



Scouts in ACTion

Australian Capital Territory Branch

April 2015

Happy 34th Birthday ACT Branch

At a public meeting on 17/8/1927 the Canberra District was formed as part of the NSW Branch with Dr Alcorn as the first District Commissioner. On the 15/7/1949 the Minister for the Interior authorized the use of the "City of Canberra Arms" as a "District Emblem". NSW Branch gave permission for Canberra District groups to wear it on their uniform. When the District split into North Canberra District and South Canberra District in 1959, the badge continued to be worn by all members. At the inaugural meeting on 13/3/1962 NSW announced the setting up of a new Area "Canberra Area" taking in the ACT, Cooma and the Snowy Mountains and such centres as Queanbeyan, Braidwood and Captains Flat. More than 600 members came under the new Area administration, with Canberra as the new headquarters . In October 1963 Area administration requested a name change to "Canberra Monaro Area" to better reflect the area covered. The new area started with 5 Districts, North Canberra, Mt Pleasant, Red Hill, Woden Valley and Monaro. As Canberra expanded and new Groups opened more Districts were formed. Some were temporary, other amalgamated and names were changed. In 1980 in preparation for the new ACT Branch the surrounding Groups reverted back to NSW and the ACT ones amalgamated in Limestone Plains, Tuggeranong and Ginninderra.

On the 1st of April, 1981 the Australian Capital Territory Branch was officially declared.

From the Chief



This month I would like to acknowledge and focus on the importance of our non uniformed helpers and supporters in the ACT Branch. These dedicated adults work behind the scenes to resource the delivery of the Scout program. You might find them helping at a section meeting helping either directly with the program or providing something scrumptious to eat for supper. You might find them on a Group or Branch Committee contributing their time and talents to providing money or other much needed resources from badges to Scout Halls!

To recognise the importance of our non uniformed adults in Scouting the ACT Branch has been running Group Manager Workshops. These gatherings are designed to assist in particular Group Support Committee members and other interested adults in thier role of sourcing Scouting.

Our most recent workshop commenced with an evening of Xero followed by some Insurance discussions. Thanks to our Principal Administrative Officer Karen Jones the Xero Workshop was very easy to understand. Steve Rowley made the sometimes difficult area of insurance seem logical and straightforward. In the near future (15 April) we will be welcoming the Region Teams and our Development Officer to lead the Training and Recruitment Group Managers Workshop. This will include reviewing our website, online forms and communication regarding training. You can register at workshops@act.scouts.asn.au Both uniformed and non uniformed adult members are welcome.

In the meantime make sure you acknowledge and thank our Group Support Committee members - perhaps you already have done so by nominating them for a National Adult Recognition award. On behalf of us all I thank these very important volunteers for their time and energy in supporting the delivery of the Scout program.

Mob Riot 2015

By Elizabeth Davey and Judy Ascione

About 70 Northern Region Joey Scouts and Junior Guides came together on March 11th at John Knight Park for an evening of fun to celebrate 25 years of Joey Scouts. The celebrations consisted of six exciting activities. The tricky flowers that squirted water were a hit and the Joeys enjoyed surprising “unsuspecting” leaders and parents with them. They made and ate griddle breads. Being a party they played party games and sang a silly song. They decorated their own glittery party bags for lollies.

Joeys are not the only ones celebrating 25 years; 2015 is also 25 years of The Simpsons. Joeys combined the two celebrations, playing a running game themed on The Simpsons. The Junior Guides provided a small tent filled with balloons which the Joeys and Guides entered and searched for treasure. All the Joey Scouts and Junior Guides had a great time and left smiling and chatting to their parents about all the things they had done.

We would like to thank all the Leaders and parents who either ran a base, helped on a base, or escorted the Joeys around.



Reach for the Stars

By Kate Lehane, Les Explorateurs Scout Group, Group Committee - Communications

Les Explorateurs Scout Group are very excited to announce a special Scouts only astronomy night at Mount Stromlo Observatory on **Saturday 15 August 2015** during [National Science Week](#).

So make sure this date is clearly marked on your calendar so you can enjoy:

- a series of kid-friendly astronomy talks (meteorites, lasers, aliens and more...);
- star gazing outside using telescopes, if weather permits; and
- a limited edition badge (first 500 Scouting members) that the Chief Commissioner has approved as a Branch Activity badge that you will be able to wear on your uniform.



Watch this Space (haha!) as we work together with our partners from *Mount Stromlo Observatory* to develop a program of age-appropriate activities for Joeys, Cubs and Scouts that can be used to supplement the National Science Week event.

This is all possible due to an [ACT National Science Week seed grant](#) to lead a series of astronomy activities for [Scouts Australia \(ACT Branch\)](#) members and their families.

Keep an eye out on the [Les Explorateurs Scout Group website](#) or [Facebook page](#) for further updates or contact Kate Lehane (klehane76@gmail.com).

Register now via:

scouts-act-reach-for-the-stars.eventbrite.com.au



Canberra Balloon Festival

By Joe Coppin, Assistant Chief Commissioner Adventurous Activities

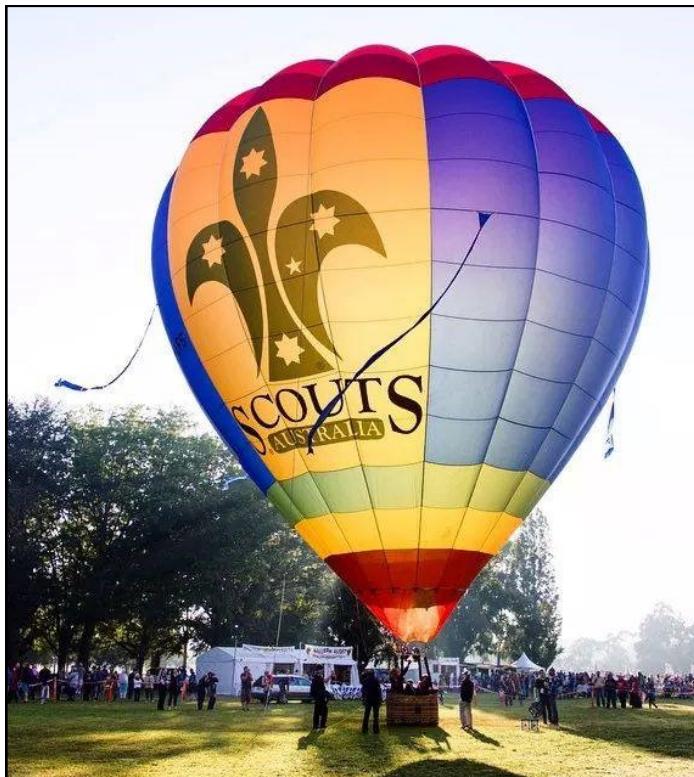
The Canberra Balloon Fiesta came to a close after 10 long but exciting days. To everyone who came down thank you for the support, it was great to have you there!

It takes a huge amount of commitment to haul yourself down to the briefing every morning at 6am without any guarantee of even setting up. We would like to give a special thank you to our Scouts with Altitude Team who set up the balloon, gave tethered rides, handled the crowd and helped promote Scouting.



James Ansell (Chief Pilot), Jesse Coppin (Crew Chief), Bob Sobey (Team Leader), Danny Galbraith (instructor advisor and mentor), Ross McConnell (Air Commissioner), Richard Turnbull (Pilot), and our Ground Crew: Peter Bartholomeusz, Nicolas Gardiner, Kylie Tonan, Richard Barrott, Jack Noble, Susanne Gardiner, Rob Morris, Corey Coppin, Leah Bach, Jesse Moore, Steph McConnell, Courtney Sandell, Hamish Farrow, Trent Chalker Georgiou , Diego Martinez, John Coppin, William Strutt and finally all the members from the Chinese Phoenix group who helped me with crowd management.

You all deserve a huge BRAVOOOO for an activity very well done.



Air Scouts Cubs Reach New Heights at Mount Kosciuszko

By Martine Pekarsky (Jacala), Cub Scout Leader, Air Scouts Canberra

Last month the Cubs at Air Scouts challenged themselves to make it all the way to the Summit of Mount Kosciuszko, the highest point in Australia. The 13.4km loop started from the top of a chair lift point at Thredbo, and included spectacular scenery. After the walk we took a bobsled ride at Thredbo followed by a swim in a heated pool and spa. On Sunday we went canoeing and sailing on Lake Jindabyne as a thunderstorm loomed overhead. We shared the Alpine Centre lodge with the Cubs from Southwell Scout Group and made some wonderful new friends. It was a sensational camp and another thing to add to our list of memorable Scouting experiences! Leaders if you're looking for a great place for your next camp, contact Kirrily from the Scouts Alpine Centre Jindabyne on Phone (02) 6456 2433. For camp planning documents contact Martine/Jacala at leaders@airscouts.com.au.

