



# Scouts in ACTION

Australian Capital Territory Branch

December 2011

## Portrait of a Nation

Canberra's street and suburb naming is a unique feature of the national capital, with most streets and suburbs named after famous Australians and places of significance. Portrait of a Nation invites you to find out more about the person or place your street and suburb is named after.

While the project will be launched in March 2012 at a celebration for Canberra's 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Scouts ACT are invited to take part in the first stage of this very historical and significant project. Scouts are encouraged to research the people that their street or suburb, or the street and suburb of their scout group, are named after now. Once the research is complete groups and sections should send their information, in different formats, including text, images and multimedia, to Branch Office before the end of the year. This research will be amongst the first information to populate the Portrait of a Nation website that is currently being designed for this project. This website will be an online, interactive historical survey of exceptional Australians created from the community's feedback.

The Scouting community will make an invaluable contribution to the understanding and reinstating of a vast array of great Australians of the past. For more information please Tyron on 6282 5211 or email [development.officer@act.scouts.asn.au](mailto:development.officer@act.scouts.asn.au)

1800 SCOUTS

[scouts.com.au](http://scouts.com.au)



## From the Chief



Christmas is drawing near and many of us will be lucky enough to spend time with relatives and friends. Many of us too, will celebrate this time as a holy season. Whatever you do, on behalf of all of our ACT Branch Teams I wish you peace and joy and thanks for your role in Scouting. You make a significance difference in the lives of our youth members.

Recently Branch Teams from all over Australia met to revise and reassess strategic priorities for the next year. The ACT has been charged with investigating best practice program delivery. This was considered the number one priority to achieve in order to encourage and equip leaders to run Scout programs in the best possible way. Thank you to all those who completed the "Best Practice Program Delivery" survey that I sent out on ScoutsIt. This survey is now being considered to be sent out to every leader in Australia! I hope to share our results with you soon.

Next year our Branch will be moving towards some exciting changes. As well as *Program Delivery Improvement*, we need to consider *Adults in Scouting*, *Finance/facilities*, *Communication*, *Protection/Reporting and Community-connected Scouting*. Achieving these 6 strategic objectives will not just grow our numbers but our quality, strength and character. More importantly we will be able to make a more positive impact on our youth members. Mark Schenk from Anecdote and Leo Farrelly, Project Commissioner, ACT Branch have been working with some of our Branch Teams to look at how we might better define and implement some of the strategies above. I will be sending more detailed information on these objectives as soon as possible so that you are involved and engaged in our strategic planning.

In the meantime have a great break and come back prepared for new adventure!



## The Opening of Stromlo Forest Scout Hall



In January 2003 the disastrous Canberra bushfires destroyed not only Camp Cottermouth but also the Stromlo Forest Scout Hall. After a long wait, the rebuilt hall was officially opened on Sunday 19 September by the International Commissioner of Scouts Australia, Neville Tomkins OAM, JP. It was a wonderful and exciting day with over 100 people present including the National President of Scouts Australia, Major General Michael Jeffery & Mrs Jeffery and other distinguished guests.

The Stromlo Forest Scout Group would like to thank everybody who contributed to the rebuilding effort, particularly over the last 2 years. Thanks are also extended to their dedicated and experienced Leaders who continued to offer the Scout program, under difficult conditions and to their young members for their commitment over the past 7 years. Two particular people need a special recognition firstly, Group Leader Mary Anne Rhind for her determination to keep the Group active despite needing to meet in 3 different locations for so many years; and secondly, former Branch Chief Commissioner Neville Tomkins for his persistence to raise the money for the Hall without calling on Branch or Shakespeare Foundation funds. Neville was also the Project Manager for the rebuilding and continued in this role after he ceased to be Chief Commissioner.

Stromlo Forest Scout Group is finally back home and can close the last chapter on the recovery from that fateful day.

## ActewAGL Green Grant brings warmth to Pfadfinder Scouts

ActewAGL has awarded Pfadfinder Scouts and Spielwelt a grant of \$10,000 under their Green Grants program for a project that will help save energy.

The grant will allow Pfadfinder Scouts to significantly reduce heat loss and improve the safety of the Turner Scout Hall, by installing double glazed, child safety-standard windows throughout the hall. The plan is to install the new windows over the summer break.



This improvement will increase the thermal efficiency of the Turner Scout Hall and is another step in greening this bilingual education centre.



### 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.

Last but not least, everyone involved with Scouts in ACTION, Branch Office and our Commissioners would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!