TBA  
THIS COURSE IS NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE BUT WILL BE HELD IF NUMBERS ARE SUFFICIENT.  
We are looking for expressions of interest at this time and will advise if the course is available by July this year.

Please make sure that your name is entered on the course list so that we can plan to deliver courses in a timely manner at a minimum cost.

<http://www.skipatrol.org.au/our-courses/>

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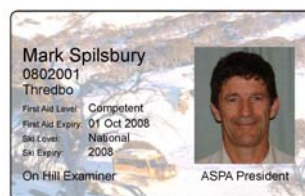
## EDUCATION UPDATES

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The 2008 version of the Advanced Emergency Care Manual is now available and will be handed out to all candidates at the courses. Copies will also be sent to all ski patrols. In the pipeline is a major upgrade is planned for 2009 with the inclusion of new sections on Extended Care to support the new programs being delivered

The Extended Care module was trialed in February and is being reviewed to improve its delivery. Hopefully it will be ready for rollout soon to those who feel the need to gain extra skills in this area. The plan is have the delivery take place in-resort to a suitably prepared small group. If you are considering this, we are taking expressions of interest now, contact the secretary.

ASPA ID cards are also available for the first time and will be handed out to all those who attend courses this year. These will have a photo of the patroller, their certification expiry dates and other relevant data.



Those who have applied for courses this year will have used the online application process, which is in its infancy and is being trialed this year. The intention of this is to streamline the application process, remove duplication that is the bane of our lives and better manage the information that we collect and must retain for many years as an RTO.

In the past we have found it necessary to reprint certificates and receipts because of simple errors in

typing, it is hoped that by getting candidates to input their own details that this will be reduced. Also, as this information will be stored on a secure database online it is hoped that in the future we will be able to update the information currently on file thus develop an ongoing record that will be searchable by individuals.

This process will understandably take some time to complete so we beg your patience with the changes that take place and hope that you can spend the time to provide feedback.

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## BITS AND BYTES

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### Overseas travels

Ashley Merkur travelled overseas as part of the support team for our freestylers. She has sent back reports and many, many photos. Most of them are available online via Picasa Web albums so these below are only a sample....



These are from Moscow, a most unusual venue for aerials!



Deer Valley.

### Lectures in Japan

As more and more of us travel to our close northern neighbours, it was inevitable that opportunities would arise to present our techniques to others, similar to the work that goes on with FIPS.

This year ASPA was asked to give lectures and demonstrations on our approach to casualties. This was part of an initiative by a Japanese medical lecturer who believes that the system could be improved and standardised.

While the initial request came in November 2007, the lectures were delivered in January and February, with a good response from the local patrollers and paramedics. The full report is available on the website

While discussions are ongoing it is envisioned that the next series of lectures could occur next northern season, probably November – December.

