



# Scouts in ACTION

Australian Capital Territory Branch

October 2016

## Koch Cup 2016

By Michelle Taylor, Group Leader at Lake Tuggeranong Sea Scouts

Well the race is well and truly over, and our Venturer Scouts Eamon and Orla had sailed amazingly. Placing 6<sup>th</sup> overall in the Koch Cup, which is a huge achievement from one of the youngest teams competing. Looking back on Australia's past results they are the highest placed Australia team with the previous best being 12<sup>th</sup> placed in 2012.

The Koch Cup was taken out by the New Zealanders, the first international team ever to win that event so a huge congratulations to them. The event has 11 races with your lowest placing not counting so the best score you can get is 10, which means you won all races. We were told NZ was the team to beat, and looking at the results you can see why. They scored 15 points to their nearest competitor on 32.

In the picture to the right, Eamon and Orla look very happy posing with William Koch, who the event is named after and part of the winning crew of 1992 American Cup team.



## From the Chief



Scouts Australia has launched a range of resources and assistance to support Sections to promote a positive, inclusive and supportive environment free of bullying. This program is called the Breaking the Cycle initiative

Bullying is not okay no matter what section of our Movement you belong to. As Scouts we support one another, we learn, we are active and explore through educational activities. As we do these activities, we enjoy the many friendships we make in this world wide movement that is Scouting. Build up, don't bully!

To support Leaders, adults and youth in Scouting there is a resource booklet available for each Section. The resource books are full of information to assist Section Leaders and youth members effectively convey the initiative. Each book is full of information on restorative practices, identifying bullying, bullying impacts, creating a Section code and implementing award scheme requirements. These downloadable books can be distributed to other Section Leaders and parents as a handy guide to Breaking the Cycle.

[Download your Section Resource Booklet here.](#)

I am very pleased to be able to announce that Jim Lehane has been appointed as the new Environment Commissioner. Jim will have a hard act to follow as John Feint, the previous Environment Commissioner has developed and extensive environment program with a keen and dedicated team. The ACT Environment Team is probably the most active and effective one across the Scouting national stage. Congratulations on assuming your new role Jim, and hearty thanks John for the valued and valuable contribution you have made to the Scouting environmental movement.

The breeze blew and the rain held off for the Joey Scout Kite day this month at Weston. Over 200 Joeys Scouts, Leaders, parents and others launched a multitude of kites to the heavens and joined their mates marveling at the colors and patterns. Congratulations to Judith and Daniel for managing the event. Next year I will need to get my own kite, and practice how to launch it! Continues on page 2...

Continuation from page 1... The next time you come to the Branch Office please feel free to introduce yourself to our new member of staff, Ashleigh Fisher. Ashleigh replaces Jacquie Coleman. Welcome Ashleigh to the world wide Scouting family!

I have asked the responsible Assistant Chief Commissioners to review, and where necessary harmonize and update, the large number of Branch policies. These policies direct how we operate as a Branch and are based on the Scouts Australia Policies and Rules. When approved by the Branch Executive Committee , these refreshed policies will be placed on the Scouts ACT Website.

Scouts ACT was invited to give a presentation to a large number of near-ex Defence force personnel on what Scouting is, and opportunities we provide as a community volunteer group. Peter Stevenson spoke at length on Scouting and was the center of an active Q&A afterwards. Maybe there will be an impact on volunteer numbers shortly!

The national Census has now been completed and for the ACT, the numbers have come in. We have a total of 2217 members. This is composed of 1795 youth and 422 Leaders and adults. We always want more of course but this number shows the coverage that we currently have in the Canberra community.

All the very best to the Venturers and Leaders from LGSSG that have headed to Lombok. The fund raising turtle badges looked great and I am sure that the locals, and even the turtles, will be grateful for your contributions. I look forward to hearing more about your adventures.

## **News and information from the Branch Office**

### **WEBSITE – MEMBERS AREA**

Every now and then we get asked, "where can I find this form?" or "how do I register for a training course?" etc. So this may be a good time to talk about the [Members Area](#), this is where you can find a lot of Branch resources. The link is on the top right hand corner of the home page of our [website](#), your username is your email address that you put on your Adult Membership Application Form and the password is scouts1 (please change it once you have logged in). Once you have logged in, you can find all of our forms (print and online), calendars, contact information, ScoutsIT messages, online registration for courses etc. If you are having trouble logging in, then please contact Tyron for more assistance on [do@scoutsact.com.au](mailto:do@scoutsact.com.au). You may also be interested in watching some of our tutorial videos, here are the links

*How to use online forms*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUTq3uAbmBM>

*How to use the online Activity Approval and Activity Consent forms*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sy47G88xMEq>

*How to access the Members Area*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6Xb2otU9MM>

*How to access eLearning*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bU22IPplUno>

### **RENOVATION PROJECT**

The Work for the Dole Renovation Project that is still running till the end of October. The team is currently renovating Southwell Scout Hall, so far they have pulled out all the lining inside of the walls, reinsulated them, put new MDF boards up, painted them, taken out the old kitchen and fitted in a new one and are about to start painting the outside of the Hall. We have put in a submission for a second project to start in December to complete the remaining Scout Halls and will hopefully start taking on new Halls from July 2017.

### **KEY HOLDER INFORMATION**

Just a reminder that the request from the AFP for Scout Hall Key holders is still on going. If you have not already done so, please forward them to [admin@scoutsact.com.au](mailto:admin@scoutsact.com.au) as soon as possible. Thank you to those that have already provided their information.

### **XERO**

The end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter draws near, so please ensure that your Xero accounts are reconciled to 30 September prior to 31 October 2016. We would also like to remind you that if you have reconciled previously quarters, let Karen know so she can advise the bookkeeper.

## **Property - More than just a building...**

By Jim Lehane, Environment Commissioner

Participants at the Branch conference were quite a pragmatic lot! In the break-out discussion on property, it is pretty clear the focus was on delivering the best Scouting program possible. Ensuring that youth members have the appropriate resources available for activities takes many different forms. From acquiring and maintaining a range of tents suitable for the various outdoor activities to looking at resources for digital access and engagement to taking Scouting right into the 21st century.

A strong theme presented by conference participants was seeking access to equipment resources without having to own them. Obviously there will have to be an "owner" to ensure the items are properly maintained and stored, as participants were also keenly interested in the safety considerations attached to resources, property and equipment. There is already a number of Branch resources (from banners, marquees and portable sound system to name a few) available for Scout Groups to borrow and utilise, please contact the Branch Office for details.

Concerns about the adequacy and thresholds of insurance policies for halls and equipment were raised. The ongoing bane in the existence of any Group Leader, Quarter Master and Group Support Committee! Ensuring inventories are kept, up to date and accurate will support Groups in knowing where they are at with resources and assist in worst case scenarios if they eventuate. Advice comes out regularly from the Branch Property Committee to guide Groups in managing their building property resources.



How do you store all of the Groups equipment? Each hall is different and space is always at a premium, so storage solutions differ according to location. Finding what works and providing those who regularly access the equipment with a system that has ease of access and store equipment securely will keep users happy and more likely to continue to store items properly into the future.

In line with the inclusive approach of Scouting for all, the consideration of ensuring halls have access for all. The main thread coming out of the comments was disability access, which is a broad concept in its own right. From wheelchair access to getting in the front door, to noise reduction materials to make the inside of a Scout hall more accessible and comfortable for hard of hearing people. The options are near endless these days to provide a broad level of access.

The experience and ideas of our people is clearly one of our strengths.

This summary hardly does that depth of knowledge and experience justice... Keep talking and sharing ideas.

## Friendship and Scouting

By Ross Kelly, Scout at Amaroo Scout Group



My name is Ross Kelly. I am a Year 6 student at Amaroo School and a member of the Amaroo Scout Group. I recently became the ACT Ambassador for the Fred Hollows Foundation.

My friend, Isam Gurung, joined my school and class last year. Isam is profoundly deaf. Previously he had been attending a school for the deaf in Sydney.

We began our friendship by writing notes to each other, and writing messages on our iPads. This had some success, but tended to inhibit spontaneous conversations.

Isam is always accompanied by an AUSLAN interpreter at school. Initially the interpreters taught our class how to finger spell, and thanks to them my signing abilities started. I was keen to learn AUSLAN so that I could communicate more freely with Isam.

I read AUSLAN books, and follow online tutorials, to improve my signing skills. I am keen to further my AUSLAN skills, through more formal training. I am constantly supported by the sign language interpreters at school. They have been an integral part of my skill development and fluency. I converse with Isam during classroom lessons, during discussion times and at recess. I also help sign for him at school assemblies.

In May this year, I encouraged Isam to join my Scout Group, Amaroo. Isam was reluctant at first, as he is rather shy and he is not keen to try new activities. I assured him, his parents and Scout Leaders that I would try my best to interpret for him. Isam trialled Scouts for two weeks, and loved it! He is now an invested Scout. His dad, Indra, also volunteered to train as a Scout Leader, so that he could further support Isam. In the first week of September Isam, Indra and I hosted a special deaf awareness evening. We taught our troop how to sign the alphabet, and how to count to ten.

Isam and I have achieved our 'I can sign' badge, which we proudly wear on the front of our uniforms.

Learning to sign is not that hard to do and I would encourage all Scouts to give it a go!



## Air Activities at Temora

By George Wilson, Adventurous Activities team, Fixed Wings



On the 20th and 21st of August, Scouts from 13th Canberra and Crowajingalong, Cubs and Venturers from Air Scouts Canberra travelled to Temora for a weekend of Scouting aviation.

They had flights with the ACT Air Activities team and saw the flying display of famous aircraft from the Temora Air Museum.

After erecting tents within the airport on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August in a well-appointed camping area maintained by the local council, they watched the display of aircraft flying-by at low level, including a Spitfire. The [Temora Aviation Museum](#) also has a great collection of old military aircraft in the hangar.

Scouts and Leaders went on a twenty minute flight with pilot, George Wilson from the Air Activities team over Temora, some homesteads, wheat fields, canola crops, and some live stock. They then taxied the aircraft back up the run way and pulled up outside their tents!

Mark the date of 12 November for the next flying and camping event at Moruya. To join the Air activities team, please contact Julian Yates on [julianyates2014@gmail.com](mailto:julianyates2014@gmail.com)



## Canberra Urban Rogaining Event 2016

By Eric Zurcher, Assistant Northern Region Commissioner



This year's Canberra Urban Rogaining Event (CURE) saw 97 Scouts in 18 Patrols competing. The event was won by the "Alpocourse" Patrol from Kama, who edged out the "Majura 2" Patrol by the narrowest of margins. All the participating Patrols put in a fantastic effort as they navigated the streets and trails of Tuggeranong. Bravo to you all!

Thanks to Leon Mason, Brent and Charlotte Juratowitch, Hannah Zurcher and the ever-helpful team of Crowajingalang Leaders who contributed to making the day a success. Also many thanks to the Lake Tuggeranong Sea Scouts and Leaders who generously made their hall and facilities available.



## Scouts in ACTion and the Australian Scout Magazine deadlines

Would you like your Scout Group or event to be in the next issue of Scouts in ACTion or the Australian Scout Magazine?

If so, please send your write up to [development.officer@act.scouts.asn.au](mailto:development.officer@act.scouts.asn.au) by the 15th of each month for the Australian Scout Magazine (minimum 1 page and high quality photos) and the 25th of each month for Scouts in ACTion (maximum 1 page with photos).