



Scouts in ACTION

Australian Capital Territory Branch

November 2015

Venturer Sleepout

This year our Venturers took part in the Canberra Community Sleep Out with the aim to raise funds and awareness about homelessness and family violence. This is something that is close to our Venturers as 2/3 of homeless people are under 25 years of age. 8 Venturer Units took part in the Sleep Out and 14 Units helped to raise \$7780 for the cause.



From the Chief



Congratulations to Lake Ginninderra Sea Scout Group who celebrated their 40th anniversary this month. With Group awards, games, screen printing, canoeing, a multi coloured section cake and the breaking of the Australian flag on a new high tech flag pole the day was bound to be a great success. Also on the day I had the privilege of investing Mr Dennis Green AM National Executive Committee member as an ACT Honorary Commissioner.

Dennis will be undertaking Leader of Adults training in our Branch.

Visiting our new Leaders in training was very encouraging as I could see first-hand the creativity and enthusiasm of our soon to be Joey, Cub, Scout and Venturer Leaders. At the Venturer Leadership Course which included Venturers as well as leaders, I was particularly impressed by the passion and involvement that many of our Venturers have in making a difference to the community.

In fact, two important events have been planned by the Branch Venturer Council – one on Monday November 23 and another on Tuesday 24 between 7.30 pm and 9.30 pm at the Birrale Scout Hall and Kambah Woolshed respectively. They support the White Ribbon Campaign which seeks to bring awareness to and halt violence against women. Globally, Scouting is an organisation that promotes peace and so this campaign fits well with our aims and objectives. Will you join me in attending and supporting this youth led initiative?

Gungahlin Scouts Green Level Journey

By Charlotte Schroeder-Juratowitch, Scout, Amaroo Scout Group

On the morning of the 6th of October, I woke up feeling excited and a bit nervous. I was about to set off on a Green level journey with four other scouts from the Gungahlin Area - Naomi from Birralea, and Seb, Paris and David from Well Station. But this Green Hike wasn't a normal Green Hike. It was a Green Horse Trek!

It all started at Harrison School, and we bundled into two cars with our bags. The car trip ended at the start to the Thredbo Valley Track. It was 12:30 before we all got out, and after a quick photo, we started walking. We stopped for lunch at a place called Bridge 1, and after that we continued, at a normal pace for us, but a fast pace for the leaders (they were checking in on us at certain check points along the way). We reached the first checkpoint where we were supposed to meet the leaders, and after waiting for them for five minutes, we decided to call them using our emergency protocols. They told us that we should keep going. So we did, but not before we saw a brown snake, sliding along the side of the path. It wasn't that big, so we just stayed our ground until he slid away.

11 km later, we stopped for a break at Ngargio campsite, this being the last break before arriving at our overnight campsite. I decided it would be a good idea to sit on a steep bank near the Thredbo River. I found out it wasn't a good idea when I fell in, and got wet socks and shoes. I was also a bit silly, and decided not to change my shoes and socks, as "They'll definitely dry off". Oh boy, was I wrong. I got a huge blister on the Achilles' heel of my right foot, and it's still there a week later!



When we reached Thredbo Diggings (14kms from the start of our hike), we knew we had to have the tents set up and dinner ready by darkness. We got the tents up alright, but we didn't have dinner ready. Dinner went well until we discovered a baby possum when we poured the washing up water over it (it had been watching us from behind a bush). Then we found the mother. And then another mother and baby.

When we got up in the morning, we were all very sore, and we packed up camp ready for the next night. We then had to walk 3km to a place called Bullocks Hut (near the ski tube) before catching a lift to the Thredbo Valley Horse Riding (TVHR). While Bullock's Hut is at the edge of TVHR property, the stables were on the other side and we thought it too dangerous to walk the final leg along the twisting and narrow fog covered Alpine Way. Once we arrived we were immediately given jobs, the first being to muster the horses into the stables. We then had to brush the horses, saddle them and stretch their legs. We then took them for a walk before heading off.

We rode for two hours up to the Crackenback Ridge and onto East Peak finding out that ants really liked our saddlebags along the way. We discovered this by putting the bag on the ground and within five seconds it was covered. We rode on arriving at The Thredbo Diggings Campground and setting up camp in a different part of the campsite. The possums returned during our stay and in the middle of the night, a possum, or some other creature found the plastic bottle used for collecting and purifying water on our picnic table, and threw it at my tent.

In the morning, we all got up, and walked a different track to Bullocks Hut and then onto TVHR (the horses had been returned the previous night). With just a little assistance we mustered and saddled the horses. We took them for another walk to stretch their legs before heading off.

That day was some of the most strenuous riding I've ever done. It was to the Crackenback Ridge again, but this time to the West Peak. We were climbing uphill for most of the trip, and then we rode onto a flat area where we let the horses rest and have some grass. We came to the place we were going to have lunch, and after checking for ants, we got off, and the manager of TVHR asked me to point onto our maps where we were. I got it spot on the first time.



After lunch, we started to go downhill. The horses went a lot slower, but we still had a lot of fun. Strawberry (my horse) decided she would take me into a clump of stinging nettles, but otherwise I was fine. You could tell that the horses were also enjoying themselves because they started trotting and then some galloping, which was very enjoyable.

This experience was definitely one that I probably won't be able to do again, so I thank the leaders for supporting me and helping me achieve my Green Journey. I suggest that 'horse trek' gets added to the Green Book, because I think every scout should get the opportunity to have as much fun as I did.

JOTA 2015 RATSACT

By Elizabeth Hickey, Radio Team

This year was a fantastic year for JOTA participation. We had more than 300 participants over the weekend of the 17th and 18th of October. Our major contacts included the Major JOTA bases for both New Zealand and South Australia.

Participants undertook activities based around this years JOTA theme of environmental sustainability and "The Earth is Yours". This was achieved through activities looking at the environment, re-use of materials, reflection and of course radio activities.

The ACT & SE Region Guides assisted us though the provision of craft and environmental activities, with the Radio Activities Team a member of CRARC (Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club) providing the radio activities. A big thanks too all involved.

If anyone would like any more information on JOTA, like to run radio related activities or gain their Amateur Radio Special Interest Badge please contact Elizabeth Hickey on lhipkey@netspeed.com.au



Lake Ginninderra turns 40

By Andrea Farrow, Group Leader

On Sunday 25 October 2015 Lake Ginninderra Sea Scouts celebrated their 40th anniversary.

The day was filled with fun water based activities. We had raft building, canoeing, sailing and swimming. Screen printing, aerial golf and face painting also occurred.

The day started with opening parade where our Chief Commissioner, Mr Peter Harris invested our guest of honour, Mr Dennis Green as an ACT Honorary Commissioner.

The Irish dancers who hire our hall put on a fantastic dance show and they all looked amazing, so much talent on the day!

After the formalities of eating cake, the youth members were off enjoying the sun and water.

The day ended with our youth sailing (surprise surprise)

Happy 40th Lake Ginn, I'm proud to be associated with such a fantastic Group.



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 assistant@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).