

RESEARCH & EVALUATION UPDATE >

MSC RESEARCH & EVALUATION UPDATE – APRIL 2011

Welcome...

...to the first Research & Evaluation Update! It is intended that these updates get distributed to members via email whenever we have important or interesting news to tell you from the world of MSC research and evaluation. This update is intended to provide you with brief snippets of information so that you are kept in the loop and links to where you can find more detail for those who are interested. If you have difficulty seeing this email it is available in a PDF format on the MSC website at www.mountainsafety.org.nz/research.

Expert External Review of Bushcraft and Risk Management Courses

As the work with the MSC Outcomes Model has progressed we have been able to plan a number of evaluation projects and identify a range of indicators that would enable us to know that we are on track for achieving our outcomes. One of these evaluation projects has been an expert external review of our Bushcraft and Risk Management Courses and supporting resources.

The report provides valuable insight into these programmes and will be of interest to all MSC instructors. A summary of this report can be found on the MSC website: www.mountainsafety.org.nz/Research/default.asp.

A more detailed description of the Navigator Outcomes Model can be found in the latest edition of "OnTrack" available on the MSC website at www.mountainsafety.org.nz/Media/Newsletters.asp.

MSC Management and the Operations team are currently assessing the recommendations from this report and considering how best to implement any necessary changes. The technical committees and members will be involved in the strategising and implementation of these recommendations. One of the ways we are considering in order to get members' feedback is via the forum on the members section of the website.

Your thoughts on this review will be appreciated by Chris Owens as he comes to grips with his new role as Bushcraft, ODL and Risk Management Programme Manager. Please email chris.owens@mountainsafety.org.nz

Stakeholder Survey Summary Report: What other organisations think about MSC

In late 2010 MSC's stakeholders were surveyed so that MSC could better understand the quality of its delivery. The participating stakeholders were drawn from the vocational sector, community volunteer and government departments. The survey was grouped in five key areas which were leadership and directions, communication, service delivery, quality of relationship and overall performance. The survey questions comprised of both quantitative assessments and general questions and also utilised open questions and comments.

The results are informative and valuable and will be utilised to inform MSC's service delivery in the future. This report is available on the MSC website: www.mountainsafety.org.nz/Research/default.asp.

It is intended to be able to undertake the same evaluation in two years time and look for improvement in the results.

MSC History Project

Mike Boyes is continuing with investigating MSC early history. This valuable project is documenting incredible volunteer commitment by individuals who were driven to increase safety in the outdoors. It will be great to have a thorough record of this period of MSC existence and the forces that shaped this organisation.

Avalanche Research

Researcher Heather Purdie has recently completed her doctoral thesis which explored *Controls on Spatial and Temporal Variation in Snow Accumulation on Glaciers in the Southern Alps of New Zealand*. Heather has also drawn upon this research to publish journal articles in Arctic, Antarctic and Alpine Research, Hydrological Processes and Journal of Climate. While avalanche research is clearly a niche area, MSC supported Heather's research as it provided valuable terrain information which may have implications for those operating in avalanche terrain.

A printed copy of this research is available via Andrew Hobman the Avalanche Programme Manager. Andrew's email address is: andrew.hobman@mountainsafety.org.nz

Research on the MSC Website

I do endeavour to continually add relevant research to the MSC website however if you are aware of research that others within MSC maybe interested in please email me the details and I will add it to the site.

Keeping up to date with relevant research enhances the chances that the decisions and practices MSC makes and supports are based on robust information. I would appreciate everyone's help with making us all aware of relevant research.

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