

S.A.R.E.A.



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ROCKCLIMBING EDUCATION ASSOCIATION INC.
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Candidate Information Booklet

November 2022

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1. SAREA Overview & Organisation Information

1.1. An overview

The South Australian Rock climbing Education Association (SAREA) is a not-for-profit association established to promote safe climbing instruction and accredit climbing instructors and guides. The organisation is governed by a Board and has an Advisor and Assessor Panel (AA Panel) to provide technical input, advice to candidates, assessment of candidates and recommendations to the Board regarding accreditation.

SAREA offers five levels of qualification:

- Assistant Guide
- Top Rope Guide
- Top Rope Instructor/Single-Pitch Guide
- Multi-Pitch Guide
- Multi-Pitch Instructor

For experienced and qualified instructors, SAREA offers a pathway to become an assessor on the Advisor and Assessor Panel.

Each of these qualifications has pre-determined parameters which instructors and guides must abide by. SAREA offers one annual intake of candidates for Assistant Guide and Top Rope Guide training. Candidates wishing to attain a SAREA qualification must present a record of experience including logbook of sufficient climbing experience. Once qualified, instructors and guides must submit a logbook every three years demonstrating sufficient climbing instruction and metres to maintain their qualification.

1.2. Organisation Information

SAREA – Aims

The South Australian Rock-climbing Education Association Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation established in the 1980's to ensure safe practice and quality rock climbing instruction in South Australia. SAREA has a representative Board, and an Assessor and Advisory Panel that meets bi-monthly.

The aims of the SAREA Board are:

- Standardise and advance rock-climbing education in South Australia.
- To formulate policies on safety standards and instructional qualifications for rock-climbing education.
- To facilitate and encourage training and assessment of rock-climbing instructors to the standards laid down by the Board
- To liaise with kindred associations, training establishments, and other organisations or institutions interested in rock-climbing instruction.

- To be able to act in an advisory capacity regarding the implementation of rock-climbing education programmes in South Australia.

SAREA - Board

The SAREA Board includes representatives from the following organisations:

- The Climbing Club of South Australia
- The Scout Association of Australia (S.A. Branch)
- Our Registered Training Organisation partner (currently TAFESA)
- SAREA Advisors and Assessors Panel
- University and tertiary education organisations
- South Australian Schools
- Commercial interests in South Australia
- SAREA instructors and guides

The board may, from time to time, nominate additional organisations to be included in this list, or may revoke the inclusion of any organisation. In addition, the SAREA Board may elect to appoint members to casual vacancies on the Board.

SAREA - Advisors and Assessors

The Advisor and Assessor Panel (AA Panel) are a group of qualified people that report directly to the board. The functional role of the AA panel is to:

1. Assess candidates enrolled in the SAREA Instructor Program and make recommendations to the board on the accreditation of Candidates.
2. Conduct Instructional Seminars as part of the SAREA Instructor Program.
3. Make recommendation to the Board on the accreditation of candidates based on recognition of prior learning.
4. Meet on regular basis in order to carry out the roles of the assessors efficiently and competently.
5. Liaise with TAFE on administration matters relating to running of seminars and assessments.
6. Maintain on behalf of the Board, accurate and true records of assessments.
7. Recommend instructors to be assessors, to be approved by the Board.

The strategic role of the AA panel is to:

1. Review and set technical standards for the SAREA Instructor Program.
2. Review and update existing courses run as part of the SAREA instructor program.
3. Consultation with parties/stakeholders over issues relating to safety. (Any issues that relate to safety with respect to climbing education, climbing accidents, climbing areas etc. should have SAREA Assessor input.)
4. Consultation with parties over issues relating to climbing areas. (Any issues that relate to existing or new climbing areas should have SAREA Assessor input.)
5. Responsibility of the assessors to determine and make recommendation to the Board as to the number of assessors required and the appointment of new assessors.

SAREA – Technical Standards

SAREA does not set technical standards regarding equipment, equipment use or rope rescue. The aim of the organisation is to accredit industry leading climbing instructors and guides but the organisation does not have the capacity or the inclination to set benchmark technical standards. In fact the organisation recognises that there are multiple methods to achieve safe and rewarding outcomes in climbing instruction. However, SAREA only endorses the use of internationally certified and tested climbing equipment by it's guides and instructors.

2. TOP ROPE GUIDE/INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM

2.1. The Program Outline

The program outline covers the following:

- Introduction evening
- Theory sessions
- Training sessions
- Rescue assessments
- Personal and Group assessments

The theory sessions occur during the week at a location to be advised by the Coordinating Assessor.

The training sessions and assessments are generally run on weekends.

The training sessions and rescue assessments are **SET** dates and are given at the Introduction session.

Please remember that trainers and assessors of SAREA are volunteers and do have full time jobs

2.2. SAREA contact:

Coordinating Assessor: ca@sarea.org.au

Additional contacts are listed at:

<http://sarea.org.au/wp/contact-us/>

ca@sarea.org.au

2.3. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

If you wish to apply for RPL for any aspect of the TRG qualification, please bring to the Introduction Session evidence (results transcript, letter from employer, etc.) for the above theory units if you wish to apply for RPL. No evidence, no RPL.

2.4. General Requirements for Instructors & Guides:

1. Minimum age 18 years.
2. Required to hold a current Senior first aid certificate or equivalent. The certificate is only valid whilst the instructor/guide is a holder of a current first aid certificate or an equivalent qualification.
3. Be familiar with the accident and emergency procedures relevant to a given climbing area and maintain currency in rescue practice.
4. Be aware of their legal responsibilities and liabilities as guides/instructors.
5. Have a First Aid Kit reasonably accessible at all times whilst guiding/instructing.
6. The ratio of instructor or guide to client/student should not exceed 1:6. For every suitably qualified instructor/guide up to two assistant guides can be supervised, with the total number of students per instructor/guide plus two assistants not exceeding 14.
7. The equipment used during the guiding and instruction of climbing must be designed and tested for climbing and meet any necessary Standards, e.g. UIAA.

2.5. Responding to Abuse and Neglect (RANS) and Police Checks (DCSI)

SAREA recommends that all new candidates do RANS training and police checks whilst completing their SAREA course so that they are ready to work with minors. This will also assist in getting assisting hours as all schools require this training and checks.

3. SAREA Qualification Matrix

SAREA Qualification Matrix							
	Initial Accreditation			Recertification (all metres and hours within last 3 years)			Ratios
	Metres	Logged Hours	Assessments	Metres	Logged Hours	Other Requirements	
Assistant Guide	500 metres of climbing, any grade	N/A	Signed off by a qualified SAREA instructor	N/A	N/A	N/A	- 1:4 under the supervision of a qualified guide or instructor
Top Rope Guide (TRG)	1000m in the last 3 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250m in a multi-pitch environment (second or lead), any grade. 750m of top rope or lead climbing of any grade. 	50 hrs assisting qualified SAREA instructors, a variety of instructors and settings	Rescue Assessment Personal Skills Assessment Group Management Assessment	1000m Of any grade	50hrs <i>Working at your level of qualification</i>	To maintain currency in all awards you must maintain currency in rescue skills and a valid senior first aid certificate or higher	- 1:6 - With 1 assistant up to 10. - With 2 assistants up to 14 (max)
Top Rope Instructor/ Single Pitch Guide (TRI/SPG)	1500m in the last 3 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500m of lead, 250m of which is multi-pitch, grade 12+ 1000m of climbing (top rope or lead), grade 12+ 	50 hrs instruction as a TRG	TRG Qualification + Instruct/Single pitch guide assessment	1500m Of any grade. At a minimum half of these metres must be lead metres	50hrs <i>Working at your level of qualification</i>	To maintain currency in all awards you must maintain currency in rescue skills and a valid senior first aid certificate or higher	- 1:6 - With 1 assistant up to 10 - With 2 assistants up to 14 (max)
Multi-Pitch Guide (MPG)	2000m in the last 3 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1000m of multi-pitch lead climbing at grade 12 or above 1000m of top rope or lead climbing of any grade 	50 hrs as an assistant MPG/MPI	TRI/SPG Qual + Multi-Pitch: Rescue Assess. Guiding Assess.	2000m Of any grade. At a minimum half of these metres must be multi-pitch lead metres	50hrs <i>Working at your level of qualification</i>	To maintain currency in all awards you must maintain currency in rescue skills and a valid senior first aid certificate or higher	
Multi-Pitch Lead Instructor (MPI)	2000m in the last 3 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1000m of multi-pitch lead climbing at grade 16 or above 1000m of climbing (TR or lead) at grade 12 or above 	50 hrs as an assistant MPG/MPI	TRI/SPG Qual + Multi-Pitch: Rescue Assess. Guide Assess. Instruct Assess.	2000m Of any grade. At a minimum half of these metres must be multi-pitch lead metres	50hrs <i>Working at your level of qualification</i>	To maintain currency in all awards you must maintain currency in rescue skills and a valid senior first aid certificate or higher	

4. SAREA Qualifications

4.1. SAREA Qualifications

SAREA offers 5 levels of qualification (listed below) that allow individuals to be accredited for their skills and experience and operate as a professional at the level in which they are proficient. The stepped process allows individuals to progress, whilst gaining more experience and knowledge to further their qualifications and obtain higher recognition in the outdoor recreation industry.

- Assistant Guide
- Top Rope Climbing Guide
- Top Rope Instructor
- Multi-Pitch Guide
- Multi-Pitch Instructor
- (Assessor)

4.2. SAREA Operating Ratio

Qualified instructors and guides may work with up to 6 clients at a time, and may also supervise up to two assistants, adding 4 clients per assistant:

Qualified instructor/guide;	up to 6 clients
Qualified instructor/guide + 1 assistant;	up to 10 clients
Qualified instructor/guide + 2 assistants;	up to 14 clients

4.3. Assistant Guide (AG)

This award is a starting point for persons interested in obtaining recognition for a basic skill-set required to safely assist a qualified SAREA Guide/Instructor. A SAREA Guide/Instructor may supervise up to two assistants, adding 4 clients per assistant, to the ratio. The award highlights knowledge, skills and experience required for the Assistant Instructor role in a top rope setting. The award sets the minimum benchmark for entry into the SAREA instructor scheme; although it is recommended that this level is exceeded before commencing. The assessment can be conducted by any SAREA Instructor (not Guide). The assessment tool is simply downloaded from the [website](#), completed by the SAREA instructor, scanned and sent to SAREA for ratification and invoice. SAREA recommends the use of SAREA qualified instructors to conduct training to this level.

Renewal Period: n/a

4.4. Top Rope Climbing Guide (TRG)

A guide who is qualified to oversee clients at top-rope cliff environments in the skill-sets of belaying and climbing, but NOT in the capacity of instructing clients how to become

independent in the practice of setting up climbs, seconding, or leading. This is an entry level qualification that can be obtained by individuals who are passionate about climbing and are actively pursuing their rock climbing interests and garnering up to date knowledge on equipment, techniques and specific rock climbing terminology that will assist them in passing on valuable knowledge to future clients. Interested candidates are not required to provide competencies in the area of lead climbing. It is a qualification that allows individuals to begin their instructing career, to learn from doing and to provide opportunities to work in environments where their skills will continue to improve to a level that would enable them to confidently apply for higher level qualifications.

Renewal period: 3 years, with an acceptable logbook.

4.5. Top Rope Climbing Instructor (TRI)

A mid-level qualification that requires a much larger skill set and experience in instruction as well as lead climbing. You will be qualified to instruct clients in the areas of belaying, climbing, independent set up practices (top rope and abseiling), and seconding. You will also be qualified to guide clients on single pitch climbs.

This qualification is endorsed by SAREA as the preferred minimum level qualification for instructors to have before being employed as a multi-pitch guide at areas such as Mount Arapiles. Further to this, SAREA is not suggesting that individuals be employed for this purpose on this qualification alone, but that it be an optimal pre-requisite amongst others such as experience, local crag knowledge, professional opinion, etc.

Option 1

It is possible to gain this qualification during your initial course year, if you are efficient and come into the program with a high level of skill and experience, and you are able to complete your TRG qualification with enough time to gain the logbook requirements needed to sit the TRI personal skills assessment. (50hrs of work in the field as a qualified guide, and 1500m of climbing >12, including 500m of leading).

Option 2

This is the cost to sit the assessment, if you already hold the TRG qualification.
Note: If done during the year of your renewal, your \$250 renewal fee will be waived. After passing this assessment your 3 year qualification period will reset from this date.

Renewal period: 3 years, with an acceptable logbook.

4.6. Multi-Pitch Lead Climbing Guide (MPG) or Instructor (MPI)

These are high level qualifications which demands a higher level of knowledge, experience and skills. These qualifications can only be obtained if you hold the TRI qualification, or equivalent.

As an MPG you will be qualified to guide clients in multi pitch climbing, and be fluent in multiple rescue techniques in various situations. As an MPI you will be qualified to guide *and* instruct clients in multi pitch climbing, and be fluent in multiple rescue techniques in

various situations. You will also be qualified to supervise aspirant MPG's who are operating in a multi-pitch environment. The training and assessment runs over two days, at Mount Arapiles. MPG and MPI assessment requirements are the same, except for the instructional components for the MPI.

Note: If done during the year of your renewal, the \$250 renewal fee will be waived, and the 3 year period reset from this date).

Renewal period: 3 years, with an acceptable logbook.

4.7. Assessor

Potential trainee SAREA assessors are put forward by the Assessor Advisory Panel. Candidates are selected via numerous criteria. Experience, professional conduct, qualifications and availability, among many other things, are taken into account. If you are interested in becoming an Assessor, please feel free to submit an [Assessor Expression of Interest](#) form to SAREA via email.

SAREA Assessors are dedicated to attending meetings, improving the levels of standard within SAREA and providing fair and consistent assessments to all candidates.

4.8. Competencies Attained for SAREA Qualifications

The SAREA guide and instructor awards can be used as evidence to apply for the Outdoor Recreation National Training Package competencies- specifically the skill-set of climbing and abseiling. Please speak to the Coordinating Assessor if you are interested in also gaining national competencies.

5. The rock climbers and abseilers code for using Dept. Environment and Water reserves

Note: Abseiling is included where the term 'rock climbing' is used

General

1. Use only areas designated for that purpose.
2. Any person instructing others requires a permit to do so and public liability insurance coverage to the minimum value of \$10 million.
3. Special conditions may apply to a particular area, e.g. the use of fixed gear and artificial holdfasts, parking, camping, safety, fire and wildlife issues etc. Make sure you contact the regional office concerned to find out what the conditions of use are.

Safety

1. Undertake appropriate training before engaging in the sport of rock-climbing/abseiling. Know your limitations and avoid climbing alone.
2. Use ONLY approved rock-climbing equipment.
3. Adhere to the safety advice described on information signs.
4. Contact the D.W.E.N.R regional office for emergency contact procedures.
5. Where holdfasts have been installed please use them rather than anything else in the vicinity, for example trees.
6. Instructors should show consideration for other users regarding shared use of space when conducting group activities in popular areas.

Minimal Impact

Remember that all plants, animals and organic matter are protected in reserves. The following guide-lines must be observed by climbers to ensure that the cliff environment suffers minimal impact:-

1. Stay on existing tracks to prevent erosion and damage to plants and animals.
2. Avoid trampling on plants growing on the rock face and cliff surrounds.
3. Use minimal chalk.
4. Minimise cleaning practices on cliff faces.
5. Avoid defecating in the cliff environment. Choose locations which:-
 - Are well away from water courses,
 - will not offend others, and
 - where you can bury your waste properly.
6. Carry your rubbish out with you.
7. Contact the regional office for fire information.

General Cliff Etiquette

- Do not leave or add to fixed equipment on the cliff.
- Avoid using trees or other vegetation for belay points, if there is no alternative, protect them from rope damage to the best of your ability by using rope protectors for webbing.
- Actively manage your group at the climbing site to minimise trampling and damage to the surrounding vegetation.

- Do not block footpaths with equipment or belayers.
- Be aware of and diplomatic with other groups, individual climbers and other recreational users of the areas. Do not assume you have a right to occupy certain climbs simply because you were there first. Negotiate!
- Try to minimise noise at the climbing site.
- Take the responsibility to ensure that your group behaves with respect to others.
- Carry out all rubbish, including food stuffs as they may harm native wildlife.

6. Examples of Climbing Records

TOP ROPE / SECONDING

DATE	AREA & LOCATION	CLIMB NAME	GRADE	DIST. (m)	PITCHES		DETAILS (eg Partners)
					TOP ROPE	SECOND	
31-Dec-02	Morialta, Far Crag	Lords Prayer	15	18	X		Joe Bloggs
31-Dec-02	Morialta, Boulder Bridge	Big Sham	11	15		X	Joe Bloggs
05-Jan-03	Buckaringa	Golden North	17	20		X	Joe Bloggs, Anne Green
25-Mar-03	Mt Arapiles	Swinging	17	20	X		Joe Bloggs
15-Jun-03	Onkaparinga	Bachus	14	18	X		Joe Bloggs, Anne Green
TOTAL metres grade 12 + (Top Rope Instructor) OR Grade 16 + (Lead Instructor) =				76	NOTE: Total distance does not include climbs less than 12 for TR OR 16 for L		

LEAD CLIMBING — SINGLE PITCH

DATE	AREA & LOCATION	CLIMB NAME	GRADE	DIST. (m)	DETAILS (eg Partners)
12-Feb-03	Morialta, Boulder Bridge	Clea Direct	15	15	Anne Green
12-Feb-03	Morialta, Far Crag	Sheddit	15	15	Joe Bloggs
05-Mar-03	Buckaringa	Centurion	14	20	Anne Green
25-Apr-03	Morialta, Far Crag	Asgard	16	15	Tim Smith
30-May-03	Raethen's Gap	Medroom Beserker	12	15	Tim Smith
TOTAL metres above Grade 12 + (Top Rope Instructor) OR Grade 16 + (Lead Instructor) =				80	NOTE: Total = 80m if TR OR 15m if L

LEAD CLIMBING — MULTI PITCH

DATE	AREA & LOCATION	CLIMB NAME	GRADE	DIST. LEAD (m)	DIST. 2nd (m)	PITCHES		DETAILS (eg Partners)
						LEAD	SECOND	
26-Mar-03	Mt Arapiles	Hot Flap	14	80		2,3,5	1,4,6	Joe Bloggs
26-Mar-03	Mt Arapiles	D Minor	15	13		2	1	Joe Bloggs
27-Mar-03	Mt Arapiles	The Bard	12	60		1,4	2,3,5	Joe Bloggs
24-Jun-03	Moonarie	Pagoda	15	58		3,4	1,2	Tim Smith
09-Jul-03	Waitpinga	Flight of the Gull	17	40		1	2,3	Tim Smith
TOTAL metres above Grade 12 + (Top Rope Instructor) OR Grade 16 + (Lead Instructor) =				251	NOTE: Only metres led can be counted (251m if TR OR 40m if L)			

7. Examples of Instructional Records

NATURE OF INSTRUCTION:

TAFE – Directed Studies

Students spend several weeks going through a whole range of climbing skills. These range from how to set up top rope belays, top rope bottom belays, abseiling and climbing techniques.

Corporate Company

Morning consists of approx one & half hours of theory involving the description and use of equipment, knots, safety and fitting of harnesses. The rest of day is involves the teaching of climbing, belaying. The afternoon continues with climbing and abseiling is introduced.

Uni Group

As part of the students' outdoor skills/pursuits course, the students go to several local Adelaide cliffs (Morialta & Onkaparinga). They have previous been instructed in basic rope work, harness and belaying skills. This generally is their first experience at a cliff. Instruction covers: top rope set-ups for both top belay and bottom belay, abseiling, placement of lead gear, basic lead climbing, basic self rescue techniques.

Youth Group – Basic Skills Course

Meet at a hall on Friday night where equipment, knots, belaying and basic safety are covered. Saturday there are a wide range of climbs are set up and participants climb and belay for the day. The afternoon consists of more climbing and an abseil is set up. Attendance at this course and climbing on first Saturday of each month is a prerequisite before eligible to go Mount Arapiles.

Private School 1

Generally school groups are after a single days climbing instruction. Climbs are pre-set-up and students climb, belay & abseil during day.

Private School 2 – Mount Arapiles weekend

Members of the schools outdoor group were able to attend a two or three day trip to Mt Arapiles. First day consisted of top roping at single pitch areas to get the students into belaying, climbing and abseiling at a much larger cliff than they had previously experienced. If time permitted, later that day or the next day most of the students would be instructed in setting up top ropes and climbing techniques. Others would be able to second a multi-pitch climb that would be challenging for them. Over the days the boys were rotated around so that all had been on a multi-pitch climb.

RECORD OF EXPERIENCE IN CLIMBING INSTRUCTION

DATE	AREA & LOCATION	GROUP TYPE	GROUP SIZE	INST. (hrs)	QUALIFIED SUPERVISING INSTRUCTOR (Sign & Print Name)
12-Aug-03	Morialta, Boulder Bridge	Private school 1	18	6	Steve Robertson Steve Robertson
27-Aug-03	Morialta, Far Crag	Corporate company	7	6	Anne Gibson Anne Gibson
14-Sep-03	Buckaringa	Single Pitch Abseiling Instructor candidates	6	10	Darren Watson Darren Watson
02-Oct-03	Mt Arapiles	Uni group	12	15	Steve Smith Steve Smith
18-Nov-03	Raethen's Gap	Youth group climbing day	15	5	John Citizen John Citizen
TOTAL hours of instruction under a SAREA qualified instructor =				42	

Additional Resources

Rock Climbing for Instructors, Alun Richardson, Crowood Press, 2001

This resource is given to you at the Information session.

Outdoor Education, Foundations for Tertiary and Senior Secondary Education, Christine Frounde, Scott Polley, Impact Publishing, 2011

This resource will provide you with information on topics such as weather, risk management, leadership and legal aspects.

The internet is a non-exhaustive and easy to access resource for a wide range of information relating to climbing. Read, Read, Read!