



Scouts in ACTION

Australian Capital Territory Branch

March 2015

Chief Commissioner of Australia Invested at Government House

The new Chief Commissioner of Scouts Australia, Chris Bates, began his term on February 1, 2015. On the 5 of February he was invested into his role by the Chief Scout of Australia, Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd). The investiture went seamlessly as our Scout members from the ACT helped with proceedings. After the investiture there was cake (much to the delight of our Joey and Cub) and coffees followed by a lunch afterwards at the Scouts ACT Branch Office (where our Venturers and Rovers showed us all how to do a good selfie)

We were also very fortunate to have Mr. Scott Teare attend the investiture. Scott is the new Secretary General of World Scouting and inspired us with his kind words and vision. (Continue on page 2 where you can learn more about the new Chief Commissioner of Australia and see photos from the day)



From the Chief



22 February was, of course the anniversary of the birth of the Founder of Scouting, Lord Robert Baden Powell (born on 22 February 1857). How did you spend your Founder's day? Perhaps you were part of the Tri Lakes fun at Lake Ginninderra or were you able to spend some time with other Scouting members at Camp Cottermouth later in the day. However you spent your day, I hope that you were able to celebrate in some way the gift of Scouting that BP has left us.

So what do we do with this gift? Enjoy it you might say – yes, I agree! Share it with others – again, a resounding yes! I think a gift is really only a gift when it is received and unwrapped. So how can we “unwrap” Scouting and give it to someone? We need to make sure that we share the news about the fun and adventure – and the self-development through all the different lives we lead and invite others to join in.

Perhaps also you might reflect on how Scouting has changed your life as a good story to share with others. It's more than meetings, test work, even fun activities. It's about realising that you can really do or accomplish something that you had not been able to think about doing beforehand. It's about finding you have made a safe circle of lifelong friends who you know really care about you. And of course it's about having touchstone experiences, having the time of your life that sometimes defies explanation. That to me, is the “gift” of Scouting. Ready to share?

(Continued from page 1)

Chris Bates started his Scouting experience as a Cub Scout in rural South Australia. Chris explained, "This was one of the best experiences - living on a farm then and participating with Cub Scouts. It was a lot of fun." When his children became of age, they also joined Scouts and he became a leader.



This began his Scouting career as an Adult Member, which included attending numerous Jamborees, both Australian and International, and taking on a variety of Scouting roles. Chris has held the position of Branch International Commissioner and was a Manager of the South Australia Young Leader Development Program. In 2012 Chris was appointed as Chief Commissioner for the South Australia Branch of Scouts Australia where he brought a vision of resilience and a flourishing Scouting community.



Chris's vision continues for Scouts Australia in his new role. He added, "Across Australia we need to enable our members to become more aware of the individual and organisational benefits of having young people actively involved at all levels within the Movement." Chris believes that Scouts as a youth organisation should be youth led, and hopes to achieve this through his appointment.

"I am eager to use my current role as an opportunity to follow through on formulating a method whereby Scouts Australia becomes a Youth Organisation led by young people. There have been many examples shared at the International events I have attended which demonstrate how this change can operate. We need to engage all our members and encourage them to be innovative in supporting youth to build their knowledge and create a structure where we can all be working together. I believe the current Youth Program Review will ultimately present a way that will enable us to deliver on this issue. My passion is to show our communities we can offer a system where a person can learn to be 'resilient', develop a sense of 'wellbeing', have adventurous experiences and take a risk in a controlled environment."

When Chris isn't out and about inspiring people through Scouting, his hobby is breeding Red Canaries; however he also breeds, shows and judges many other types of canaries at competitions and was the President of his local club for many years. Chris and his wife Janis also enjoy travelling, which often takes them on adventures 'off the beaten track'. Some of these trips have included cycling in China and Bali and walking part of the 'St James Way' Camino in Spain.



Chris hopes to meet more members of Scouting. He said, "If you should have the opportunity to see me out Scouting please come and say Hi, as 'Chiefy' he is keen to meet as many people as possible from across Australia."

Hall School Museum Visit

By Charlotte Quigly, Bunyip Pack, Birrale Scout Group

On Thursday 12 February, the Bunyip Cub Pack went to the Hall School Museum for a special project as part of our Local History badge work. When we got there, we were split up into groups and went to different buildings. My group went to the Memory Lane building first. We saw a movie called 'The Kid' starring Charlie Chaplin. This was the type of movie that children would watch 100 years ago.

Next we went to the Old School House, where we got to write on slate boards. The 'teacher' said that this was an old fashioned iPad that they used in schools in the early stages of Canberra. We learned that if you misbehaved in class you would be whacked with a cane, that all girls needed to learn how to sew, and that boys were allowed to bring handguns and shoot them in the school yard before class and NOT get into trouble.

Things are a bit different today in schools than they were 100 years ago.

New Scouterboxes star at the Multicultural Festival

James and Kate Lehane, Les Explorateurs Scout Group

Canberra recently played host to the 2015 National Multicultural Festival, with over 270,000 attending over the three days for the music, food and of course "Scouterboxes"! Les Explorateurs Scout Group had a strong presence as part of the French Embassy stall in Civic Square.

Taking the much loved children's Chatterbox concept and using it to promote Australian Scouts en français, otherwise known as Les Explorateurs Scout Group, the all new Scouterboxes provided over 750 children with the opportunity to learn a little more about the cool things Scouts can do - in both English and French.

A photo of the hot of the press Scouterboxes on Les Explorateurs Facebook page, reached almost 2,500 people and had our Scouting friends from Victoria, France and Canada pleading for their own Scouterboxes! A copy of the Scouterbox will soon be posted on Scouts Central.

