



Branch Newsletter | November 2025

Chief's Update

[Daniel Bartlett](#), Acting Chief
Commissioner

It's been another exciting month of Scouting, 180 Joey Scouts had a fantastic Hoporee. We were also privileged to run an awesome activity base on the Vista Lawn on the Government House Open Day. We had hundreds of young people getting a feel for what Scouting is all about! Next weekend we're gearing up for an amazing Pathways Camp next weekend and I'm looking forward to more Scout cooking and adding another couple of nights under canvas to my log book.

We also have Cub Commissioners from all over Australia coming to see how we do things in the ACT.

Chief's Update	1
Welcome to our new Chief Scout	2
#Outsideln25 Video Challenge	4
Youth InterACT Scholarship	4
Youth Empowerment	4
Branch Scout Council	5
Upcoming Events	5
Pathways Branch Cub Camp	5
Coast Venture	6
Ku-ring-gai-Chase Hoporee	6
National News	6
Training	6
Leader Opportunities	6



We're also starting to plan for further investment in Camp Cottermouth to improve the facilities available to Scouts over the coming years - including a renewed adventure challenge course and an archery shade shelter in the adventurous activities area.

It's an exciting time for Scouting in the ACT.



Welcome to our new Chief Scout

[Andrew Coward](#), Branch President

As part of our Youth Peak Awards presentations on the weekend, an awardee from each section, Joeys to Rovers, had the privilege of investing Andrew Lock OAM into Scouts ACT as our Chief Scout. The Venturers and Rovers then had the privilege of their Peak Awards being presented by the ACT Chief Scout.



Andrew Lock OAM, Chief Scout of Scouts ACT, brings to the role a distinguished legacy of leadership, service, and adventure that embodies the spirit and values of Scouting. Andrew's Scouting journey began in his youth, where he was both a member and later a leader, establishing a lifelong connection to the movement. His commitment continues today through his role as an Ambassador for Scouts Australia, as well as for the Australian Himalayan Foundation.

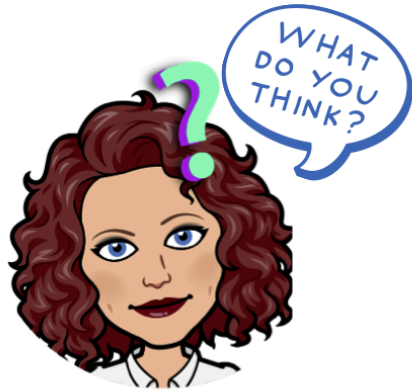
Andrew is the only Australian, and just the 18th person globally, to have climbed all fourteen of the world's 8,000-metre peaks. With 18 summits of these mountains, including Mt Everest twice, he ranks among the world's elite alpinists. He also completed the first Australian ascent of six of these peaks - a record that cannot be surpassed.

The Chief Scout, along with the Chief Commissioner, are the public face of Scouting, ensuring that the opportunities that Scouting provides reaches as wide an audience as possible and to encourage the growth of our Scouting family.

The Chief Scout also provides inspirational leadership to our Youth and Leaders, by demonstrating personal achievement through participation in the Scout Program and drawing on his extensive Scouting and adventurous activities experience.

Andrew's appointment as Scouts ACT Chief Scout recognises not only his extraordinary accomplishments but also his enduring dedication to youth development, leadership, and the values of Scouting. He brings inspiration, credibility, and a global perspective to the role, making him an outstanding ACT Chief Scout.

I want to know what you think about safety!



Yuma! I am Jodie, your Children and Young People Commissioner and part of my job is to keep ACT kids, teens, and young people safe!

Help me make the ACT a safe place for all children and young people!

I am reaching out to all ACT Cubs, Scouts and Venturers from age 8-18 years to participate in an important survey about safety. What you tell me will help me understand how I can help make Canberra a safe place. The survey is anonymous, quick, and what you tell me will make a big difference. Let's work together to create a safer community for all Cubs, Scouts and Venturers in the ACT.

Have your say in the ASK-YP survey!

Now Open!

Click on the link or scan the QR code below to access the survey.

surveymonkey.com/r/J3XWBLC



actkids@act.gov.au



02 6205 2222



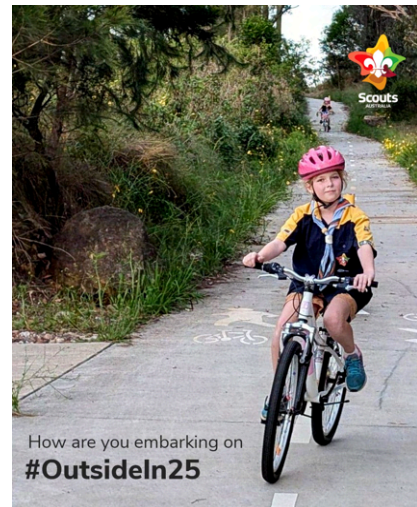
actkids.act.gov.au

#Outsideln25 Video Challenge

#Outsideln25 is a campaign Scouts Australia is running this year to encourage Units to try new things in the outdoors while including more Outdoor Adventure Skills in their 2025 programs.

For Term 4, Scouts Australia is running a competition where Units can submit short videos (TikTok/Reels style) of their outdoor adventures. They'll have the chance to be featured on Scouts Australia's social media and win one of three e-vouchers.

You can find all the details, submission guidelines, and some video inspiration here: scouts.com.au/blog/2025/09/29/outsidein25-video-challenge/. The closing date for entries is **12 December 2025**.



Youth InterACT Scholarship

These ACT government scholarships help young people develop professionally and personally, through either attending events or remaining connected and engaged with their community. This scholarship is for young people aged 12 to 25 years, and is \$500 for individuals or \$1,500 for groups. For more information or to apply visit:

<https://www.act.gov.au/money-and-tax/grants-funding-and-incentives/funding-for-young-people-to-attend-events>

Youth Empowerment

[Jay Reid](#), Branch Commissioner Youth Empowerment

The Department of the House of Representatives and the Y Australia are excited to announce Expressions of Interest are officially open for the National Youth Parliament 2026 and are inviting young people from all walks of life to engage directly with civics and the Parliament. This program aims to equip 16-17-year-olds with the knowledge, confidence, and skills to actively participate in Australia's democratic and parliamentary system.

For more information or to apply visit <https://nyp.houseofrepresentatives.gov.au/apply/>

Branch Scout Council

[Elin](#), BSC Chair

Recently, the Branch Scout Council's Metrogaining event took place in Glebe Park, Civic, on Saturday, the 25th of October, and proved to be a resounding success! Thank you so much to all the scouts, leaders, and other people who assisted in running, organising, and participating in this event. Congratulations to the winning patrol, 'Schlangenkranwagen' from Fadden Pines + Diamantina, who took home both the trophy and a box of chocolates! The BSC hopes that everyone had a great time and was able to practice essential map-reading, time management, and navigation skills through this activity.



Our next BSC meeting will be an escape room and will be held on **Wednesday 3 December** - details will be sent out shortly.

Upcoming Events

[Bryn Catlin](#), Branch Commissioner Events

Pathways Branch Cub Camp

[Keith Horsley](#) & [Russell Hearne](#), Organising Team

This Group-based camp will gather ACT and NSW cubs and guides at the Cottermouth on **14-16 November** for a weekend of fun and activities. Express your interest in the camp by submitting an expression of interest: <https://forms.gle/GKEyDZ7ajLDf88iG8>. Please visit our [website](#) or [Facebook Group](#) for more information.



Coast Venture

[Branch Venturer Council](#)

All Venturer Units are invited to mark their calendars for Coast Venture, which will be held on **12-14 December** at Lake Tabourie. The BVC will be announcing more details in the coming months.



Ku-ring-gai-Chase Hoporee

We have been invited to send a contingent of Joey Scouts to the North Hornsby District Hoporee. **21-23 March 2026**. Please contact kristy.vanputten@gmail.com if your Joey Scout unit would like to participate.

National News

The [latest issue of National News is out](#), featuring:

- #Outsideln25 Video Challenge
- AJ2028 - Join the Jamboree Journey
- 28th Asia-Pacific Region (APR) Scout Conference
- Updated Policy and Rules - Now Available
- Join The Team at SAIT - Exciting Opportunity
- OneCamp 2026 - Don't Miss Out!

Training

Every Course and activity for 2025 can be found in one place! Please click and share [this link](#) to view the live calendar so that you can see all the planned courses for 2025 and keep up to date with Adventurous Activity events and courses as they are added or updated.

Leader Opportunities

Are you passionate about your section? Want to organise the next Mindari or section equivalent, or maybe create something new? Do you want to be a part of a team that makes being a section leader easier by networking, sharing ideas and providing opportunities for informal training? Then maybe a **Branch Training Advisor** role is for you! There are positions for leaders of the **Scout, Venturer Scout and Rover Scout Sections**.



In these roles you would:

1. Facilitate the ongoing training and development of the relevant Section leaders.
2. Provide networking and planning opportunities for the relevant Section leaders.
3. Coordinate the development, publication and sharing of resources for the relevant Section.
4. Provide targeted training support to groups to grow and develop their relevant Section.

Training Team Vacancies

In addition, we are also looking to expand the training team more broadly. So if you are interested in starting on that journey, and contributing to the growth and development of both leaders and youth members, or just find out more about the roles, please send your expressions of interest to the training email inbox (training@scoutsact.com.au).

We are seeking interested and experienced individuals to take on the following vacant key Training Team roles:

The **Assistant Chief Commissioner, Adult Training & Development** will lead the delivery of training and development related services principally to adult members of Scouts ACT, and some older youth members, to support the Youth Program. The position does so through the three Branch Commissioners reporting to the role, and specialist resources including the Training Team; ensuring well trained and qualified Members are supporting the program in a risk minimised and child safe environment.

The **Branch Commissioner, Adventurous Activities** role is to lead, guide, and manage the ACT Branch Adventurous Activities team, lead the effective and high quality delivery of the Scouting Program's adventurous activities, provide support, guidance, advice, feedback and support to the ACT Adventurous Activities team and to be an advocate for, and keep up to date with, all aspects of the development and evolution of the Scouting program, particularly in respect of adventurous activities.