



# Scouts

ACT



# 2020 Annual Report



# Branch Management

## Branch Executive Committee

Mark Holmes (Chair)  
until 28 May 2020

Jackie Stenhouse (Chair)  
from 29 May 2020

Rodney Quiggin (Vice Chair)

Rick Goode (Chief Commissioner)

Ricky Wilson (Honorary Treasurer)

Brent Juratowitch  
(Region Representative)

Nathan Rose  
(Branch Rover Council Representative)

Luke O'Connor  
(Uniformed Representative)

David Cossart  
(Uniformed Representative)  
from 22 October 2020

**Branch Office**  
Sarah Smith  
Principal Administrative Officer

Michael Young  
Administrative Assistant  
until 8 June 2020

Claire Hubbard  
Administrative Assistant  
from 20 January 2020

Karen Cornish  
Bookkeeper

## Assistant Chief Commissioners

Lizz Affleck  
Youth Engagement

David Cossart  
Governance and Policies

Emily Horsley  
Health and Wellbeing

Brent Juratowitch  
Group Support

Alan Murray  
Youth Programs

Ben Muller  
Major Events

Peter Stevenson  
Adult Training and Development

Geoff Sheehan  
Budgets and Planning



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# Our Purpose and Mission

“The **Purpose of the Scout Movement** is to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.”

The educational Purpose of Scouting is further strengthened by the **Mission of Scouting** – “to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.” These two key statements remind us that Scouting is a program of personal growth and development, not just a fun set of activities for kids. It is education for life!

## The Three Principles of World Scouting

The Scout program enjoyed by youth and adult volunteers is based on three broad Principles which represent the Movement’s fundamental beliefs. They are known as Duty to God, Duty to Others, and Duty to Self. All Scouts commit to a code of living as expressed in the Australian Scout Promise and Law, which embodies the three Principles.

### Duty to God

This Principle refers to the spiritual values of life. It is described by the World Organization of the Scout Movement as “adherence to spiritual principles, loyalty to the religion that expresses them, and acceptance of duties resulting therefrom.” **Scouts Australia defines spirituality as:** the feelings or beliefs of a person regarding their purpose in life, connection to others and place in the world around them. These spiritual feelings or beliefs may change as a person develops and guide their actions throughout their life.

### Duty to Others

This Principle refers to participation in the development of society, recognition and respect for others and the natural world, and the promotion of peace, understanding, and cooperation. This Principle is also embodied in the World Movement’s tagline “Creating a Better World,” and is globally enacted by all Scouts as Messengers of Peace.

### Duty to Self

This Principle refers to the responsibility for the care and development of oneself. Scouts have a commitment to improving themselves in all areas of their lives.

## Method

Incorporating the other fundamental aspects of Scouting is the **Scout Method**. The Scout Method is how we do Scouting, and has eight elements that help support the development of young people. They are Learning by Doing, Personal Progression, Nature and the Outdoors, Promise and Law, Community Involvement, Symbolic Framework, Patrol System, and Youth Leading, Adults Supporting.



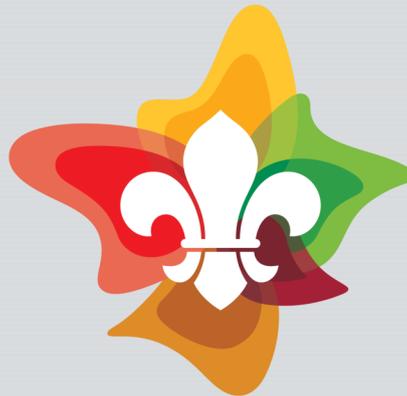
# The Australian Scout Promise and Law

## The Australian Scout Promise

There are two versions of the Australian Scout Promise. Individuals may select which version they wish to make.

On my honour,  
I promise to do my best,  
To be true to my spiritual beliefs,  
To contribute to my community and our world,  
To help other people,  
And to live by the Scout Law.

On my honour  
I promise that I will do my best  
To do my duty to my God, and  
To the Queen of Australia,  
To help other people,  
And to live by the Scout Law.



## The Australian Scout Law

### Be Respectful

Be friendly and considerate  
Care for others and the environment

### Do What is Right

Be trustworthy, honest and fair  
Use resources wisely

### Believe in Myself

Learn from my experiences  
Face challenges with courage

# Executive Reports

## President's Report

The Branch Executive Committee (BEC) is responsible for the overall operation of Scouts ACT. The focus of BEC is to develop and implement strategies for a sustainable and successful future. In 2020 BEC analysed a number of the Branch's key administrative and financial challenges and identified a pragmatically ambitious program to underpin the ongoing wellbeing of Scouts ACT.

The underlying imperative is the need to deepen and diversify the income of Scouts ACT. In doing this we can support great Scouting through the provision of better facilities, equipment, training and activities, and, of course, set up the conditions for growth in membership. This is achievable. Scouts ACT has impressive assets at its disposal to mobilise: passionate, skilled and committed people; a remarkable portfolio of properties and resources; and a track record of delivery on which it can build.

With these goals in mind, and with generous input from a range of experienced advisors from the ranks of Scouting, business and community, in 2020 BEC:

- reviewed the physical condition of all Scout Halls,
- compiled a comprehensive priorities-based plan for improvements, and arranged urgent safety upgrade works to a small number of halls; and
- began exploring options and opportunities to enhance Camp Cottermouth and build upon its business model.

The information and ideas assembled will support the work of BEC in 2021 and we look forward to reporting to you in the next Annual Report!

Not to be overshadowed by the shiny projects, is the vast array of business-as-usual services that the BEC and the Branch Office delivered to keep Scouts ACT functioning in 2020. Like our indomitable uniformed leaders who pivoted to Scouting @ Home, the Branch staff also worked from home for nearly 8 months during the COVID-19 shutdown. Accolades must go to Office Manager Sarah Smith for her swift and efficient response to the situation.

In early 2020 Michael Young, the Administration Assistant secured a wonderful career next step, and moved on from Scouts ACT to pursue new opportunities. Karen Cornish and Claire Hubbard joined the office team in the roles of Bookkeeper and Administration Assistant respectively. We also welcomed new managers to Camp Cottermouth, Allison and Dallas Shang. All of our new staff arrived within weeks of the COVID-19 shutdown. Words cannot express how very fortunate Scouts ACT has been for the gracious adaptability all staff showed in the turbulence of those times. We note with great sadness that two casual and permanent part-time staff were let go at Camp Cottermouth. The effect of COVID-19 social distancing and travel restrictions on Camp Cottermouth bookings was profound. JobKeeper was a lifeline for Scouts ACT and our staff. Through it all, the Office and the Camp kept delivering.





Under the attentive eye of Vice President Rodney Quiggin, BEC went to market and secured a more competitively priced suite of insurances for a range of risks. In an unfavourable market, with premiums generally the same or higher than last year for most of our policies, it was pleasing to secure coverage for our properties and equipment with a new provider at significant savings. The management of risk more generally is a prime occupation of BEC. The good standing in which Scouting is held helps us access the attention and services of experts in law, accounting, property, governance and other fields. Whilst confidentiality considerations limit the details, I record here sincere thanks for the support and advice provided to Scouts ACT.

The recent pace and scale of change we have faced in Scouting has been demanding. Change has come at Scouts ACT from external drivers (such as the National Redress Scheme and COVID-19), from national Scouting initiatives (such as the (new) Youth Program), and is also locally initiated (such as our Branch's project to re-engineer its online forms and processes). We are three decades into the 21st century. Whilst the core concepts of Scouting are time-tested and a magnificent asset to the community, the invisible infrastructure that sustains it must be ever-adaptable to the times. Our systems and platforms, our strategies, our policies, our administrative practices, our situational awareness and responsiveness, must address the realities of the age, and accordingly change is inevitable.

For your enduring collective commitment to the delivery of high-quality Scouting in the extraordinary year that was 2020, whatever your role or roles, on behalf of the BEC, I salute you and thank you.

Jackie Stenhouse  
President



## Chief Commissioner's Report

2020 presented a year of challenges to Scouting, both within the ACT and at a national level.

It started with the disappointment of having to quickly rearrange the running of the Rover Scout Canberra Asia Pacific (CBR APR Moot). This did however provide an opportunity for the Moot team to bring into play their well thought out risk management plans. It was outstanding and very satisfying to watch them respond and run what was ultimately a successful event: a true example of Youth Leading, Adult Supporting. The team has the thanks and admiration of all members of the ACT Branch for their efforts.

Shortly after the CBR APR Moot needed a change in direction, we had to cancel the ACT Cub Scout Cuboree. This was very disappointing however it was the correct decision. I know that the organising team, having spent the previous three years putting Cuboree together, were heartbroken to cancel. It has meant that the planning for the next Cuboree is being approached with even greater determination and enthusiasm. There were several planned national events too that unfortunately had to be cancelled, for instance the Venturer Scout OZVenture. These cancellations extinguished opportunities for Scouts from around Australia to participate in what would have been signature events where fun memories of Scouting were formed. Perhaps the biggest disappointment was the cancellation in February 2021 of AJ2022, the triennial national Jamboree.

Scouting moved from face-to-face to an online basis in March. Initially, this presented many challenges and we were fearful that Scouting would go into hibernation during the COVID-19 shutdown. Our Leaders and youth decided that they would do things differently and adopted many online platforms to continue their Scouting adventure. By the end of 2020, our numbers were slightly above those at the start of the year. An example of how the Scouting program was delivered differently was Cubornet, which is detailed in a case study within this Annual Report. This, as well as many other ways of delivering the program, provide great examples of the flexible response of all members of Scouting. No one was going to allow Scouting to fade away!

Camp Cottermouth, the spiritual home of Scouting in the ACT, suffered during the year. The COVID-19 shutdown had a massive impact due to a lack of school stays. When the first opportunity arose to permit use the Camp, our Scout Groups quickly took advantage and, on most weekends, enjoyed the 'welcome back Cotter' experience.

The reinvigoration of the Branch Executive Committee under a new President, Jackie Stenhouse, was another highlight for Scouting. We are seeing the positive results for this now on a weekly basis with support for hall and facilities management as well as up to date systems being implemented which support the program. Jackie details some of this in her President's Report.

This 2020 Annual Report is based on our Strategic Goals which we finalised in 2020. You will see, even at a cursory glance, the range of activities carried out during what looked initially to be a very tough year.





During the year I invited the Chairs of Branch Venturer Council and Branch Rover Council to become my advisors and to participate in my Chief's Counsel. It has been immensely pleasing to see them add their perspectives to our discussions and the openness with which they have approached these new, additional roles.

Without a great deal of support from the members of Scouting we would not be in a position where we can now look forward to the future of Scouting with enthusiasm. Scouting will never be the same again, but it will be better able to respond flexibly to the challenges and opportunities that the future holds.

In this year's Annual Report there are included several case studies that show how Scouting responded flexibly to the challenges of 2020 and I commend them to you. I thank the Assistant Chief Commissioners and my Advisors for their support and guidance throughout the year. It would not be possible to carry out the role of Chief Commissioner without it. I also thank the Branch office staff for their unflinching support throughout the year.

Rick Goode  
Chief Commissioner



# Strategic Goal 1: Youth at the Centre

*Scouts ACT embraces youth-leading, adult-supporting Scouting.*

The Moot Organising Committee, after taking appropriate advice from emergency authorities, regrettably, cancelled the second part of the long-planned and anticipated Moot. This was due to unsafe conditions and uncertainty in relation to the fire situation that existed at that time. Ben Muller, Moot Chair, and his organising committee are commended for their leadership and action in this very tense period. Special thanks, including a later financial contribution, was made to Ian Hewitt, Principal of Trinity Christian School and former Group Leader, for opening the school for the first half of the Moot for accommodation, activities and opening and closing ceremonies. The Moot had the tagline 'Creating Better Rovers'. This was updated in good humour to 'Continually Being Relocated'.



The cancellation of the Moot was followed shortly after by the cancellation of Cuboree. Cuboree, a regular three-yearly event for Cub Scouts, was scheduled to be held at Camp Cottermouth, the same location as the Moot. It would have been logistically impossible to transfer the event to somewhere else in Canberra at such short notice, and smoke would have still been a matter of concern. The Cuboree theme was to be 'On the Grid' and it was anticipated that participants would be invited to become a computer program to help them discover their strengths. The organising committee are commended for making this difficult decision to cancel.

Through negotiation with Scouts NSW, the ACT Branch took delivery of 2000 P2 air filter masks for use by members at Scout events and activities. The masks were donated by the Temasek Foundation of Singapore and presented by the Singapore High Commission. They

were part of a larger consignment sent to bushfire affected regions. They remain available for future use within Scouting.

In a tough environment, the viability of Scout Groups in the ACT received focus in 2020. Mulga Scout Group and Lanyon Valley Scout Group merged and the Duntroon Campbell Scout Group closed. After much analysis, the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) set 60 youth members as the marker for viability and a 12 month timeline was established to pursue growth. The Youth Engagement Team began working with several Groups to support them to boost numbers and pleasing progress was achieved.



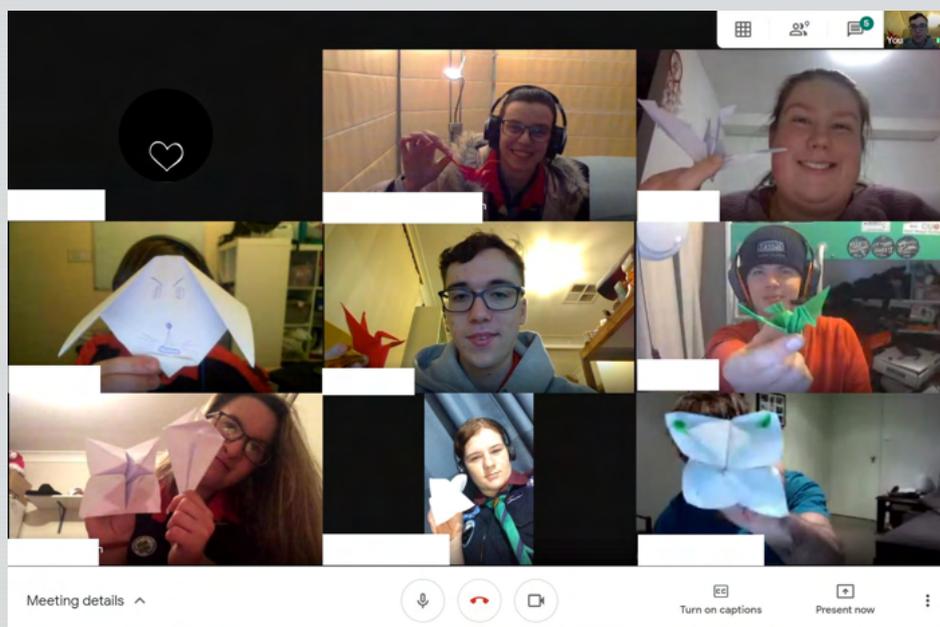
The sudden appearance of COVID-19 and subsequent impact on local, national and international activities had a major impact on the delivery of the face-to-face Scouting program. The focus in the period of suspension of face-to-face Scouting was to ensure that youth members had an active and relevant program to follow, albeit in a very different format and context.

The national program to support Scouting during this period was called Scouting @ Home. The ACT Branch instigated several actions in support of this. These included:

- facilitating online meetings at Unit, Group and Branch levels;
- encouraging youth participation in activities such as Geoscarfing, Cubornet and STEM activities;
- connecting youth members and leaders to national and other Branch online activities;
- changing the delivery of Leader of Adult training;
- flexible application of the rules and requirements for the major youth awards to reduce the barriers to completion many youth and leaders inevitably faced during lockdowns.

The ACT Branch was keen to invite our patron, Her Excellency, Mrs Hurley, to meet with youth and see Scouting in action, however lockdowns meant that no opportunities presented themselves in alignment with Mrs Hurley's availability.

Whilst many of the traditional face-to-face Scouting activities were postponed, Scouting @ Home demonstrated the resilience of Scouting members and their passion for the organisation.



The agility with which Scouting moved to meet these challenges was a major highlight and has changed, inexorably, and for the better, how Scouting will be delivered in the future. When restrictions eased the transformation to face-to-face Scouting was, consequently, almost seamless and many of the processes required to meet the challenge of COVID-19 were adopted as the new normal.

## Case Study: Cubornet

Cubornet was a nation-wide program initiated by the ACT Branch. The concept was to provide a weekend of livestreamed activities to the Cub Scout section. Volunteers from most State Branches of Australian Scouting signed up to run the activities. A Facebook page was created for the initial marketing and communication. As the parents signed their Cubs up for the event, the delivery platform was transitioned to a secure Google Classroom, in addition to the Facebook page.

Cubs were given access to a bespoke website to plan their weekend: it was particularly important that they sourced for themselves the equipment they needed for their activities ahead of time. A Google Meet link was posted 15 minutes before the start of each session and removed 10 minutes into each session. Each activity had two Leaders, one leader to run the activity and one to monitor cybersafety and security.

Cubornet kicked off on Friday night with everyone logging in on one of two Google Meets links. From Friday night to Sunday afternoon a team of volunteer Leaders managed four activities over 11 sessions. Activities ranged from cooking, paddling, bike maintenance, armpit fudge, magic and menu planning to science experiments. There was a campfire on Saturday night which saw 177 individual connections log in (some with families of 4 or 5 cubs in the connections).

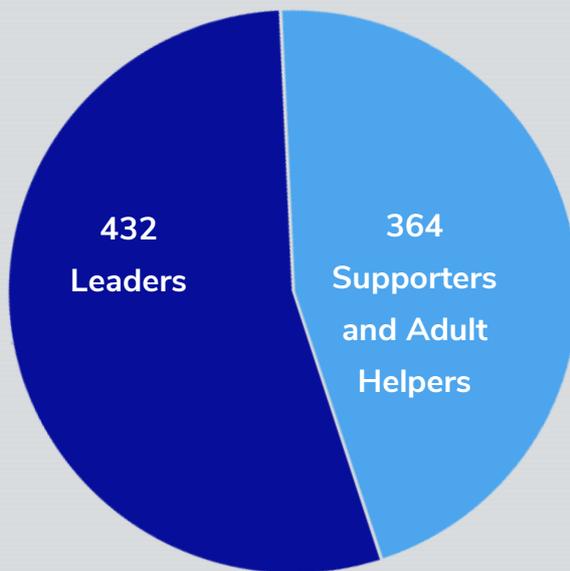
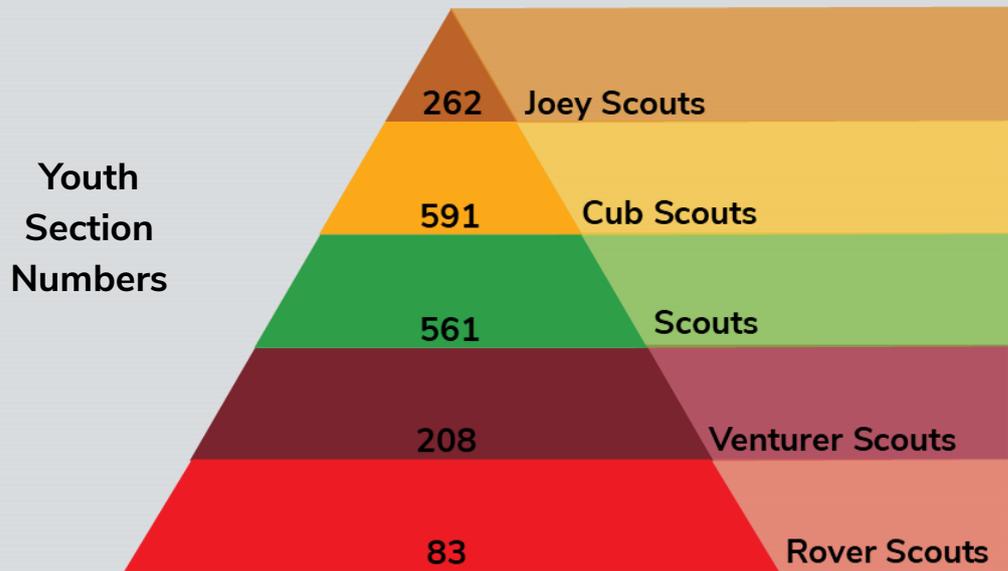
Across the weekend 40 Leaders (including one from Wales), 262 Cubs (including one from New Zealand and six from Wales) participated. Cubornet covered 13 different time zones (with the Welsh cubs joining us from their midnight to participate) and had youth representation from every Branch of Scouting in Australia.

Cubornet was a great success with extensive positive feedback being posted on the Facebook page from families that were involved. It was an innovative, ground-breaking activity, to the immense credit of all Leaders involved, particularly Tim Kirsopp, the ACT Cub Scout Commissioner. A great model has been established for future similar activities.

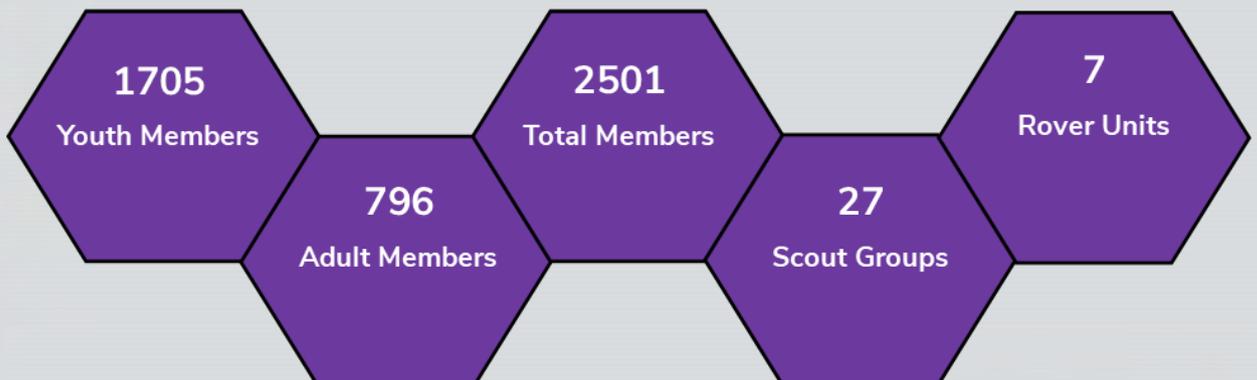




## Membership Numbers as at December 2020



## Adult Member Numbers



## Strategic Goal 2: Youth at the Centre

Scouts ACT is a sustainable, respected, well-governed and well-operated organisation.



The Moot Organising Committee was congratulated by ACT Emergency Services for their Emergency Management Plan (EMP), which was described as a model of best practice. The EMP was developed almost entirely by the youth involved and proved highly effective in dealing with the daily emergencies and issues that arose during the Moot.

Following an assessment by the Branch Executive Committee that led to the decision to switch banks, the transition to Bendigo Bank by all Groups, Units and teams of Scouts ACT commenced early in the year. The changeover was well advanced by December.

During 2020 the ACT Branch began the implementation of a purpose-built Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform and an accompanying integrated suite of online forms using the program Zoho. A grant was received from the ACT Government to support this project for which we record our appreciation. Whilst the build has been slow and caused challenges, the first high-volume workflows have been adopted, these being the Youth Membership Application and the Activity Approval and Consent process. By December, more than 6,000 parent activity consent forms had been processed through the system.

The ACT Branch received very positive publicity following a media release about our initiatives to ensure our members continued their Scouting. The Chief Commissioner participated in a number of radio and television interviews and took the opportunity to talk about the unexpected upsides that the COVID-19 situation presented to Scouting, particularly effects on youth leadership skills, improved teamwork and enhanced resilience in our youth.

Regular meetings continued using various online platforms, not only Section meetings but executive meetings as well. In some cases, during the most intense phase of uncertainty and change, these meetings were increased in frequency from monthly to fortnightly. With the easing of requirements, we resumed more face-to-face meetings towards the end of 2020 but have embraced the convenience of online platforms too, with a number of ACT Branch leadership teams now alternating their meetings between face-to-face and online to achieve the best of both formats.

Youth membership numbers reversed the first initial downturn once face-to-face Scouting resumed in Term 3.





Many Groups and the Branch office of Scouting benefitted from a generous donation by Bunnings of cleaning supplies to prepare our facilities for use again, and maintain COVID-19 compliant standards of cleaning and hygiene. Certificates of thanks were presented to Bunnings at the Majura Park and Belconnen during store staff meetings.



The recipients of Adult Recognition Awards were announced on 1 August, World Scout Day. Locally, recipients were presented with their awards at a pleasant outdoor ceremony on 18 October at Camp Cottermouth. The Governor-General and Mrs Hurley were invited to attend but were unavailable. The work of the Human Endeavour and Recognition Committee led by Craig Robilliard is noted with gratitude.

The ACT Branch Strategic Plan was finalised and endorsed by BEC early in 2020. It was reviewed and updated through the year. The strategic goals of the plan shaped the focus of Branch activities and provided the ability to better assess and review progress.

Our commitment to meeting the expectations of the community and meeting our compliance responsibilities for child safety continued in 2020. Emily Horsley, Assistant Chief Commissioner, Health and Wellbeing, and her team continued to review child protection policies and procedures and provided support and guidance to all members of Scouting with professionalism, discretion and care. Their services to Scouting in this highly sensitive and critical area are acknowledged with deep gratitude.



The BEC's Property and Assets Committee (PAC) conducted a comprehensive analysis of Scout property with particular focus on building condition and compliance. Confronting challenges and difficult decisions lie in our immediate future including how to prioritise and then fund a backlog of maintenance and upgrades. There are several halls that by on measure or another may be considered surplus to requirements. The drivers of decision are not yet fully articulated. The extensive output emerging from the PAC analysis is providing a solid platform for the discussion.

## Case Study: Behind the Scenes – Changing Banks

What is it like to change all the bank accounts, credit cards, debit cards, term deposits and people who operate bank accounts for Scouts ACT? Well, for the 100 or so accounts held by various parts of Scouting, it feels like trying to turn around a supertanker inside a bathtub.

Up until 2020, Scouts ACT held its bank accounts with Westpac but cheques and cash no longer suit our needs, and it was time to make a fresh start with Bendigo Bank.

However, bank accounts are complicated things and during a COVID-19 year it was not as simple as filling in a few forms and getting a few managers from Bendigo Bank branches in Canberra to come along to an information night. Nearly 12 months later we have more than half of the banking for Scouts ACT and the Groups going through Bendigo Bank, we operate on telephone banking, debit cards and the internet, and our banking is integrated our with our Xero accounting system.

Thanks are given to Caleb Te Moananui and the team from Bendigo Bank at the Wanniasa Branch who welcomed us from our very first meeting and made us feel as though they were there just for Scouting.

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## Case Study: Well Station Scout Group relocation

Well Station Scout Group, centred on Harrison, was established in 2010, the third Scout Group established in Gungahlin. It operated from the Harrison School utilising the gym, the canteen and a small meeting room. Due to lack of available space in the school, the Group was unable to store any of its gear onsite. Leaders stored flags, badges and other Scout equipment at their homes.

In 2020 the Downer Scout Hall became available and the Group jumped at the opportunity to relocate to a hall of their own. The hall needs upgrading but the Group Committee saw the potential and with the support of the PAC immediate remedial work was initiated. The hall will be ready for Scout meetings from February 2021. Even before the reestablishment of a Scout Group at the Downer hall, community interest was strong with a number of local residents enquiring about enrolling their children and volunteering to assist in working bees. Happily, youth membership is again on the rise. After declining through 2020 due to COVID-19, the move to Downer reversed a COVID-19-driven decline in youth numbers and 20% growth was locked in by the end of the year.

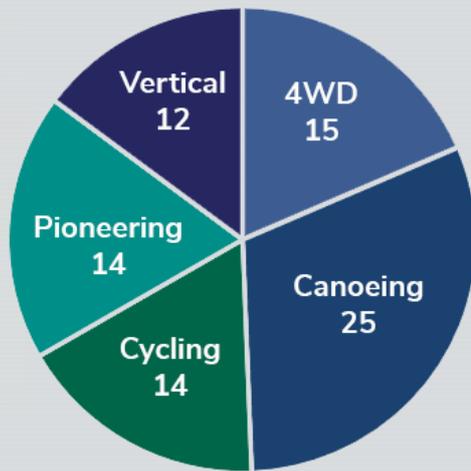
Unfortunately, although commendable efforts were made, Duntroon/ Campbell Scout Group closed on 28 June, unable to sustain a viable minimum size, and all existing members transferred to other Groups to continue their Scouting Journey. The long-term plan is for Well Station to return to Gungahlin when support is available to do so. The youth and leaders of Well Station Scout Group are delighted to have a place that they can call their own.





## Adult Training

'Wood Badge' training was conducted over 14 training days throughout 2020 with the following course participants:

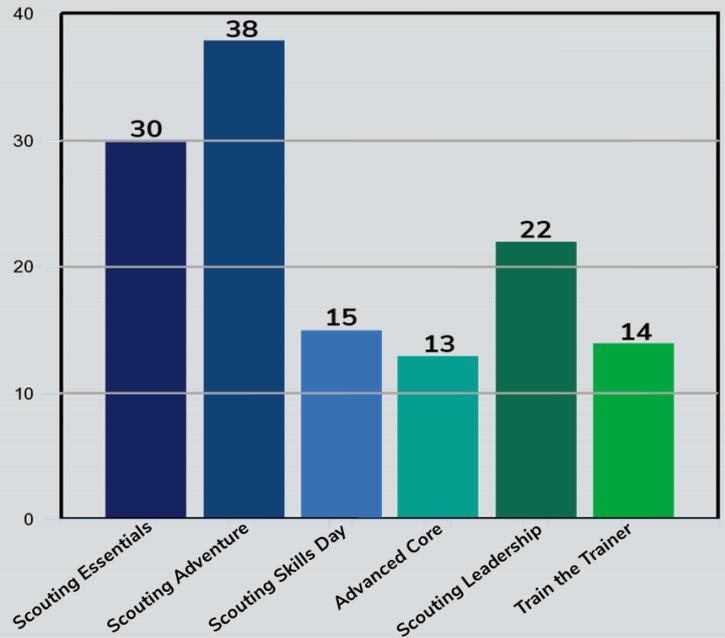


National Instructor appointment

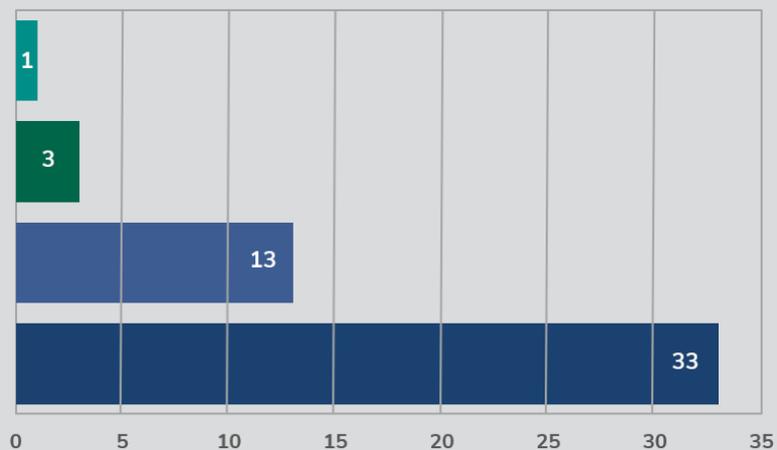
Axe & Log program completions  
(Certificate of Higher Adult Learning)

Wood Badge completions

Scouting Essentials training completions  
Certificate of Adult Learning (CoAL)



Adventurous Activities training was conducted over 16 training days throughout 2020 with the following participants:



## Governance



11 Branch policies were revised and updated



1 adult continues as a World Organisation of the Scout Movement consultant

# Strategic Goal 3: A Relevant, Quality Program

Scouts ACT develops youth and adult members' skills, knowledge and experience in a program that responds to the capability and interests of members. The program is fun, engaging and challenging.

Alan Murray, Assistant Chief Commissioner, Youth Programs, led the Australian Contingent to the New Zealand Jamboree over the 2019 Christmas period (28 December 2019 to 7 January 2020). 42 Scouting members from the ACT participated. In a related vein, Stephen Smart was appointed as the Contingent Leader for 25th World Scout Jamboree 2023, Korea. The OzVenture unfortunately had to be cancelled. Travel to New Zealand was to be a major part of the Venture and ultimately the decision was vindicated with no 'travel bubble' able to be established.



Scouting nationally had been using a system called Tracker to record the progress and development of our youth in the new Program. Scouts Australia decided to have a purpose built product developed to support the program and award scheme. Known as Scouts Terrain, it was introduced in mid-2020 with ongoing enhancements.

A two stream Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) program was run in 2020, rather than face-to-face as in previous years. This involved a resource kit for Section Leaders to run their own JOTA-themed activities at their hall or other venue to qualify for a JOTA badge. The Radio Team provided a limited radio station facility at Camp Cottermouth.



During 2020, the development of a new Scouts National Adventure Activity Framework (NAAF) and supporting documents continued. The framework is based on the broader outdoor education sector standards of Australia. The results are most significant for adventurous activity Leader qualifications and for supporting and assessing the program and the award scheme.

2020 marked the 30<sup>th</sup> year of Joey Scouts in Australia, (although we note with pride that ACT was ahead of the game and had three trial 'Mobs' running from as early as 1988!) The anniversary was marked with a special badge for all Joey Scouts, and with appropriate activities such as northern and southern area Mob Riots, themed on Antarctica.



### Case Study: 13<sup>th</sup> Canberra Scout Group Snow Trip

Skiers around Perisher Valley's Nordic shelter witnessed a particularly memorable moment for three boys as they were invested as Scouts on a clear July day in 2020. The ceremony marked the culmination of a four-day ski camp, which less than three weeks previously, faced cancellation by dint of COVID-19. Only five days previously, the snow-covered ground on which this investiture occurred was largely grass.

Fervent hopes or prayers for snow were answered, only for the moisture-laden dump to block roads and bring down trees. Many vehicles on that first day had to turn back well before skiing was possible. For those who reached Perisher Valley conditions were described as, pretty rugged. The reward came the next days for Scouts, whether participating in this activity for the first time or back for a subsequent experience. The cross-country trails, for which snow making is generally impractical, were covered with deep and, particularly for beginners, forgiving snow. Much of the talk later was about the numerous stacks experienced by most. The reflective talk later was more about the challenges overcome and the sheer beauty of the area where all this fun and adventure was had.



Traditions are important to Scout Groups, and for 13th Canberra, none more so than this annual cross-country ski camp. First held in 1977, all but a few were held at Cabramurra until Snowy Hydro foreclosed on the Scout Hall lease there in 2016. Since 2017, the 13th Canberra Ski Camp used the Perisher Valley, with daily travel from Jindabyne.

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### Case Study: Scout Cycling

Almost every youth member rides a bike on a regular basis or from time to time. Canberra is also known as a great cycling city with a variety of cycling disciplines such as Road, Touring and Mountain Bike. Many of the facilities for cycling are well located in the region. The combination provides many opportunities for Scouts to explore the urban area and visit parks, institutions, and activity centres such as Stromlo Forest Park; or explore a little further into the greater urban or regional area.

Since the renewed program of the last couple of years cycling is better reflected in the award scheme – whether mountain, trail, or on road cycling. Scouts ACT has also enhanced its cycling capability and now has Activity Leaders coordinating activities and equipment, training courses, and direct support to Groups, which became more visible as we could again get out and about, later in 2020. The number of Leaders with cycling qualifications are increasing, enabling them to conduct basic cycling activities.

Like many similar outdoor pursuits, cycling supports youth leading and adults supporting. In terms of planning, managing and enjoying cycling activities. And, it helps achieve elements of the awards scheme.



Over 2020 the team still managed a few activities within the ACT and successfully ran a Mountain Bike Level 1 and 2 course, assisted on an overnight camp with 13th Canberra Scout Group, ran a cycling night for LTSS Scouts and LTSS Rovers and started a Saturday morning bike ride for all Scout Section members at the National Arboretum. In addition to this the team undertook an audit and maintenance program for our aging bike equipment located at Camp Cottermouth. The foundations have been set to build a program open to all sections across the ACT.

## Peak Awards



**Joey Scouts:** Joey Scout Challenge Awards - 25



**Cub Scouts:** Grey Wolf Awards - 29



**Scouts:** Australian Scout Awards - 32



**Venturer Scouts:** Queen's Scout Awards - 13



**Rover Scouts:** Baden-Powell Scout Awards - 8



## Strategic Goal 4: Inclusive Growth

Scouts ACT leaves no one behind. We provide the opportunity for youth and adults to join and support Scouts.

The results of the national resilience survey (comparing Scouts with their peers) show what is being called 'The Scouting Effect'. Some of the positive outcomes of the survey included that Scouts:

- are more likely to enjoy school
- have better social skills
- are more likely to have a healthy body image
- hold values that are more likely to be positive
- have a better life satisfaction.

The manner in which Scouting and Scouters responded to the COVID-19 requirements is a testimony to the accuracy of the survey results.

The Chief Commissioner made a short video message of welcome for use at the opening of the Scouts Australia Disability and Inclusiveness e-Conference. This focused on our Branch support for both the e-Conference and support of disability, inclusiveness and diversity. Several members of the ACT Branch attended this online conference which highlighted how Scouting can and has adapted and responded in a flexible and appropriate way to include those with a disability. This remains one of the aims of Scouting at both a national and local level.

In a pleasing development, there were several appointments of young adults as Branch Advisers across the portfolios. This provides the ACT Branch with youth input into decisions at all levels across Scouting. It also reflects the 'Youth Leading, Adult Supporting' ethos of Scouting.



## Adult Recognition Awards

Rover Service Awards – 4

*For outstanding service to the Rover Scout Section*

Special Service Awards – 23

*For praiseworthy service to the Scouting community in their role*

Meritorious Service Awards – 2

*For meritorious and praiseworthy service to the Scouting community*

Silver Wattle Awards – 1

*For outstanding service to Scouts Australia in their active leadership role*

Outstanding Service Award- 1

*For significant, meritorious and praiseworthy service to the Scouting community in an active leadership role*

Silver Kangaroo Award- 2

*For eminent achievement and exceptional service to Scouts Australia*

National President's Award – 1

*For continued outstanding and highly valued service to the Scouting community over a long period or a unique and highly valued contribution to the wellbeing of Scouting.*



## Strategic Goal 5: Prepared Volunteers

Scouts ACT is an organization that is respectful, rewarding to belong to, easy to operate within, and that delivers the mission. We recognize and celebrate the contribution of our volunteers.

In response to queries from Leaders about approving activities in the very different 2020 situation (particularly where bushfires have damaged or affected many of the places that Scouts ACT use for our activities), Branch updated and circulated additional information on activity approvals, adventurous activities, risk management plans and other policies in this area. With no blanket ban on activities, each Group Leader was required to consider each activity on its merits and the risks involved.

Leaders continued throughout the year to be assessed for VET Qualifications, whether for personal development or as required to lead those adventurous activities requiring them. This proved to be a busy area over summer.

Regular Jumbunna meetings (defined as a training activity for Group Leaders) addressed issues surrounding COVID-19 and the changes it imposed on Scouting. Group Leader's input and endorsement was regularly sought, and their contribution greatly aided the Branch response.



The Training Team supported the Scouting community by facilitating and encouraging training where possible without face-to-face courses. From mid-2020 training activities were progressively able to resume, including face-to-face with appropriate adjustments.

Scouts Australia Institute of Training (SAIT) has continued to support both the youth program and adult development by providing external Vocational Education and Training (VET) outcomes.

In late November 2020 the opening of Scouting facilities was permitted (including on a limited basis, Camp Cottermouth). The decision about when to open hall-based activities was delegated to Scout Groups. They were supported in making this decision by the Scouting Executive.



Weekly updates from the Chief Commissioner to all members during the height of the COVID-19 close-down provided up-to-date information and policy advice to all members of the ACT Branch. In this way members were able to quickly respond and support continuity in the delivery of the Scouting program.

The suspension of all international travel for Scouting purposes by Scouts Australia continued through 2020.

### Case Study: Scouting Adventure Courses – an introduction

With the refreshing of the Scout program in the last couple of years, the training of Leaders has become more integrated to support the One Program, One Journey focus (one progressive award scheme). Outdoor adventures are a foundation element of Scouting for most members, supporting learning, leadership and teamwork, achievement, and personal well-being. The training for Youth Program Leaders (Leaders of Youth) now requires and provides for all Leaders to have some outdoor confidence and proficiency to support youth members of all ages. Yes, Joey Scouts can go camping, Cub Scouts can go cycling, Scouts can build bridges, and Venturers and Rovers can do almost anything in the outdoors. The training to support new Leaders is provided through the recently developed Scouting Adventure course, delivered nationally by Scouting Branches. Three were run in the ACT through the last few months of 2020 with many participants, both new Leaders and others upgrading to support the program. The course contains some theory and many practical components – map and compass navigation – old and new technologies; outdoor equipment including cooking, camping and footwear; a little walking but not too hard; cooking and camping overnight; where to go in and around the ACT; and tools and tricks for the outdoors. The courses to date have been busy, friendly, and fun; may that continue. Equally importantly it has assisted Leaders supporting youth members in the award scheme and to support them to enjoy and appreciate the outdoors.



## Scouts Australia Institute of Training (SAIT)

4 nationally appointed SAIT assessors	
	ACT Chief Commissioner appointed Chief Commissioner's representative on the SAIT Management Committee.
17 Industry recognised qualifications are offered through SAIT covering Business, Volunteering, Training, Outdoor Leadership and Creative Arts	
    	

## Appointments for 2020

<p><b>Certificate of Adult Membership (Trainee Leader)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 34 Presented</li> <li>• 10 Resigned</li> </ul>	
<p></p>	<p><b>Certificate of Adult Membership (Rovers)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 Presented</li> <li>• 16 Resigned</li> </ul>
<p><b>Certificate of Adult Leadership (Leaders)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 Presented</li> <li>• 29 Resigned</li> </ul>	
<p></p>	<p><b>Secondary Appointment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 Presented</li> </ul>

## Qualifications, units and modules awarded in 2020 for youth and adult members of Scouts ACT



20 full qualifications, Certificate II to Diploma, at a commercial value of \$154,000.



21 partial qualifications, various activity groupings, at a commercial value of \$37,000.



612 individual Units of Competency, at a commercial value of \$153,000.

# The Arthur Shakespeare Foundation for Scouting Pty Ltd

Established in 1985, the Arthur Shakespeare Foundation for Scouting is a Trust to provide support for the development of Scouting in the ACT. The late Ross Hohnen and the late Jack Deeble established the Foundation with the support of Heather Shakespeare OAM in memory of her husband Arthur Shakespeare. Arthur Shakespeare was editor of *The Canberra Times* for many years and a significant contributor to the Canberra community, including Scouting. The Fairfax family, then owners of the *Canberra Times*, were also a significant contributor in establishing the Foundation.

The purpose of the Foundation is to manage the funds of the Trust and to liaise with the Branch Executive Committee of Scouts ACT to provide support for Scouting. Although the amount varies from year to year depending on the needs of the Branch, grants generally approximate the annual income of the Trust. In 2020, the Foundation provided Scouts ACT with grants of \$100,000 which also included the value of the annual scholarships.

Directors of the Company are appointed by the Branch Executive Committee. Directors for the 2020 reporting period were: Steve Lambert (Chair), Neville Tomkins OAM JP (Vice Chair), Peter Hofer (Honorary Treasurer), and Leon Tannahill AM. Laura Pierce and Zyl Hovenga-Wauchope were appointed as Directors in September and December 2020 respectively, and Dominic Bentley was reappointed in December 2020. Rick Goode (Chief Commissioner) and Mark Holmes (President) were also Directors by virtue of their Branch positions, with Jackie Stenhouse replacing Mark Holmes in June 2020. Graham Downie was the minute taker for meetings.

Directors collectively brought significant and diverse expertise to the company with qualifications and experience in commerce, law, accounting, regulation, governance and investment management as well as significant contributions to Scouting.





## CONTACT US

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