



# Scouts in ACTION

Australian Capital Territory Branch

December 2015

## Performing Arts Workshop (PAWS)

By Olsen Pekarsky, Cub—Air Scouts Canberra

On the weekend of the 8-9th of November I attended the PAWS workshop for Cubs (and Guides). It was held at the Canberra Boys Grammar Theatre. My sister and I got up and dressed in our brightest clothes for the PAWS workshop. The first day we were split into groups and learnt most of the songs and dance moves. The songs were.... *Kids in Australia, If I only had a Brain, the Woggles, I'm a Pirate, Pink Fluffy Unicorns* and *Campfires Burning*. We also had to wear costumes and it was so much fun! The next day we did a real performance in front of our parents and leaders and all got certificates and badges afterwards. We had the most fun ever!



## From the Chief

We end this year with great sadness at the passing of our much loved and respected Birralee Venturer Leader Bruce McNeice. Please read through the article elsewhere in this newsletter to find out more about Bruce and how you might continue his effective and positive legacy towards our youth members.

Congratulations to our Queen's Scout awardees who were presented with their certificates at



Government House recently: Heidi Andrunas, Luc Berget, Corey Coppin, Logan Davies, Elizabeth Healey, Eleanor Hewitt, Callum Kay, Alison Kennedy, Calina MacGinley Jamieson, Heather Nugent and Holly Wardell.

Congratulations also to Baden Powell Awardee David Haines. It was a privilege also to meet their families – some of whom had travelled long distances to be with them on the night.

Hearing about their incredible achievements was a highlight of the ceremony for me and a reminder of why Scouting is so important as a catalyst for development and fun. In the course of their progress towards the QS and BPSA, our awardees showed a high degree of social consciousness, service to the community and the acquisition of new skills. They chaired meetings, managed finances, conquered volcanoes, cared for the homeless and served others overseas – just to mention a few adventures.

We truly have some great youth and adult members in Scouts ACT Branch. Some, like Bruce, will leave a lasting legacy of care, dedication and good example. Others such as our awardees mentioned above signal that a new wave of leadership is in the wings. So we need to acknowledge and thank our adult leaders (perhaps by nominating them for a National Scout award) and value our youth members (by encouraging, providing opportunities and stepping out of our comfort zone to support their further development).

May you and your family and friends have a safe and enjoyable Christmas time and the New Year bring another great Scouting adventure.

## Gone Home: Bruce McNeice

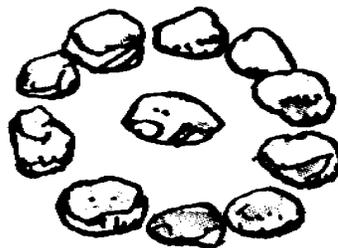
By Yvonne Court, Cub Leader—Birrale Scout Group

Bruce McNeice was an active, committed, respected and much loved leader at Birrale Scout group in Gungahlin. From 1997 until the time of his death in November 2015 at the all too premature age of 40, he gave Birrale his all as a Cub, Scout and Venturer leader. Scouting was Bruce's life passion. Except for 3 years while working in the UK, he was involved in Scouting all of his life. He joined Cubs at the age of 8, and actively participated through all of the sections, gaining the highest awards in each, finally ending up in Figtree Rover Crew, where he met his wife Felicity (our Group Leader).

Bruce was a truly humble, generous, reliable, gentle, fun loving and adventurous man that lived life to the full. He crammed many, many adventures, experiences and challenges into an all too short life. His passing leaves a gaping hole in the Birrale Scouting community, and our Venturers and Rovers who were so close to him, and of whom he was so proud, have lost a wise and loving mentor. We are blessed to have known him and are grateful that he let us be such a big part of his life.

As one of our scouting members summed up so beautifully...

"He will live on in our hearts and in our adventures"



If you would like to honour his memory, please donate to the Bruce McNeice Memorial Fund to help assist Scouting members attend national and international Scouting events. Funds can be forwarded to Birrale Scout Group 032-778 11840. Please reference McNeice.

## Macarthur Cub Zoo Sleepover

By Eden O'Mara, Leader—Macarthur Scout Group

Macarthur Cub Scouts recently went on a very exciting trip. First we travelled by train up to Sydney, walked to circular quay (got caught up in a zombie run) and then caught a ferry to Taronga Zoo, where they caught a bus up to the entrance. They then travelled home by coach. (so many different forms of transport). Oh yeah, we also spent the night at Taronga Zoo. Yes, in the zoo. With animals in our room. We went on a night tour and saw what the animals get up to at night when the zoo is closed. There were even fireworks on Sydney Harbour for Halloween. We even got to invest a new member of cubs in the elephant enclosure.

I would highly recommend this activity to all cub groups. The staff were great and the kids had a ball.



Where we told the parents we slept...

... where we actually slept

## Pre-Jamboree Camp

By Peter Stevenson, ACT Contingent Leader AJ2016

A very good Pre-Jamboree camp was held on the weekend of 13/15 November. The weekend achieved what we had hoped – there was a noticeable difference between the slightly unorganised set up (as expected), to the refinement throughout the weekend to smart troop sites, more settled troop and patrol structures, to a real sense of optimism and excitement at final parade. Having the weather improve through the weekend also helped, as did the activity program – Market day (Afternoon), and 'Patrol Challenge' activities Saturday evening. Seeing the Contingent in the newly issued shirts was also impressive. Only 5 weeks to the Jamboree!



## Grey Wolf Presentation 2015

By Cameron Skinner, Cub—Air Scouts Canberra

On the 8th of November I received my Grey Wolf award. I felt a bit nervous before and during the ceremony but afterwards I felt great. There were about 10 others getting their awards and most of them were Scouts already. Now there is a new tradition where people who get Grey Wolf awards get given a some tiger fur to wear with their woggle. It makes me feel proud.



Queen's Scout and Baden Powell Awardees 2015

## Grey Wolf Awardees November 2015

Andrew Aitken	Kama	Sophie Clarke	Diamantina
Alex Aumais	Duntroon-Campbell	Jess Dawes	Mt Taylor
Grace Bacon	Lake Burley Griffin	Adrian LeHane	Les Explorateurs
Jayden Barriga	Lex Explorateurs	Jasmine O'Neil	Macarthur
Max Mellor-Belcher	Badimara	Cameron Skinner	Air Scouts
Estella Brown	Stromlo Forest		

## Australian Scout Medallion Awardees 2015

Ian Oxborrow	Mt Mugga	Riley White	Birralee
William Allen	Birralee	Ellen Wedgwood	Kama
Christopher Preston	Birralee	James Boulter	Lake Ginninderra
Bronte Alexander	13th Canberra	Stephanie Lezaich	Badimara
Andrew Ellis	Southwell	Alexis Bocking	Lake Ginninderra
James Daly	Lake Tuggeranong	Eamon Grey	Lake Tuggeranong
Holly Battison	Lake Tuggeranong	Thomas Sheahan	Lake Tuggeranong
Shae Kilby	Mulga	Brendan Aitken	Southwell
Shayne Larke	Mulga	Llew Reilly	Majura
Freya Langerman-Thompson	Mulga	Ella Kruger	Majura
Claire Lonie	Wanniassa	Angus Farrow	Lake Ginninderra
Tadgh Williams	Lake Ginninderra	Tristan Duggan	Erindale
	Charlotte Schroeder-Juratowitch		Amaroo

## Queen's Scout Awardees 2015

Heidi Andriunas	Wanniassa	Corey Coppin	Lake Ginninderra
Callum Kay	Wanniassa	Logan Davis	Air Scouts
Elizabeth Healy	Wanniassa	Eleanor Hewitt	Macarthur
Calina MacGinley Jamieson	Wanniassa	Luc Burget	Macarthur
Alison Kennedy	Wanniassa	Heather Nugent	Birralee
Holly Wardell	Wanniassa		

## Baden Powell Awardees 2015

David Haines | Blue Water Rover Crew

## ACT Branch Moot 2015—Once Upon A Moot

By Anna Davies, Moot Chief

Over the weekend of the 20-22nd of November, 120 Rovers from around Australia (including from ACT, NSW, VIC, QLD and SA) gathered at Camp Cottermouth for the first ACT Branch Moot in 5 years. Run by a committee of Rovers from various crews around Canberra, the event was a phenomenal success.

On the Friday night everyone travelled to the site, set up camp and relaxed. Opening parade was Saturday morning. It was followed by a Cuboree/Cotter Shield style Round Robin of activities, covering all areas of the Scouting fundamentals - this year we had members of most ACT crews running activities, in addition to Nikki Coleman (Commissioner for Spiritual Development) and Rick Goode (Assistant Chief Commissioner - Adult Support). Every Moot has a service activity, ours involved making dresses for girls in Third World Countries. These dresses are adjustable and so should be able to last each girl many years. They have been donated to the Dress-A-Girl Charity.

After lunch, Adventurous Activities were run, including swimming at Cotter River, Abseiling, Archery and Kids party games for those of us who are still young at heart.

The evening packed in even more fun with a scrumptious fairy tale themed dinner (put on by our wonderful catering team), a jumping castle, photo booth and live band - as well as the always popular DJ and dance tent.

Sunday morning was more relaxed, with a dance workshop and a mental health information session.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and on behalf of the committee of ACT Rovers and helpers who ran the event, I would like to thank everyone that made it possible. We enjoyed ourselves, learnt a lot running this, and look forward to the next ACT Moot!





## My First Ever Moot!

By Kaitlyn Gillies, Brand New Rover—ACT Branch

My first moot was definitely a memorable one. Never in my life have I felt more at home with people I have never met before. Absolutely everyone who attended Once Upon A Moot was so friendly and as eager to meet new people and be friends as I was. We danced, we laughed, and we supported each other as if we have known one another for a lifetime. I knew from the very start that my weekend would be fun. Nothing is more refreshing than spending time with so many different people away from the big city. Big thanks to all those who came and all those who made the moot a success. Looking forward to the day we get to do it all again!

## Birrallee Cubs Fire Engine Visit

Mel Preston, Leader—Birrallee, Echo Joey Mob



On Monday 23rd November Echo Mob, from Birrallee, got a visit from one of our local Fire Engines. The Joeys and the firemen talked about what to do in an emergency (get down low and go,go,go), where to go if there's a fire in your house (out to the letterbox and stay there!) and what to do if there is fire on you (stop, drop, cover and roll). The Joeys saw how an thermal imaging camera works and got to look at all the equipment on the fire truck. They even got to walk through the fire truck and have a turn of the hose! Thank you so much to the Gungahlin ACT Fire and Rescue truck who came and visited us.

## Joeys celebrated 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday at Joey Jaunt

By Heather Browett, Branch Joey Scout Commissioner

The last Sunday in November is always busy at Camp Cottermouth. Last weekend over 125 Joeys and their leaders gathered together to celebrate 25 years of Joey Scouts in Australia at the annual Joey Jaunt event.

This year we made woggles, tackled a low ropes course and tested our aim at archery. We learnt about hot air balloons, fired water rockets, talked about Joeys and got our faces painted. We heard stories, ate cake, made leaf rubbings and smelt poo. We had a great day!

Thank you to all of our wonderful activity leaders and helpers who kept us entertained, excited and challenged. See you at Joey Jaunt in 2016!



## Joeys: From where we have come

By Heather Browett, Branch Joey Scout Commissioner

A small reunion of past Joey leaders was held at the end of November. It was wonderful to be able to swap stories between many of our past leaders and Joey commissioners, and our current leaders. It is amazing how much has changed, but how even more has stayed the same!

In our 25<sup>th</sup> year of Joeys we would like to thank all of the Joey leaders – past and present – who dedicate their time to providing an engaging and evolving program for our youngest scouting members. You truly show that the sky is the limit in our programming! We are looking forward to the next 25 years to come!

## World Scout Jamboree 2015

By Bronte Sheaves, Scout—Kama Scout Group

I have recently returned from the World Scout Jamboree in Japan. I attended this camp with 300 other Australian Scouts and over 35,000 international Scouting and Guiding participants. I was part of Foxtrot troop and through the duration of the event we became a tight knit family. Before the Jamboree itself started we toured Japan as a contingent for a week. My knowledge and appreciation of the country grew immensely during this time. We were enveloped in rich culture, lucky enough to experience tea ceremonies, foods, dances, buildings, art and the beautiful nature of the country. As if that was not enough we also went to various tourist hot spots such as Disney Sea and Universal Studios and had the extremely lucky chance to stay at a Buddhist temple.

The Jamboree itself lasted for two weeks and over that time I made brilliant friendships and connections with other international members. The activities at the jamboree focused on peace and building strong connections. I enjoyed being surrounded by friends and warm faces and I felt challenged but comfortable with everything presented to us at the camp. The food, people and opening and closing ceremonies gave me a stronger, positive view on the scouting life. After the Jamboree closed we relaxed in a hostel overnight before transferring to our homestay families.

My homestay family consisted of two parents and two daughters, after a slight mix-up in which scout was going to which family, we settled in with these extremely kind and welcoming people. I felt like a part of their family throughout the day as we grew closer and experienced the culture of their small island together. Sadly the life-changing experience had to come to an end but the previous month was an unforgettable trip. None of this would have been possible if it weren't for the hard work and commitment of our contingent leader, Aaron Wardle and his team.



### 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 [development.officer@act.scouts.asn.au](mailto:development.officer@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).