



Annual Report 2021

Helping young Australians achieve their personal best



Acknowledgement of Country

Scouts ACT acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional custodians of the lands where we play the game of Scouting.



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Photo Acknowledgements

The photos in this report have been supplied by many members of Scouting – thank you all. Special thanks are extended to Tracey Noble, James Lehane, Vance Lawrence and Mark Cooper for making available a rich resource of amazing images from 2021.

Donations

Investing in Scouts is an investment in today's youth and Canberra's future young leaders. Donations are easy via our secure online platform. They are tax deductible and we issue receipts immediately.

www.givenow.com.au/scouts-act

Benefits we deliver

Fun!

Scouting is fun for all members of all ages. Yes, we have been around for a long time and we are unashamedly 'values-based' but we are not old-fashioned and there is never a dull moment. Scout Fun is a gateway to whole-of-life resilience, adaptability and wellbeing.

Resilience

In 2018, Resilient Youth Australia surveyed more than 200,000 Australian children. The results showed participating in Scouting led to above-average resilience – the strength to deal with the challenges of modern life. We call it 'The Scouting Effect' and you can read more about it on the Scouts Australia website www.scouts.com.au

Leadership

From leading a small group to making decisions that impact the whole unit, in Scouting every young person has endless opportunities to develop their skills in leadership. We are developing the leaders of the future.

Mental health

The 2016 UK Children Study found that former Scouts are 18% less likely to suffer mood or anxiety disorders than non-Scouts, even decades later as adults. The study found programs like Scouting that support resilience, social mobility, 'soft' non-cognitive skills, self-reliance, collaboration and activities in natural environments may help mental health in adulthood.

IMPROVED Academic outcomes

Scouting is linked with improved school results, especially at upper secondary levels. Research by Professor John Hattie, University of Melbourne, shows that secondary school students do better when they do an extra-curricular activity that is organised and structured, with regular programs, increasingly complex skill building, leadership by one or more competent adults, a social network, leadership opportunities and age-appropriate goals and expectations. Scouting provides all this and more.

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Who WE ARE

Scouts ACT is a child-safe organisation committed to helping young Australians achieve their personal best in all areas, including leadership, resilience, confidence and responsible independence. We are part of a global organisation with more than 50 million members.

Our purpose

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 potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

Our mission

Our mission is 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.

Our values

The Scout Promise and Law express our values. Everyone makes the Scout Promise when they first join Scouting, and again at major milestones in their Scouting journey. This includes our commitment to live by the Scout Law.

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

SCOUT Promise

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

OR

- ♦ To do my duty to my God, and
- ♦ To the Queen of Australia
- ♦ To help other people
- ♦ And to live by the Scout Law

What WE'RE PROUD ABOUT IN 2021

We're proud that we grew

Despite the impact of COVID and lockdowns, our youth **membership grew 10.1%** during 2021 – most marked in our Joeys section (5 to 8 year olds), which had a **25% increase.**



We're proud of being a **youth-led organisation**

Every day we saw youth members taking another step in their personal journey, emerging gradually as well-rounded young people who can look after themselves, care for others, organise and lead.

- ◆ Our youth members led major activities such as SciScouts and Gang Show.
- ◆ Our youth members were appointed to senior Contingent Leader roles for the 80th New Zealand Moot 2022 and the Apple Isle Moot 2022-23.
- ◆ Our youth members are embedded in all that we do, serving on Branch advisory bodies, decision-making councils and operational teams, as well as within their Scout Groups and Rover Units.

Thank you to all our Leaders, Trainers, Commissioners, Team Leaders, Adventurous Activity specialists, Parent Helpers, BEC members, Subcommittee members, and Group Committee members who gave their time, energy, talent and passion to Scouting during 2021.

We're proud our organisation had the **strength** and **resilience** to cope with COVID

- ◆ We were nimble and adapted from face-to-face Scouting to online Scouting, and back again
- ◆ We communicated quickly and effectively so Scouting could continue safely and comply with health directives
- ◆ We preserved the financial wellbeing of Scouts during a difficult year.

We're proud we kept **delivering** an **exciting, high-quality** Scout program

- ◆ We managed the 'now' while also keeping an eye on the future, restructuring our office and energising key Branch Executive Committee (BEC) subcommittees to empower our next steps.

We're proud of our **amazing** volunteers

- ◆ We maintained our volunteering commitment to many community services, environmental projects, and fundraisers.



Our youth members earned **172 Peak Awards***



46
Joey Scout
Promise
Challenges



66
Cub Scout
Grey Wolf
Awards



32
Australian
Scout
Awards



20
Queen's
Scout
Awards



8
Baden-Powell
Scout
Awards

*These awards were earned over 2020 and 2021 – many youth members needed additional time to complete their program due to COVID disruptions.



CHIEF COMMISSIONER AND ASSISTANT CHIEF COMMISSIONERS

Name	Role
Rick Goode	Chief Commissioner
Peter Stevenson	Assistant Chief Commissioner Adult Training & Development
Geoff Sheehan	Assistant Chief Commissioner Budgets & Planning
David Cossart OAM	Assistant Chief Commissioner Governance & Policy
Brent Juratowitch	Assistant Chief Commissioner Groups
Emily Horsley	Assistant Chief Commissioner Health & Wellbeing
Alan Murray	Assistant Chief Commissioner Youth Program

BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Name	BEC membership category
Jackie Stenhouse	President
Rodney Quiggin	Vice President, Public Officer, Member
Ricky Wilson	Honorary Treasurer
Andrea Butler	Leader or Adult Supporter nominated by the Branch Regions
Nathan Rose	Rover Representative
Luke O'Connor	Uniformed Member
David Cossart OAM	Uniformed Member
Marin Dickens	Adult Supporter Member
Rick Goode	Chief Commissioner
Jan Tarbotton	Minute Taker (not a member of BEC)

Branch Office and Camp Cottermouth Staff

Name	Role
Jo Legge-Wilkinson	Executive Officer
Kylie Denny	Property Officer
Nicolas Gardiner	Administration Assistant
Karen Cornish	Bookkeeper
Allison and Dallas Shang	Camp Cottermouth Managers

Message

FROM THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER & PRESIDENT



Rick Goode

Delivering despite the challenges

We know it's an overworked cliché, but 2021 was a challenging year for us all. Everything we did was shaped by COVID and the long, ever-changing actions our nation took to reduce the risk. This Annual Report is testament to the extraordinary achievements of our volunteers and staff who juggled, adjusted and innovated continuously to help Scouting deliver on its mission.

And deliver we did. Whether viewed through the lens of our Strategic Plan, our Youth Program, or more broadly through our Mission and Purpose – Scouts ACT made good strides in 2021.

More than 100 actions sit behind the five themes identified in Scouts ACT's Strategic Plan 2019–2023. It's a hefty 'to do' list, which is shared among the Chief and Assistant Chief Commissioners and their teams, and the BEC and its sub-committees. To date, **50%** of actions have been completed and a further **39%** are underway.



- not commenced
- In progress
- Completed

We worked hard in 2021 to communicate with our community and be visible and accessible. The Chief Commissioner's Weekly Communique kept members up to date with Scouting news and achievements, and informed Leaders about the practical implications of each new public health measure. Our President and Executive Officer began a regular Admin Newsletter to support Group Leaders and Committees with their administrative responsibilities. Our Property Officer launched the Property Forum, as a way to develop new strategies for our property management goals.

Our Facebook pages were important channels to advertise Scouting activities, and keep in touch with each other during lockdown and beyond. We all became proficient not only with simple online meetings but also with delivering interactive events and activities online. Examples populate this report.

We continued to build our relationship with the ACT Government, taking up opportunities to meet with or host ACT Government Ministers, MLAs and officials to showcase Scouting and promote the positive impact of Scouting on Canberra's young people and the community more broadly. Pleasingly, in 2021 the ACT Directorate of Sport and Recreation recognised Scouts ACT as a peak body. It is noteworthy that Scouting is in scope for grant funding from no less than three ACT Government Directorates, indicating that we truly are an organisation delivering impact broadly across the Canberra community. We also continued to engage with the School Tourism Forum, and became a member of the Australian Camps Association.



Jackie Stenhouse



Marking our anniversary year

2021 was the 40th Anniversary of Scouts ACT. On 1 April 1981, Scouting in the ACT was formally established as an entity independent of Scouts NSW. To note the anniversary, Leon Tannahill AM, the first Chief Commissioner of Scouts ACT, presented a unique artifact to the Branch Executive Committee: the Printers' Plate from a special feature run in *The Canberra Times* on 5 April 1981, announcing the formal establishment of Scouts ACT. Other articles appeared in the paper that day, one on the front page written by Graham Downie, still fully engaged 40 years later as a Scout Leader at 13th Canberra Scout Group.

Unfortunately, COVID meant we couldn't hold an event, but we provided a commemorative badge to all members.

Recognising room to improve

We acknowledge areas of struggle and disappointment too. With regret we closed the Zoho Portal project, which we started in 2019 with great optimism, aiming to deliver a better activities and administration management platform. The project helped us understand weaknesses in our practices and systems and provided insights into alternatives. But ultimately we had to acknowledge we lacked the capacity to sustain the platform once built, and it was not viable to continue. We selected the Operoo platform to replace it, with implementation planning well advanced by year's end.

In addition, our Health and Wellbeing Team led by Assistant Chief Commissioner Health and Wellbeing Emily Horsley provided support to manage a small number of complex interpersonal disputes. Adult grievance is an emerging trend among all Branches of Scouting, thought to be associated with a combination of external and internal factors. We continue to focus on providing the best management and support we can in these situations, and improving aspects of our organisation that are triggering irritants. Assistant Chief Commissioner Groups, Brent Juratowitch, and his team worked closely with Groups to provide practical advice, pragmatic solutions, and back-up to Group Leaders and Committees where needed.

And while we are delighted with the steady growth in youth recruitment, we acknowledge it is difficult to recruit Adult Leaders. Again, Scouts ACT is not alone among the Branches of Scouts Australia in facing this challenge, and resources and strategies such as LeaderBuild are being developed and shared nationally.



This Annual Report is the last of six that I have contributed to as Chief Commissioner. Those six years have seen major changes and challenges in Scouting. I have seen a move to online training, new uniforms, the National Redress Scheme, a whole new Scouting program and several issues outside our control – like the bushfires and COVID-19 – that have provided both challenges and opportunities. I have no doubt that these challenges and opportunities will continue, just as I have no doubt that Scouting will keep rising to meet them.

Scouting has continued to adapt and indeed flourish, maintaining both our role as the premier youth development organisation in the ACT and Australia, and relevance to the wider community. Volunteers are at the heart of Scouting and it is the skill and commitment of these volunteers that has encouraged me in my role.

I have been asked on occasion what it takes to carry out the role of Chief Commissioner. The answer for me is straightforward. It is the team that I work with. I have had the pleasure of working with colleagues that share my commitment, who have my trust, and who have lent me their support. I thank them for this.

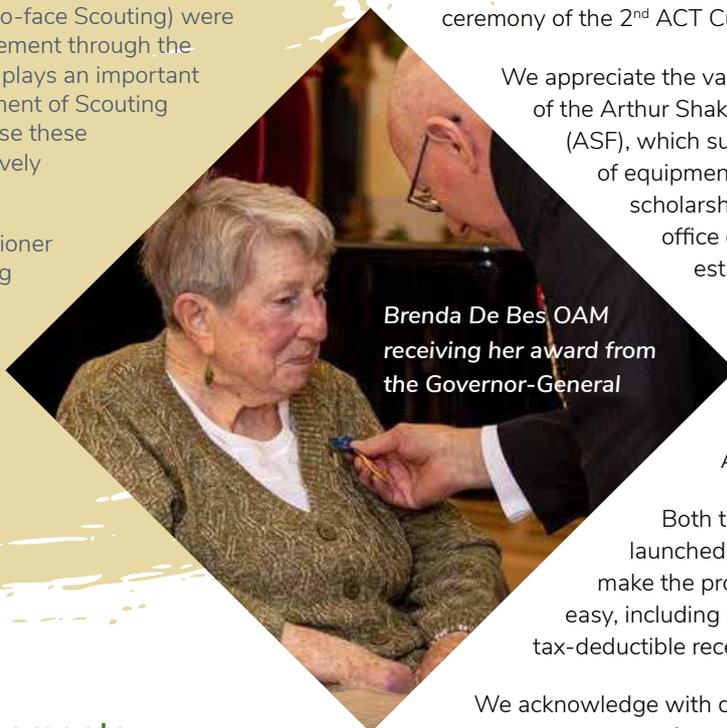
During 2021 I focussed on maintaining and building engagement with our members and supporters through a regular newsletter. The primary aim of this was to pass on accurate and timely information about Scouting activities, and to ensure that decisions made for the betterment of Scouting (such as a forced COVID-19 shutdown of face-to-face Scouting) were transparent. Continued engagement through the myriad sources available to us plays an important part in the continued development of Scouting and I encourage everyone to use these communication tools as effectively as possible.

I wish the next Chief Commissioner the very best in taking Scouting in the ACT and nationally forward towards its vision as the premier youth development organisation in Australia.

Yours in Scouting
Rick Goode

Honouring achievements

There are many remarkable people in our ranks, several of whom were publicly recognised in 2021. One of Scouts ACT's longest serving members, Brenda de Bes, was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her service to youth through Scouting, which was presented in person by the Governor-General, His Excellency the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd).



Brenda De Bes OAM
receiving her award from
the Governor-General

Mulga Venturers Charlotte Mitchell and Ryan Aquilina were awarded 2021 Exceptional Young People Awards in the ACT Children's Week Awards. Assistant Chief Commissioner David Cossart OAM was awarded a Certificate of Good Service by the Asia/Pacific Regional Scout Committee. The commitment and achievements of 42 Leaders and supporters were acknowledged through our Human Endeavour Recognition Awards, detailed elsewhere in this report.

We also paid our respects to the late David Daws and Wayne Geale, who 'went home' during 2021.

Appreciating our donors and contributors

The Chief Scout of Australia, the Governor-General, His Excellency the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), and the Patron of Scouts ACT, Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley, kindly contributed video messages to Scouts ACT during 2021. Mrs Hurley provided a message for the Annual General Meeting of Council on 27 May 2021, and the Governor-General and Mrs Hurley recorded a joint message for the closing ceremony of the 2nd ACT Cubornet later in the year.

We appreciate the valued financial contribution of the Arthur Shakespeare Foundation (ASF), which supported our purchase of equipment, hall upgrades, youth scholarships, youth program, and office overhead costs. Since its establishment in 1985, the ASF has provided \$3.1 million to Scouts ACT. ASF Directors report briefly on the Foundation's activities elsewhere in this Annual Report.

Both the ASF and Scouts ACT launched online platforms in 2021 that make the process of donating quick and easy, including automatic generation of tax-deductible receipts.

We acknowledge with deep thanks the kind and generous support we have received from individuals and from many local businesses who gave pro bono services or wrote their invoices with 'sharp pencils'.

To all, for your enduring collective commitment to Scouts ACT in 2021, we thank you.


Rick Goode


Jackie Stenhouse

“Nothing like sleeping in subzero temperatures with your water bottle literally freezing next to you **INSIDE** the tent. What an introduction to overnight hiking for many of our younger Mt Mugga Scouts who hiked from Brayshaw’s Hut to Mt Clear in Namadgi – particularly those who forgot their torches, lost their gloves, misplaced their beanies, gagged on their dehydrated food, and threw up in the car on the bumpy drive home! Ah, just another scout camp. Thanks to my excellent scouters who shared in the fun – we’ll all sleep well tonight!”

Tracey Noble

Scout Leader
Mt Mugga Scout Group
whom we salute for her good humour!

THE Game OF SCOUTING





As an organisation, Scouting aims to be relevant and respected, recognised and valued for our role in contributing to the development of young people as responsible citizens.

Neither COVID nor rainy La Niña wet weather could dampen our good humour, fun or achievements during 2021. We were all determined and creative in our efforts to keep calm and keep Scouting.

Our formal name for the game of Scouting is the Youth Program. The Youth Program was coordinated by Assistant Chief Commissioner Youth Program Alan Murray and his team.

At its core, Scouting is an educational program for young people. Through the Scout Program framework, we deliver a vast range of experiences at a pace that matches each young person's readiness for a new level of challenge. This is in line with the concepts expressed in Scout Law – **learning from experience** and **facing challenges with courage**.

Our adventures were mostly limited to our own homes, the local Scout Hall, Camp Cottermouth and some areas in Namadgi National Park, with occasional visits to surrounding NSW when travel restrictions allowed. But even within those confines, our youth members and leaders still managed to camp, hike, cycle, ski, sail, climb, build, perform, train, earn badges, serve the community, and nurture the social ties that make Scouting a good place to be.

Learning THROUGH DOING

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

The Scout Program provides all young people with the opportunity to learn through doing. Over time, youth members **participate in skill-building and other activities, assist to deliver activities or teach skills, and eventually lead or teach others**. As these examples of youth leadership from 2021 illustrate, it is a system that works.

Branch Scout Council

is the youth leadership body in the Scout section. A representative from each Scout Unit across Scouts ACT is invited to be a member of the Council. It meets four or five times a year. The Council members discuss issues from their home Units, exchange ideas for activities and ways in which the Branch Scout team can support them. It helps to plan Cotter Shield (the annual Scout Patrol competition/camp). A favourite agenda item is deciding on the theme and mystery ingredient for the MasterChef challenge at Cotter Shield.



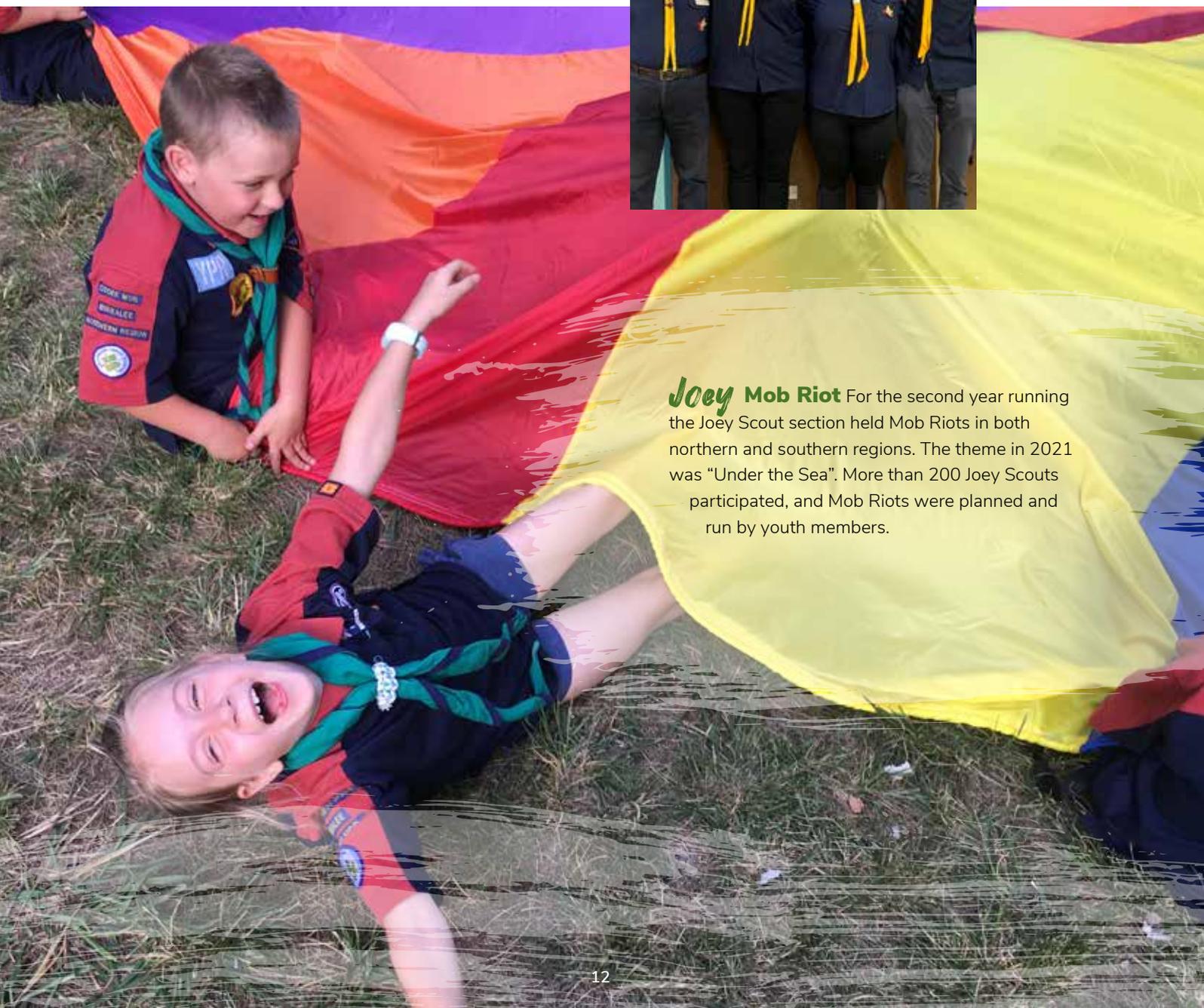
Gang Show

Around 200 families and friends enjoyed the 2021 Gang Show performance on the stage at Camp Cottermouth. Even though COVID meant rehearsals were held online, all patrols contributed to the show, with each writing their own skit. The show was ably led by five youth members – Maddie Woodward, Olivia Butler, James Daly, Bron Lovejoy, Emily Nahon, and supported by the Branch Commissioner Gang Show, Mark Slattery and Branch Activity Leader Gang Show, Andrea Butler.

Group Support Team and after school care

Rovers Sara Taylor, James Daly and Emily Nahon were recruited to join the Group Support Team in 2021. Under the leadership of Sara Taylor, who was appointed Branch Adviser Youth Engagement, the team promoted Scouting to After School Care providers and the YMCA. Before COVID restrictions came into force, we held major events with the YMCA at Camp Cottermouth in January 2021 and staged

other events through the auspices of local after school care providers in Belconnen and Tuggeranong.



Joey Mob Riot For the second year running the Joey Scout section held Mob Riots in both northern and southern regions. The theme in 2021 was "Under the Sea". More than 200 Joey Scouts participated, and Mob Riots were planned and run by youth members.

Helping OTHER PEOPLE

Community Service

is a core value in Scouting. We have long-standing relationships with many charities in Canberra and we regularly get involved in community and fundraising causes. Due to COVID, we had to find new ways to participate in many activities and events in 2021 but of course, as Scouts, we were steadfast in our commitment to help where we could.

Special Children's Christmas Party

The Canberra Special Children's Christmas Party usually provides a day of fun and entertainment to Canberra children with medical, learning and socio-economic challenges. While the live event for 2021 had to be cancelled, the organisers were still determined to brighten the lives of these amazing young people by delivering surprise Christmas present packs.

Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and adult helpers from Diamantina, Southwell, Crowajingalong, Lake Burley Griffin and Birralea Scout Groups and Bethungra Rovers joined forces with National Mailing and Marketing and Rotary to help bring a Christmas smile to the faces of thousands of Canberra region kids.

We encourage and support young people to play a constructive role in society and help build a better world.

Working solidly for five hours, they made and labelled boxes, picked and packed presents, and prepared pallets of packages for the Canberra Special Children's Christmas Party distribution.

Christmas hampers for St John's Care

A small group of Scouts from Lake Ginninderra Sea Scouts Orion Troop got together to pack 425 Christmas hampers at St John's Care in Reid. This was their 5th year working with St Johns. While numbers had to be limited due to COVID, much was achieved in a short period of time. A great community activity!





“Imagine the monetary value of all the volunteering Scouting provides to the community! It’s like the advertisement for Mastercard... absolutely ‘priceless’.”

James Lehane

(Cricket)

Branch Environment Commissioner.

Relay for Life

The Cancer Council re-worked Relay for Life into Relay your Way in 2021, and Canberra’s Scouts embraced the challenge. A joint team led by Venturers from Southwell Scout Group, including participants from 13th Canberra, Crowajingalong and Lake Ginn Rover Crew, relayed in two-hour shifts in canoes and kayaks on Lake Ginninderra, across two long, 12-hour days.

They completed approximately 60 kilometres and raised \$1,400.

Kama Scout Group’s version of ‘relay your way’ was to complete 24 Scouting activities in 24 hours, finishing with a mini-fete, and a Lids 4 Kids marathon sorting session. They raised \$511.

Lids 4 Kids

Canberra’s Scouts are enthusiastic supporters of the Lids 4 Kids initiative, which diverts plastic drink bottle lids from landfill for other uses. Founder Tim Miller’s three sons are members of Kama Scout Group and Tim was formerly a member of the Parent Support Committee. Plenty of sorting has been done at the Kama Scout Hall, including in 2021 when it formed part of Kama’s Relay for Life project of ‘24 activities in 24 hours’.



Helping EACH OTHER

Scouts ACT has a rich resource of equipment to share. Every Scout Group has access to canoes and kayaks, ropes and spars, archery, abseiling and caving equipment, and many other resources that it would not be feasible to provide individually.

Importantly, many Scouting Leaders have additional training and qualifications and volunteer their time to run adventurous activities for all Groups and Rover Units, often on top of their local group commitments. The stories of our adventures appear throughout this report.

The Scout Fund, The Quiggin Fund and the Southwell Fund

In 2021 we maintained our commitment to making Scouting financially accessible for any young person who would like to participate. The Scout Fund is an ACT Branch resource, funded by the Arthur Shakespeare Foundation. 22 members received assistance from the Scout Fund in 2021. Benefactors with links to local groups also provided financial resources for youth members. The Quiggin Fund operates at Kama Scout Group, and helped five members in 2021. The groundwork was laid during the year for the Southwell Fund at Southwell Scout Group, which will launch in 2022.

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



Helping each other occurs in other more 'everyday' ways, too. It is common for Scout Groups or Units to organise joint activities. It can be as simple as coming together for a night of games and activities at a Scout hall, going on a day-hike or bike ride together, or joining forces to run a more ambitious camp or event. Joint activities were one of the unexpected advantages of the online environment during lockdown: it was easy to connect with other groups virtually, and a lot of fun.

Every Cub Scout and Cub Scout Leader in the ACT was made a member of the 1st Canberra Virtual Cub Unit during lockdown in 2021. We posted a program online in advance, explaining each activity and the resources needed. Cub Leaders volunteered to lead meetings in real time. Activities included simple cooking, craft and construction.



The *Sea Scout* Groups

were generous with their boats and sailors. There are many stories of our Lake Tuggeranong, Lake Burley Griffin and Lake Ginninderra Sea Scout Groups, and Rover Units, hosting land-based Scout Groups on the water, sharing their time, resources and skills with other Scouts.

From woodlands to stars, chemistry to physics, and engineering to computer science – we encourage an interest in all things STEM and innovation.

Now with a national footprint, the SciScouts program was originally established in 2015 by Branch Commissioner STEM Kate Lehane and her youth-led team. It builds partnerships with local universities and other specialist providers to connect our youth members with passionate experts and deliver informative, age-appropriate science in a fun way.

Since 2015, we have delivered a broad range of astronomy, chemistry, environment, engineering and health and fitness themed programs in collaboration with an amazing range of partners including Australian National University (ANU) Mount Stromlo Observatory, ANU School of Chemistry, ANU College of Engineering and Computer Science, Fizzicks Education, Engineers Australia, Engineers without Borders, Robogals, and Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary.

STEM and Innovation is one of six Special Interest Areas in the Scout Program award scheme. By injecting broader STEM into existing programs, we support Leaders to further enhance the experiences of our youth members. Through participation activities, events and workshops, we strengthen the skills of our youth members and Leaders, boosting their confidence to lead similar activities.



The theme in 2021 was 'Science of the Outdoors'. We also offered exciting opportunities in other areas of science under the banners of Food Chemistry and Space Squad Online Edition. Highlights included an online guided tour of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and a Q&A session with Australia's Chief Scientist and Joey Scout Leader, Dr Cathy Foley.

The year's activities were supported by funding from Australian Government Inspiring Maker Project (Stream B), ACT Children's Week and AMP's Tomorrow Fund.

“**#MajuraJoeys** making fire extinguishers! Fantastic activity, led by one of our Joeys after attending the **#SciScouts** workshop on the weekend. **Scouting@Home** has started off well!”

Comment posted on Facebook by a **Joey Scout Leader** Majura Mountain Scout Group

**ADVENTUROUS
ACTIVITIES
TRAINING**
14 TRAINING DAYS DELIVERED

RIVER RESCUE 12 PARTICIPANTS
RIVER CROSSINGS SKILLS 12 PARTICIPANTS
TRAINED PARTICIPANT CANOE COURSE 9 PARTICIPANTS
QUALIFICATIONS WORKSHOP 13 PARTICIPANTS
4WD 9 PARTICIPANTS
ALPINE WORKSHOP AND FIELD 20 PARTICIPANTS
COORDINATE EMERGENCY RESPONSES 23 PARTICIPANTS
REMOTE AREA FIRST AID 15 PARTICIPANTS
VERTICAL – QUALIFIED PEOPLE SKILLS REFRESH 8 PARTICIPANTS

Originally developed for schools, and widely used in that sector, Operoo is an Australian online solution for managing permissions and medical information for students. It translates very well to the Scout setting and is now used by all branches of Scouting in Australia.

While Scouts ACT is the last Scout branch to adopt Operoo, we have been ambitious and innovative with it. Our skilled IT and Digital Coordination Committee has built a version that can manage not only our Activity Approval and Activity Parent Consent processes but also our full suite of administrative forms and workflows. The rollout is expected to be complete by May 2022.

Operoo delivers results for Scouts ACT, meeting key needs we have been struggling with. It will provide a secure central repository for all current and historical activity records, building into a valuable source of data for many purposes including marketing, grant applications, impact measurement, insurance and risk assessment and strategic planning. It is an easy, user-friendly platform that delivers a quick and efficient experience to all stakeholders. Operoo is well-supported by the vendor, meaning we will be able to sustain it with limited Scouts ACT staff resources.

Benefits for parents

- ◆ No need to provide medical information each time child attends an activity
- ◆ Easy to give consent via phone app
- ◆ Retain full control of child's medical information and contact details
- ◆ Update medical and contact details any time
- ◆ Can pay easily by 'clicking through' from consent form

Benefits for youth members

- ◆ Older youth members can initiate activity plans for approval
- ◆ Configured to suit Rover Scouts (able to self-manage activities, much like Scout Leaders)

Benefits for Leaders

- ◆ Streamlined process for approving activities and distributing consent forms
- ◆ Easy to record attendance at activities
- ◆ Can view member emergency contacts and medical information online and offline
- ◆ Central place for all youth member details and medical requirements

**WOOD
BADGE
TRAINING**
9 TRAINING
DAYS
DELIVERED

**TRAINING
TEAM
CONFERENCE**
18
PARTICIPANTS

**SCOUTING
ESSENTIALS** 30 PARTICIPANTS
.....
**SCOUTING
ADVENTURE** 25 PARTICIPANTS
PLUS 3 WHERE RECOGNISED PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) WAS ACHIEVED
.....
**SCOUTING
LEADERSHIP** 9 PARTICIPANTS



Caring FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In 2021 the ACT Government released a [report](#) revealing ACT environmental volunteers would cost more than \$21.5 million a year if they were paid for the work they do. We are proud to say that environmental volunteering is in our DNA at Scouts ACT.

Clean Up Australia Day

A staple in our annual program, Scouts never miss Clean Up Australia Day. Many groups did their bit to clean up their neighbourhood and other public areas around the ACT in 2021.

The Cubs and Joeys of Mulga Scout Group wrote a promise confirming what they would do to protect our environment and then put their words into action at Point Hut Pond in Gordon.



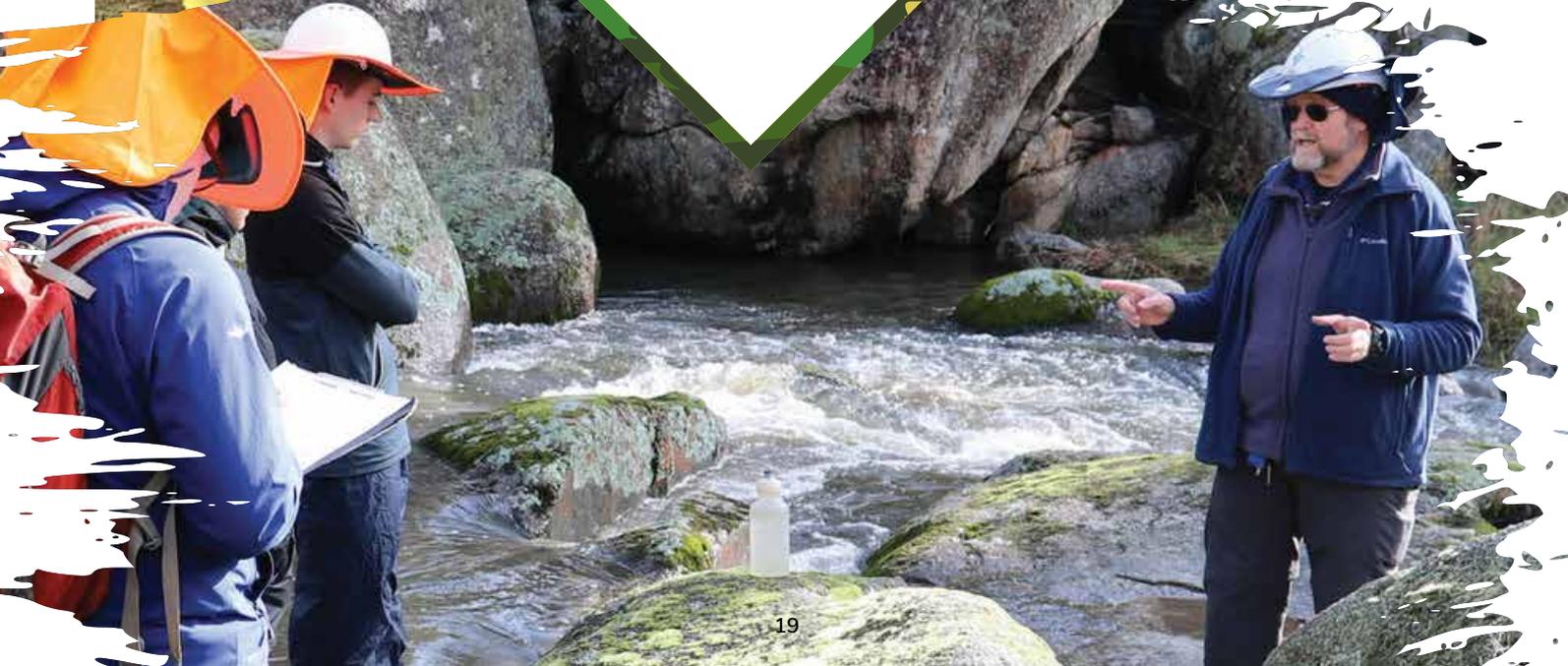
Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch

Is an ACT Government program that depends on the effort and commitment of volunteers. A core Waterwatch activity is training volunteers to use a water quality monitoring kit to collect monthly chemical and physical measurements.

Our Scout Environment Team works at specific sites in the Namadgi National Park. Volunteers also collect complementary data on aquatic macroinvertebrates (water bugs) and riverbank vegetation, both of which provide insight into the health of our catchment. The data goes to the Atlas of Living Australia, where it is used by land and catchment managers, emergency response agencies and researchers.

Vance Lawrence (Venturer Leader at Southwell Scout Group) has coordinated Scouts ACT participation in Waterwatch for many years. This activity, important and worthwhile in itself, is also a great opportunity for Scouts and Venturers who are working towards a range of achievements in the badge award scheme, including in the areas of Environment, Creating a Better World, STEM, and Growth & Development. And of course, every outing to a natural area is also an opportunity for bushwalking and camping.

Caring for the environment
is part of the Scout Law.



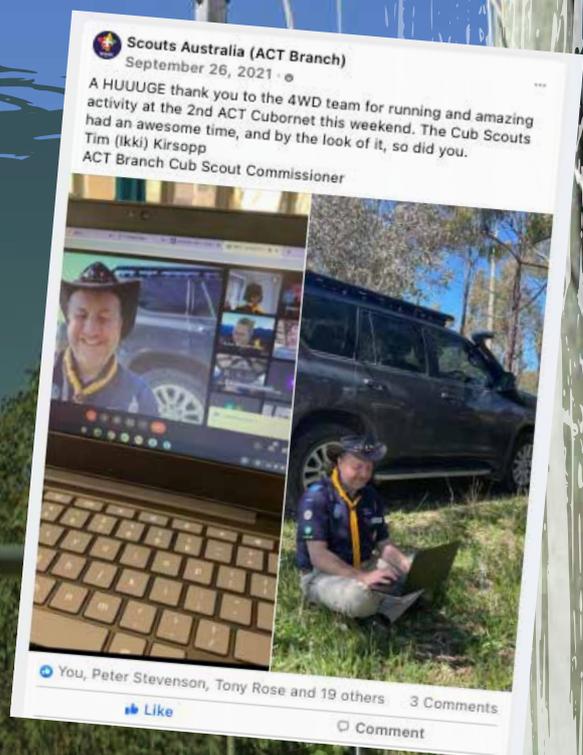


Here are some of the comments posted by parents and leaders on Facebook after Mark's Cubornet session.

“Great activity and contact, thanks Mark.”

“My son Josh thoroughly enjoyed that session.”

“This was a great session thank you.”



PROVIDING *diverse* EXPERIENCES

We support youth and adult members to access activities, experiences and training.

Many events – local, national and international – were cancelled in 2021 due to the risks and logistical difficulties caused by COVID. To the credit of our people, many substitute events were developed, even though some of them in turn had to be cancelled! But we persisted, and managed to hold a diversity of events in 2021, often at very short notice. Many people contributed to give our youth members the best version of Scouting possible in the circumstances.

We missed out on...

- ◆ AJ2022, which was cancelled in 2021
- ◆ World Jamborette, an ACT Branch event designed as a substitute for the cancelled AJ2022, also had to be cancelled, and
- ◆ Cuborette 2021, a substitute for the cancelled 2020 Cuboree, was in its turn cancelled too.

...But we did enjoy...

- ◆ Cotter Shield
- ◆ Cubornet
- ◆ Cub Branch Campfire
- ◆ Walk Around Mars
- ◆ SciScouts
- ◆ Summer Camp 2021
- ◆ Two TriLakes Regattas
- ◆ 42nd World Scout Conference and World Scout Youth Forum (hosted online by Scouts Australia)

...And the future looks promising for these exciting national and international events...

- ◆ National Rover Moot ('Apple Isle Moot') – Tasmania 2022–2023
- ◆ Scandinavian Friendship Tour, 2023
- ◆ 25th World Scout Jamboree – Mondial, Korea 2023
- ◆ 43rd World Scout Conference – Egypt 2024
- ◆ Australian Jamboree AJ2025 – Queensland 2025
- ◆ 17th World Moot – Portugal 2025
- ◆ 26th World Scout Jamboree – Poland 2027

Cotter Shield

This is an ACT Branch competitive patrol-based event for the Scout section, held annually at Camp Cottermouth. Patrols undertake nine rotations of problem-solving challenges. Patrols are assessed on their teamwork, leadership and SunSmart preparation. Additionally, they are assessed on their campsite set up and a Masterchef-style cooking challenge which involves a mystery ingredient. Normally attracting around 400 Scouts and Leaders, we had to cancel the 2020 event, and the 2021 event was downsized somewhat to comply with COVID requirements. Approximately 240 Scouts in 43 patrols took part. Penguin Patrol from Mt Taylor Scout Group was the winner. This activity was organised by Scout Commissioner Susanne Gardiner (Kookaburra) and her team, with contributions from the Pioneering Team, various Scout Groups, and the Venturers of 13th Canberra Scout Group who ran a Wide Game one evening.

Cubornet

This very successful national activity for the Cub section was initiated by ACT Cub Commissioner Tim Kirsopp in 2020 to support our pivot to online scouting (a national initiative known as Scouting@Home). The Cubornet event was run again in 2021, delivering a weekend of live-streamed activities led by volunteer Cub Leaders from around Australia through a secure Google Classroom and Facebook page.

Cub Branch Campfire

Cubs, Leaders, parents and siblings braved the cold to come together for badge swapping, Badge Shop, songs and skits at the Cub Branch Campfire. This activity was organised by Cub Commissioner Tim Kirsopp (Ikki) and his team.



Summer Camp 2021

Summer Camp is usually held every three years to prepare for the National Jamboree, but in 2021 Summer Camp was held *instead of Jamboree* and numbers had to be limited to 200. There were a range of activities at Camp Cottermouth over three very warm days in January, and an offsite day at Big Splash water park to finish. This activity was organised by then Scout Commissioner, Michelle Taylor (Seahorse) and her team.

Walk the Red Planet Challenge

Cub Commissioner Tim Kirsopp (Ikki) challenged ACT Cubs collectively to walk (or ride or paddle) the distance equivalent to the circumference of Mars: 21,344 kilometres. This was inspired by the landing of the Perseverance Mars Rover in February 2021. Challenge accepted! The Cubs, their Leaders and families logged 27,565 kilometres – smashing their goal by 6,500 kilometres. This good news story was picked up by the Canberra Weekly and published on 12 December 2021.

Sailing regattas

Our three ACT Sea Scout Groups run an annual sailing competition called the Tri Lakes Regatta. Normally staged three times per year, in 2021 we were able to squeeze in two regattas around COVID restrictions. A two-day regatta on Lake Ginninderra in February included competitors from 2nd Abbotsford Sea Scouts (Sydney). A total of 85 youth members competed in 47 sailing boats, supported by three safety boats. Then in November we held a one-day regatta on Lake Burley Griffin with our local sea scout groups. Lake Ginninderra Sea Scout Group won Tri Lakes 2021 overall, and also took home the Division One trophy.

With full credit to our keen youth and great Leaders, our Sea Scout Groups are highly competitive against all comers. All three groups appear regularly in the winners lists for the Sirius Cup Regatta, an annual regatta now 70 years old, based at Mosman on Sydney's Middle Harbour. This event regularly attracts around 800 participants from Scout Groups around NSW and the ACT. Unfortunately, the Sirius Cup was not run in 2021, but we look forward to reporting on the 2022 event in our next annual report.



Skilling OUR PEOPLE

Training our people – both youth and adult – is the foundation of Scouting. Although COVID resulted in slightly fewer training days in 2021, we minimised the impact by rescheduling training as required, and our achievements are noteworthy.

Training is delivered by the Scouts ACT Training Team, under the leadership of Assistant Chief Commissioner Adult Training and Development Peter Stevenson, Branch Commissioner Training Susan Deeble, and Branch Commissioner Adventurous Activities Julian Yates. The Scouts Australia Institute of Training (SAIT), of which Assistant Chief Commissioner Governance and Policy David Cossart is the Deputy Principal, facilitated our ability to obtain Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector units where these are required for Scouting roles and activities. Peter, Julian and David are SAIT assessors.

The Woodbadge Training Program meets the requirements of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement, and delivers the baseline knowledge and skills required of Scout Leaders, leading to a Certificate of Proficiency. There are also optional increasingly advanced curricula, leading to prestigious qualifications commonly known as Wood Beads, and the Axe and Log.

We embrace
'Youth Leader, Adult
Supporting' scouting.
Scouts ACT develops youth and adult
members' skills, knowledge
and experience.

Adventurous Activity Qualifications are also delivered by the Training Team. Focused effort in recent years has produced a solid core of Scout Leaders who are skilled and qualified to lead adventurous activities. These leaders are usually embedded in Scout Groups but sometimes also work within specialist teams to deliver activities (this is known as a Secondary Appointment). Our rich resource of 'AA' trained Leaders means we can regularly offer many exciting outdoor activities including bushwalks ranging from easy to extremely difficult (remote and untracked terrain); kayaking, canoeing and sailing; alpine activities ranging from cross-country skiing to overnight on-snow expeditions; archery; abseiling; rock climbing and caving; and pioneering (construction with ropes and spars).

Alongside skilled Leaders we need excellent administrative support to make sure all activities are well-planned and safely run. We invested significant effort in updating policies, guidance notes, training materials and other documentary resources such as risk assessment templates, which are easy to find on our Scouts ACT website for anyone planning, leading or approving Adventurous Activities.

In 2021, 32 Scouts ACT Leaders obtained Adventurous Activity scouting qualifications, bringing the total to 279 AA qualifications held by 137 adult members of our branch. AA qualifications are also held by some youth members. Many of our leaders embrace the training opportunities provided by Scouting and hold qualifications in more than one Adventurous Activity.

The **Scouts Australia Institute of Training (SAIT)**, which is a registered training organisation (RTO), provides recognised VET qualifications. Members can earn nationally recognised qualifications from Certificate II up to Diploma level in business, leadership and management, and outdoor recreation – free of charge. Scout training may be used towards gaining SAIT qualifications. Members can take these courses to advance their personal or professional aspirations, or support their role in Scouting.

During 2021, SAIT delivered 27 VET qualifications and 54 statements of attainment, with a commercial value of \$236,000 to members of Scouts ACT.

The ACT SAIT team also provides assessments, qualifications and statements of attainment to external clients, including through an agreement with the ACT Government for Birrigai Outdoor School.

First Aid *training*

First Aid training is a staple Scout Program activity for all age groups, and for Leaders. From age 14, youth members can acquire recognised qualifications through a third party such as St John Ambulance, and regularly do so. In 2021 we organised 'Provide First Aid' courses, which 40 members completed, as well as three mental health first aid courses which were fully subscribed.

The formally recognised Wilderness First Aid Skill Set enables outdoor leaders to cope with injuries in remote or isolated areas for an extended period until emergency services arrive. It includes the 'Provide First Aid', 'Coordinate Emergency Responses' and 'Provide First Aid in Remote Locations' VET units. For youth members, the Outdoor Adventure Skills (OAS) program recognises the importance of having these skills, as this is a prerequisite for many higher OAS stages. For adult members, Wilderness First Aid is required for many higher level Guide (Adventurous Activity) appointments.

In 2021 we ran courses for 'Coordinate Emergency Responses' and 'Provide First Aid in Remote Locations' for both youth and adult members. Participants who also held 'Provide First Aid' were awarded the Wilderness First Aid Skill Set. A total of 13 Wilderness First Aid Skill Sets were awarded, with two going to Scout section youth members.



THE *business* BEHIND SCOUTING

Behind Scouting there is an essential infrastructure of people, platforms and processes. The business of running Scouting, or running Scouting's business, is the responsibility of the Branch Executive Committee (BEC).

In 2021 BEC restructured the Branch Office to improve capacity to meet our business needs. Importantly, we needed to refresh our approaches to general business, financial planning and management, and equip ourselves to manage our sizable portfolio of 33 scout halls better. We employed an Executive Officer to lead a strategic analysis of our business operations to help identify and embed improvements and innovations. We also employed a Property Officer to help Groups with the never-ending task of hall maintenance and repair.

The BEC's subcommittees, consisting of Scouting and external volunteers, staff and BEC members, increase the capacity of our small office team to deliver resources and services to frontline Scouting. Our subcommittees take on a range of everyday operational responsibilities, and inform BEC of emerging issues and recommended approaches. In 2021 the BEC reviewed the Terms of Reference for subcommittees to clearly articulate the function, procedures, skill base and reporting requirements of each subcommittee. This improved reporting to BEC, and helped attract new members to our subcommittees.

The review also identified some gaps in our operational capacity, and in the last quarter of 2021 we were able to address one of these. The IT and Digital Coordination Committee was formed in response to an urgent requirement for a coordinated approach to managing our core IT systems.

During the year, we also focused on the pressing question of income. The effect of lockdowns and border closures on our school tour accommodation business at Camp Cottermouth was severe. We were diligent about expenditure savings, and pursuing grants and other sources of income. For example:

- ◆ we received support through the Australian Government's JobKeeper program and from the ACT Government's COVID-19 Business Support Grant and Small Tourism Operator Recovery Payment
- ◆ we were awarded four 2021 Volunteer Grants and the Arthur Shakespeare Foundation won another on behalf of Camp Cottermouth – providing a total of \$23,038 for equipment and Leader training initiatives
- ◆ our SciScouts team won a \$17,848 National Science Week grant, a \$20,735 Department Industry, Innovation and Science grant, and a total of \$750 from ACT Government Children's Week 2021 for three projects
- ◆ Weston Scout Group won a \$10,000 ACTEWAGL Community Grant for improvements to heating and cooling and \$250 from CBA Children's Grants



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

- ◆ Sowell Scout Group won a \$2,500 Canberra Rotary Community Grant
- ◆ Birrallee Scout Group won a \$750 ACT Government Children's Week 2021 grant.

We launched a simple secure online platform for donations in December, with \$4,280 in tax deductible donations received via the platform by year's end.

Unfortunately, our early and successful efforts to attract local schools to Camp Cottermouth were undermined by the lockdown from August to October, and then by the difficulty of meeting social distancing requirements and density limits. We generated some income by opening Camp Cottermouth to Scouting families and friends for camping over the 2021 summer.

Scouts ACT thanks its staff and committee volunteers for their outstanding efforts in this very challenging year.



A *snapshot* OF OUR COMMITTEES IN 2021

 <h2>Appointments Committee</h2>	 <h2>Human Endeavour Recognition Committee</h2>	 <h2>Finance Committee</h2>
<p>Shirley Harris (Chair), Peter Stevenson, David Cossart OAM, Jan Tarbotton, with administrative support from Sarah Smith, Nicolas Gardiner</p>	<p>Craig Robilliard (Chair), Mark Cooper, Emily Jones</p>	<p>Ricky Wilson (Chair), Geoff Sheehan, Marin Dickens, Jo Legge-Wilkinson</p>
<p>Purpose: make recommendations to the BEC for the formal approval of all memberships and appointments, including transfer and resignation, and the registration and deregistration of formations.</p>	<p>Purpose: assist the Chief Commissioner to identify members of Scouts ACT for recognition within the Scouts Australia Adult Recognition Award system; and identify worthy candidates for consideration to receive civil honours and awards within the Order of Australia system.</p>	<p>Purpose: oversee the efficient and prudent management of Scouts ACT's financial resources and assist formations to manage their financial activities in accordance with Scouts ACT requirements.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Met 12 times ◆ Processed 298 membership transactions ◆ Registered 1 new formation – Marloo Unit (Joeys) at Southwell Scout Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 42 Scout recognition awards ◆ Innovative ceremony solution – home delivery followed by online event ◆ Started reviewing Policy 2.15 (Recognition of Contributions Made by Members and Supporters) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Introduced a new budget template ◆ Trialed innovative product for expenditure management ◆ Prepared for introduction of online payments (Stripe)
 <h2>Property and Assets Committee</h2>	 <h2>Camp Cottermouth Committee</h2>	 <h2>Governance and Risk Management Committee</h2>
<p>Members: Kylie Denny (Chair), Geoff Sheehan, Steve Hubbard, Tony Britten, Jo Legge-Wilkinson</p>	<p>Members: Steve Lambert (Chair), David Cocking, Debbie Clarke, Mark Cooper, Bob McComas, Jackie Stenhouse, Jo Legge-Wilkinson</p>	<p>Rodney Quiggin (Chair), David Cossart OAM, Tony Melville, Nathan Rose, Jackie Stenhouse, Jo Legge-Wilkinson</p>
<p>Purpose: provide advice and services to support planning, management, review and oversight of property and other major assets.</p>	<p>Purpose: maintain the Camp's business viability, and its physical and built infrastructure and equipment for the benefit of Scouting and other users.</p>	<p>Purpose: ensure appropriate insurance policies are in place; assist the BEC to exercise due care, diligence and skill in relation to risk assessment, treatment strategies and monitoring across all categories of risk; assist the BEC in governance.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Completed urgent electrical safety upgrades at five halls and other high priority repairs ◆ Established a consultative forum to share and develop ideas for better property management (The Property Forum) ◆ Assisted two groups with construction projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Developed and distributed new marketing materials ◆ Replaced end-of-life camp management software ◆ Trialed Friday Night Pizza and other offerings to improve the camp experience for Scouting users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Standardised insurance renewal timing to reduce administrative burden on office ◆ Led complex negotiations to secure best available insurance coverage for Adventurous Activities ◆ Retained a law firm with not-for-profit expertise to provide business-related advice at a set rate



Redress Committee

Rodney Quiggin (Chair), Rick Goode, Peter Harris, Wendy Freeman, Jo Legge-Wilkinson

Purpose: advise and assist BEC and the office team in relation to Scouts ACT's responsibilities as a participating organisation in the National Redress Scheme, and matters brought through civil processes.

- ◆ Advised on five applications since start of the scheme in 2018 where Scouts ACT was found to be responsible or partly responsible
- ◆ Assisted with three ongoing civil claims (two historical)
- ◆ Contributed to Scouts Australia's input to the Second Year Review of the National Redress Scheme



IT and Digital Coordination Committee (IT Committee)

Andrew Gibson (Chair), Donna Phillips, Rob Fredericksen, Luke O'Connor, Stephen Smart, Jackie Stenhouse, Jo Legge-Wilkinson

Purpose: align the strategic goals of Scouts ACT to the appropriate use of hardware, software, knowledge and skills, and ensure investment in IT delivers benefit and represents value for money.

- ◆ Prepared for implementation of Operoo platform
- ◆ Conducted an inventory of Scouts ACT software and IT systems
- ◆ Provided technical advice to the office and Camp Cottermouth teams for new software
- ◆ Implemented multi-factor authentication to strengthen security on the membership database, Extranet



Chief Commissioner Nominating Committee (short-term)

Andrea Butler (Chair), David Cossart OAM, Marin Dickens, Shaylah McClymont, Daniel Bartlett.

Purpose: conduct an open, broad and fair process to recruit the next Chief Commissioner of Scouts ACT in accordance with Policy 2.3 (Appointment of Chief Commissioner).

- ◆ Established timeline and committee processes
- ◆ Created information package
- ◆ Held a recruitment round



Expanding the horizons of Adventurous Activities

Cycling

Keeping pace with its enormous popularity in the community, cycling was also a frequent Scouting activity in 2021. Numerous Scout Leaders have taken the opportunity to add Scout cycling qualifications to their Leader toolkit, qualifying them to lead on-road and off-road trips of varying styles and levels of difficulty. In 2021 many groups enjoyed bike-based adventures, ranging from short excursions on local bike paths, to day-long and overnight bike hikes. A different angle was offered at Summer Camp: Scouts learned a little bike mechanics and played games on bikes including a modified version of medieval jousting, and had fun flinging wet sponges at nimbly moving targets on opposing teams – a welcome game in the very warm weather at the time.



4WD

Established in 2019 and led by Branch Activity Leader Mark Cooper, the 4WD Team supports Outdoor Adventure Skills and other areas of the Youth Program. Youth members enjoy exploring rugged country in our beautiful National Parks, and it is fantastic to provide this opportunity. The 4WD Team has begun to work more closely with the Bushwalking, Rock, Water, Pioneering and other Adventurous Activities teams to provide **integrated outdoor skill opportunities.**

Activities are run for all sections, from Joeys through to Rovers. Members are learning how vehicles operate and how to improve safety and minimise environmental impacts.

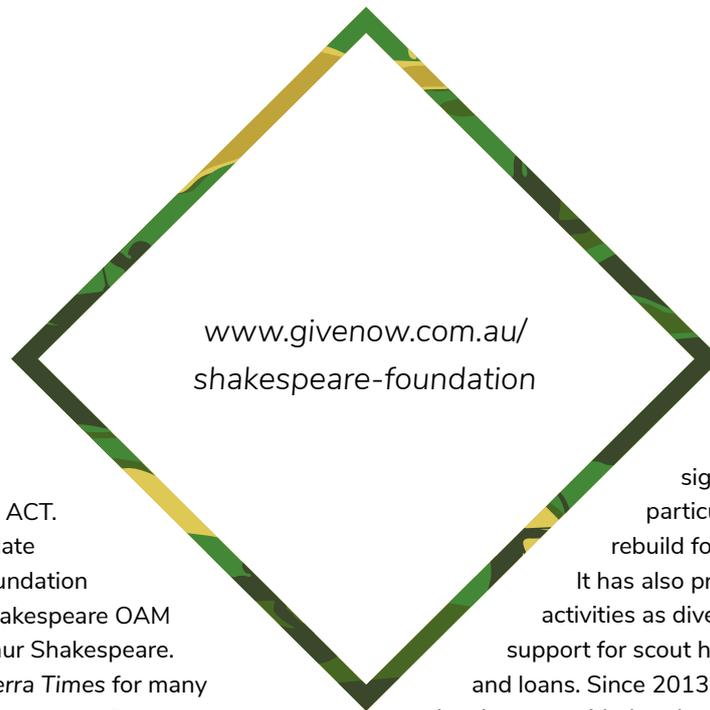
Two training and proficiency qualifications are available: Safe and Trained Participants and Advanced 4WD practitioners. These courses have been very popular with Leaders. Youth members with at least a Provisional ('P Plate') license can also take these courses.



“Some pleasant riding last week doing the Murray to Mountains rail trails – Beechworth, Myrtleford, Bright, Wangaratta. Lovely group of 17 from 13th Canberra Scouts. Covered 165 kilometres, enjoying the sights and the company. Thanks for the invite.”

Peter Stevenson
Assistant Chief Commissioner
Adult Training Development
April 2021

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 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*, was also a significant contributor in establishing the Foundation.

The purpose of the Foundation is to manage the funds of the Trust and liaise with the Branch Executive Committee of Scouts ACT to provide support for Scouting. Although the amount varies from year-to-year depending on Branch needs, grants generally approximate the annual income of the Trust. In 2021, the Foundation provided Scouts ACT with grants of \$83 000.

Directors of the Company are appointed by the Branch Executive Committee. Directors for the 2021 reporting period were: Steve Lambert (Chair), Neville Tomkins OAM JP (Vice Chair), Peter Hoefer (Honorary Treasurer), Leon Tannahill AM, Laura Pierce, Zyl Hovenga-Wauchope and Dominic Bentley. Rick Goode (Chief Commissioner) and Jacqueline Stenhouse (President) were also Directors by virtue of their Branch positions. Graham Downie AM 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.

Over the years, the Foundation (and the Company) has provided significant financial support, in particular to the Camp Cottermouth rebuild following the 2003 bushfires. It has also provided funding assistance for activities as diverse as training, equipment, support for scout halls, scholarships, salary support, and loans. Since 2013, an annual grant of \$10,000 has been provided to the Chief Commissioner to use as they see fit in support of Scouting.

During the 36 years of its existence, the Foundation has provided \$3.111 million to support Scouting in the ACT. Ordinarily, each year the Foundation/Company supports the Ross Hohnen Memorial International Scholarship and the Jack Deeble Memorial Youth Development Scholarship. The Chief Commissioner awards these scholarships on the recommendation of a Selection Advisory Panel. The Ross Hohnen Scholarship generally provides a \$2500 award to a Rover or young Leader to assist them to participate in a significant Scouting activity such as an international Jamboree or Moot. The Jack Deeble Scholarship provides similar support to Venturer age youth members, also for a significant Scouting purpose. Other awards are provided from time-to-time in honour of Heather Shakespeare OAM. Because of the pandemic restrictions, no scholarships were awarded in 2021.

The Company has a donor scheme and donations are tax deductible. Donations to assist in continuing the development of Scouting in the ACT are always welcome through our Donation link, and receipts are issued immediately from the platform.

Human Endeavour Recognition Awards

The theme of our 2021 Human Endeavour Recognition Awards (HERC) presentation ceremony was Online Scouting.

In an effort that was itself award-worthy, HERC Committee members personally delivered award certificates, medallions and pins to recipients at their homes in a COVID-safe way. After so many months of isolation many recipients said how touched they were by this, and that it made their award even more special to them.

The formal presentation followed online on Sunday 17 October, with an audience of more than 60 guests and recipients. Presentation duties were shared between the Chair of Branch Rover Council, the Chief Commissioner, and the President, who between them presented the Rover Service Awards, and the Adult Recognition Awards for uniformed and non-uniformed recipients.



The Chief Commissioner talked about the power of volunteering and recognised the wonderful efforts of award recipients, and the Branch as a whole, in delivering Scouting online during 2021.

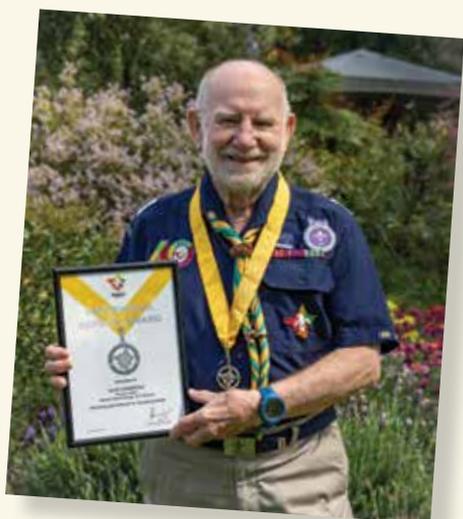
We were delighted to recognise 42 recipients of awards in 2021, up from 34 recipients in 2020. Nominations for other community awards including Canberran of the Year were considered. However, we decided not to nominate anyone for these awards in 2021, as we did not want to compete with health workers, whose service to the community during the pandemic we sincerely appreciate.



Award	Recipient	Formation
Rover Service Award	Corey Coppin	Lake Ginn Rover Unit
	Max Kelly	Erindale Rover Unit
Special Service Award	Jason Harvey	Birrlee Scout Group
	Michael Giltrap	ACT Branch Headquarters
	Andrea Butler	Southwell Scout Group
	Coran Stow	Crowajingalong Scout Group
	Bradley Palmer	Lake Burley Griffin Sea Scout Group
	Guy Lau	Mulga Scout Group
	Chris Anderson	Majura Mountain Scout Group
	Jeff Howard	Majura Mountain Scout Group
	Peter Watson	Majura Mountain Scout Group
	Timothy Keun	Macarthur Scout Group
	Robert Saunders	Macarthur Scout Group
	Belinda Hargadon	Amaroo Scout Group
	Michael Nicholas	Amaroo Scout Group
	Phillip Durnan	Amaroo Scout Group
	Luke O'Connor	Kama Scout Group
	Melinda Coupland-Thorne	Well Station Scout Group
	Sam Boak	13th Canberra Scout Group
	Luke Mewburn	13th Canberra Scout Group
	Rodney Quiggin	ACT Branch Headquarters
	David Tonna	Majura Mountain Scout Group
	Malak Ansour	Les Explorateurs Scout Group
	Andrew Lance	Les Explorateurs Scout Group
Alan Laing	Mount Mugga Scout Group	
Paul Maisey	Les Explorateurs Scout Group	
Marie-Helene Rousseau	Les Explorateurs Scout Group	



Award	Recipient	Formation
Meritorious Service Award	Theodore Karner	ACT Branch Headquarters
	Natalie Lestone	Majura Mountain Scout Group
	Elizabeth Daly	ACT Branch Headquarters
	Christopher Barrett	ACT Branch Headquarters
	Kathryn Shean	Macarthur Scout Group
	Emily Horsley	ACT Branch Headquarters
	Alan Anderson	Weston Scout Group
	Emma Georgiou Rachael Dean	Lake Ginninderra Sea Scout Group 13th Canberra Scout Group
Silver Wattle Award	Felicity McNeice	Birralee Scout Group
	Mark Nahon	Crowajingalong Scout Group
Outstanding Service Award	Trevor Wheeler	ACT Branch Headquarters
Silver Koala Award	Eric Zurcher	ACT Branch Headquarters
Silver Emu Award	Deborah Clarke	ACT Branch Headquarters
President's Award	Dennis Green	National Executive Committee



SCOUTING TRAINING ESSENTIALS 24 CERTIFICATES OF PROFICIENCY COMPLETIONS

OTHER SECONDARY APPOINTMENTS 5 PEOPLE

ADVENTUROUS ACTIVITY SECONDARY APPOINTMENTS 17 PEOPLE

WOOD BADGE COMPLETIONS 10 PEOPLE

AXE AND LOG COMPLETIONS 4 CERTIFICATES OF HIGHER ADULT LEADERSHIP

There are two tales to tell about Camp Cottermouth in 2021.

On one hand, 2021 was another difficult year for the Camp. COVID-19 restrictions meant visits to the Camp were drastically reduced for the second year running. Some school visits occurred between February and June, and the Cotter Shield event run by the Scout section contributed somewhat to earnings. However, from mid-year restrictions in the ACT and other states meant there were almost no visits other than small-scale Scout outings for the rest of the year. Indeed, the Camp was closed for much of the third quarter. We adopted stringent controls on expenditure and, to the great credit of the managers and the Camp Cottermouth Committee, the Camp finished the year with a financial deficit of approximately \$17,000. This was a great improvement on the 2020 deficit of approximately \$90,000.

On a positive note, we were able to move forward on three fronts.

First, with funding from the Arthur Shakespeare Foundation, we replaced the Camp's outdated management software with a modern cloud-based platform. All data was successfully migrated from the old system, the new platform has been integrated with Xero, and it is working well.

Second, the team tested some new business lines including Friday Night Pizzas for campers, opening the camp and cabins to family and friends of Scouting over the summer break, and promoting the facilities to corporate and business customers. Each idea had promise, but constant disruptions to routine and COVID-related rules meant none fully took off. Nevertheless, we gained useful insights to guide future business decisions.



Third, activity occurred throughout 2021 to reimagine Camp Cottermouth. Camp Cottermouth is a wonderful asset that ideally should underpin the Youth Program (providing features, facilities and equipment for Scout activities). We also need it to deliver a strong and reliable income stream to help operate Scouts ACT. We held a facilitated workshop with people who brought diverse, relevant life, professional and

Scouting expertise to the discussion. This was followed by a survey of the Scouting community seeking to understand what our members need from the Camp and what they wish for. The information and ideas from the workshop and survey informed our development of a Concept Plan, which will feed into a formal masterplan.

A beautiful site. The Camp has rarely looked better than it did throughout 2021. The wet year revived the bushland and grassed camping areas. Our Camp Managers Allison and Dallas Shang were hard-pressed to keep up with the mowing and grounds work. With borders and national parks closed on and off throughout 2021, Camp Cottermouth was a welcome resource that enabled camping and other Youth Program activities to continue at least some of the time. Approximately 75 Scout camps and day outings were held there over the year, as well as the training program described elsewhere in this report.



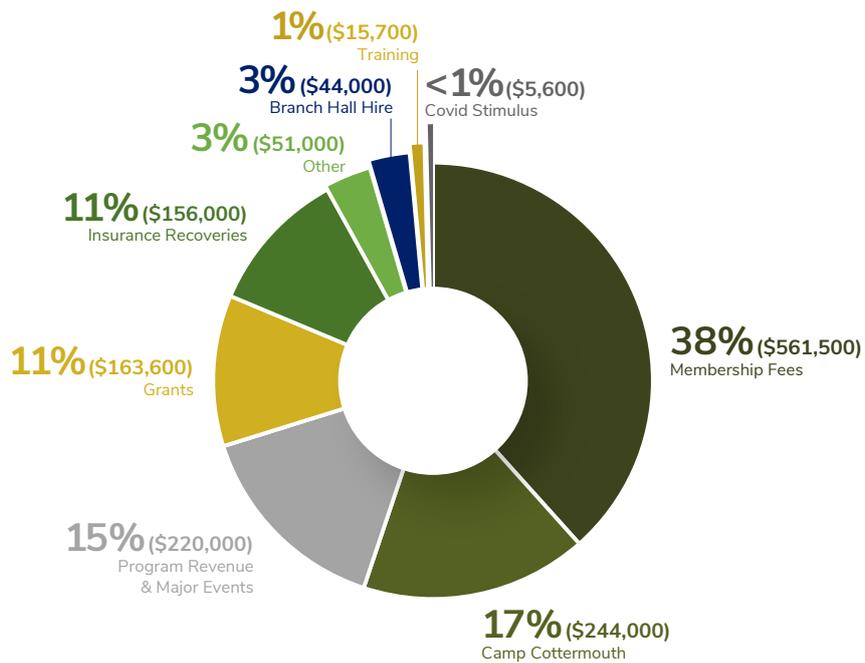
- BOUNDARIES**
- SITE BOUNDARY
- MASTER PLANNED ZONES**
- BUSH
 - CAMP
 - GLAMPING
 - AMENITIES
 - ACTIVITIES
 - ELECTRICAL EASEMENT
- BUILDINGS**
- EXISTING BUILDINGS / SHELTER
 - PROPOSED EXPANSIONS
 - NEIGHBOURING / OTHER BUILDINGS
- ADRENALINE ACTIVITIES**
- FLYING FOX
 - GIANT SLIDE
 - BMX TRACK
 - FESTIVALS
 - RAFTING
- ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES**
- WALKING TRAILS / HIKING
 - CLIMBING
 - ABSEILING
 - OBSTACLE COURSE
 - COMMANDO/LOW ROPES (BEGINNER, INTERMEDIATE, ADVANCED)
 - NATURE PLAYGROUND
 - MOUNTAIN BIKING
- SKILLSET ACTIVITIES**
- ORIENTEERING
 - ARCHERY
 - DISC GOLF
 - MAZE
 - PARADE
 - TALENT QUEST
 - THEATRE/PERFORMANCE
 - MULTISPORTS COURT (E.G. NETBALL, BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL)
 - DUKE OF EDINBURGH STYLE ACTIVITIES
 - YOGA AND RELAXATION RETREATS
- KNOWLEDGE SHARING ACTIVITIES**
- COOKING
 - INDIGENOUS / SCIENTIFIC LEARNING
 - ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE SUSTAINABILITY
 - HORTICULTURE / HERB GARDEN / LAND CARE
 - SURVIVAL SKILLS / FIRE SAFETY
 - ARTS, CRAFTS, CREATIVE WRITING
 - ARTIST/AUTHOR PROGRAMS / HOLIDAY EVENTS
 - CORPORATE RETREATS / TRAINING

Financials

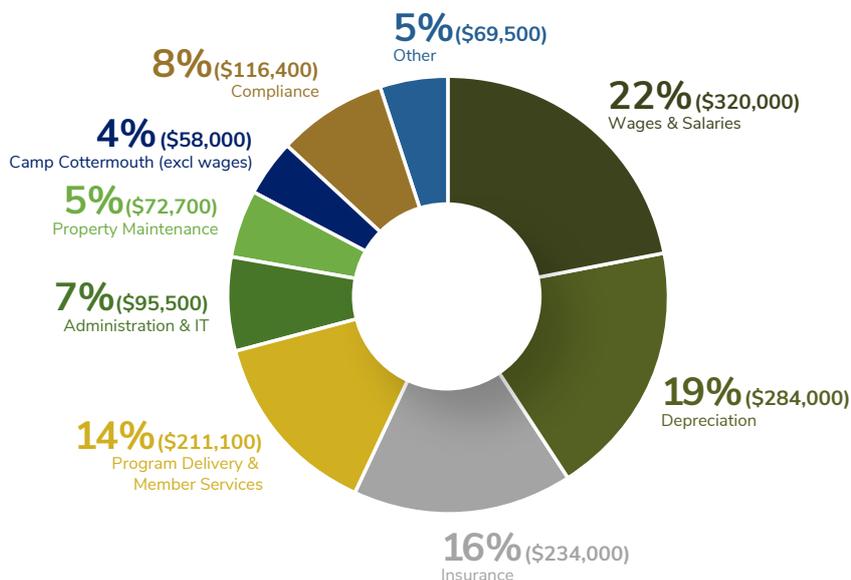
Scouts ACT reported a small loss in 2021 (2020: surplus \$36,764). The loss of income from Camp Cottermouth due to the cancellation of inbound school tourism visits, and the cancellation of the year's major event, Cuboree, were key factors driving receipts down. Nevertheless income from Program + Major Events and Camp Cottermouth generated approximately equivalent income to membership fees. In line with our Strategic Plan 2019-2023, our focus is to diversify and externalise our sources of income.

Expenditure was tightly controlled, and prioritised to provide services for Members and Groups. Staff time (Wages), Administration and IT expenditure, and Property Maintenance, for example, were equally as important as Program Delivery and Major Events expenditure in delivering a positive experience for youth members and supporting the capability of Scout Groups.

Revenue



Expenditure



Download our detailed Financial Statements from the Scouts ACT website.