



# SCOUTS IN ACTION

Australian Capital Territory

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## SCISCOUTS 2017 BOOKINGS OPENING SOON

Planning is well underway for SciScouts 2017: Environment - Trees, Bees and Seeds during National Science Week. A range of exciting hands-on activities will be on offer, aligning with the sub-topics of the World Scout Environment Badge: clean water, natural habitats, minimising harmful substances, sustainability and natural hazards.

SciScouts 2017 will run over two days at Camp Cottermouth on 19-20 August:

### **Saturday 19 August Joeys/ Cubs**

Pre-Junior Guides/ Junior Guides Registration from 11:00 am. Activities from 12.00 pm until 4.30 pm.

### **Saturday 20 August Scouts/ Venturer/ Rovers**

Guides /Senior Guides/ Olaves Registration from 8:00 am. Activities from 9.00 am and until 1:30 pm.

Cost: \$5 per youth member participant (plus small booking fee) to cover cost of badge and a small contribution towards running the activity.

How to book: Bookings will be essential, and are due to open mid-May. They will remain open until the end of July, unless sold out prior! Please co-ordinate bookings within your group and allocate one person to make your booking. When booking please take note of required supervision ratios. Specific joining instructions will be sent out prior to the event.

More information:

Visit: [www.scoutsact.com.au/sciscouts](http://www.scoutsact.com.au/sciscouts)

Email: [specialprojects@scoutsact.com.au](mailto:specialprojects@scoutsact.com.au)

# FROM THE CHIEF

By Rick Goode



This has been a month of farewells, of welcomes and of congratulations across the Branch. Pam Coan, a much-loved Leader was farewelled by family and friends on Mt Kosciusko in a small and moving ceremony. Geoff Crossley passed after a valiant struggle. Many of you knew and respected the contribution that Geoff made to Scouting over many years.

Leah Bach has resigned as Branch Rover adviser to take up a great opportunity with work in Wollongong and I thank her for her contribution to Scouting, in particular in the local and National Rover Section.

Liz Anderson has been appointed to the position of Branch Commissioner, Vocational Education and Training (VET). Liz brings a wealth of experience to the role. I look forward to working with her. Congratulation Liz!

I was privileged to attend the Queen's Scout Award presentation to Sam Philipse and congratulate her on being the first Crowajingalong Venturer to earn the QS Award in a very long time.

The ACT Branch AGCM is being held on 25 May at Weston Scout Hall. I encourage you to attend. More information on the details of the AGCM will be distributed shortly.

Last weekend saw the regular Basic Programming Skills training weekend at Camp Cottermouth. Training was run by the Training Team and other experienced Leaders for an enthusiastic group of future Leaders across all Sections. Lots of learning and sharing, Lots of new friends and lots of fun (and the food was pretty good as well!) I enjoyed visiting again Joey Scout Rock and placing my visitors stone on the circle. I also met the new Camp Cottermouth managers, Mick and Rachael who have some great plans for improving the Camp Cottermouth 'experience' for Scouting.

ANZAC Day is always a highlight for Scouting across the ACT Branch. This year was no exception with participation not only at the Australian War Memorial (and the sleepover) but in some regional centres. Congratulations and thanks to all those who participated. It was very pleasing to see how stoic our members were in the face of inclement weather.

Good Scouting!

# BRANCH OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome back to Scouting for Term 2.

A reminder to all that the Census process will soon commence for the 2017/2018 membership year. Relevant documentation will be sent out via email to you shortly.

The Annual General Council Meeting will be held on the 25 May 2017, 19.30 at Weston Scout Hall. Hope to see you there.

Thank you for being supportive while we have been training our newest employee – Ashleigh.

There have been a couple of car break ins outside the Scouts ACT Branch Office. We urge members to not leave any valuables or bags on the seats or car floor.

Program Support:

The Radio Activities Team – Scouts ACT (RATSACT) in conjunction with the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club (CRARC) are proud to present the inaugural Scouting/Guiding Amateur Radio Foundation qualification course!

The Foundation qualification is an internationally recognised qualification in Amateur Radio and permits those who hold it to operate and develop an amateur radio station. The foundation license is aimed at those with little to no experience in radio, but with an interest in technology and/or communication. Note – knowledge of morse code is not necessary!

The Scouting-run course will deliver a customised version of the CRARC Foundation course specifically designed for youth participation. Participants who successfully complete the course will qualify for the Australian Government issued Amateur Operator's Certificate of Proficiency (Foundation) – AOCP(F). This is a permanent qualification.

Scouting and Guiding participants can use participation in the course towards several badges including Communication and Technology for Scouts, Pursuits for Venturers and the Personal Growth Badge for Rovers. Guides can utilise the course as part of their Technology Trefoil 3 badge or towards a Technology Focus, their Queens guide challenge or communication badges. Members of RATSACT can make themselves available to explain the course and participate in preparation for badge work and to provide a qualified examiner for badge work if organised with the team.

The course will be held at Camp Cottermouth from Friday the 4th of August until Sunday the 6th. The cost for the weekend will be \$220 which will cover camp fees, food and training materials as well as the assessment process. The course is being run as a residential weekend, however we can consider individual circumstances if you are unable to stay overnight.

Successful completion of the course will REQUIRE passing a written examination on Sunday.

Please contact Elizabeth Hickey at [lhickey@netspeed.com.au](mailto:lhickey@netspeed.com.au) for further information or to make your booking.

# MULGA VENTURERS TRY SHOOTING

By Paris Lai, Venturer Leader at Mulga Scout Group

In 2016 the Venturers at Mulga Scout Group put forward an idea to the Unit Council and their Scout Leaders to go rifle shooting. Although mildly unconventional in some modern Scouting jurisdiction, this is common in other countries and perhaps even ordinary in the time of Lord Baden Powell.

A check of Policy and Rules showed that the organisation expected the question to be asked, was prepared and not averse to the idea; "Scouts shall not use firearms except on an official shooting range under an authorised person in charge. "

The Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) has an extensive range complex in Majura and also runs accredited safety training courses. Junior membership to the association entitled the Unit to free training and at \$25 was not an onerous expense. Since it was a group activity we offset the cost by \$15 per member to further reduce the cost.

The association has a junior development program that meets twice a month, the program dovetails almost perfectly with the Venturer awards scheme and provides one on one training in the skills of sports shooting.

After completing the safety training on a Thursday evening, the entire Unit went to the range on a Sunday and tried their hand at shooting. Everyone enjoyed it, and the Unit has the activity listed as an ongoing one. It is inexpensive, \$8 per session, is under cover and the junior instructors were helpful and incredibly patient and enthusiastic. It turn out that some of the Unit are also pretty good shots. All in all.....a bang up success!

