



Scouts in ACTion

Australian Capital Territory Branch

June 2013

Under Construction - ACT Cuboree 2014



The magic is building at Camp Cottermouth once more. It is special, Cuboree magic. This magic allows the incredible, the impossible to happen. It is the start of a new, great, adventure. So, what is under construction - a better world! How can *we* build a better world?

When you travel to the construction sites at Camp Cottermouth you will become an apprentice having fun learning a trade as you explore, build, construct and finally become a Tradie yourself. You might even end up with your own white card!

It is being held from 17-21 January 2014 – it seems a long way off but there is a lot to be done in the meantime. When you arrive you will be challenged to visit some incredible sites as part of your quest to build a better world. But be warned you will be having so much fun you might forget your mission!

Your pack will form part of a camping group called a Guild and you will be Apprentices. By the end of the Cuboree we hope everyone will have earned their White Card and be a real Tradie – and we will have built a better world!

The early bird fee for Cubs is \$210, standard fee \$240. Early bird fee for adults is \$140, normal fee \$155. For more information about registration and payment details log onto our website on www.act.scouts.asn.au/cuboree Or email our Cuboree Chair bob.jackson@inet.net.au

1800 SCOUTS

act.scouts.asn.au



From the Chief



Recently, in the heart of the City, a ceremony was held to dedicate a Square in the name of Heather and Arthur Shakespeare. You might recognise the name – not from the literary bard but from our own Shakespeare Centre for Scouting building at Camp Cottermouth. At the ceremony, Steve Lambert, President of the Arthur Shakespeare Foundation for Scouting (ASF) gave an address that highlighted not only the wider community work that Heather and Arthur had done but also of their keen involvement in Scouting in the ACT.

As long time supporters of Scouting, both Arthur and Heather gave their time, energy and financial assistance to help develop Scouting in the ACT. A trust fund was set up in Arthur's name and has been diligently managed by the Trustees of the ASF. The purpose of the trust was to financially support the activities of Scouting in the ACT. This continues today.

Arthur, who was the founding editor of the Canberra Times, passed away in 1975 but Heather as our patron continued the great work started by her husband. Sadly Heather left us in 2008 just a few months before her 100th birthday.

Next time you visit the city, walk around the new Heather and Arthur Shakespeare Square – it is at 15 London Circuit just opposite the Police Station and read the plaque placed there in their honour. When you next visit our Cottermouth Campsite look inside the building and see the plaque there that Heather herself unveiled at the opening of the new building in 2008 (our centenary year of Scouting in Australia).



Scouting to the Boundary

By Jessica Kriticos, Cub Scout at Les Explorateurs Scout Group



On Friday 12 April, 10 Cubs, 2 Scouts, a Cub Leader, a Group Leader, and several Adult Helpers from Les Explorateurs (one of Canberra's newest Scout Groups and the only French-speaking one) went to Mt Clear in Namadgi National Park for Jamboree on The Trail (JoTT) and the first Scouting to the Boundary 2013 hike in the ACT.

Once there, we set up the tents and gazebos for a rather hurried dinner of hotdogs before the usual last-minute fiasco of trying to find pyjamas, teddy bears, sleeping masks and bed socks while trying to get to sleep. Not to mention the seemingly endless toilet trips.

The next morning after breakfast we packed our bags. There was a slight delay in our departure as our teddies had not been smuggled into daypacks but were actually ousted by an irate Raksha. Eventually, we were on our walk along the boundary of the ACT. We placed four geocaches, and named them in French. The first was placed where we had lunch and the last one marked the end-point of our 6 km round trip.

As we walked back to camp, we looked for the original surveyors' marks blazed into trees. A ten dollar reward for finding these was posted by Audax, our Group Leader. Two were found, one by Audax and one by a Scout.

That evening, we made a fire on which to cook chilli con carne for the Bushcraft L2 badge. It was delicious; as were the marshmallows and trifle we had for dessert. On Sunday we finished the Bushcraft and Naturalist badges and packed up, all very tired and very happy.

Since our return, and since the geocaches were registered online, several serious geocachers have gone looking for them. The online comments we have received from our positions have all been positive, a great start to geocaching for Les Explorateurs!



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

Would you like your Group / event to be in the next issue of Scouts in ACTION? It's so simple! Contact Tyron at Branch Office on (02) 6282 5211 or email development.officer@act.scouts.asn.au and we will add your story to the next newsletter.

Hike With a Bump

By Rhiannon Jackson (Venturer) and Jackie Stenhouse (Group Leader) - Kama Scout Group



In April 8 Kama Venturers and 3 leaders went on a "hike with a bump". Thinking outside the box, they designed a challenging urban hike and camping experience that took them through a wide swathe of inner city Sydney, finishing with the spectacular Harbour Bridge Climb. After several weeks of intense planning, led by Jason Jones and Simone Forostenko, the adventure began with a sleepover in our hall so that no one would be late for the early-morning departure to Sydney.

The hike commenced in Gladesville and took the unaccompanied Venturers over the Gladesville Bridge and eventually to Circular Quay. From there, they took a ferry to Cockatoo Island. This fascinating heritage-listed island still contains buildings where the convicts were held and ships were built. The venturers followed the self-guided tours which direct visitors around the island and by the time they made it back to camp, their leaders were there to join them.

The next day's itinerary included a hike from the Quay to Paddy's Markets to do some shopping and back again to meet up with the leaders in time to climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Rhiannon writes, "After an information briefing, it was finally time to get dressed and climb the famous bridge. It took about an hour to get ready but it was worth every second. On our way up we stopped several times for photo opportunities and take in the views of Sydney; we were also filled in on some history of the bridge. The views were amazing and luckily for us the weather was good too. At the top, we inducted our newest Venturer into the Unit."

This trip was notable for many reasons: for the independent thinking (hikes don't have to be in the bush); for the teamwork required to get the fundraising done (this wasn't a cheap weekend!); for providing a new venturer with a spectacular induction; and because it ticked off an important Queens' Scout requirement for one member of our unit.

Everyone arrived home tired but deeply pleased with what they achieved. Well done K2 Venturers and thanks to their fantastic leaders who put in a lot of driving and other support to make this a safe and successful activity.

Annual Group Camp with Southwell Scout Group

By Louise Galen-Mules, Group Leader



Southwell Scout Group at Page celebrated their Annual Group Camp at the Wee Jasper Station Shearers Quarters from 10 - 12 May. As Group Leader, I was able to organise fabulous weather. The other leaders also contributed by looking after the youth and running very high quality programs including a wide game called Stratego. This game got all members focused on a central theme - team work. Fun was had by all. This led in to a night of singing and story-telling around the campfire and some hilarious skits by the younger members. Great applause in particular for the ship-wrecked Joey zombies who, unfortunately for them, landed on the only nearby zombie eater island. Cubs cooked up a treat for Mothers Day, leaving all the washing up for the Scouts, and families joined us on Sunday for scones, pikelets, Anzac biscuits and lots of hugs. Thank you to everyone who made our camp possible.

