



Scouts in ACTion

Australian Capital Territory Branch

November 2014

Wiggles Moot

By Ben Muller, Moot Chief

Over the last weekend in October Murrumbidgee Rover Crew played host to 106 Rovers at Camp Cottermouth for the Wiggles Moot (not officially endorsed by the Wiggles). A Moot is a Rover camp run by Rovers for Rovers with activities set around a theme, in this case The Wiggles. Rovers from the ACT, NSW, SA, QLD, VIC and overseas converged on the capital for a weekend of fun activities encompassing the five areas of development; spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, and social as well as a service activity undertaken by all participants. This is the first time a Moot has been run in the ACT in almost 3 years and with this one being such a success we hope to have many more to come! For a full report on the event or any additional information please email crewleader@murrumbidgeerovers.org.au



From the Chief



Spending time at Camp Cottermouth is always a pleasure but today was exceptionally not just pleasant but inspiring. I saw the Wiggles Moot in action having over 100 Rovers from all over Australia. I might add that the game of charades will never be the same for me again! Ben Muller and his Murrumbidgee Rover Crew team did a tremendous job in planning, running and documenting such a major event. Calling in on the Joey, Cub and Scout training sessions also allowed me to spend time with passionate adults who are keen to discover the fun, excitement and importance of being prepared for their role in Scouting.

Later in November, our Camp Managers, Owen and Jenny Russell will be leaving us to travel around Australia in their new mobile home. Before they leave, they will spend three weeks helping our new managers settle in. Owen and Jenny have been instrumental in building up the hiring clientele and giving our campsite such a great name as a friendly, high class campsite. They will be sorely missed. Please stay tuned for an opportunity to say your farewell to these wonderful people and to welcome our new camp managers.

Lastly, as we prepare for the Christmas season and holidays, I ask that you might look over your photos from 2014 and send in some of the best to our Development Officer, Tyron Ahern at development.officer@act.scouts.asn.au. Those of you who are in leadership roles I ask a little more – that you finalise your reports for 2014 and send them in to your Team Manager – and one more task. Who has been working extra hard his year – on the Group Support Committee or on the leadership team? Why not nominate them for a World Scout Day Award. Don't wait until the deadline in April next year download the form from our website, fill it in and send it off to our HERC team at herc@act.scouts.asn.au – it's a great way to say thank you!

Rover Basic Sectional Technique training course

By Bronwyn Lovejoy, Murrumbidgee Rover Crew

On the weekend of the 18th-19th of October, 8 Rover Scouts from all over ACT, along with 2 Rovers from North Sydney, came to Branch HQ, for one of the first Rover Basic Sectional Technique training courses that have not been run in quite a long time.

Over the weekend, we learnt many useful tricks and tips for becoming an active rover in our crew, whether it meant we were a crew leader, part of the executive team in a Rover Crew, or planning on becoming one in the distant future. We learnt how to program effectively, learn about different styles of leadership that we may need to use, discussed issues that affected us as Rovers, participated in many sorts of games, participated in a very cool Scouts own. Our trainers presented the course in such a fun way, which made it less scary – I honestly thought I'd be spending the whole weekend sitting behind a desk listening to someone talk! I was very glad that we were learning by doing!

If any other Rover out there is reading this, I would highly recommend participating in an upcoming course. I left the course feeling absolutely inspired, ready to start making my Rover Crew even that much better!

Buy a badge and build a Hall

By Sue Groves, Joey Leader, Diamantina Scout Group

The Diamantina Scout Group has operated in Kaleen, ACT for over 30 years. The Group is very active with a strong leadership team who provide an engaging program for our youth members. In November 2010, our original Scout hall was destroyed by fire, due to arson.

We will soon begin rebuilding. Our new hall will provide our youth members with a place where they have a sense of ownership and membership of the Scouting family. A place where they are encouraged to develop life skills, foster friendships and have fun. Unfortunately funds from the insurance policy are not sufficient to complete the rebuild.

Diamantina Scout Group is selling a special, one-off, badge to raise funds to help rebuild our hall in Kaleen. Diamantina Rebuilding Badges are \$5 each and can be ordered from Sue segroves@ozemail.com.au



Rovering to success!

By Chris Malam, Crew Leader, Blue Water Rover Crew

Perched atop a lookout, gazing out over the splendid Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, a small gathering assembled – a mottley bunch of family, Scouting friends and Rovers - coming together to celebrate a wonderful achievement. On the 12th October, Katy Tomkins (Blue Water Rover Crew) was presented with her Baden-Powell Scout Award (BPSA), the pinnacle achievement of the Rover Scout section and the highest award that can be attained by youth members.

The BPSA is designed to challenge and test all those who set out to meet its goals, and takes into account the Aims of Scouting – social, physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual development of young people. In achieving her BPSA, Katy undertook several challenges including: Coordinating and running Tallaganda Sword, a joint Rover and Venturer weekend of adventurous activities and competitive hiking; a two-week driving expedition around Tasmania with fellow Rovers, including pre-training, organising logistics and overcoming challenges along the way...and having fun!

Organising a series of camps to develop different scoutcraft skills, such as cooking, four-wheel driving and navigation. A highlight was surveying potential koala habitat with Eurobodalla Coastwatchers and other ACT Rovers. Undertaking echidna monitoring and conservation activities on Kangaroo Island, SA through Conservation Volunteers Australia. She then became a trained volunteer interpreter at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, educating and guiding the wider community on the cultural and natural history of the region. Katy continues to volunteer at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.

Blue Water Rovers would like to congratulate Katy on this amazing achievement, a journey that no doubt will serve as an inspiration to younger Rovers to aim high and seek new challenges. It has been a privilege to see Katy grow and develop in working toward her BPSA and in Rovering – you have overcome many 'rocks' on your way to this 'rainbow of happiness', and we hope that you continue to 'paddle your own canoe' yonder!



Boy Scouts of America joining the Scouting Movement in Canberra

By Derek Licina, Scoutmaster, BSA Troop 2012

Scouting is an international movement in 216 countries, including Australia and the United States. While linked in the brotherhood of Scouting, Boy Scouts of America (BSA) operates on a different organisational style and advancement program. To allow boys who live outside the U.S. to continue in the BSA program, National BSA created two options to continue Scouting overseas – the Lone Scout program and the creation of overseas BSA troops under the Direct Service Council (DSC). The Lone Scout program is intended for Scouts who are isolated from other BSA Scouts, which allows boys to continue their advancement until they can rejoin a traditional troop. BSA membership is open to boys aged 11-17, are American citizens or have dual citizenship, and are interested in BSA Scouting.

In September 2012, a group of Lone Scouts and other eligible boys in Canberra interested in BSA decided to form together under the DSC to create the first BSA troop under the Charter of the American Family Association of Canberra. They determined the Troop could better serve the Scouts by facilitating group activities, affording leadership opportunities, and serving the community by working on group service projects. Additionally, it provided a familiar Scouting program for Americans in Canberra and supported an increased awareness of the BSA program and American culture here in Australia. The founding boys requested and were granted the troop number 2012 in connection with its founding year. The Scouts now meet weekly as a boy-led unit to work on Scout skills, advancement and do fun outdoor activities.

Within just two years, Troop 2012 climbed Mt. Kosciuszko, paddled four days along the Murrumbidgee in kayaks, abseiled and climbed White Cliffs in Queanbeyan, skied Perisher, and hiked light to light along the NSW coast among many other trips. Our Troop awarded the Eagle Scout badge to our first Scout recipient and we have two more closing in on this accomplishment within the next year. This year the Scouts also won the coveted Cotter Shield where over 50 patrols and 300 Australian and US Scouts competed. Although we are a very small Troop with a high turn-over associated with US Embassy transitions, these honors speak to the quality of our program and the caliber of Scouts we are privileged to lead. It has been our pleasure, both the Scouts and Adults Leaders, to learn from and work with Scouts Australia. We look forward to sustaining a strong partnership in facilitating the international Scouting movement.



Yurt Farm Pack Holiday 2014 - Goulburn NSW, 18-19 October 2014

By Martine Pekarsky (Jacala), Cub Scout Leader, Air Scouts Canberra

What a sensational weekend we all had at the Yurt Farm Goulburn on the weekend - it will surely go down in Air Scouts history as one of the greatest Cub pack holidays ever!

On Saturday we played ping pong, toured the yurts in the village, had a scarf rolling session, learned how to light a campfire, made fishing rods then used them to fish from a dam, swung on a tyre rope, walked through the bush learning about wildflowers and animal tracks, slid down a flying fox, cooked damper on a stick around the campfire we made, rode on a trailer on the back of a tractor, had dinner and a singalong in a shearing shed, went back to camp for our own campfire sing along, held a Scouts Own and went stargazing with Andrew/Kaa's telescope.



On Sunday we rode the tractor trailer again, milked a cow, fed some lambs, ground wheat into flour, collected eggs and learned that an Isa Brown hen lays 240 eggs a year, saw an incubator and tomatoes in a makeshift greenhouse, rode a horse (on a lead), played backyard cricket, played cat and mouse, walked down to the pig pen to see the new piglets & fed and watered them, helped the farmer move a cage, played with Dinner the farm dog, walked 2km back to camp, packed up our gear, washed up our mess bags, swept out the Yurts, invested Tara as a Cub and shared our favourite aspirational quotes in a Scouts Own run by Brock.

Mike and Judit from the Yurt Farm were amazing hosts - they really love teaching kids about getting back to basics and how exciting farm life can be. Mike is known as the 'pied piper' and it was an insightful description of how much the kids loved following him around the farm, they were hanging off every word he said! Our dinner and singalong in the shearing shed was the most wonderful experience.

If you'd like to find out more about the Yurt Farm for group or family bookings, contact Mike and Judit:
Yurt Farm website: <http://www.yurtfarm.com.au>, 100 Alternatives to Watching TV: <http://www.yurtfarm.com.au/100%20Activities.pdf>

We will be back as soon as we can - there's so much to do and we all felt like we wanted more time to stay and explore the many other activities on offer at the world famous Yurt arm.



Duntroon Campbell Spy Academy

By Mark Goddard, Cub Leader, Duntroon Campbell Scout Group

During Term 3, the Duntroon-Campbell Cub Pack were secretly transformed into the "Duntroon Campbell Spy Academy".

Spy trainees were instructed in all manner of sneakiness, including secret codes and invisible ink, advanced pursuit driving (courtesy of tin cans pushed with broom handles), camouflage and stealth tactics (a massive game of "Spotlight"), marksmanship and small unit combat tactics (a Nerf gun battle) and tracking (during which a fugitive escapee Cub Leader was tracked through the rugged bushland at Camp Cottermouth before being cornered and caught by the trainees).

One of the highlights of the spy course was instruction in high altitude bomb aiming, through the use of a "Six Foot Banana Split" bomb simulation exercise. A reconnaissance "bomb damage assessment" photograph below gives a hint of the extent of the damage. Thanks to the brave, unsuspecting Dads who volunteered as targets...



We are Petits Lutins, hear us roar...or tweet like a dinosaur!

Lynx, Petits Lutins Leader, Les Explorateurs Scout Group

During ACT Children's Week, Les Explorateurs' Petits Lutins (Joeys) went on a wonderful night time adventure to the National Dinosaur Museum at Gold Creek. The kids and adults really enjoyed the evening and felt very special to have the place to ourselves.

Some of the cool things we learned were: The Earth is estimated to be 4.6 billion years old, and our very clever Hugh guessed a nearly correct 5.2 billion years old! Dinosaurs lived during 3 geological eras: Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous, T-Rex's may have had feathers, and only lived for 1 million years of the 180 million years – vs others who were around for 26 million years – ie he wasn't built very well for long term survival apparently. T-Rex is just the most famous. Raptors (think Jurassic Park) were very small, about a dog size – and not particularly scary. Dinosaurs didn't roar. They actually make bird like noises. The National Dinosaur Museum holds the world's oldest fossil. They have a dinosaur downstairs named 'Tiny', and it is anything but tiny!



All and all it was a great evening, and we are very grateful to Jess (our guide) who gave a great tour, and we are very grateful for our sponsorship grant from ACT Children's Week for the funding to support us in this activity.

Camp at Thredbo

By Angus Biggs Cub Scout, Well Station Scout Group

How do you think the camp was at Thredbo?

Angus: It was AWESOME!

1. Chair lift:

We started our adventure on a chair lift, we were flying up high it was like we were on a bird, well we were on a different species of bird. Underneath our feet I could see the spring flowers and patches of snow.

2. Snowball fight:

I was walking through the bush and suddenly I saw my Pack. I picked up some snow, made a ball and threw it at them - that's when the fight began. There were snow balls everywhere, even in Kaa's ear. It hit so hard that he had to wait for it to melt out of his ear.

3. Big walk:

The walk was 4km down the hill. We slowly walked down the steps as they were big, tough and steep. When we got back we had lunch, then went for a bob sled ride. The ride was super-fast. I wasn't tall enough to go by myself so I went with one of the dads, so we went extra super-fast!

4. Feast:

When we got back it was dinner time. We had roast potato, carrot, pumpkin, zucchini, chicken, lamb, gravy and mushroom sauce. At dessert we had ice cream and apple crumble, which some of the Cubs made for their cooking badge.

5. Scouts own:

In the morning we went for another big walk to find our spot. We got a fat stick and a few thin sticks. We tried snapping the fat stick - it was hard, Ethan got all our thin sticks together and tried to snap them all at once.



Your Group or event in the next "Scouts in ACTION"

Would you like your Group or event to be in the next issue of Scouts in ACTION? Send 10 - 30 lines and a picture by the 25th of each month to Tyron at development.officer@act.scouts.asn.au and we will add your story to the next newsletter.