



Scouts in ACTION

Australian Capital Territory Branch

September 2011

JOTA 2011



Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is an annual event organised by Scouts and Guides on an international level. Whilst many groups organise their own JOTA events each year, The Radio Activities Team – Scouts ACT (RATSACT) has pooled the resources of several Radio operators, many Scouters and a large contingent of ACT Guides to provide fun and educational activities in addition to 'On Air' time. All of these activities relate either to the theme of Communication or the particular focus of each year's JOTA.

This year the JOTA theme is "Peace, Environment and Natural Disasters".

JOTA is being run at Camp Cottermouth between 12:00 midday on Saturday the 15th of October and will conclude at 14:00 on Sunday the 16th of October. The bookings have been open for some weeks and we already have several times filled up. Some groups may wish to come out for an hour or two, or you may wish to come and stay for an overnight camp. Please note meals or camp equipment is not provided and groups must organise this themselves. The activity will cost \$5 which includes all crafts and the badge. If you are camping cost will be \$5 per night and this is to be organised through Elizabeth Hickey, not Camp Cottermouth.

Please contact Elizabeth for bookings, lhickey@netspeed.com.au if any Scouts wish to organise their own separate JOTA stations, let Elizabeth know so you can find out the requirements for Licensing and Insurance for JOTA activities.

1800 SCOUTS

scouts.com.au



From the Chief



On August 1 (World Scout Day) we acknowledged nearly 40 of our hard working adults in Scouting (both uniformed and non-uniformed). A full list of our awardees has been sent out on ScoutsIT. Not on ScoutsIT? Email admin@act.scouts.asn.au to get on the list. If you know of someone who you think is deserving of recognition then make sure you get your nomination into herc@act.scouts.asn.au. You can find the form outline on <http://www.act.scouts.asn.au/ACTScouts/Sites/forms/>

We are finalizing our census returns for 2011 and early indications see the ACT as the only Branch that has recorded a gain in both youth and adult members. This is due to the great recruiting skills of our groups, Region and Branch teams. Of concern to me, however, is the churn factor (resignations between census returns) which seems to have risen. This indicates that we are recruiting more than we think because we are losing more than we know. How is your Mob, Pack, Troop, Unit, Crew, Team going? Our Development Officer has been setting up some on line non-threatening, exit surveys for youth and adults. This is a great opportunity to find out why people are leaving – and see how we can address these reasons.

Nationally (and in the ACT) we are focusing more than ever on program delivery. Effective program delivery is the main key to retaining our members. Over the next few months I will be especially looking for examples of best practice in this area. This will not only acknowledge the great work our Leaders are doing but make it possible to share these great methods and ideas with others all over Australia.



Gray Wolf Awards

Chief Commissioner Peter Harris presented Grey Wolf certificates to 11 cubs on Sunday 7 August. The cubs (most are now in scouts) were presented with a certificate and their leaders read a citation about the challenges and achievements they completed. A morning tea was held afterwards for the recipients and their families. A big thank you to Sue Pearson for arranging the citations and preparing the fantastic morning tea.



Get Scouts on your iPhone

Scouts from around the world can now install the SCOUTS app for free on their iPhones and get immediate access to selected content directly from the WOSM website.

You will have direct access to the latest Scouting news and articles from around the World or from your favorite region in your preferred language (Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish supported). Be able to download books and other materials from the WOSM library (English and French supported) and enjoy the latest videos or photos from the WOSM galleries. Another great feature is browsing their maps to see the locations of world events, Scouts of the World bases and SCENES Centers.

The app was designed by an Australian Scout, Oleksander Motyka (an ex Rover from NSW) and what a great job he has done! An android version will be released shortly.

For more information check out our Facebook page or go to the WOSM website, www.scout.org

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.