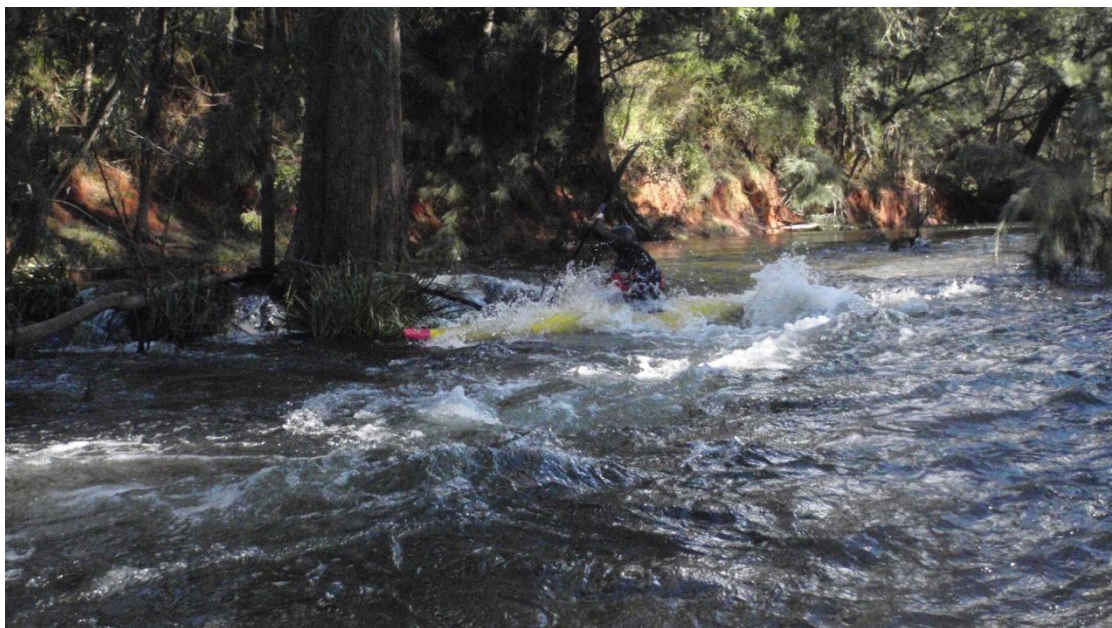


Autumn newsletter, end of Term 1, 2011



ACTOEA Executive Directory

ABN: 6182689008

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Autumn newsletter editor: Xavier Macartney,
Canberra Grammar School

ACTOEA 2011/12 CALENDAR

- Thursday April 7th, 5:30 -6:30 pm – Canberra Grammar School Outdoor Education Centre, Red Hill. **NOEC Planning Group Meeting**
- Thursday May 5th, 5:30 – 6:30 Southern Cross Club, Yarralumla, **Executive Committee Meeting**
- Thursday May 5th, 6.30-7.30 Southern Cross Club, Yarralumla, **NOEC planning meeting**
- August 21- 28 Outdoor Education Week. **WHAT WILL YOU DO?**
- Tuesday, August 23rd, **ACT Secondary Schools Indoor Rock Climbing Competition**
- Friday, September 2nd, **ACT Mountain Biking Championships**
- September 19-23, **Health and PE Week**- highlight OEd for health, physical activity and well being this week.
- September 30 to October 9, **SSA Orienteering. Wagga Wagga**
- October 15th, **Great Aussie Campout**
- January 16-18, 2012. **17th National Outdoor Education Conference at the University of Canberra, ACT.**



Above: Morning mist, Morning ascent of Burkes Hill, NSW (Photo by Xavier Macartney)



Presidents Report: AGM, Feb., 2011

2010 was a really full year for the members of ACTOEA and for Outdoor Education across Australia. On the local front, we've been maintaining professional networks with outdoor educators from the school sector, tertiary sector and private sector. Many members have been forging their own partnerships with colleagues in different schools or organisations, which I'm sure has been helpful for providing the on-the-ground support that practitioners often rely on.

I know that for ACTOEA, whilst we may not currently have an elaborate PD program or news journal like other associations, our members do tend to share their greatest resources - their expertise and time. I'd personally like to thank those members who've gone out of their way to help others in their quest to be a better outdoor educator or to better the profession more generally – be they preservice teachers, interns, new staff members, or researchers. With your actions, the profession will continue to grow in the ACT and throughout Australia.

Last year, a few PD items were offered– these included a Climbing Wall Supervisor Course with the Amaroo School and a Surf Bronze Medallion in Wollongong. Charlie has been working on a funding model for PD assistance to individuals, and Kathy Anderson has been seeking suitable insurance coverage for our activity needs. The good news is that this current quote looks more manageable than ones we've had in the past – and that will mean more activities can be run by members for members and others in the profession. David created most of the ACTOEA newsletters with Canberra Grammar School putting together the last one for 2010.

Towards the end of last year our website was transformed into something a bit more user-friendly for the content managers on the committee thanks to Jansen Choi, our trusty web designer guru. We followed this up earlier this year with David, Kathy and I attending two training sessions with Jansen for web maintenance lessons. So I encourage you all to engage with it at www.actoea.org.au and let us know what you think.

A steadfast crew from the committee have been working on hosting the 17th National Outdoor Education Conference here in Canberra in mid January 2012. ACTOEA, in conjunction with Outdoor Education Australia, will be hosting this event and we certainly expect to see lots of familiar faces at the conference come January. It takes a lot of trust and commitment for us to take this task on, and I'd just like to thank the committee for its trust and efforts to date to bring this to fruition. We still have a lot of work ahead of us, but the end result should bring both financial and professional rewards to ACTOEA.

Last year, many of you would have participated in the inaugural Outdoor Education Week, and hopefully helped to raise awareness of Outdoor Education and its place in the curriculum. I know that some ACT schools participated in the nationally co-ordinated world record attempt for orienteering and I hope that wherever you were, you encouraged your participants and staff to reflect on what is most important about Outdoor Education to them. I also hope that you used the specially designed postcards available through the OEA to send a message to the Federal Minister for Education about the importance of OEd. Outdoor Education Week this year will be held during the week of August 22-28th, so there's a bit of time to prepare something really interesting for this time 'round.

Again on a national level, the interests of Outdoor Education in the ACT are still represented by David Russell and me at teleconferences and face-to-face meetings with our colleagues from the other state outdoor education associations. It's at this forum that David and I are able to lobby for ACT interests and contribute to the development of major projects such as Outdoor Education Week, the National Outdoor Education Conferences, and for the push for Outdoor Education to be included in the National Curriculum.

Of course, nothing that ACTOEA achieved last year, would have been possible without the dedication and talents of its members, particularly the committee members who have contributed their time, ideas and actions to meetings, who made ideas turn into events, who sought quotes, developed content, responded to mail, processed memberships, kept the accounts in order, generated newsletters, wrote and rewrote documents etc, all on your behalf. So please join me in thanking the ACTOEA committee for 2010 – Charlie Freer, Vice President; Laura Marshall, Secretary; Kathy Anderson, Treasurer; and committee members: Sue Donoghoe, David Russell, Noel Mungovan, Hamish McDonald, Leslie Carr, and Rob Brittle.

Thank you

Kathy Mann

Minutes from AGM ACTOEA AGM
Ainslie Football Club
8 March 2011

MINUTES

Attendees:

David Russell	Lake Tuggeranong College
Rob Brittle Mary Adams Neil Montgomery	Narrabundah College
Kathy Mann	Self
Bob Wright Julie Murkins	Birrigai at Tidbinbilla
Angela Lewis Caleb Baker	Melrose High School
Peter Blunt	Lake Ginninderra
Richard Johnston	Lyneham High School
Gary Jones Clint Ramsay Esther Ramsay Les Shelly	Mountain Trails
Darryl Stuckey	ACT DET

Item 1: Apologies

- Kathy Anderson
- Charlie Freer
- Andrew Roe

Item 2: President's Report

Kathy acknowledged the traditional owners of the land and paid respects to elders past and present.

Kathy acknowledged International Women's Day, noting the increase in female participation in Outdoor Education.

Report (see attached President's Report) – summary follows:

- Partnerships forged and important
- PD events acknowledged – e.g. Climbing courses, and Surf Bronze
- Importance of the knowledge sharing that takes place
- Insurance being pursued to ensure ACTOEA is independently covered for PD activities

- Website has been updated – thanks. Contributions sought.
- Mid-Jan 2012, Canberra hosting Australian Outdoor Education Conference – ACTOEA involved via sub-committee
- Outdoor Education Week 2010 – good opportunity to raise profile, esp. in lobbying for recognition within the Australian Curriculum
- Aug 22-28 = National Outdoor Education Week 2011.
- ACTOEA represented at national level via Kathy and David.
- Thanked Committee members for their work.

Report: Accepted [Moved – Mary Adams; 2ndd – Caleb Baker]

Item 3: Treasurer's Report

Kathy Mann presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Kathy Anderson (see attached Treasurer's Report) – table 1 below

Discussion re cost-neutral status of the CCA Climbing PD event, particularly as participants were non-members. One outstanding payment from participant. It was stated that the event was about relationship building with the hope that non-members would/might take the opportunity to become members.

Report: Accepted [Moved - Caleb Baker; 2ndd – Rob Brittle]

Item 4: Vacating of office bearers and calls for nominations for positions

All positions were declared vacant. Positions determined as below.

President:

Nominations:

Kathy Mann - Nominated by Mary Adams; 2ndd by Caleb Baker. Nomination accepted.
No other nominees. Elected unopposed.

Vice President:

Nominations:

Charlie Freer - Nominated by Rob Brittle; 2ndd by Kathy Mann. Nomination accepted.
No other nominees. Elected unopposed.

Secretary:

Nominations:

Laura Marshall - Nominated by Kathy Mann; 2ndd by Mary Adams. Nomination accepted.
No other nominees. Elected unopposed.

Treasurer:

Nominations:

Kathy Anderson - Nominated by Kathy Mann; 2ndd David Russell. Nomination accepted, noting during leave, Kathy Mann will cover.
No other nominees. Elected unopposed.

Committee Members:

Nominations:

- Rob Brittle
- Sue Donoghoe
- David Russell
- Noel Mungovan

Nominees were thanked, and the election declared over, as elected.

Item 5: General Business

- Climbing Competition – thanked Hamish McDonald and Campbell HS for another successful event
- Gold Biner Awards. None given this year; everyone encouraged to consider nominating someone for their contribution.
 - National conference update. Kathy reported the following:
 - Dates TBC but likely – 18-20 Jan 2012 to accommodate all stakeholders
 - Venue being confirmed but likely to be UC (or ANU) due to costs
 - Known Keynotes – Michael Milton (will also co-facilitate a workshop)
 - Theme – ‘The next step ...’
 - Sponsorship – being pursued, esp. in-kind to keep costs down
 - Event Manager being sought (expressions of interest welcome)

Meeting closed 6:40pm.

Minutes – Julie Murkins.

Presentations:

Birrigai presented on new initiatives – equipment, opportunities for facility hire and for professional development. Members are encouraged to make contact.

Rob Brittle presented on three trips to Antarctica. He outlined some of the challenges and experiences as part of the roles undertaken. Highlights included working with high calibre staff, working in challenging conditions, being part of the science efforts and seeing the wildlife. Message to members was to pursue what you are seeking – keep trying.

Treasurers audit from 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010

Table 1: Treasurer audit presented at AGM, Feb., 2011

ACTOEA AUDIT 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010	CREDIT	DEBIT	ACTOEA	BALANCE	NOTES (added by Kathy Mann – acting Treasurer, 2010)
ACTOEA Balance at 01/01/2010				8383.55	
INCOME					
Membership	1120				
PD	1350				CCA climbing guides course (one payment outstanding)
AGM Dinner	15				
Interest	0.78				
Total Income			2485.78		
DEBIT					
AJOE		150			2 editions x 6 copies each
Teleconference		275			ORIC conference attendance support
conference		500			NOEC attendance support
PD Costs		1700			\$900 Staff costs + \$800 RTO costs for CCA course
AGM Dinner		415			
Stationery		103.47			
Website		220			Domain name & hosting renewal
Total Debit			3363.47		
ACTOEA Balance at 31 /12 / 2010				7505.86	

From the Field

From our time in the outdoors, we have all seen it occur. The change in an individual who has just overcome a fear, realized a new passion, and truly come to appreciate the majesty of their surroundings. These are the moments that we hope to accomplish.

On a recent climbing trip to the Blue Mountains, a member of the group had been dreading the climb. His fear was entirely evident during the drive. He grew more and more tense as we neared the first cliff face. This was his very first climbing trip and he had built a mole hill into a mountain. As his turn came up, a sense of calm came over him. He tightened his harness, was tied on to belay and being in such a vulnerable position he stated: "What's wrong with me? I'm not scared!" With that, he was off! His activities that day included three abseils and three climbs of increasing difficulty. Not only had he overcome his stifling fear of heights, but he had found a new passion, and while at it, he was subject to the beauty of the Blue Mountains. Could one ask for a better outcome?

These kind of stories are what we tell newcomers to ease their stress and let them know they are not alone in their fears. But these are only words and a visual allows each one to interpret that moment of achievement with personal reflection. A picture is the best way to show the positive impact we have on those we guide along their growth in the environment.

The Queensland Outdoor Recreation Foundation and it's subsidiary Outdoor Queensland have acknowledged the importance of in-field photography and as such have put out a call for support. They are hosting a ***Visioning the Outdoors*** night; an event aimed at celebrating the power of our outdoor activities in changing peoples' lives. Their goal is to put together a compilation of still and moving images to showcase the impact that outdoor education has on the lives of your clients and students.

For more information click on the following link; [***Visioning the Outdoors***](#).

Quiet Contemplation
Photo By Xavier Macartney
Burkes Hill – Deua National Park, NSW



Optimus Stove Recall

If you have an Optimus Nova/Nova+ Multifuel Expedition Stove purchased between January 2009 and September 2010 it is in your best interest to take advantage of the voluntary recall of such products. The stoves in question have a black burner housing and shows a QA – number from QA000011-QA007313. The Optimus cookers are being recalled due to: a manufacturing defect that may damage the O rings causing leakage. The O-rings in the fuel hose and in the ON/OFF valve on some stoves can expand with the use of certain types of fuel. As a result some Nova stoves of the latest production lots may have fuel hoses that are not completely crimped and could detach. To file a recall claim click on the following link: [Nova Stove Recall Claim](#)



Optimus Nova Stove



Great Aussie Campout

On October 15th, 2011 the Great Aussie Camp Out is back for another fun filled night! The event is aimed at introducing the outdoor experience to an Australian wide audience. People will be encouraged to set up camp at national parks, residential camps, caravan parks or even your own backyard. Organize some outdoor activities and share your experiences with a group of friends. It is a great event to take advantage of the amazing environment we have available to us in our very own 'backyard'

What do **YOU** need to DO now?

Put it in your calendar, book a campsite and organise some friends to camp with you. In a **group**? Pick a venue, order the sausages, plan some games, get together & get started. Simply go online to register your site and leave your details - you may even win one of a number of great prizes! Go to www.greataussiecampout.org.au Check out the new [GACO Facebook Event](#). Share it with your friends



WEB WATCH!

Impact of Outdoor Education

The importance of Outdoor Education in the growth of individuals is something we all know is a major factor in the development of necessary life skills. As the outdoors is our office, we are the first people who get to see the direct benefits of students spending time in nature taking on new challenges such as taking that first step over an abseil or even ascending a mountain with class mates. We see the ever growing need to introduce the new generation to the wonders of the outdoors as it is becoming more and more difficult to peel youth away from the latest technology. In an effort to quantify the benefits of outdoor education as a necessary part of the learning process, Outward Bound conducted a survey of 108 students from Cranbrook School in Sydney following their personal development as a result of the time spent partaking in Outward Bound programs which are a staple of the schools curriculum. The study focussed on time management, intellectual flexibility, task leadership, emotional control and self confidence. The process took four years following a year group through their journey from year 7 to year 10. Dr. James Neil conducted a survey before and after the group of students partook in their Outdoor program each respective year. He noted that there were tangible changes in the improvement of life skills across the board and at the end of the four year period, the group had an average improvement of 150% in the life skills areas.

The development of such skills are vital for the future success of our youth. Again, as outdoor educators we see these skills develop in our students on a daily basis, however often times these kind of programs are overlooked in the learning process for the increasing push on academic excellence. It is articles like these that we can take to our superiors to show the importance of outdoor education.

For a more detailed description of the survey, please click on the following link:

[Outdoor Education Survey](#)

OEG Hillary Challenge

Sir Edmund Hillary had such a curiosity of the world, that it took him to the top of the world and back. This aspiration to explore the unknown is where the Hillary Challenge gets its roots from.

The Hillary Challenge is a race developed for senior students to put their skills in the outdoors to the test. The race is now in its 11th year in New Zealand and just last year OEG Partnered with Outdoor Pursuits Centre in New Zealand to bring the highly successful event to Australia. Students from Singapore are also competing in the race.

The Hillary Challenge is an outdoor racing event open to teams of senior students in New Zealand, Singapore and Australia. It is positioned as an outdoor adventure race including tough physical and mental initiative challenges, a rogaine and a full day multisport race. This is a fantastic chance for students to use their skills to compete against other youth, and meet like minded individuals from around the country. The top teams from each country are entered into the Genesis Hillary Challenge, held in New Zealand.

The competition is now open to single gender schools with a qualifying round on the weekend of May 28th and the Australian finals are in October of 2011. For more details on the race and how to register your team click on the following link.

[Hillary Challenge Australia](#)



Wilderdome

Another interesting website to look at is Wilderdome. It is a site with information regarding natural living and transformation. With links to interesting sections such as; group activities for the outdoors, outdoor education news, and products that bring you closer to nature – this website is a fantastic resource for anyone looking to spend any amount of time in the outdoors!

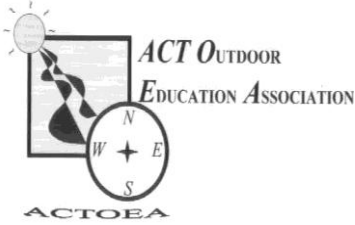
[Wilderdome](#)

Conference updates:

- 18-21 Apr 2011 **27th Aust. Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation International Conference**
Host: ACHPER and ACHPER South Aust Branch
Venue: Prince Alfred College, Adelaide, SA
- 2-4th June 2011, VOA & **Australian Camps Association**

Victorian Outdoors Conference at [Lake Dewar Lodge](#)
- 19-23 Jul 2011 **6th World Environmental Education Congress**
Host: Australian Association Environmental Education and International Environmental Education Network
Venue: Brisbane, Queensland
- 20-21 Aug 2011 **ORIC 2011 Annual Conference of the Outdoor Recreation Industry Council**
Host: ORIC
Venue: Novotel Hotel, Sydney Olympic Park Homebush

17th National Outdoor Education Conference Update

 <p>ACT O_UTDOOR E_DUCATION ASSOCIATION ACTOEA</p>	<p>The theme of the 17th National Outdoor Education Conference</p> <p>Dates: 16-18 January, 2012 plus pre and post conference activities;</p> <p>Venue – University of Canberra, Belconnen, ACT. Keynote Speakers so far – Michael Milton; currently seeking Event Manager & Sponsors & Presenters (workshops, seminars, activities) – can you help?</p> <p>Conference theme: ‘The Next Step...’ challenges you to explore innovations in areas such as technology, sustainability, adventuring, risk management, curriculum & pedagogy, related disciplines, and practice led research for the Outdoor Education profession?</p> <p>Share the latest steps from your personal or professional practice with colleagues from around Australia.”</p> <p>What’s YOUR NEXT STEP?</p>
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Outdoor Education Australia (OEA):

Links to the various members' websites

- [ACT Outdoor Education Association](#) (ACTOEA)
- [Outdoor Educators' Association of South Australia](#) (OEASA)
- [Outdoor Educators' Association of Queensland](#) (OEAQ)
- [Outdoor Recreation Industry Council](#) (NSW)
- [Outdoors WA](#) (WA)
- [Tasmanian Outdoor Education Teachers Association](#) (TOETA)
- [Victorian Outdoor Education Association](#) (VOEA)



Groups - including day trippers

<http://www.weejasperreserves.com.au>

Scouts, schools, social clubs, corporate groups and the like are reminded that you must book in advance - THIS INCLUDES DAY TRIPPERS USING WILD CAVES. This is our busiest time of the year and knowing what groups are using the Reserves helps us with planning, conservation and staffing. Day trip groups who continue to NOT advise us of their use of Wild Caves may find their access limited.

ACTOEA Professional Development Fund

ACTOEA has some limited funds available to assist members who would like to attend courses and conferences directly related to their professional development. ACTOEA may contribute to the costs but is unlikely to pay the whole amount. Members are encouraged to seek funds from a range of sources.

Please email your application to Charles.Freer@ed.act.edu.au

Some PD opportunities to be offered later in the year include:

Remote First Aid: 10-13 September some place still available
Contact: Darryl.Stuckey@act.gov.au 62054381

Guide White Water Kayaking with John Wild: Dates to be confirmed probably 29/30 October or 5/6 November. Participants need to be able to roll and have white water grade 2 skills as a pre-requisite for the course.
Contact: : Charles.Freer@ed.act.edu.au 62057765

Guide Canyoning with Rob Brittle: Dates to be confirmed in Term4
 Participants would require SROVTR001A Perform vertical rescues and
 SROVTR002A Perform complex vertical rescues
 Contact: Charles.Freer@ed.act.edu.au 62057765

The Application for Professional Development funds can be found at the bottom of the document.

ACTOEA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS APPLICATION

Name:

how this PD activity will benefit ACTOEA, your school/organisation or the Outdoor Ed profession more broadly.

PD Event/Course Provider: Please provide details

Date/s of Event

Cheque made payable to:

Pre-payment required Yes/No

Funding approved:

On behalf of ACTOEA Signed:

Date:

PLEASE OBTAIN A TAX INVOICE FOR ACTOEA FOR \$.....

Note

- ACTOEA Professional Development funds are only available for those with current membership.
- These funds are not for the provision of meals.
- Please provide a short paragraph with some information about

BREAKDOWN OF COSTS

Transport	\$
Course cost/registration	\$
Accommodation	\$
Equipment	\$
Other	\$
TOTAL COST	\$

FUNDS

School Contribution	\$
Personal Contribution	\$
ACTOEA Contribution	\$
Other	\$
TOTAL	\$



The ACT Outdoor Education Association (ACTOEA) is recognised as the ACT peak body representing outdoor education and outdoor educators. It is a not-for-profit, independent organisation committed to providing members with a range of services. These services include regular newsletters, ongoing professional development, lobby group, affiliation to relevant interstate and national bodies, resources and information, professional support, and the ongoing promotion of the profession of Outdoor Educators.

ACTOEA welcomes all new members. Annual membership rates are kept reasonable, with separate rates for full time students, individuals, and organisations.

Contact: info@actoea.org.au

Here is an example of what you get with ACTOEA membership:

- up to 20% discounts and discount club nights at major Canberra outdoor stores and Wholesalers
- enjoy our **free** Presentation Dinner at the Annual General Meeting. Other social functions include our Christmas drinks
- a collective voice on issues that affect outdoor education and relate to areas of Government such as Conservation ACT and NSW NPWS so your views are heard nationally and locally
- we keep you abreast of new issues in the outdoor education profession through a quarterly newsletter and email updates
- support to attend the National Outdoor Education Conference every two years. Resources from our library
- supported professional learning - ACTOEA has been successful in the past and will continue to work for Professional Development funds to assist in maintaining accessible PD

ACTOEA is the ACT Division of Outdoor Education Australia (OEA) and through this, a member of Outdoor Council of Australia. We are actively involved in the continuing process of developing the Outdoor Education profession FOR YOU!

www.actoea.org.au

Australian Capital Territory Outdoor Education Association

Tax Invoice ABN 6182 6869 008

Yes, I/we would like to become a member of the ACT Outdoor Education Association (ACTOEA) for the calendar year of **2011**

- Concession holder \$20
- Individual Membership \$50
- Organisation (School, Group, other organisation) \$110

Payment methods (highlight the one you're paying by):

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to ACT Outdoor Education Association Inc.,

Bank: National Australia Bank

BSB: 082-924

Account number: 67-613-8421

Account name: ACT Outdoor Education Association NAB Business Cheque Account

*remember to identify the payment with your name and year of membership

**please also post this completed form to the address below

OR

Cheque posted to ACTOEA Treasurer c/- PO Box 98 Belconnen ACT 2616

Your receipt and membership card will be mailed to you.

I am /my organisation is paying \$20 / \$50 / \$110 as payment of membership fees for the calendar year 2011 (renewal due January of following year).

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:..... **POST CODE:**.....

POSTAL ADDRESS:.....

PHONE: (Hm) **(Wk)** **Fax #**

Mobile:..... **E-mail:**.....

The following information will help the association develop networks of people within the ACT, and a database of interests, proficiencies or expertise of its members.

NAME OF ORGANISATION: (if applicable).....

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT / STUDY-.....

AREAS OF INTEREST:.....

.....

SPECIFIC EXPERTISE:.....

.....

.....

.....

HOW COULD THE ASSOCIATION HELP YOU (or how could you help the association?):

.....

.....