



# SCOUTS IN ACTION

Australian Capital Territory

## 100 YEARS OF SCOUTING IN CANBERRA

Prepared by Wendy Freeman, information supplied by Brenda de Bes.



The first official registration of a Scout Group in Canberra was on 27 January 1917, "The First Canberra Federal Capital Troop", as part of the New South Wales Section. There were 13 boys registered and the meeting place was at Hall. Prior to official registration, an unregistered Group met in 1915/16. It is believed the First Canberra Troop went into recess in 1923 due to lack of leaders due to war service.

In October 1925 First Canberra (Ainslie/Acton) was re-registered, followed in December 1925 by 2nd Canberra (Duntroon) and 3rd Canberra (Causeway/Eastlakes). To conform with NSW policy, numbers were allocated as the Groups formed. A later local decision was for odd numbers for groups to the north side and even numbers to the south side of the Molonglo River. The Groups were linked with existing groups in Yass, Goulburn, Queanbeyan and Cooma. The first District Camp was held at the Acton Sports Ground in January 1926.

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# FROM THE CHIEF

By Rick Goode



November has seen both youth and adults involved in a number of exciting activities that showcase the breadth of what Scouting offers:

- Kate Lehane has been appointed as the Branch Commissioner for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). This reflects an increasing focus in the community in the support of youth in this direction and the highly successful and continuing SciScouts projects. A grant to fund next years SciScouts activity was received in the last week.
- The PAWS (Performing Arts Workshop for Cubs) presented an entertaining and very professional performance for Leaders and parents on 5 November. These Cubs are the future of Gang Show.
- 33 Cub Scouts (or recent Cub Scouts) were presented with their Grey Wolf Awards on 12 November. The ceremony involved 3 separate events held over the one day at Camp Cottermouth, one of the events being a very moving ceremony for the 2017 Queens' Scout and Baden-Powell Awardees (14 and 2 respectively) where they were presented with their Awards by the Governor-General.
- Kama Scout Group held a highly successful Spring Fair at which a number of both Adult and youth awards were presented.
- Several Scouting members participated in the annual Spring Out Parade on 18 November. They presented the face of Scouting in a very respectful and entirely appropriate manner.
- The Annual Rover Moot was held at Camp Cottermouth. Despite the rain, it attracted about 170 participants from far and wide. Unfortunately, it couldn't elicit many further ticket sales for the Belle Ball and as a consequence this event has been postponed until possibly May 2018.
- The annual Ride for Unity was another amazing event held across all Sections of Scouting in the ACT. It attracted over 50 participants. This event is spreading throughout Australia and the original ACT organizer is now working with other Branches in support of this.
- A group of experienced Leaders and trainers have volunteered to be 'Pioneer Trainers' and to assist clusters of Pioneer Groups who will be early uptakers of the outcomes of the new Youth Program. They also participated in nationally-funded training over the weekend of 25/26 November.
- A letter, co-signed by the ACT Assistant Chief Commissioner – Adult Training and Development (Peter Stevenson) and myself, was sent out advising that all members of Scouting in the ACT will need to redo the Workplace Health and Safety and Child Safe online modules (please see page 3). This is a national requirement aimed at ensuring that all members are current in their understanding of these policies. Members should only do them when the system reminds them to do so. These reminders will be automatically generated from 12 weeks short of 3 years since they were done originally.

Other activities/issues of note include the near completion of work on Mt Rogers SH under the Working for the Dole Program with Mt Mugga being the next Group to commence in the new year; Scouts ACT and Greenhills have now signed an Agreement for the sharing of AA resources.

Lastly, I wish you all a very safe and merry Christmas and look forward to the various Scouting events, such as Tri-lakes and Coast Venture and AV2018 that will take place as the weather improves.

# BRANCH OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS



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Be Prepared...  
for new adventure!

Scouting Members,

As part of its ongoing commitment to create and maintain high standards of WHS and Child Safety, Scouts Australia has determined that training on mandated e-Learning modules will be considered current for only 3 years from the anniversary date of first completion.

The mandated modules are BCORE CHILD and BCORE WHS, and adult members will be required to re-complete these two modules as the three year currency expires. Many adults in Scouting will be reaching this three year anniversary in the weeks and months ahead. The two mandated modules have undergone change in the last three years, more so for the BCORE CHILD which reflects, for example, changes in the Promise and Law of recent months. Where the module is significantly the same, e.g. BCORE WHS, a pre-test feature has been included and if the pre-test is completed successfully the system will allow the Member to move through the module and do the post test.

From 1 December this year, adult Scouting Members who are within 12 weeks of having their currency expire for the two mandated modules will receive an email reminder. This email will outline that the module(s) will need to be re-completed, and the Member will need to access the e-Learning system to do so - the Web address of the e-Learning system will be included. Please do not re-complete the module prior to 1 December, otherwise the re-completion will not be recognised. When re-completed the e-Learning system and the Extranet record for ACT Branch members will be updated to reflect a new completion of the module, and the adult Member will be current for a further three years.

The e-Learning system will send further reminders until the module re-completion is done. If the modules are not completed by the time of the three year expiry a reminder will be sent and a short period of grace will be provided to re-complete the modules. After this time the adult Member's membership will be suspended until the modules are re-completed. There will also be regular reports to the ACT Branch to both track and support those having difficulty re-completing the modules.

The process may be compared to that of the WWVP card, where currency must be maintained.

What do adult Scouting Members need to do?

- Before 1 December, please do not do anything;
- After 1 December, you may re-complete the BCORE CHILD and BCORE WHS e-Learning modules;
- After 1 December, you will need to re-complete the BCORE CHILD and BCORE WHS e-Learning modules if it is three year's since you previously completed the modules.
- You will receive email reminders from 12 weeks prior to the expiry of the modules.

What do adult Scouting Members need to do if they have a question?

- In the first instance, they should contact the Branch Office.

  
Rick Goode  
Chief Commissioner  
Scouts Australia (ACT Branch)

  
Peter Stevenson  
Assistant Chief Commissioner  
Adult Training & Development



# BRANCH OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Branch Office:**

The Branch Office will be closed from Friday 15 December 2017 and will reopen on Monday 15 January 2018.

Treasurers, please ensure that you have reconciled the Scout accounts to the 31 December 2017.

On behalf of everyone at the Branch Office, we would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

**Would you like to assist young people in Scouts ACT, or Scouting in the ACT more broadly?**

The Arthur Shakespeare Foundation for Scouting exists to support Scouting in the ACT, doing so through scholarships, support to individuals and families, and Scouting programs.

Donations to the Foundation are a simple way to show your support, either as a one off donation or as a regular contribution. Such amounts are tax deductible, and even a small amount makes a difference over time. Please contact the Branch office if you would like to assist.

**Competition - suggest a name For The New Youth Program**

The Youth Program Review is delivering a new program, and will be tested in Pioneer Groups next year. We want our members to suggest ideas for a new name and possibly win a prize!

As an example, Scouts Canada called their new program "The Canadian Path".

Scouting Ireland call theirs "One Programme"

The last time Scouts Australia overhauled our program, we called it "Design for Tomorrow".

So what do we call our new, new program? "Scouty McScoutface" is one idea, but we prefer something relevant! This is a program that stresses new skills and emphasises fundamentals like Youth Leading, Adults Supporting; and that we always Plan > Do > Review > our projects and events. There are common themes across all Sections including the four Challenge Areas (Community, Creative, Personal Growth, Outdoor), the nine stages of Outdoor Adventure Skills, and the six Special Interest Areas.

You could win a brand new GoPro HERO6 to take with you on your Scouting adventures! Plus, a limited edition t-shirt bearing the new Youth Program name could be yours. Send us your ideas here before Wednesday the 13th of December. The name will be announced in 2018!

# MOTOSAURUS REX - ACT BRANCH MOOT 2017

By Jesse Coppin, Moot Chief



Camp Cottermouth was home to the 2017 ACT Branch Moot appropriately named to its Jurassic Theme, Motosaurus Rex. For those that still don't know what a "Moot" is, in short, it is a gathering of Rovers, camping and competing in a "Cottershield" type weekend for prizes, the making of many new friendships and catching up on old ones.

Motosaurus was held over the weekend of the 17-19th November, and saw Canberra's largest Branch Moot run with over 160 Rover participants coming from across NSW, Qld, Vic, SA & every crew in Canberra was well represented too. We were excited to have almost 30 Rovers making the trip down from Queensland; they even made contingent shirts for our amazing event, with many more Rovers bringing great costumes along.

With the majority of our members arriving onsite by late Friday evening, Saturday saw host to our main activities, being run in a Round Robin style, Rovers teamed up to complete bases to not only collect points, but pieces of a mini 3D dinosaur puzzle they got to keep as gifts from the Moot. Even with a lot of rain, almost all the Rovers were out of their campsites doing the activities. We can't thank our activity runners enough, with the likes of Section Leaders, Commissioners & even Venturers working throughout the morning to challenge the Rovers and to test their abilities and imagination.

Saturday afternoon came and the rain finally eased off to the odd shower, which made way for the messy combination of Jelly Wrestling & Paint Twister. Our new Branch Rover Advisor and Olympic Greco Wrestler - Craig, was referee to the sock wrestling in our jelly-filled pool, seeing some slippery tactics of diving around the pool to get your opponents sock off. Paint Twister was as messy as the name suggests, with some very colourful Rovers as a result. We had also planned to run bubble-soccer, but unfortunately had to cancel due to the wet weather earlier that day.

As the messy Rovers got themselves cleaned off, the clock rolled over 5pm & so, it was time for a Mooting tradition known as "Fivesies". This is when Rover Crews gather in their campsites for platters of cheeses, cold meats, biscuits, dips, chips & generally chat about the day over a beverage. Story continues on page 6...

# MOOTOSAURUS REX - ACT BRANCH MOOT 2017

By Jesse Coppin, Moot Chief

Continuation from page 5...

Dinner saw a dino-feast of pterodactyl wings & assorted veggies prepared by a volunteer catering team of Ex-Rovers that came all the way from Sydney for the entire weekend to feed both our guests, & the busy Moot team. Although everyone was really well fed, you could not turn down the cake & ice-cream bar that was on offer for dessert. Saturday Night saw Rovers mingling around a warm campfire, which was lovely after the rain we had earlier, while others partied late into the night in our DJ Tent.

Sunday Morning was host to a giant BBQ breakfast with bacon, eggs, mushrooms, tomatoes, pancakes, hash-browns and sausages. Morning activities consisted of a visit from Reptile Inc, showing off the modern-day dinosaurs of the world, letting Rovers play with a variety of lizards & snakes. We also had volunteers from SHFPACT attend and talk with the Rovers on a number of topics.

Closing parade saw the Moot come to an end, with many happy Rovers gathered; we announced our winners of the weekend & gave out many prizes. One of our Queensland friends was also tasked with a rather hard job after they won our lucky door prize... being a door. Congratulations to Erindale Rovers for winning the Moot and the first St. George's Challenge. LBG Rovers were a close second.

Closing out, I cannot thank every single one of my team enough for organizing and putting on the Moot. They each worked extremely hard over the 10 months, planning & preparing for this weekend, and it all went to show with almost 200 Scouting members coming to Camp Cottermouth for an action packed & memorable Moot.

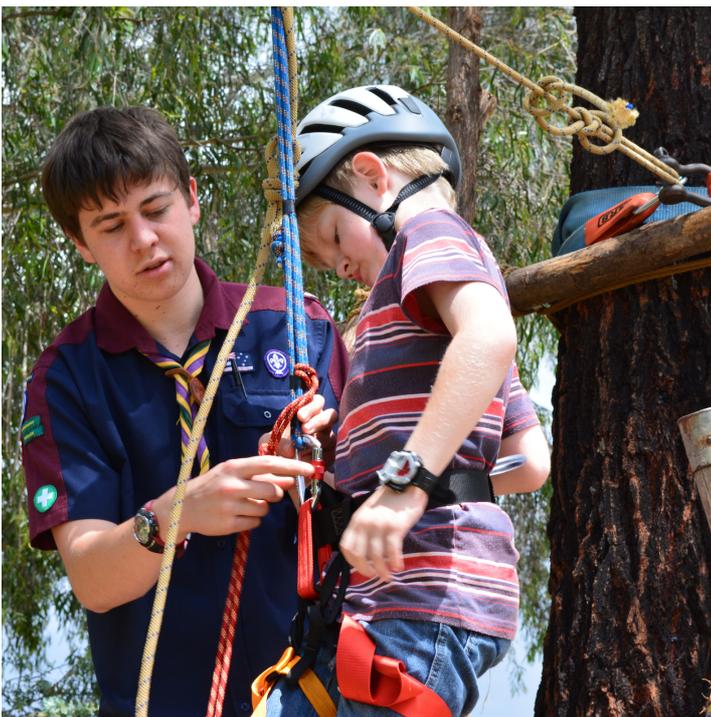


# TWILIGHT FESTIVITIES AT KAMA

By Jackie Stenhouse (Kestrel), Group Leader, Kama.

The really cool thing about Scouting is that it is age-appropriate: the fun rages for everyone from age 0 to 100. Kama's Spring Twilight Feast was an event designed around the fundamental truth that Scouting is inclusive. We invited parents, siblings, grandchildren, Leaders, and current youth members to an afternoon of games, followed by a fabulous outdoor feast.

An estimated 150+ people came along to laugh, talk and play. We took the opportunity to present service awards to Rob Bashfield (30 years service), Deb McGrath (15 years service), Andrew Carstens (Special Service Award), and to celebrate the achievement of a Queens' Scout Award by Rhys Nash. It was also a pleasure to host Leaders from Southwell Scout Group, who were an important part of Rhys' Scouting journey. The Chief Commissioner was an honoured guest, and revealed his talent for egg-tossing!



# 100 YEARS OF SCOUTING IN CANBERRA

Prepared by Wendy Freeman from information supplied by Brenda de Bes.

Continuation from page 1...

A Cub Pack was formed at 3rd Canberra in 1926. Later that year 4th Canberra (Westridge) and 5th Canberra (Molonglo) were registered. A meeting was held in August to form a District Association covering the 5 Groups. An amendment moved that the Federal Capital Territory obtain separate status from NSW was declared out of order. The ACT Groups remained part of NSW Scouts for a further 55 years, becoming a separate ACT Branch in 1981.

Built partly by voluntary labour, including Scout working bees, the Causeway Hall opened at the same time and was the only public hall in Canberra until 1929. While not a Scout hall, the Trustees of the hall were very supportive of Scouting, making a room available for 3rd Canberra and Scouting activities. This was the first time the public saw the Scouts in full uniform and it was also the first appearance of Cubs.

1927 was a busy year. Queanbeyan affiliated and ladies were allowed to be registered as leaders in the Wolf Cub Section. A small Contingent attended the Tasmanian Corroboree, travelling by train and ship. The highlight of the year was the Royal Visit of the Duke and Duchess of York (later King George VI) for the opening of Parliament House. 100 selected Scouts from around Australia joined the local boys and camped in Blandfordia, adjacent to the current Prime Minister's Lodge. The Scouts were given a variety of jobs. Some handed out programmes to the 6,000 members of the public, two were given messenger duties in the House, another group assisted at the Army First Aid post, four were on duty at the NRMA carpark and others fed the coppers boiling the water at refreshment marquees. The Government paid all expenses for the Scouts and provided transport, medical attention, uncooked rations as well as tents and other camping equipment.

Lord Baden-Powell, the Founder of Scouting, and Lady Baden-Powell visited Canberra in 1931 and reviewed a large rally of Boy Scouts, Wolf Cubs and Girl Guides on Capital Hill. In 1934/35, Canberra Scouts attended the first Australian Scout Jamboree in Frankston, near Melbourne. Lord Baden-Powell attended this Jamboree.

In 1931, the Federal Capital Commission granted the local Scout Association "permissive occupancy" of the Camp Cottermouth campsite and the first training course was held there in 1932. First Canberra again went into recess during World War II due to no Leaders being available and the parents not prepared to let Cub age boys out in the blackout to walk to the hall. In August 1943, First Canberra began meeting again. The Group met in various locations on the northside until 1946 when the Government gave it a refurbished hut from the Tocumwal Air Base. The hut was located in Haig Park in Turner. Three smaller huts were added in the 1950's. In 1970, fundraising started to build a permanent hall on the site. With a lot of voluntary labour and a community grant, a permanent hall was built and opened in July 1977 by the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr. Three months later, the hall was destroyed by arson and irreplaceable records, flags, photographs and memorabilia were destroyed. The building program began again, this time insurance covered building a new hall which was opened in late 1979.

The First Canberra Group closed in 2008 and was de-registered in January 2009. The Hall has been used since by the Pfadfinder Scout Group. Story continues on page 9...

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Continuation from page 8...

The 2nd Canberra Group moved from Duntroon to Barton in 1930 and then to Deakin in 1963. In 1978, the Group joined with 1st Yarralumla (previously 5th Canberra) to become Latrobe Park Scout Group. In 2003, the Group became Air Scouts Canberra.

During their 1931 visit to Canberra, Lord and Lady Baden-Powell visited the 2nd Canberra Hall at the corner of National Circuit and Blackall St, Riverside (now Barton). The hall had been opened the previous year by Governor General Lord Stonehaven.

Air Scouts is the custodian of one of Lord Baden Powell's Walking Sticks. It was donated in 1963 to 2nd Canberra Scout Group by Dacre Smyth, an Australian naval officer who participated in the D-Day landings and the Battle of the Coral Sea. The Walking Stick was donated the year the current Hall in Deakin was opened by Governor General Lord de Lisle.

Dacre Smyth's deed of donation of the BP Walking stick note reads:

"This carved walking stick was originally presented to the founder of the Boy Scout Movement and the World Chief Scout, Lord Robert Stephen Smyth Baden Powell by Scouts from the Solomon Islands where it was made.

In January 1935, BP gave it to his cousin, General Sir Neville Smyth VC who left it on his death in 1940 to his son who was (then) Captain Dacre Smyth, Royal Australian Navy and Group Scout Master for 2nd Canberra Scout Group. Captain Smyth presented it to 2nd Canberra (now Air Scouts Canberra) in December 1963. If the 2nd Canberra Scout Group (1st Deakin Group) ever closes, the stick is to be transferred to the Canberra area headquarters (now the ACT Branch).

Lord Baden-Powell died in 1940. Lady Baden-Powell visited Canberra in 1948 and attended a reception in the grounds of Acton House. She visited again in 1967 when a rally was held at the Manuka Oval. In 1957 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Scouting in Canberra, a camp was held in front of the Australian War Memorial.

Other early Groups, 3rd, 4th, 5th Canberra etc amalgamated with other Groups as the population changed. 13th Canberra Group at O'Connor is still active and the only Group in Canberra with the numeric numbering.