



SCOUTS IN ACTION

Australian Capital Territory

SCISCOOTS LEADS THE WAY ON SUSTAINABLE SCIENCE

By Kate Lehane, Special Projects



Nearly 1300 Scouts and Guides from across the ACT and surrounding region got their hands dirty celebrating National Science Week by taking part in SciScouts 2017: Environment - Trees, Bees & Seeds! We even had Scouts join us from as far as Sydney and the NSW South Coast!

SciScouts 2017: Environment was the third annual SciScouts event following an astronomy night at Mount Stromlo Observatory in 2015 and a chemistry day held at the ANU Research School of Chemistry in 2016. We are fortunate to have received financial support towards running this event via the Australian Government's National Science Week grant program and a local Canberra Southern Cross Club Community Support grant.

Story continues on page 12....

FROM THE CHIEF

By Rick Goode



August was another great month for Scouting. Many Groups had recipients of Adult Recognition Awards which were announced on World Scout Day, 1 August. I was pleased to present many of these Awards at the 2017 Adult Recognition Awards presentation night on 16 August. Many happy smiles from a very well deserved cross section of Leaders, Adult Supporters and the sole Rover Scout. Congratulations again to all 73 recipients.

This was followed soon after by the increasingly popular SciScouts event. As mentioned in the first story of Scouts in ACTION, this year the theme was about the environment and keeping with that theme, it was held at the home of Scouting in the ACT – Camp Cottermouth. Some 1300 youth and adults participated and came from far and wide. Kate Lehane and her capable body of helpers ran a superb event – congratulations Kate and crew. I would also like to thank those organisations that partnered with us to offer a wide and interesting variety of activities. There is nothing quite like a fire (controlled fortunately) to attract a Cub Scouts interest!

At the August Branch Executive Committee (BEC) meeting there were a number of Policies presented for amendment as part of the ongoing policy review process. These policies are sun protection, standard precautions against blood-borne diseases, our privacy policy and incident reports. These, as well as the recent ACT Branch Constitution change, are all now on our web-site.

I was sad to receive the resignation of our Camp Cottermouth managers, Mick and Rachael. I would like to thank them for their work and wish them well in the future. They will be missed. You will probably have noticed a series of ads seeking replacements.

BRANCH OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Promise & Law

Information packs have now been put together and are available in Group pigeon holes. There are also resources available on the display table at Branch Office

Special Meeting:

Thank you everyone who attended the Special Meeting on Wednesday 9 August. We are pleased to advise that the change to clause 34.3 was accepted and is available to view on our website.

Reimbursement of Census fees:

Just a reminder that applications for reimbursements need to be sent to the Chief Commissioner for approval before the office can refund any payments.

Training Courses:

Training Workshops are being held at Branch HQ on the 4th Monday and the 2nd Tuesday night of each month from 7.30pm onwards. The next workshop is scheduled for 12th September.

The following training courses have been scheduled for October:

7-8 October- Scout Basic Outdoor Skills at Camp Cotter

7-8 October-Basic Practical Supplement for leaders of Adult At Branch HQ

14-15 October- Basic Practical Supplement Leaders of Youth at Camp Cotter

28-29 October- Advanced Practical Supplement- Joeys at Branch HQ

You can register for all training courses online via the members area or on the "Forms and Resources" page of the front of the Scouts ACT website. Please remember registrations close 2 weeks beforehand.

WWVP Cards:

Please remember to send a copy of the front of your card to assistant@scoutsact.com.au. We need to keep a copy of all Adult members as per our Child Protection policy.

Community Rewards Program:

The Canberra Southern Cross Club Community Rewards Program is an initiative that gives 10% of the member's spend on food and beverages back to their community group. If you would like to register your Scout Group or would like more information, then please visit their website, www.csccl.com.au/rewards

Upcoming events:

There are a number of events for your program in the near future due to the warmer weather. Some events are JOTA-JOTI (page 5), the CURE (page 6) and McHappy Day (page 7). Please register early to avoid disappointment.

NEW YOUTH PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

By Brent Juratowitch, Assistant Chief Commissioner Business Change

Back in 2013 Scouts Australia started on a journey to revitalise our Program so that we can deliver a fun, challenging, adventurous and inclusive youth program for the future. This journey is called the Youth Program Review (YPR). Over this time there has been much research, many surveys, workshops and consultative forums held to design the structure and content of YPR. Three years down the track, we now have a new Program incorporating core fundamentals that stem from both the new, contemporary ideas of our members as well as the original ethos of Scouting – getting outdoors, being adventurous and becoming a global citizen.

This new Program is now ready for trialling. Since July, four ‘Groundbreakers’ Groups from Victoria have started testing the program. They are experimenting, developing, evolving and providing feedback on the New Program that will ultimately contribute to the nationwide implementation. They are specifically looking at

- Plan > Do > Review >
- Challenge Areas
- Program Essentials
- Personal Progression Framework
- Youth Leading, Adults Supporting • Symbolic Frameworks
- Outdoor Adventure Skills
- Project Patrols
- Personal Journey resources, and the
- Internal Compass

This is a very important stage of the YPR as it will provide valuable feedback on the practicalities of the concepts for Scouting, while helping to shape the implementation of the new youth program for all Scout Groups across Australia. Their direct feedback will be combined with the feedback from workshops (such as those we held in the ACT) to refine and modify the proposed new Program before the next stage of implementation – The Pioneers. ACT Branch are now looking for Groups to join this implementation process as Pioneers. Their role will be to test the latest version of the Program allowing Scouts in the ACT to see and feel the new program in action. Importantly they will join with Pioneers from across Australia to provide feedback on how we can improve and tweak the Program to be the best that it can be for all members from today and into the future.

From feedback I have received so far, members in the ACT are keen to see how project patrols will work with younger sections; how we integrate special interests such as STEM, creative and performing arts into the Program; how we cater for a far wider range of outdoor adventure skills in all sections and how we recognise existing achievements and awards into the proposed new personal progression framework. I am sure that the Pioneers will include these and other issues in their testing of the new Program. Once selected, Leaders from amongst the Pioneer Group as well as members of the ACT Branch Training Team will join colleagues at a national training workshop to be held in Melbourne in November. The ACT Branch will then conduct further Group youth and adult training in early 2018 ready to start the trials at the beginning of Term 2, 2018. After three years of consultation, design and development, it is exciting to be finally moving into the implementation phase of the YPR. This is the first of what I hope will be regular updates on implementation of the new Program. If you have any questions about the implementation of the new Program or would like me to meet with you, your leaders, support committees or youth members to provide more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me at accbc@scoutsact.com.au

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR / INTERNET 2017

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is an annual event in which around 500,000 Scouts and Guides from all over the world make contact with each other by means of amateur radio.

Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) runs on the same weekend and connects Guides and Scouts on the internet through Scout-operated Internet chat rooms such as ScoutLink as well as Minecraft, webpages, blogs... you can even use voice communication!

The purpose of JOTA-JOTI is to enable and encourage Scouts and Guides from all around the world to communicate with one another by means of amateur radio and internet, providing a fun and educational experience and promoting their sense of belonging to a worldwide movement.

The Scouts ACT Radio Activity Team and the SE Region Girl Guides have again partnered up to provide a great assortment of activities for Guides and Scouts of all ages to participate in. Groups are encouraged to book a timeslot (usually 1-2 hours depending on numbers and age of the group) which will include:

- ½ hour radio booking
- Craft activities
- 'fox' hunting
- Geocaching
- Radio games
- Radio communications



Extras:

Balloon Team - the next Balloon Tether event for Scout members will be at Cotter on the weekend of October 20th-21st, weather dependent. This is a separate event to JOTA and will need to be booked through the balloon team. It will occur around sunrise and Scout Balloon badges will be available for \$5 for members who go up in the Balloon. Follow the Balloon team facebook page for more information. If you want to camp for this activity please contact Elizabeth Hickey for a camp site.

Electronics Activity for night Time activity for Scouts, Venturers and Senior Guides - there will be an additional activity offered to scouts, Venturers and Guides who are camping that will involve making a circuit. This will be provided additional to JOTA and as such will have an extra cost. This will only be available in the evening after the daytime activities have finished so will be best suited to groups who are camping. If you would like to take this opportunity up please indicate your interest and Elizabeth will refer you to the Organiser. Places are limited so it will be offered on a first come first served basis.

Here are the details for the JOTA-JOTI weekend:

- WHEN:** Friday 20th (Camping only), Saturday 21st – Sunday 22nd October 2017
WHERE: Camp Cottermouth, Cotter Road
COST: \$5.00 per participant, includes all activities plus badge
BOOKINGS: Contact Elizabeth Hickey on radio@scoutsact.com.au

CURE 2017

The Canberra Urban Rogaining Event (CURE) is on again for the Scouts Section and will be held on Sunday the 17 September from 9am to 4.30pm.

Scouts participate in Patrols, each Patrol will receive a map and list of waypoints in the surrounding area. They then select waypoints to visit as a Patrol to earn points (some locations are worth more than others). The Patrol which earns the most points throughout the day wins! Rules and safety procedures will be provided at the start of the event.

Where do we start and finish?
At Telopea Park



What is required?

Each Patrol will need to carry a mobile phone and a camera (a phone camera will do); Scouts will need normal day-hike gear (day pack, water bottle, sunscreen, etc.)

Which badges could possibly be earned?

Patrol Activity, Pioneer level Journey, and parts of Citizenship (Pioneer 6b; Explorer 6b) (if Troop Council approves)

What does it cost?

\$2 per Scout, to pay for the end-of-day BBQ.

Contact:

For more information, please contact Eric on cure@scoutsact.com.au or 0415 631 421



MCHAPPY DAY 2017



Scout Groups in the ACT are invited to participate in McHappy Day 2017 on Saturday 14th of October. This will be the 11th year of Scouts Australia's official participation, helping to raise money for Ronald McDonald House Charities which support seriously ill children around Australia. All Scouts who participate will be given a commemorative blanket badge.

Money raised will go towards the following Programs

The Ronald McDonald House Program:

These Houses provide a home away from home for families of seriously ill children being treated at nearby hospitals. In particular, Ronald McDonald Houses provide accommodation to families from rural and regional areas that would otherwise need to pay for hotels during their child's hospital treatment.

The Ronald McDonald Family Room Program:

The Family Rooms provide a relaxing haven for families within hospitals to have a break from the stress of many hours spent by their child's bedside.

The Ronald McDonald Learning Program:

Children being treated from serious illness often miss out on school, so to help them catch up, the Learning Program matches kids up with tutors to ensure they don't miss out.

The Ronald McDonald Family Retreat Program:

The Family Retreats provide families with seriously ill children a week's free accommodation, enabling them to reconnect and enjoy a break when they most need it and can least afford it.

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile:

This takes specialised health care professionals to children in regional and remote areas.

The McHappy Day collections will take place from 10.30 to 3pm on the day, in shifts of around 1 hour. A maximum of 10 Scouts per shift is recommended. Scout Groups will be allocated a McDonalds event manager to look after you for the day. They will be able to discuss logistics and other issues with you prior to the day, including making sure where you are positioned is safe and comfortable for all your team. To register your Group's participation for McHappy Day before the 11th of September, go to <https://form.jotform.co/ScoutsAust/mchappy-day-2017> and register online.

SCOUTS KNOTTING NIGHT

By Air Scouts Canberra



A huge part of Scouting is based around knots - how to tie them and when to use them. Without understanding the different types of knots and their potential applications, knots can be very challenging to learn! Over two nights, our Scout patrols worked to apply various knots to suit the application. Here we share how the night unfolded.

After the two nights our Scouts were knot experts (as you can see from the photos)



SCOUTING IN THE MID NIGHT SUN

By Rupsa Neogy Kumar, Joey Leader at Lake Burley Griffin Sea Scouts



The Australian Contingent to Norway comprised of 96 Scout members. I was lucky enough to be part of the Contingent Management Team (CMT) with a task that combined finance and administration. The contingent left Australia on the 24th June 2017 from Sydney and Melbourne International Airports. I boarded a flight from Canberra to Melbourne to meet and supervise 36 Scouts whilst travelling to Oslo. When we arrived in Oslo it was a gorgeous sunny day and we were welcomed by the Norwegian Scout Commissioner with some Norwegian brown. This is where I learnt my first Norwegian words, 'Vent Her' which means wait here.

The town in Oslo was a far from the airport and it took us an hour to reach it. This was the first time I came across to European landscape and viewed its green lush valleys. Our first activity for the day was hiking along Aker River to Kjelsås. This was intended to keep our Scouts (and Leaders) awake and fight their jet lag. In the afternoon we all went to a local home stay with a Norwegian family for the next 5 days. CMT was lucky enough to get accommodation in the Scout Commissioner's parent's house. Over the next few days we explored the Akershus Fortress, Army Museum, Oslo's Parliament House, a boat ride to Bygdøy, a tour around Fjord, a Sommer Park near Tryvann (I loved doing their Zipline), Holmenkollen Ski Museum, Norsk Folke Museum, Fram Museum, Viking Ship Museum, Vigeland Sculpture Park, Oslo Opera House and the Royal Palace. We ate (or at least tried) whale, eel, mackerel, moose and reindeer meat. Every meal in Norway came with a lot of bread and preserved food like olives, cheeses, caviar and salami. Chicken is very rare and very expensive in Oslo. Being in a cold country we ate a lot more than compared to when we were in Australia to keep ourselves warm. This luxury did not last long as a few of contingent leaders, including myself, had to fly to Bodø to set up the Jamboree campsite prior to the opening ceremony.

We arrived in Bodø just after midnight and walked to the Jamboree site from the Bodø airport – it was quite a distance. The Norwegian Jamboree was slightly different to the Australian Jamboree. Here in Australia everything was set up weeks before hand and we have a structured program. In Bodø, we were given an agricultural field to set up a campsite in a few days. After a few hours of sleep in the open air we decided to set up our tents. The next day the rain started and it was on and off for the next 7 days. While my fellow Norwegians enjoyed the summer rain, we were struggling with the cold wild wet weather and the 2 inch thick mud which was everywhere. We pushed on to make the fire and cook all our meals, attend the Jamboree activities and did the over night hikes.

SCOUTING IN THE MID NIGHT SUN

...continued from page 9

In my spare time or when I had a day off from duty I went hiking across the 3 peaks, which was a remarkable experience. Walking through the cloud on the peak, then strolling down on slippery wet ground with heavy backpacks was enduring but we enjoyed the most amazing views. I also went to see Saltstraumen – it is a small strait with one of the strongest tidal currents in the world. It is a popular spot for local fishing. I met a lot of Scout Leaders from Norway, UK, Switzerland, Ireland, Sweden, Hong Kong, China and USA. We spend these few days together and bonded like a family. Because of the 6 month days and 6 month nights, locals preserve their fish and soak them in water just before cooking. There is plenty of fish and meat (moose and reindeer) in the wild and they never have to pay for it. In the summer time locals are busy fishing, hunting, gathering food and preserving them for winter.



After saying good bye to the Jamboree, the Australian contingent went cruising on the Arctic Sea. We were blessed to get a booking on the world famous Hurtigruten Cruise – Oslo to Tromsø. We spend a night on a cruise, dipping into the Jacuzzi and overlooking surrounding snowy peaks with a touch of sunlight was extraordinary. As we were from the Southern equator and now in the Arctic Circle we were “baptised” by “King Neptune” by having ice cubes dropped down our backs. We had some fine dining experiences as well with multiple scoops of ice cream and chocolate mousse. Tromsø is famous for skiing in winter season. We took a Fjellheisen (aerial tramway) to the top of Storsteinen Mountain which is about 420m above sea-level. We made snowballs there and threw them at each other. This was an incredible experience as it was still summer. We also visited the Arctic Cathedral which is well-known for midnight concerts in the golden light of the midnight sun.

To maximise our time that we had, we often took overnight buses and trains and did activities during the day. European trains offer a very good scenic experience. When we were not sleeping on trains and buses, we booked accommodation through the “Thorn” Hotel chain for a good nights sleep. For our next leg, we took an internal flight from Tromsø to Trondheim. One of the highlights in Trondheim was the Nidaros Cathedral, it is the largest medieval building in Scandinavia and Norway's most important Gothic monument. A few of us climbed the centre tower of the Cathedral which has very narrow winding stairs with 172 steps in the dark! Luckily you get to hold a rope at the top as you step out into the open air to experience Trondheim's city centre view from the top. We then took a boat to Munkholmen Island which was named after a monastery and their monks.

SCOUTING IN THE MID NIGHT SUN

...continuation from page 10

On to the next destination as we arrived in Bergen (pronounced as Bryggen). Bergen is surrounded by 7 mountains and in the old days the Germans came here for trading. Sydney is only a stone throw of 16,162km away from Bergen. It is definitely a tourist destination offering lots of souvenir shops and one thing is for sure, you cannot bargain in Norway! Norwegian wool is of high quality, weatherproof and water repellent – I got couple of beanies and traditional Norwegian wool sweaters for home. The Rosenkrantzårnet (Rosenkrantz Tower) is now called the Bergen City Museum. It is most important Renaissance era monument in Norway. The tower was the residence of King Eirik Magnusson. On 31st of October each year, the tower is open for an 'All Saints Day' celebration.

Håkonshallen (Bergenshus Fortress) is located in the entrance to the harbour in Bergen. It is one of the oldest and best preserved castles in Norway. Bryggemuseet (Bergen City Museum) is now the town hall and it has been designated a World Heritage site by UNESCO. A must do is the Fløibanen (funicular railway) to Mt Fløyen. It provides magnificent views of Bergen. We walked down from the top of Mt Fløyen to the town centre at the bottom and took lots of panoramic shots.

Preikestolen was an experience of a lifetime and we hiked on slippery wet rocks. It was a mind blowing experience when you reach the lookout point. After the hike we returned to the hotel for a buffet dinner and farewelled a few contingent members who were travelling to other parts of the world. We then got ready for our journey back home the next day.



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By Kate Lehane, Special Projects

Continuation from page 1....

We must also recognise the amazing in-kind support of over 15 Activity Partners, from the Australian National University, ACT Government, emergency services including the ACT RFS and SES, and a number of local environmental organisations including the Murray Darling Basin Authority and Mulligan's Flat Nature Reserve.

The Education Team from ANSTO also made the trip down from Sydney topping off the weekend with activities related to their wetland birds Feathermap Project.

There was even some cross promotion in the local media with the SciScouts Team publishing an article in the Canberra Times' Ask Fuzzy column about how to make S'Mores in a solar oven, and radio interviews on 2XX Fuzzy Logic Science show and ABC Canberra.

We hope that SciScouts might offer that one light bulb moment that inspires our young members to consider a career in science or technology. Wonder what's on the cards for next year?

