



Scouts in ACTion

Australian Capital Territory Branch

November 2013

CENTENARY BRANCH CAMP 2013

On the weekend of the 18th - 20th October, the ACT Branch celebrated the Centenary of Canberra with a Branch Camp at Camp Cottermouth. This was the first all sections Branch Camp since 2008. There were 20 Groups at the camp and



700 people camping. About 50 Joeys came out for the day on Saturday and Sunday.

Early on the Saturday the Scouts hot air balloon was inflated and the Joeys, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers enjoyed tethered flights. It was great to see so many excited people when the balloon team started inflating the balloon and taking kids for rides (continue to page 2).

1800 SCOUTS

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From the Chief



On Saturday afternoon the sections participated in their sectional activities and the Joeys completed a Centenary trail amongst other things. The Cubs participated in a range of activities such as horizontal bungee, papier Mache, jelly animals and mystery squares. The Scouts constructed a flying fox and completed a ropes course and the Venturers were down at the Murrumbidgee River canoeing. Everyone enjoyed the four campfires on Saturday night.

On Sunday morning there was another early tethered balloon session and about 350 participants managed to get a flight over the weekend. Then there were several activities offered including a Flying Fox, Crate Stacking, and a challenging walk across the Rope Bridge, face painting and Storytelling.

The JOTA team were busy all weekend and 350 people were able to attend the Jota Radio hut. There was also a Frisbee golf and Geocaching course.

On the Saturday evening a Gilwell Reunion was held in the Shakespeare centre and this was a great opportunity to catch up with fellow Gilwillians.

The weekend weather was superb with the windy weather experienced in the weeks leading up to the camp dying down to very light winds with cool nights and hot days.

The success of the camp was also due to the Rovers managing site security and doing a sterling job.

I would like to thank everyone who was involved and worked hard for a great weekend.

Paul Janssens
Branch Commissioner for Cubs



Australian War Memorial closing ceremony

By: Ethan Bell, Jumbuck Pack, Well Station Group



On 6th of October I went to the National War Memorial for the Closing Ceremony to lay a wreath. The wreath was for the soldiers that didn't come back from war. Shannon from the war memorial helped me write the card. I felt nervous when I was laying the wreath, but I ended up ok because Neil and Graham [from AWM] helped me and I had a practice. I felt special and happy that I had the chance to lay a wreath as a Cub Scout. It was special because I got to listen to my dad do a reading. My family was there and lots of other people too. I did it all outside the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with some of the war memorial helpers and four other people laying wreaths and the piper and the bugler. They played the National Anthem and a hymn. And that's how it felt to lay a wreath at the National War Memorial.

Scouting the Boundary badge competition

To celebrate the Centenary of Canberra our Scouts took up the challenge to walk the boundary of the ACT, all 303 km!!!

As with most things scouting, we needed a badge to show our achievement...and so a competition was held. We are pleased to announce that we had many fine entries, but the over all winner for the badge completion was Andrew Beardmore from Mount Mugga. We would like to thank Ben Calvert, Jessica Kriticos, Dev and Mani for their excellent designs.

To date we have had several groups undertake portions of the challenge and have reached the 25% completed mark with the entire eastern boundary of the ACT plus parts of the other border now scouted. A further 21% undertaken to be hiked by Scouts ACT in the next couple of months.

Much thanks and praise goes to the Les Explorateurs Scout Group who have helped manage and run Scouting the Boundary.



Scouts go scuba diving

On the 13 and 14 October, a group of 15 Scouts from the ACT went to Batemans Bay for a weekend of scuba diving. 5 Scouts were diving for the first time and were doing their PADI Open Water course and a handful of our divers who were doing their Advanced Open Water and Dive Master courses. Some of our Scouts even went on a night cave dive!!!

Older Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders are invited to get involved with the Scouts dive club. Please contact John, johnpr@iinet.net.au for more information. If you are an experienced diver and are interested in more advanced courses please let John know as they can organise these as well.



Billy Cart Derby 2013



On Sunday the 22nd of September, Scouts from the ACT took part in the first Billy Cart Derby in many years! The event was a great success and organiser Craig Muller would like to thank everyone who got involved. Special thanks to Murrumbidgee Rover Crew for the bbq, Transport Industries Skills Centre for the venue, Chris Clark for helping with race management and Ross McConnell for being the first aid officer. Well done to all the participants and we hope to see you again next year!



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.