



Scouts in ACTion

Australian Capital Territory Branch

February 2014

ACT Cuboree 2013 'Under Construction'

Another ACT Cuboree has just ended and what a Cuboree it was! The heat did not deter approximately 900 youth and adults who descended upon Camp Cottermouth to take part in the Under Construction ACT Cuboree 2014. Our youth members were Apprentice Tradies who travelled to 6 Building Sites searching for clues to build a better world. They went back in time to find something lost, journeyed to a strange island to rescue a civilisation, found a lost planet, helped run an inn, climbed a mountain, and planned a city of the future. In the process they went rock climbing, watersliding, sang and danced about setting the table, operated slot cars, went geo-caching, and built an aqueduct (continue to page 2).



From the Chief

January 2014 has already seen our Rovers enjoy WAM and our Scouts the NZ Jamboree. Our Cub Scouts of course have been busy Building a Better World with our Under Construction ACT Cuboree.

At our Cuboree we were visited by representatives from the Office of Regulatory Services. I was asked to explain how Scouts ACT was complying with the requirements of the Working With Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act. I explained that the WWVP card is now a requirement of membership and that we had procedures in place to ensure that all the requirements of the Act were being met. They then asked to speak to others on site and to check that they were carrying their card while at the Cuboree. The report on our compliance and verbal feedback given at the time indicated that Scouts ACT was not only acting responsibly but proactively in following the legislative requirements and keeping our youth members safe. During the Cuboree we were also visited by the Ambulance and Police services who also made very positive remarks about our preparation and operation.

I would like to thank again all those who made the Cuboree an exciting, safe experience. Bob Jackson as Cuboree Chair led a small team who managed camping, catering, admin, finance, activities and ceremonies. Leaders and Adult Helpers from Scouts and Guides gave nearly 600 youth members a touchstone experience in the front line delivery role in camping and activities. It was truly a huge undertaking handled effectively and sensitively.

What else is in store? On February 22 we will be celebrating Founders Day with an evening picnic at Camp Cottermouth and a touch of Scouting magic – so be prepared for a great time for all the family.

Finally, Leo Farrelly our Branch President is now asking for contributions for our 2013 annual report to be forwarded to the Branch Office asap. One other deadline looming is that for the 2014 National Adult Recognition awards. They need to reach our HERC Team by 31 March 2014 to be considered for this year's presentation. Who will you nominate?

(Cuboree story continued) Cub Scouts and Brownies should be pleased with what they achieved over the weekend, having graduated as Tradies at the Closing Ceremony – with a brand new Cuboree woggle to wear. Thanks to our hard working Leaders, Venturers and Adult Helpers the magic of Cuboree created another touchstone experience for all participants. In a little while preparation for the 11th ACT Cuboree in 2017 will commence. Can you imagine where our next adventure will take us?



World Scout Education Congress, Hong Kong, November 2013

By Wendy Freeman, Branch Activity Leader

I was privileged to be a member of the Australian Contingent of 23 which attended the inaugural World Scout Education Congress. The Congress was held at the BP International Hotel in Hong Kong from 22-24 November 2013. While Australia had the largest Contingent, there were approximately 500 participants from 121 countries. Over 1400 people also participated on-line and through live Twitter tweets.

The themes for the three days of the Congress were Society, Education and Impact of Scouting. The Congress was based on a Global City where participants navigated their way through the city and selected topics that they were interested in. Each day started with a "helicopter" view of the city where a key note speaker addressed all participants on the day's topic. We then chose one of three sessions with speakers focusing on Academia, Business and non-Government. The evenings provided opportunities to socialise and have fun! Australia participated in the Market Place evening with an exciting stall complete with surf lifesavers, football players and others distributing Anzac biscuits and Vegemite. Australian tattoos were very popular. Visitors to the stall even got a chance to try their hand at Two-Up.

The Closing Ceremony and Dinner on the final night was another highlight. I'll never hear "It's a Small, Small World" again without bringing back memories. The evening included performances by very talented youth members from the Hong Kong Scout Association and a Bronze Wolf presentation. At the end of the Congress, a summary and mind map presenting the main outcomes were prepared. The final report is expected to be available at the end of February 2014. Following the Congress, I participated in an optional 3 day Tour and other sightseeing with new friends from different countries. Language wasn't a problem, somebody always seemed to be able to understand someone else and translate. I even found myself being the translator for a Mexican in a Chinese restaurant!



20th New Zealand Scout Jamboree

On the 26th of December, 224 Contingent Members (21 from the ACT) left Australia and headed for the 20th New Zealand Scout Jamboree! They were part of the 4000 Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders from all over the world who descended on Feilding for 9 days of adventure and fun! Our Scouts were in for the time of their lives as some of their activities included white water rafting, rock climbing, geo caching, live round .22 calibre rifle shooting, farming, hiking, tree planting, construction, a low ropes and a high ropes course, an international night and more! Australian Contingent Leader Alan Murray, said "Jamborees are all about the friendships you make and the adventures you go on. Our Scouts and Leaders had this in bucket loads!". Some members of the Australian Contingent stayed on for a post tour of New Zealand's South Island including walks in the Queen Charlotte Sound and Abel Tasman National Park and returned to Australia on the 14th of January.



In the Christmas spirit

By Alison Inglis, Scout Leader, Majura Mountain Scouts



In December last year, Majura Mountain Scouts went door knocking in Downer to collect non perishable food and gifts for the ABC giving tree. The community was very generous, and they got five wheelbarrow loads full! The Scouts had a heap of fun, and were impressed by how generous people were (and how good it felt to be doing this sort of thing).

They were also approached by a number of people asking about joeys/cubs/scouts for their kids (though no offers of adult leaders!) A successful night on many counts. A few weeks earlier Majura Mountain Scouts had another very community service event and were able to fundraise \$1400 for the Typhoon in the Philippines.

Meet the Bearcat

By Blue Tongue; Scout Leader, Gungaderra Scout Troop

Last year, the Gungaderra Scout Troop (Birralee Scout Group) had a visit by the Australian Federal Police Specialist Response Group and their armoured rescue vehicle - the Bearcat. The Scouts were shown some of their equipment and weapons, as well as, a chance to climb through and on top of the Bearcat! Some scouts even got a chance to try on some of their kit, such as the armoured assault vest, helmet, and the camouflage (Yowie) suit. It was a great chance for the Scouts to interact with the AFP and surprisingly was the first time they had done a demonstration to any youth groups.



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

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