



# Scouts in ACTION

Australian Capital Territory Branch

July 2012

## Commonwealth Scout Forum

by Katy Tomkins, Rover



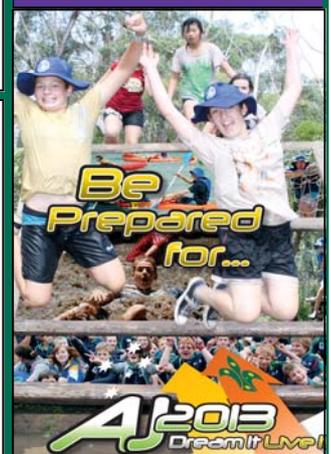
In April, I had the opportunity to travel to London for the Commonwealth Scout Forum and National Scout Service and Parade to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The aim of the forum was to help us better understand the variety of cultures across the Commonwealth so that we can share resources and create meaningful partnerships. Following on from the forum, we spent a day in London where we visited Marlborough House, the home of the Commonwealth Secretariat and did tourist activities (scavenger hunt in Trafalgar Square and ride on the London Eye).

The last day was spent at Windsor Castle for the National Scout Service and Parade. Her Majesty The Queen reviewed the Queen's Scouts and Commonwealth delegates as we marched through the quadrangle on the way to St George's Chapel. The National Scout Service was led by four Queen's Scouts on the theme of Crossroads. The lesson was to take the achievements forward and to greater levels on the journey through life. All members of the Scout Movement renewed their Promise led by the UK Chief Scout, Bear Grylls.

I had an amazing time in London and would like to thank the International Office of Scouts Australia for making it possible. I would encourage everyone to apply for any and all opportunities to travel overseas. You learn and great deal about Scouting in other places and also have an incredible amount of fun.

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## From the Chief



What an amazing month this has been for Scouting. Watching our Hot Air Balloon Training Team with Prime Possum (helped by some keen Well Station youth members), seeing our Gang Show team having fun rehearsing (how to "Get Lost"), observing our Cub Scout Leaders making Kub Kar tracks (and knitting) and watching our very talented Scouts (solving puzzling leadership challenges at Camp Cottermouth) – really this is Scouting in ACTION!

Have you checked out Scout Central yet? It is a one stop shop for Scouting ideas, training and information for Leaders. Planning is in progress for this vast Scout data base to include an on line store, calendar and youth section facilities. The site will be always changing so log on often and enjoy the vast multitude of activities and ideas. Go to our website and follow the link to the Scout Central log in.

Finally, have you enrolled for one of our special Mental Health courses yet? Margaret Hancocks can be reached on [mjhjm@bigpond.com](mailto:mjhjm@bigpond.com) and can give you information on the next Mental Health First Aid, SafeTALK or ASIST (Suicide Intervention) courses. I personally recommend these courses as a means of not just understanding mental health issues but being able to recognise mental symptoms – knowing not just when a friend might need help but what help your friend might need. It could help save a life.

Keep warm, keep safe and keep on Scouting!



# Agoonoree In the Wild!

28th September to 1st of October 2012



An Agoonoree is a camp especially for Scouts and Guides with special needs, and is open to ALL Scouts and Guides members in all sections, organised by the Scouts Australia Special Needs Team and helpers.

There will be a Visitors' Day on Saturday 29 September (which may be the preferred option for younger members) and also an offsite activities day on Sunday 30 September.

Activities to include bushcraft, bushwalk, campfire, crafts, games, music, scavenger hunt, Scouts & Guides' Own, and more! Some indoor accommodation is available but camping, where possible, is encouraged. Participants are also encouraged to wear theme dress for parts of the camp.

Cost: \$120 youth participants; \$100 leaders/helpers. Camping and activities only.

The A1 (Camp) Form will be on-line on the NSW Scouts website, [www.nsw.scouts.com.au](http://www.nsw.scouts.com.au) from the end of June, or Mark Burfield can send you an application on request. Closing date for applications will be 1 September. Contact Mark on 0425 236 617 or email him on [oceaniahq@froggy.com.au](mailto:oceaniahq@froggy.com.au). Once you have registered, please contact Carla Howden by email so she will know who is attending from the ACT on [specialneeds-scouts@hotmail.com](mailto:specialneeds-scouts@hotmail.com)

All youth members attending MUST be financial member and any leaders or parents attending MUST have a police check or in the process of being processed.

## Queen's Jubilee Beacons

Despite the wet, cold, windy weather 8 ACT Venturer Scouts and 8 Guides provided a guard of honour for the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition on Monday the 4th of June.

Our salutes were snappy and all the youth members looked keen, alert and proud to be there. They were shepherded inside later by the Prime Minister who made sure they all had a hot chocolate drink and some rather nice biscuits. The Venturers then posed with both the PM and Mr Abbott and within 5 minutes one of our Venturers had many "Likes" on her Facebook page for her pic of "Me and Julia".

We were very grateful for the privilege of representing not just the ACT Branch but Scouts Australia. This event was a great and will be remembered by us all for the wild weather, the late night, the food but more importantly for the chance to be seen as Scouts who are proud to wear our uniform.

In honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee the Joeys at 13th Canberra made crowns with glittering and sparkling jewels, a boat each to sail in as they paraded down the Thames giving their Royal wave to the spectators. What a fun night!



## Your group or event in the next "Scouts in ACTion"

Would you like your group / event to be in the next issue of Scouts in ACTion? Its so simple, contact Tyron at Branch Office on (02) 6282 5211 or email [development.officer@act.scouts.asn.au](mailto:development.officer@act.scouts.asn.au) and we will add your story to the next newsletter.