



Branch Newsletter | February 2026

Chief's Update

[Daniel Bartlett](#), Acting Chief
Commissioner

Welcome back to Term 1 of Scouting, 2026 looks like it's going to be another amazing year with plenty of great local national and international events planned. Over the summer holidays our Scouts have been hiking, canoeing, climbing and racking up even more adventurous journeys, so it's almost a relief to get back to week by week activities. Truly there are no off-seasons in Scouting!

The achievements of Scouts across Australia was highlighted in the recent [Scouts Australia Newsletter](#), highlighting the positive impact Scouting has on youth member's resilience, social engagement and willingness to help others. Somehow

I think we already knew that, but it's great to have real research to help share the news.

Check out how Lily from ACT was able to achieve her achieve with [Junior PADI Dive Master](#) through the Dick and Pip Smith Leadership Through Adventure Fund - what adventure could you apply for?

The Australian summer has impacted some Scouting properties, especially Mafeking Rover Park in Victoria. If you can, please show your support through the [Mafeking Bushfire Fundraiser Badge](#); available through the Scout Shop for \$5.

Chief's Update	1
Program Made Easy	2
Canberra Day Appeal	3
1 For 1 Club	4
Youth Empowerment	5
Branch Scout Council	5
Branch Venturer Council	5
National News	6
International Opportunities	7
19th Nippon Scout Jamboree 2026	7
31st Icelandic National Jamboree	7
Upcoming Events	8
Founders Day 2026	8
Gang Show 2026	8
Cotter Shield 2026 - 'Blast to the Past'	9
Ku-ring-gai-Chase Hoporee	9
Scout Hike	9
Training	10
Training Team Vacancies	10



We have a great range of improvements planned to Camp Cottermouth and 2026 will see significant investments enabling not only new Federal Grant funded toilet blocks but a variety of youth program and adventurous activity developments.

Keep an eye out for more information on the transition from Operoo to [Consent2Go](#). It's going to take a while and a bit of patience while we go from the initial set up to a fully operational solution, but in the meantime, use the [paper forms](#) on the website. Look out for emails from Jo, our Executive Officer about progress and take pragmatic steps to record activity approvals, parental consents and attendance.

Program Made Easy

[Sam De Rota](#), Branch Commissioner National Initiatives

Program Made Easy is a collection of ready-to-use Scout programs providing term-length activity frameworks across all four challenge areas. Designed for new volunteers and groups needing a structured starting point, these resources can be started at any point in the year. The frameworks provide approximately 80% of the planning work, with leaders adding final details such as risk assessments, equipment lists, and adaptations for their specific unit.

Access the resources at

scouts.com.au/program-made-easy



What is Program Made Easy?

Program Made Easy provides balanced term-length programs with weekly activity frameworks across all four challenge areas. These resources are designed to take the guesswork out of program planning, whether you're a new volunteer finding your feet, stepping into an existing group that needs a refresh, or simply looking for a reliable framework to build from.

What's included:

- Weekly activity frameworks for a full term
- Activities balanced across all four challenge areas

- Designed to be started at any point in the year - just begin with First Term and work through sequentially as the Programs are released throughout 2026
- Flexible frameworks you can adapt to your local environment and resources

What preparation is still required:

These frameworks provide the structure and ideas to get you about 80% of the way there, but preparation is still required to deliver a quality program. Think of it as your blueprint - you'll need to complete your branch-required planning add the final details like risk assessments, specific equipment lists, and the personal touches that bring each night to life for your unit.

Important to note:

Program Made Easy isn't a minute-by-minute script or a replacement for your creativity. These are frameworks designed to give you confidence and structure, but you'll need to make them your own to truly be successful.

Access the resources: scouts.com.au/program-made-easy

Canberra Day Appeal

[Jackie Stenhouse](#), Canberra Day Appeal
Coordinator

Scouts ACT is participating in the 2026 Canberra Day Appeal to raise money for The Scout Fund, to help ensure that every young person who wants to be part of Scouting has the opportunity to do so, regardless of their family’s financial circumstances.



Most of us know from experience how much Scouting offers young people — adventure, confidence, skills, friendships and a strong sense of belonging.

For some families in our community, however, cost can make it hard for their child to take part fully, or even at all.



The Scout Fund provides practical financial assistance so young people can stay involved in Scouting when money is tight. It helps with fees, uniforms and activity costs, including camps, which are so often the most memorable and impactful part of the program.

The Scout Fund doesn't make headlines, but it makes it possible for young people to attend camp, wear a uniform, and belong to a group where they are supported and challenged. Every dollar donated through the Canberra Day Appeal is matched, up to \$2,500, instantly doubling the impact of your gift.

If you are in a position to contribute, even a small amount, your donation will go directly to helping a local Scout participate fully in our program.

Donate now – <https://canberra-day-appeal-2026.raiselysite.com/o/scouts-act>. If you can't donate right now, maybe later? The campaign runs until **20 March**.

1 For 1 Club

[Tracey Noble](#), Mt Mugga Venturer Leader

A great opportunity to get ready for more adventures is through the 1for1.cUb. This is an Australian social enterprise, working with Scouts ACT, that retails high-quality merino socks and beanies designed for outdoor adventure. For every product purchased, a matching item is provided to someone experiencing homelessness through trusted community partners across Australia.



The idea is simple: people who love the outdoors can make a positive impact through everyday purchasing decisions. Socks are one of the most requested items by homelessness services, yet are rarely donated due to hygiene requirements so every pair really matters. Our gear is built for warmth, durability and multi-day wear, making it just as practical on Scout activities as it is meaningful off the trail with people in need.

Find out more at: <https://1for1.com.au> or <https://www.instagram.com/1for1club>

To use your special 20% discount, use the code "venturer26".



Youth Empowerment

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

Are you interested in getting more involved with Rovers at a national level? Do you think your ideas and passion for the Rover Scout section will help keep us moving forward?

The National Rover Council (NRC) is seeking Rover Scouts to fill three key roles on the NRC executive team:

- Advocacy Officer
- Events and Initiatives Officer
- Marketing and Engagements Officer



For more information or to apply visit <https://rovers.scouts.com.au/nrc/nrc-elections/>

Branch Scout Council

The next BSC meeting will be held on **Monday 16 February** at the Southwell Scout Hall (Kubura Place, Aranda) from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. Join us to share your ideas for Cotter Shield and get a sneak peak of the activity bases we have planned!

Branch Venturer Council

Lachlan, [BVC Chair](#)

The ACT Branch Venturer Council is excited to kick off a new year of fun, adventurous, and safe activities. We remain committed to supporting local Venturer Units and making sure every Venturer's voice is heard at both Branch and National levels.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us at Coast Venture. It was fantastic to see Venturers relaxing, connecting, and enjoying time at the beach. If you couldn't make it this time, don't miss the next one: join the BVC mailing list via the homepage of our website: <https://www.actventurers.com/>



You may have heard whispers about a brand-new ACT Scouting event. We are able to confirm they're true! The BVC is launching a flagship Venturer section camp: ACT SnowVenture. Planning for the 2026 installment is well underway, with Expressions of Interest opening soon. Venturers, Rovers, Leaders, and Adult Helpers are all welcome. If four days in the Australian Alps - downhill skiing at Perisher, the largest resort in the Southern Hemisphere - sounds like your kind of adventure, make sure you're subscribed to the newsletter to stay updated.

We are pleased to announce the BVC Executive for 2026.

Chair: Lachlan (Les Explorateurs), returning after serving as BVC Secretary and BSC Chair.
Vice-Chair: Leila (Les Explorateurs), returning after serving as Vice-Chair of both the BVC and the BSC.

Secretary: William (Lake Burley Griffin Sea Scouts).

Treasurer: Eli (Southwell).

Congratulations to all, and welcome back to those returning to leadership roles.

National News

The [January 2026](#) issue of National News is out, featuring:

- Use our Resilience story to grow your Group
- Australia Day 2026 Honours List
- Celebrating Our Program - 110 Years of Cubs and 80 Years of Venturers
- #Outside25 Video Challenge
- Together for Mafeking Park
- 2026 Clean Up Australia Day
- Jamboree on Pedals 2026

International Opportunities

Georgia Elliott, Branch International Commissioner

19th Nippon Scout Jamboree 2026



The Jamboree will be held from 1st - 11th August 2026 in Jinseki Kogen, Hiroshima, Japan. Applications are open to Scouts (born before 3 August 2014), Venturers, Leaders and IST. Applications close on 15 December 2025 or when all available positions are filled. All applicants must register using the Australian Contingent's online application system, OLEMS: <https://registrations.international.scouts.com.au/>

Find out more here:

<https://registrations.international.scouts.com.au/documents/Nippon%20Contingent%20Information-Cover%20Pages%202025%20-%20LP%20approved.pdf>

31st Icelandic National Jamboree

The Jamboree will be held from 14th July – 2nd August 2026 in Akureyri, Iceland. Applications are open to Scouts (born before 20 August 2014), Venturers, Leaders and IST. Applications close on 15 January 2026 or when all available positions are filled. All applicants must register using the Australian Contingent's online application system, OLEMS:

<https://registrations.international.scouts.com.au/>

Find out more here:

<https://registrations.international.scouts.com.au/documents/Iceland%202026%20-%20Contingent%20Information%20Sheet%20LP%20approved.pdf>



Upcoming Events

[Bryn Catlin](#), Branch Commissioner Events

Founders Day 2026

[Wendy Freeman](#), Acting Branch Commissioner, Heritage and History Team

The 22nd of February marks Founder's Day, celebrating the birth of our Founder, Lord Baden-Powell. It is a special occasion dedicated to honouring his vision and a celebration of our shared values and common goals – working towards peace, unity and international friendship.



All members of Scouting (youth and adults) are welcome to join the Heritage and History Team for an informal celebration at Camp Cottermouth 2-4pm Sunday 22nd of February. We will be meeting just near the big tree behind the ablutions block. BYO afternoon tea, something to sit on and a scouting story or memorabilia. Please wear your formation scarf and a name tag if appropriate.

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 (8th -11th July). Please reach out if you have any questions,



Cotter Shield 2026 - 'Blast to the Past'

Cotter Shield is an annual Patrol competition camp where Patrols of Scouts compete in a series of activity bases across the weekend that test their leadership, teamwork, communication and Scouting skills. Cotter Shield will be held the weekend of **20-22 March 2025** at Camp Cottermouth. This does clash with Sirius Cup up in Sydney - any Sea Scout Patrols wishing to attend without their Unit can be hosted by another Unit.



Registrations will open at the end of February. The Branch Scout Council has been working hard over the last twelve months to plan a fantastic youth-led event, and if you would like to get involved in planning this amazing event, please contact bsc@scoutsact.com.au

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.

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.

Training

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.