



Scouts in ACTION

Australian Capital Territory Branch

June 2012

Their service-Our heritage

by Emily Nahon, Crowajingalong, Bindana Scout Troop Pack, Aged 12



On the 24th of April, the day before ANZAC day, Scouts from all over Canberra gathered at Campbell High School for a sleepover. Organised by the ACT Branch, this sleepover would go towards the "Their Service - Our Heritage" badge. At approximately 8:00pm we arrived at the school. Many Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers turned up.

We laid down our various mats and sleeping bags and then played around until everyone else had arrived. When everyone was ready, we got into groups. We got a sheet with questions on it and we walked up and down ANZAC Parade, answering questions at each memorial. Getting back to the school was a nuisance as every time we went past the alarm went off! Inside we were met with delicious cups of Milo, which we were grateful for because it was cold outside! We settled down in our sleeping bags, but no one slept for a while. Eventually we dropped off.

After breakfast we went for a walk to the Aboriginal Memorial behind the War Memorial, while we were waiting for the march to start. Soon we headed down to the parade. Some other Scouts, Girl Guides and Boys from the Boys Brigade were already holding the placards, so we partnered up with them. I partnered up with two girls holding placard number 7; "the Heritage Troop". It was very exciting and all too soon it was over. We went and sat at the very top of the stands. I was behind some soldiers and we had a great view. The sleepover and the march were really fun and was enjoyed by all.

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From the Chief

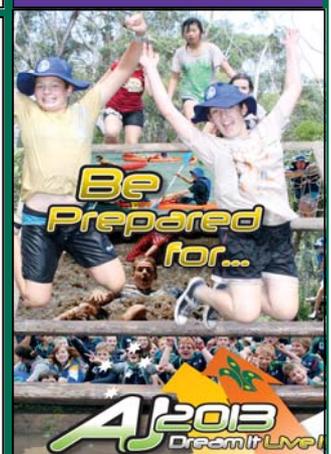


What an exciting month we have had with the launch of our new Scout Hot Air Balloon Training program. Scouts ACT with help from the ACT Government and Australian Balloon Federation now has the opportunity to train and licence our 18 year plus members as Hot Air Balloon Pilots and those 16 years onward as Ground Crew. These qualifications can be used as a stepping stone towards a commercial pilot's licence or fixed wing pilot's licence as well as providing opportunities for employment in the Hot Air Balloon Industry. Thanks to Ross McConnell, his trainee balloon team and Danny Galbraith from ABF this program is now a reality. Thanks is also due to the many leaders and supporters who have been helping behind the scenes.

The team is also developing section based activities to introduce and teach all our youth members about Hot Air ballooning. We aim for every member of Scouting in the ACT to have a Hot Air Balloon experience over the next couple of years.

Elsewhere in the Branch Alan Murray and his AJ2013 team have been assembling what looks to be our biggest Scout Jamboree contingent yet to Maryborough Qld for January next year. Evan Long our Director Gang Show has been preparing his team to "Get Lost" in readiness for Gang Show 2012.

We are very fortunate to have such dedicated leaders and supporters – it makes our programs so much more challenging and exciting.



Venturers Go Under

John Pring - Venturer Leader, Macarthur Scout Group



There is the perennial question, "what did you do on the weekend?" Often Venturers can answer that with exciting things, "Dragon Skin", "Caving" etc. But what if you could say "I went scuba diving?" For me that usually gets the reaction "that sounds exciting."

Well that is exactly what Charlie, Andrew and I did on the weekend. The three of us have done a scuba diving course at different stages over the last 12 months and decided to go diving for the day this last weekend. Following an early start, and a few hurried phone calls to make sure everyone was up and going, we headed off for Batemans Bay. The day was looking great and the expected seas were also in the superb side of good and we weren't to be disappointed.

We met up with the diving instructor at the scuba store in Batemans Bay and went about 20 minutes south to Broulee kitted up and we were in the water by a bit after nine. The two dives at Broulee included exploring the underwater cave and looking at all the sea life. We were buzzed a couple of times by the local Wobbygong sharks, steered clear of a number of mean looking moray eels and generally spent a couple of enjoyable hours underwater just chilling and watching the multitude of fish life.

For those that haven't tried it diving is the closest thing I can imagine to flying underwater. Once you have the knack you basically glide, or ghost, through the water. On finishing we returned the gear, and then over lunch discussed what we had seen and what diving adventure we should look at next. The consensus was that Montague Island with the seals sounded great.

If you are interested in learning to dive, we will be running courses quite frequently. You only need to be moderately fit and have no serious medical complaints. The intent is to run diving on a more regular basis for Venturers. So come dive with us and see what reaction you get when someone asks "What did you do on the weekend?"

JOTA 2012

Like every other year JOTA will be held on the 3rd weekend of October - this means that this year it will be on the 20th and 21st of October. This will be the weekend after first week of term 3.

This years theme is "How big is your world" and we will aim to help all participants to explore this.

If you would like to book a time slot for during the day or join us overnight, get in contact with Elizabeth Hickey via email lhickey@netspeed.com.au

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 and we will add your story to the next newsletter.