



# Scouts in ACTION

Australian Capital Territory Branch

June 2015

## Scholarship opportunity reminder: Asia Pacific Region Scout Youth Forum, Korea 2015

Scouts Australia is offering up to three 50% scholarships for the 8th Asia-Pacific Region Scout Youth Forum, to be held in Suncheon Scout Centre, Korea, 29 October – 1 November 2015.



The APR Scout Youth Forum is a gathering of youth members from National Scout Organisations across Asia and the Pacific who come together to discuss Scouting and its future. The forum allows young people to make recommendations on the direction of Scouting to the Regional Scout Conference and Regional Scout Committee. The forum is also an educational experience for those selected to attend, as they develop the skills necessary to strengthen their capacity to take part in decision-making processes in their home Scout associations.

The theme of the forum will be GROWTH TOWARDS UNITY. More information on the Forum is available:  
<https://www.facebook.com/8APRScoutForum>

Applicants must complete an application form and forward it, including a one page CV to the Assistant International Commissioner, Andrew Cooper **by 3 June 2015**. Applications must be submitted by email to [int.assistantcomm@scouts.com.au](mailto:int.assistantcomm@scouts.com.au). More information can be found on the [Scouts Australia International blog](#)

## From the Chief



In previous Scouts in ACTION editions, reference has been made to the generous support given to Diamantina Scout Group by the Belconnen Rotary Club. Our connections with Rotary are not new with quite a few of our members and supporters also being Rotarians – possibly because both organisations share many common community and youth focussed values. So when an opportunity came up to speak with another Rotary Club, I was very pleased to accept.

Tyron Ahern, our Development Officer, had previously spoken about Scouting at a previous meeting with the Canberra Burley Griffin Rotary Club. Our current task was to explore with the club ways in which the two organisations might work closer together. From these discussions, some exciting possibilities have arisen.

One of the Club's major projects is the construction of a peace bell at Nara Park by Lake Burley Griffin. At the mention of the word "peace" my interest was immediately heightened. We are an organisation for peace and in fact have a special program to promote peace. (See [www.international.scouts.com.au/programs-in-australia/messengers-of-peace](http://www.international.scouts.com.au/programs-in-australia/messengers-of-peace)) Apart from fundraising for the bell, the Canberra Burley Griffin Rotary Club are looking at conducting activities with the community to encourage and celebrate peace at the Nara Gardens site. As a starting point in late June the members are having a clean-up of the Nara Garden site – and we have been invited to take part. What an opportunity to start a partnership journey – and perhaps to earn a badge! I will ensure more details are sent out on ScoutsIT as soon as they become available.

We also discussed the Shelterbox Rotary initiative - \$1000 provides emergency assistance for a family overseas in crisis. Some Groups have already managed to raise funds for this worthy cause and are able to track the progress of the Shelterbox to its final destination. For more information please refer to [www.shelterboxaustralia.com.au](http://www.shelterboxaustralia.com.au)

These are but two possibilities that evolved from our meeting. We are looking forward to continuing our discussions with Rotary Canberra wide.

## Nepal needs you!

By Noah Koenderink, Cub Scout at Badimara Scout Group

I am Noah Koenderink (10 years old), Sixer Cub at Badimara Scout Group in the ACT, and I would like to ask your support as members of Scouts Australia for Scouts in Nepal.



During the April 2015 school holidays my parents Conny & Hans (both Cub Leaders at Badimara Scout Group) and I visited Nepal. We had a great family holiday until on our second last day when we got caught in the biggest earthquake (7.9) that Nepal has seen in over 80 years. It was very scary!

It was my mum's birthday that day and we had asked our guide if we could visit the Kathmandu Scouts.

We were lucky because we didn't only meet the Kathmandu Scouts but 100 Scouts from the whole of the Kathmandu Valley and their Leaders. They had come together at their Headquarters in Kathmandu for a competition in dance, craft and other activities. It was very special.

We got to talk to many Scouts and also to the Kathmandu Scout Commissioner, Suraj Khanal, and of course we exchanged badges. Then we were invited to join their program. One of the Leadership Team convinced my mum to stay and watch the dance performance. My mum wanted to do some souvenir shopping because we were flying home the next day. I am so happy that she stayed with us because otherwise she would have been in Thamel, which was heavily damaged by the earthquake.

When the earthquake started we didn't know what was going on, but when chairs fell over, people started screaming and a wall collapsed near us we realised that we were in an earthquake. I have never experienced an earthquake before, not even a small one. The sky was full of bats and the earth was shaking so much that I was scared it would split open. I had learned that the best place to be in an earthquake is outside, with no tall buildings and trees around you and to crouch down on the ground to stay as stable as possible and holding hands with each is good for your comfort and safety. The trembling felt like forever. Then it stopped, but only to start again a few minutes later. The big earthquake was followed by many little and strong aftershocks.

The Nepali Scouts invited us to stay with them for the rest of the afternoon, which we gladly accepted. Luckily there were no other injuries besides one Scout who had broken her arm. Between the aftershocks we distracted each other by singing songs and playing games together. A lot of the Scouts spoke English so we introduced them to "Found a peanut last night" (Boys against girls. Boys won.) Being with Scouts Nepal at the time of the earthquake had probably saved our lives.

My parents have been in touch with the Kathmandu Scout Commissioner when we got back to Australia to thank him for looking after us. He let us know that all Scout and leaders were still safe but that they urgently need more support (material and financial). As a family we contributed goods to the Canberra Earthquake Appeal and we have set up our own initiative called 'Jam Jam Nepal' to raise funds to improve children's education, health and wellbeing in Nepal also beyond the immediate earthquake relief.

As a member of the Scouting Australia Community I hope we can support Scouts Nepal especially after another big earthquake of 7.4 magnitude. They urgently need more help, and that is what Scouts is about, do our best and help each other, right?

Details for donations and our Jam Jam Nepal Facebook page are below:

<http://www.scout.org/scoutaid> and <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jam-Jam-Nepal/1554116844851816>

## Cubs go underground with the ACT Rock Team

By Martine Pekarsky / Jacala, Cub Scout Leader, Air Scouts Canberra

Dave and Phil from the ACT Rock team were wonderful hosts last Saturday when the Air Scouts Cub pack came up to Wee Jasper to try out caving. Our Cubs, leaders and parents made the journey down deep into the caves and learned about caving equipment, safety techniques and the importance of preservation, as well as having a great time playing hide and seek in the caves. All eight Cubs and a couple of parents squashed into the 'sardine tin' room and it seemed incredibly tight even though the record stands at 42 people in that space at once (we still can't fathom that!). After the caving we stayed at the Shearers Quarters at Wee Jasper Station, and went exploring the area on foot in our spare time. Cub Leaders if you are looking for a great camp activity you can make a booking on the ACT Rock team website: [www.actrockteam.com.au](http://www.actrockteam.com.au)



## David Haines achieves the Baden-Powell Award

By Chris Malam , assistant Crew Leader, Blue Water Rover Crew



Blue Water Rover Crew recently celebrated a major achievement by one its Rovers, David – who has completed his Baden-Powell Scout Award (BPSA). It is the pinnacle achievement that a Rover can obtain, and only the third achieved by a member of Blue Water Rovers.

David came to us towards the end of 2013, from Melbourne where he joined the Scout Movement as a Cub Scout in 1999, progressing through Scouts, Venturers (awarded the Queens Scout Award in 2008) and Hellsgate Rover Crew. It was here that David started his BPSA, which included:

Developing his aerial awareness and strength through attending a gymnastics class for a year, learning flips, tricks and trampoline skills.

Learning how to do parkour and eventually attending Melbourne Parkour's Instructor Training – as well the physical challenges, his ability to breakdown concepts, communicate and work with students has developed greatly.

Once becoming an Instructor, he has given back to the Parkour community by becoming a volunteer Instructor. Starting in 2011, David is still actively teaching parkour, here in Canberra.

Since joining Blue Water Rovers, David worked towards the final major challenge of this BPSA – developing an understanding of his own personal values system and how to live by these values. He shared his journey and understanding with his fellow Rovers.

As a Rover, David has also been an active member of the Scouting community as a Scout Leader to 1st Bentleigh, Crew Leader, organiser and active participant to many Scouting activities. He is a worthy recipient of the Baden-Powell Scout Award, a source of inspiration to other Rovers and one that strives to embody the Scout Promise and Law in all that he does. Well done mate!



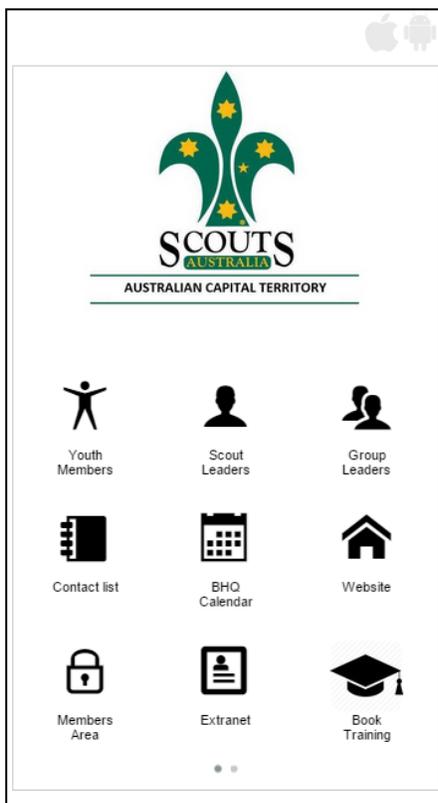
## Science with an Astronaut

By Martine Pekarsky / Jacala, Cub Scout Leader, Air Scouts Canberra

This month some Cubs from Les Explorateurs and Air Scouts went to meet American astronaut Dr Sandy Magnus at the CSIRO Discovery Centre for their 'Science with an Astronaut' program. After hearing about Sandy's space missions and asking some really interesting questions in the auditorium, they broke into smaller groups to participate in some super-exciting scientific experiments. One Cub even had his Yellow Record book signed by Sandy who is like a rock star of the aeronautics world!



## Monthly Survey Results



You may have noticed on the Scouts ACT app that we have an ongoing survey. The topics change monthly and our Commissioners and their teams help put the questions together. The results are published monthly in Scouts in ACTION.

This month we asked: What do you think of the new Scouts ACT app?

63% of the responses said it was above average and more than a quarter said they loved it. Below is a breakdown of the responses

<i>I love it!</i>	<i>It's a good start</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Needs more work</i>	<i>Hate it!</i>
26.32%	36.84%	10.53%	15.79%	10.53%

If you haven't download the Scouts ACT app then do it today! You will find useful electronic forms, a contact list, calendars, our monthly survey and links to useful things like registering for training, Scout Cloud and our membership system, Extranet. To find the Scouts ACT app on iTunes or Google Play and search for "Scouts Australia ACT Branch" or follow the links below.

Android:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.kbf.app4299370>

Apple:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/scouts-australia-act-branch/id953668423?mt=8>

## Your Group or event in the next "Scouts in ACTION"

Would you like your Group / event to be in the next issue of Scouts in ACTION? It's so simple! Contact Tyron at Branch Office on (02) 6282 5211 or email [development.officer@act.scouts.asn.au](mailto:development.officer@act.scouts.asn.au) and we will add your story to the next newsletter.