



Scouts in ACTION

Australian Capital Territory Branch

September 2014

New website for Scouts ACT

Scouts ACT has just launched a new website that is fun, youth focused and adventurous! The layout is simple and easy to navigate while still covering all the essential information. It is divided into two sections, one being for the general public ie. information on Scouts, volunteering, Scout Groups, Policies etc. and the other being the members area for our Leaders and Rovers. The members area is where you will find resources, Section and Region information, calendars, ScoutsIT, online training registrations, contacts, Program Support and Adventurous Activity information. If you have not received your login details yet or would like more information about the new website, please contact our [Development Officer](#).



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From the Assistant Chief Commissioner Adult Support



This month our Chief Commissioner, Peter Harris OAM, is participating in the World Scout Conference in Slovenia as well as taking a well-deserved holiday. He asked me to step in and try to fill his shoes. I am looking forward to hearing from him on his return the highlights of the conference and I am sure he will provide a full report for next month's Scouts in ACTION.

While he was away, we had the launch of our new website. This has been in the making for many months and promotes Scouting to the public and provides resources to our members through the members area. I won't mention too much about it as you can find out more about it in this month's issue. August is also Scouts in Action month and we had 671 Scouts take part in this year's theme, "Break the cycle - bullying is not part of Scouting". Our Jamboree 2016 contingent team is growing steadily but are still on the lookout for more members, if you would like to join or want more information then please contact Peter Stevenson at stevos@grapevine.com.au.

Scouts ACT has a new Joey Commissioner, Heather Browett. Heather has been in the Joey Section for over 7 years now (2 as a Youth Helper and 5 as a Leader) and recently held the first Joey Scout Leader Kanyana in many months. Heather is also a member of Blue Water Rover Crew and a member of the training team. Welcome Heather! In August we had our World Scout Day Awards and I can't say enough good things about the people who are making Scouting happen. You are impacting more lives than you will ever really know, B-R-A-V-O!

Yours in Scouting,

Rick Goode

Our Colorado Trip

by Alice Carstens, Venturer at Kama Scout Group

During the 2014 winter break, a group of Kama Scouts, Venturers and Leaders travelled to Colorado, USA. The invitation was from a Troop of Boy Scouts from American we had met with the Australian Contingent at the Norwegian Jamboree in 2013. Our well-wishers included the Chief Commissioner and Regional Commissioner (Ginninderra) – a much appreciated show of support, considering that the bus that took us to Sydney and left promptly at 5:30am on a dark, cold mid-winter morning! We arrived at Sydney airport in time for our flight, feeling very excited and flaunting our awesome bright blue and yellow t-shirts. After a brief stopover in Los Angeles, and 31 hours of travelling later we arrived in Denver, Colorado to meet the families who had kindly agreed to host us in their homes. This was a great experience as our families showed us the best of their city, and gave us time to re-adjust our body clocks (and temperature gauges as it is summer over there)! We also experienced some of the best of American people, cuisine (Chicago hotdogs and large servings of pizza) and culture as it just so happened to be the fourth of July. After a barbeque at one of the host homes, we all later met up at the Denver baseball stadium for some intense baseball action (which none of the Aussies really understood) and later a crazy fireworks display.



Early the next morning we embarked on the first part of our adventure – a bus tour of the best tourist sites in Colorado! The bus trip was really good as we all got to know each other and we all bonded as if we had always known each other. The Americans seemed really fascinated by our accents and we laughed at the weird customs of both our nations. We established Patrols in which we would stay in for the rest of the trip and sang...a lot. Our first stop was the beautiful Garden of the Gods and later that day we also travelled to Bishop's Castle, which is basically a mismatched, majestic castle-like structure built by one very politically truculent man

nearly 50 years ago. We even met Mr Bishop himself and had a group photo!

We camped at the Great Sand Dunes National Park and the next day we hiked the treacherous, hot sand dunes. They look relatively small from a distance but in reality it is a very different experience which I think we all took something away from (I am still finding sand everywhere!). Then we were on the road again after witnessing a flag retirement ceremony performed by the Americans and sleeping out under the stars. After much more singing and the occasional nap we arrived at Mesa Verde, where we had a brief stop at some incredible mountain ranges. We set up camp (that had bear bins everywhere to put your rubbish in so as to prevent bears from wreaking havoc) and played lots of games. The next day we experienced the ancient wonders of the Mesa Verde canyon cliff dwellings that were inhabited for thousands of years and are only accessible from up or down.

We hit the road again the next morning and travelled through spectacular mountain passes before arriving at Fruita, a seemingly beautiful town until it reaches nightfall and the mozzies arrive! The temperature also reached 90 degrees (F) that afternoon and we took advantage of the shower blocks. We visited a dinosaur museum and some people went mountain bike riding through a beautiful canyon. Then the group packed up and set out on the high adventure part of the journey – the three-day canoe trip. We slept overnight at the starting point where we would put the canoes in and after another night under the stars (and right next to the railroad line along which several trains passed during the night) we set off down the river. We arrived at our campsite that afternoon which was located in the middle of a gorgeous canyon and we all set up camp. We toured the canyon the next day with our guides and floated down the rapids with life-vests, also taking advantage of a nearby waterfall to get relatively clean again. The last part of the canoe trip was just as good as the first, and that afternoon we said goodbye to the river (for the time being) and headed back to Fruita for the night. Our next stop was Glenwood springs where we were going white water rafting, an awesome experience, going down insane rapids called 'man breaker' and 'frog in a blender', all of which deserved their names. Then that afternoon we relaxed in the Glenwood hot springs until it closed before eating the largest pizzas we had ever seen, true American style. That night we slept indoors for the first time in the whole trip!



The next day we did a small 'preparation hike' for the "14er" which was Hanging Lake Hike, a picturesque but rather steep climb with a beautiful lake at the top. After a short stop in Vale (a rich ski resort town) we headed to the camp at the base of the 14er, our last night camping. We had a hilarious skit night and an emotional campfire while we all spent our last night together, waking up at 3:30 am the next morning to climb the 14er. (This is the general name given to peaks over 14,000 feet). Mt Quandry's starting altitude was already higher than Mt Kosciusko and the climb was steep

and slow going over loose rocks, with snow surrounding us. The peak was magnificent and worth the climb and we all reached the bottom feeling as if we had achieved our best. Then we returned to our host families for a good night's rest and wash.

Our final day in America was spent at one of the largest water parks in the northern hemisphere – Water World, and then an unforgettable dinner at Casa Bonita, a Mexican restaurant with 'daring cliff divers, exciting gunfights, musicians, magicians and an atmosphere unlike any other' (quote from the menu). We said goodbye to our homestay families and the next day we were on our way back home to Australia.

The trip was really an incredible experience and one that we shall all remember for the rest of our lives! We plan to see them all again soon and stay in touch, while organising for them to hopefully come to Australia in 2016!

Extracting strawberry DNA in the name of science

By Kate Lehane, Communications Officer for Les Explorateurs Scout Group

Two members of Les Explorateurs Scout Group came second in the 666 ABC Canberra Science Experimentarium competition held in the lead-up to [National Science Week](#). As part of their prize Jessica and AJ were guest DJs during the 666 ABC live radio broadcast from the Geoscience Australia Open Day on 24 August!

During their guest DJ spot they explained the Strawberry DNA experiment they did as part of their "Science Fest". In this experiment they "massacred" strawberries, added detergent and rubbing alcohol and extracted DNA from them. There were lots of steps in the experiment and in the end the DNA looked like clear slime! You can check out the video of the experiment via www.facebook.com/LesExplorateursScouts. Well done AJ and Jessica!





Kub Kar Rally 2014

This year was the 9th Kub Kar Rally for Scouts ACT and was held at Campbell High School on the 3rd of August. Well done to all the participants for designing, sculpting and racing their Kub Kars. A special thank you to Paul Janssens, Sue Pearson and all the Leaders who were involved.

Fastest Kars:

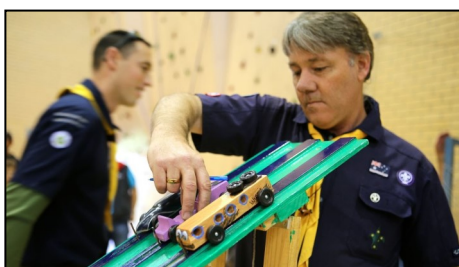
- 1st Place – Conner Mack (Badimara)
- 2nd Place – Devlyn Colwill (Well Station)
- 3rd Place – Aidan Crile (Well Station)

Finalists:

- Paige Berkelmans (Erindale)
- Mani Grewal (Mt Mugga)
- Aiden Belling (Diamantina)
- Lucy Prime (Southwell)
- Ethan Bell (Well Station)
- Natalie Salazar (Pioneros)



- Best Detail** – Farrah Nasser (Pioneros) – a pink kar;
- Funniest** – Hugh Pedley (Majura Mountain) – a mouse
- Most Original** – Seth Mulvey (Diamantina) - a cricket bat
- 2014 Badge Designer:** Patrick Curran (Southwell)



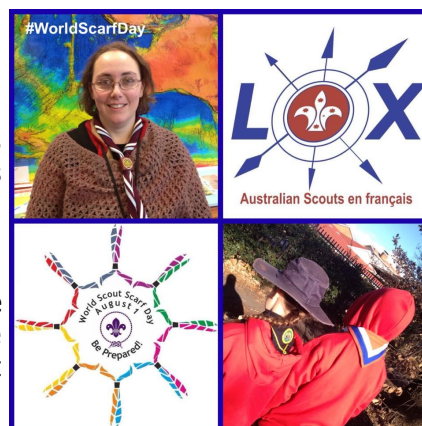
World Scout Scarf Day 2014 - Proud to Scout!

By Kate Lehane, Communications Officer for Les Explorateurs Scout Group

We are very proud of all of our Les Explorateurs Joeys, Cubs, Leaders and Adult Helpers who participated in World Scout Scarf Day on Friday 1 August 2014.

Two of our Cubs Alex and AJ did an extra great job explaining in class why they are proud to be part of Scouts Australia, in particular Les Explorateurs!

One of our Joeys was spotted wearing her scarf very proudly after school at pick-up time. She was as pleased as punch! She also reported that she had not seen other scarves at school, only ours. Fantastic effort, we are very proud to be part of the world wide Scouting movement and can't wait to participate again next year!



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 - 15 lines and a picture to Tyron at development.officer@act.scouts.asn.au and we will add your story to the next newsletter.