



SCOUTS IN ACTION

Australian Capital Territory

NATIONAL HOT AIR BALLOON TITLES

By Tim Adams



The Western Australian town of Northam was recently the site of the 2017 National Hot Air Balloon Titles. In early September, nearly 30 balloon teams from around Australia and around the world converged on this small farming community for a week of competition to decide the Australian champion. Scouts were proudly there amongst the action, the entire time.

The Scout Balloon Team were approached by the organisers of the “Northam Nationals” early in the year, to participate in the event and create some positive public relations for the titles and Scouts WA. Members of the team were quick to jump on board, but as anyone who’s travelled to a major Scouting event, a huge amount of planning, effort and fundraising had to take place before the event. Apart from raising funds to transport the team to WA and finding accommodation and transport in Northam, we also had to identify an affordable and safe way to transport a hot air balloon, along with all our equipment, 3600km across country, and then back home again. Story continues on page 8

FROM THE CHIEF

By Rick Goode



Summer is nearly here and with it a plethora of the usual outdoor activities. There have been some great pictures coming from the Tri-lakes sailing regatta. Some very wet and exhausted Scouters had a wonderful time testing their sailing skills against both their peers and the weather. Congratulations to the participants and thanks to those parents and Leaders who made it such a memorable occasion.

It was very impressive seeing the concentration from Southwell Cubs as they put together SolarBuddy.org lights to send to PNG as a Messengers of Peace project. This was part of the funding Scouting received from an ACT Children's Week grant (and support from the SciScouts Crew). The ACT Venturers are also participating in a Messengers of Peace project through their Waterwatch program where they monitor 3 creeks that form part of the upper catchment of the Murrumbidgee River. I encourage all Scout Groups to get involved with the Messengers of Peace project, see Calista's article on page 6 for more information.

Another project funded under the ACT Children's Week grant was the Joey Scout Leader's training activity held on the weekend of 29/30 October. Some very incriminating pictures were taken which I hope don't appear suddenly in our Facebook page! Thanks to all involved and congratulation on being able to take up the funding offered.

There were 3 Scout Groups (Lanyon Valley, LBGSSG and Badimara) from the ACT who participated in the McDonalds Happy Day fundraising – thank you for smiling so broadly as you helped raise funds in a very worthy cause.

I would like to thank the Scout Groups that have offered and been accepted as 'Pioneer' Scout Groups. They will test out how the new programs from the Youth Program Review might be put into practice. Several Leaders are being trained as facilitators for these Groups and I recognise them for putting the extra effort into helping Scouting evolve. You can find more about Pioneer Scout Groups from Brent's article on page 4.

At the Branch Rover Council's Annual General Council Meeting in October, Jeshka McConnell was elected as the new Chair. Jeshka also fills a role as a member of the Branch Executive Council following her election at the last Branch AGCM. I look forward to continuing to work with her in both capacities! After an extensive recruitment process Craig Miller is to be appointed as the next Branch Rover Advisor. Congratulations to both and to the new BRC Executive Committee. You may have seen on ScoutsIT and through your social media platforms information about the 'Belle Ball'. This is a Rover sponsored, Rotary-supported Ball to raise funds in support for the maintenance of the Nara Peace Bell and Park. It will be a great night and I encourage as many adults and supporters of Scouting to come and join us on the night. Tickets are going fast! More details are on page 3

Last but not least is the now annual, Ride for Unity bike challenge. You can find out more about Ride for Unity on page 7. A big thank you to Vickram, Dev Raj, Nikki, Susan and everyone else behind the scenes in putting this event together.

Enjoy your Scouting and make the best use of the great outdoors – that is the basis of our Program.

BRANCH OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Uniforms:

Just a friendly reminder that uniforms can be purchased online at <https://scoutshop.com.au>. The Branch Office has a few shirts which are available to try on for sizing before you make your purchase.

Adult Recognition Awards:

The 2018 Adult Recognition Award nomination forms are now available on our website on the home page under the "More" option in "Forms and Resources"

<https://www.scoutsact.com.au/footer-3-cont..html>

Scout volunteer survey

This is the second year that we are reviewing how Scouts ACT attracts and engages with its volunteers through a 30 minute survey. Several Scout Branches across Australia have partnered with a team of researchers from the University of Western Australia (UWA) to find ways to improve the volunteering experience in Scouting. As you know all too well, Scouts relies extensively on the generosity of volunteers to deliver its youth program, and the ultimate goal of this research is to help Scouts attract and retain more adult volunteers. To take part in the survey, please go to http://uwa.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5zrjqNPtN5JQLmR

Scout book stock:

Youth record books are available for: Cubs, Scouts, & Venturers from the Branch Office. The Office purchases these books in bulks so they might be slightly cheaper than purchasing them online via The Scout Shop. If you would like to purchase the record books please email Sarah on admin@scoutsact.com.au or call 6282 5211, we will then invoice your Scout Group directly after the order has been collected.

Belle Ball:

Tickets: cost \$60 and are available from <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-belle-ball-tickets-38856766635> or through Facebook https://www.facebook.com/events/138251243473113/?ref=br_rs (please click attending and interact with the Facebook event). Please contact Anna on annaracheldavies@gmail.com if you have any question



The Belle Ball

FUNDRAISING FOR
The ACT Nara Peace Bell

Saturday 2nd December 7:30pm - 11pm
Ainslie Arts Centre

Tickets \$60
from <https://goo.gl/9RscYd>

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NEW YOUTH PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

By Brent Juratowitch, Assistant Chief Commissioner, Business Change



Implementation of the New Youth Program is well underway with the selection of the Pioneer Groups and Pioneer Trainers for the ACT. Work has also commenced on selecting Pioneer Mentors.

Congratulations to the following Pioneer Groups that will be testing the new program from April 2018:

- 13th Canberra
- Bethungra Rover Crew
- Birralelee
- Crowajingalong
- Erindale Rover Crew
- Les Explorateurs
- LTSS
- Macarthur
- Murrumbidgee Rover Crew
- Mt Majura
- Mulga
- Murrumbidgee Rover Crew
- Southwell
- Wanniasa
- Well Station
- Weston

In total the ACT will have approximately 970 youth members and 170 adult members trialling the new program. This represents just over half the membership, the largest ratio of any Branch in Australia. To keep the trial focused the Pioneers Groups will be working in four clusters:

1. Yerrabi: Bethungra, Birralelee, Les Explorateurs, Well Station
2. Ginninderra: Crowajingalong, Mt Majura, Southwell
3. Molonglo: 13th Canberra, Erindale, Wanniasa, Weston
4. Namadgi: LTSS, Macarthur, Murrumbidgee RC, Mulga

Leaders from within these clusters will work as teams under the leadership of Pioneer Trainers who together will have the responsibility of testing the new Program across all Groups within their Cluster. The Pioneer Trainers for each Cluster are

1. Yerrabi: Yvonne Court and Brent Juratowitch
2. Ginninderra: Suzanne Gardiner and Paul Janssens
3. Molonglo: Deidre Major and Graham Downie
4. Namadgi: Bec Nixon and Doug Jackson

The aim will be for clusters to share their experiences of the new program; particularly identifying any issues or areas they feel need change or improvement. We will then use this feedback to assist in the design of the final program.

Story continues on page 5....

NEW YOUTH PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

By Brent Juratowitch, Assistant Chief Commissioner, Business Change



Continuation from page 4...

Training for the Pioneer Trainers will be held next month in Victoria. Then there will be ACT Branch training for Pioneer leaders and Youth members in February/March next year at Camp Cottermouth. We are also expecting the new badges, workbooks etc at this time. We will then launch the Pioneers Program at the beginning of Term 2, 2018 (from 30 April, 2018). Working back from the 'launch' date of 30 April, the indicative timetable for the rolling out of training and support structures is as follows:

- December, 2020 – all ACT Groups will be working on the new Scout Program
- July 2019 – Non-Pioneer groups start the move to the new Program
- February 2019 (first term, 2019) Pioneer Groups start the move to the new Program
- January 2019 – the New Youth Program is formally launch at AJ2019.
- May, 2018 (first four weeks of Term 2) - Pioneer Mentors and Pioneer Trainers attend Section meetings to advise and assist with implementation. Amongst the aims will be to transition youth members into the new scheme (e.g. swap over to new badges, confirm personal progression goals) and to plan activities to introduce elements of the new program
- 13 April 2018 (last day Term 1)– confirmation that each Pioneer Group has all necessary start-up materials, badges, handbooks etc
- March, 2018 – Group Day(s) where Groups (adult and representative Youth members) will meet as a Group to discuss a consistent implementation of the new Program; distribution of new badges, handbooks etc
- February, 2018 – Pioneer Induction Training – comprising representatives from each Pioneer Group (adult and youth members). This will comprise Group level and Section specific training on the new Program.
- December, 2017 – Branch Pioneer Trainers and Pioneer Mentors meeting to review strategy and allocated 'Pioneer Clusters'
- November, 2017 – Pioneer Training (Melbourne)
- October, 2017 – selection of ACT Branch Pioneer Mentors and Trainers
- October, 2017 – Selection of Pioneer Groups

I know that many Youth and Adult members have plenty of questions on the implementation of the new Program. You can direct these to me at accbc@scoutsact.com.au and I will respond as soon as I can. I will also from November be recording these questions and responses on the YPR Implementation page on the Scout ACT website.

Finally for those Groups that are not Pioneers the whole Branch will be working through The Adventure Begins Program that will focus on SPICES, the Scout Method and implementing Youth Lead, Adult Supported structures in your Groups. More information on The Adventure Begins will be coming out soon.

MESSENGERS OF PEACE

By Calista Beck, Assistant Chief Commissioner Youth Development



Messengers of Peace is a global program but can seem to big or to hard at first glance. Sometime those that do compete a project they may feel lost in the millions of hours that we are all adding, so each month we will be highlighting a project from Scouts ACT. If you would like someone to come and talk to your group about Messengers of Peace and how it fits into Scouting or if you've finished a project contact Calista Beck on accyd@scoutsact.com.au

There are additional resources including a how to post on scout.org, section requirements and a Messengers of Peace programme overview available at www.scoutsact.com.au/messenger-of-peace.html.

Project of the Month - ACT Venturers Waterwatch Environment Project:

One Saturday every second month, Venturers from the ACT participate in Water quality monitoring of 3 creeks that form part of the upper catchment of the Murrumbidgee River. This is done for the Waterwatch Organisation, and the data from the project is combined with data from other groups to produce an annual report on the health of the catchment & waterways of the ACT. The data is used for policy development, studies on bushfire recovery and baseline environmental data. The Venturers take measurements of pH, Conductivity, Turbidity, Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, Nitrogen and Phosphorous levels. They also make observations on the fauna & flora of the creeks and their surrounds. We make these measurements and observations on Bogong Creek, Hospital Creek and Little Dry Creek in Namadgi National Park. To access the sites we need to use 4 wheel drive vehicles and get access from National Parks authorities.

The project is slated to continue in perpetuity. Plans are afoot for Venturers to run the bi-monthly activity for Scout patrols, as well as integrating it into bushwalking expeditions. If you would like to participate (Venturers, Rovers, Scout Patrols all welcome) contact Vance Lawrence at brindabellaunit@gmail.com



RIDE FOR UNITY 2017

By Vickram Grewal

Ride for Unity is approximately a 50km loop across Southern parts of Canberra, where we visit a number of faith/community centres on our bicycles. We spend approximately 30mins at each centre, and we join in for their prayers, meditation or discourse on Peace & Unity from their perspective.

What started as a school project for a Primary School student in 2014 is back by popular demand because this activity brings people of Canberra together to celebrate diversity and remain united for peace and harmony.

You do NOT need to complete the entire loop, you can do one or more segments (join and leave at any point of your choice) – refer to the schedule that will be made available on our Facebook page shortly (note that you will need to arrange your own pickup/drop-offs).

If riding, you DO need Australian approved helmets and a roadworthy bicycle. These will be checked before you ride. If you don't have a bike, you can even use a motorised, two/three/four-wheeled vehicle!! Although this year we will be keeping off roads as much as possible, so, you can be in a car and see the riders off and welcome them at the next stop.

If you cannot join in the ride, you can still participate – simply join us in prayers at one of the centres!!! You can also help as a volunteer (on or off the bike).

You can register [here](#) or through our Facebook page

if you have any question please contact Vickram directly on rideforunity@gmail.com



NATIONAL HOT AIR BALLOON TITLES

By Tim Adams

Continuation from page 1

Fast forward to late August, and members of the team could be found outside a shipping container on the outskirts of Camden Airfield, near Sydney, packing the components of the balloon alongside a dozen other balloons making the trip overland to WA. Stacked inside the basket was every bit of equipment we'd require, carefully shrouded in bubble wrap, and stacked like three dimensional tetris pieces. Ten days after the balloon made its way to Northam on a train, four members of Scouts ACT followed it across.

James Ansell, Nikki Coleman, Tim Adams (ACT Branch) and Jacob Brown (Lake Tuggeranong Sea Scouts) were met at Perth airport by members of Scouts WA's Branch team. In conjunction with several local businesses and the Northam Scout Group, Scouts WA had sourced transport, a trailer for the balloon and farm-stay accommodation for the team. Not only that, but a handful of Branch Commissioners had volunteered to assist the team over the week and be trained up to be ground crew, not knowing just how demanding that would end up being.



The four members of the team were kindly hosted by the Group Leader of Northam's Scouts and camped alongside the Scouts WA personnel all week. The first two days of the event were solely for practice; most crews had travelled across country or from the other side of the world, so equipment had to be unpacked and checked, and in our case, our ground crew training had to commence. The championships officially opened with a spectacular balloon glow, where the balloons inflated and simultaneously burned their flames to music, in front of a crowd of over 10,000 people. While the Scout team was an old hand at Balloon Glows, never before had we performed in front of such a large and loud crowd (and in such a tight space). Story Continues on page 9...

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For the next week, our loyal and hard-working crew would be up at 4:30 each morning to meet the balloon team at a designated launch site, then meet us later each afternoon to do it all again. Proving that new experiences and skills are not just for youth members, our nine WA helpers worked tirelessly to learn about all aspects of ballooning and show just how competent they'd become. At the end of the week, all nine had successfully qualified for their half-wing badges, signifying that they'd completed the training and become qualified ground crew. Significantly, the Scout crew of 13 had become the envy of every other crew in the competition; working alongside vastly experienced professional crews, the Scouts proved themselves to be a highly capable team. Furthermore, several youth members had helped out along the way and had gained some unique experience that counted toward their award schemes.

Due to rules around qualifying for the competition, the Scout Balloon did not actually compete for points, despite participating in many of the event flights. However, participating in our crew was extremely popular with locals and visitors alike, allowing youth members from as far afield as Perth to assist with inflations and deflations, and showing the Scouting spirit is alive and well. Whilst in town, the team also ran a tether flight and a number of section activities for the Northam Group, teaching them some basic theory around flight, safety and of course, how the competitions actually work.

To fly around the Northam area for a week was an absolute privilege for everyone concerned. Apart from providing our pilots and crew with some challenging conditions, the beautiful countryside was like nothing we'd experienced in the past. Similarly, the warmth and hospitality of our WA colleagues left us incredibly grateful. Although the titles were exhausting, it was a fabulous opportunity to promote Scouting, one that the team made the most of. We are already looking forward to the next one!

