Branch Newsletter | April 2026

Chief's Update

Daniel Bartlett, Acting Chief Commissioner

Welcome to our April 2025 Branch Newsletter. This is the time of year when I keep receiving applications for youth members to hold adventurous journeys in interesting and inventive places, often other states and territories, to round out their peak awards - keep up the great work in finding new trails and adventures to challenge yourself.

Chief's Update	**1**
Amateur Radio Operator Course	**2**
Anzac Day Dawn Service	**3**
Youth Empowerment	**4**
Branch Venturer Council	4
National News	**5**
Upcoming Events	**5**
Scout Hike	5
Weekend Wide Games South 2026	6
Gang Show 2026	6
Training	**7**

If you haven't already, book yourself into one of our great ski/snowshoe trips. These are a great opportunity to try out of of the great Outdoor Adventure Skills that are available in the Canberra region. You are almost guaranteed at least one progression and they are a great opportunity to try something new with members of the various groups in the ACT.

Don't forget the 1 for 1 club - I've already got several pairs of their toasty Merino socks for my hiking adventures. Find out more at: 1for1.com.au or instagram.com/1for1club .To use your special 20% discount, use the code "venturer26".

Finally, if you are planning on attending a Dawn Service but are worried about the crowds at the Australian War Memorial, Mulga and Lake Tuggeranong Scout Groups are again holding their own service at the Lake Tuggeranong Scout Hall, Mortimer Lewis Drive, Tuggeranong from 5am. I will be there in that beautiful and very peaceful setting to watch the sun rise and commemorate ANZAC Day and the National Dawn Service. Well done to Susan Mitchell Roberts, Michelle Taylor and the team for organising this great event again.

Amateur Radio Operator Course

Rob Frederickson, Branch Activity Leader Radio

ScoutsACT will be conducting a Foundation Course for Amateur Radio Certification on **13-14 June**. This course is open to all Youth members and Adults in Scouting, and while there is no age limit for the course it is more suited to older scouts and above. The Course runs over 2 days. On the Saturday, all the theory material and practical examples are covered. On Sunday morning there is a revision session followed by a 25 question multichoice test with a pass mark of 70% and a practical assessment.

For Youth Members, this is an ideal entry path into a STEM SIA, however from the initial entry into the world of Amateur Radio, there are a myriad of challenges that will open in this field. To register for the Course use the Training and Development form (For Leaders and Youth members)

- the course name is Amateur Radio Licence - Foundation
- the course number is 552.

The Course costs $50. This covers all material including a QuanShang UHF/VHF handheld radio for the 2M/70cm Bands (to get you on the air) which is presented at Tech Sunday (last Sunday of the month 3-5pm at the Mt Mugga Scout Hall) once your qualification callsign has been allocate by ACMA.

For more information visit: https://www.scoutsact.com.au/files/radio/radiocourse2026.pdf

Anzac Day Dawn Service

Susan Mitchell-Roberts, Mulga Joey Scout Leader

You are invited to join the Mulga and Lake Tuggeranong Scout Groups for their annual Anzac Day Dawn Service in the grounds beside the Lake Tuggeranong Scout Hall on Mortimer Lewis Drive Tuggeranong. The Dawn Service will begin with the Colour Party taking their positions at 5:10am so we suggest you arrive at 5am to get a good seat. Bring a picnic blanket or a chair and come along to watch the National Dawn Service.

After the conclusion of the dawn service a breakfast will be available at a small cost for those who would like to join us.

Breakfast consists of bacon and egg roll with a hot drink for $10 per person, however as a sign of thanks and respect all Service Personnel receive breakfast free of charge.

Scouting and Guide members also have the option to receive a badge for an additional $2.50 each. The badge should be worn only during the year in which it was presented (up to April 24 of the following year) and is to be worn on the right sleeve as a Additional Award badge.

Dawn service – Entry from 5:00 am
Dawn service commences at 5.30 am

As part of the Anzac Day Dawn Service we are creating a Poppy field of Reflection.

Anyone is welcome to email through a photo or photos of any loved ones/family that have served in any conflict or are currently serving that they would like to have recognised in our poppy field. Please email the photos to susan.mitchellroberts@scoutsact.com.au and include the name, rank, where and when the person served or is currently serving. If you provided a photo and story in previous year these will be included so there is no need to resend them.

We will be printing and laminating the photos and incorporating them into our poppy field and service so we will need these photos no later than midday Friday 18 April 2025

Youth Empowerment

Jay Reid, Branch Commissioner Youth Empowerment

In 2025, Scout Australia asked for your help shaping the future of the Achievement Pathways. Based on your feedback, the National Youth Program Team is ready to make changes to make the Youth Program easier to deliver and more impactful for everyone.

The NYPT wants to hear from our youth members on what's being proposed. Join them on **21 April** to hear about the changes, share your thoughts, and help shape the future of your Scouting journey.

- 6:30 pm AEST – for Joey Scouts and Cub Scouts (who should sign up and participate with assistance from parents/carers)
- 7:30 pm AEST – for Scouts, Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts.

For more information or to register visit:
https://scouts.com.au/what-we-do/youth-program/youth-town-hall/

Branch Venturer Council

Lachlan, BVC Chair

The ACT BVC has been hard at work ensuring that the voices of Venturers around the ACT are heard at the Branch level. But above our advocacy work, we love to help out with various Scouting activities. Notably this past month, multiple Venturers distinguished themselves at Cottershield 'Blast to the Past' running and supporting a fun, safe and adventurous camp for the Scout section.

Over the Easter holidays, 80+ Venturers from the ACT attended Dragonskin 2026 'Imaginarium'. This marks some of the highest participation we have seen in recent years and we are excited to see what the event will bring this year.

This winter, the BVC is running ACT SnowVenture (16-19 July). In the final approval stages now, EOIs remain open and we aim to have registrations open as soon as possible. We are still looking for a First Aid and Mental Health First Aid qualified leader to run First Aid at

the camp and would greatly appreciate it if you could come. Other leaders are also more than welcome to join!

On behalf of the BVC, we thank you for your support and would love to see you attend a meeting whether you are a Rover, Leader or Venturer.

National News

The March 2026 issue of National News is out, featuring:

- Another Term Program Made Easy Now Available
- Updated National Adventurous Activity Framework
- How to Travel Internationally with Scouts Australia
- National External Engagement and Funding Vacancy
- LTAF Support ACT Venturer Scouts' Journey of Leadership, Resilience, and Personal Growth
- 2026 ANZAC Day Badge

Upcoming Events

Bryn Catlin, Branch Commissioner Events

Scout Hike

ACT Scout Units have been invited to attend the NSW ScoutHike on **1-3 May 2026**. ScoutHike is a premier lightweight hiking and camping competition, run annually by the Sydney North Region Scouts, that challenges patrols of 4–8 Scouts to be entirely self-sufficient, carrying their own gear, tents, and food as they navigate between activity bases using a map and compass. With nearly 30 themed activity bases staffed by Venturers, Rovers, and Leaders, the weekend is a high-energy mix of skill-building, teamwork, and independence.

We are currently looking for:

- A Leader or Rover to be the ACT coordinator/Contingent Leader
- Venturers, Rovers and Leaders to support the ACT "VHS Rewind" base.
- Scout Units interested in attending the event - talk to your leaders then book you patrol through ScoutHike - Scouts NSW.

If you are interested in attending ScoutHike or helping support ACT's participation, contact rod.stubbs@scoutsact.com.au.

Weekend Wide Games South 2026

Charlie Campbell, WWG Committee

Weekend Wide Game is a bi-annual competitive camp, for Scouts, Venturers, Rovers, and Leaders. The Scouts work in patrols, earning points throughout the weekend for completing activities, while learning skills like teamwork, problem-solving and leadership.

WWG South 2026 will take place from **Friday 29 to Sunday 31 May**, at Kings Farm, 309 Ningee Nimbell Creek Road, Tomboye, NSW 2622.

Each camp has a different theme, a unique storyline, and high stakes, with Rovers and Venturers working as the 'bad guys' to try and slow down the Scouts. At the end of the camp, scores are tallied and a winning patrol is announced!

Registrations are open now - events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/3260

Gang Show 2026

Zeno Hamer, Director

Back in my day we used to do gang show... Well lucky for you it's back! The production team have been hard at work preparing the show for 2026 and are getting ready to launch. Applications for Cast (11-30 yrs), Tech crew (14+), Wardrobe (skill based), Welfare (18+), and other teams vital to the success of Gang Show. Rehearsals will run from March through July, with shows running the first week of July school holidays (**8-11 July**). Please reach out if you have any questions,

Training

Ben Keily, Acting Assistant Chief Commissioner Training and Development

We are looking to expand the training team. 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.