



Branch Newsletter | March 2026

Chief's Update

[Daniel Bartlett](#), Acting Chief
Commissioner

It's March and we're past the blazing heat and bushfire risks of Summer, Scouting is back with a vengeance and it's a busy month!

Scouts have Cotter Shield on 20-22 March 2026 and Scout Hike on 1-3 May 2026. Joey Scouts have Northern and Southern Region Mob Riots on 11 and 12 March respectively, followed by a bus trip to the Ku-ring-gai Chase Hoporee for the lucky participants. Cub Scouts across the ACT are getting prepared for Cuboree in October with hikes and camps planned. Rovers are off at ROAST over 7-9 March while Venturers are planning for Dragonskin and other adventures.

The rollout of Consent2Go has finally happened and its looking good! While any transition takes a while, we have had great feedback on the product, its capabilities and general user friendliness. This is just the beginning so there will be further developments over time, making it a great platform for Scouting. New online forms are also being rolled out, simplifying and automating processes that we were managing in Operoo with a more dedicated workflow capability. Please provide any feedback on what's working and what could be improved to admin@scoutsact.com.au.

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Check Your Unit's Health with Program Pulse

Jay Reid, Branch Commissioner Youth Empowerment

Program Pulse is a user-friendly tool that helps your Unit identify your program's strengths and areas for improvement.

Program Pulse is designed to help Units take programming to the next level. It ensures a quality Scouting experience for youth members. A quality program is adventurous, fun, challenging, and inclusive for every young person.

Program Pulse will only take youth members around 10 minutes to complete during a Unit Council. Some Units may find that it leads to a longer discussion. It should be done twice each year. This helps you track and identify areas to focus on during the next program cycle.

Based on your responses, you'll receive a personalised report with resources to take your program to the next level. This creates more engaging experiences for young people. It empowers them to achieve their full potential through Scouts.

This isn't about judging 'good' or 'bad'. It's a process to help deliver the best possible program. Every Unit is unique and faces different challenges. Program Pulse helps you know how your Unit is performing and plan for improvement.

For more information or to complete Program Pulse, visit:

<https://scouts.com.au/what-we-do/youth-program/program-pulse/>



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**.



Youth Empowerment

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

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) 6-day residential retreat is an opportunity for young people (aged 18-28) to develop the tools to become effective leaders in their communities. RYLA allows participants to build networks and develop their leadership skills to create the change they wish to see in the world.



Under the youth program, RYLA can be used by Rovers as a Personal Development Course for their Baden-Powell Scout Award.

It will be held Sunday 21 June to Friday 26 June 2026 at the Warrambui Retreat & Conference Centre in Murrumbateman NSW. For more information visit: <https://rotary9705.org.au/page/ryla>.

Rovers need to be sponsored/endorsed by a local Rotary Club - I'm happy to help them find and connect with a club. From what I've heard, clubs are always looking for applications.

While applications don't close until **22 May**, it's probably best to get in early.

Branch Scout Council elections

- Do you have ideas for fun new Scout events?
- Do you want to develop your leadership, teamwork and communication skills?
- Do you want to make new friends from other Units?
- Do you want to represent Scouts and make sure their voices are heard?



If you answered yes, join the Branch Scout Council Executive in 2026!

The BSC Executive is a team of Scouts (aged 11-14) who work to support Scout Units in the ACT in delivering a youth program for Scouts that is adventurous, fun, challenging, and inclusive. The BSC is seeking Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and up to three Executives to serve for the next 12 months. Check out the BSC website for more information about the BSC.

Elections for the 2026-27 BSC executive will be held at Cotter Shield on Saturday afternoon. However, any Scouts not attending Cotter Shield who would like to stand for election should contact jay.reid@scoutsact.com.au and we can arrange for you to be included in the election.

People and Culture Team Update

[Peter Harris](#), Acting Assistant Chief Commissioner People and Culture

Hi from the People and Culture Team.

So far this year, we have been updating a range of Branch policies – including our Child Protection Policy, to make it simpler to understand and to follow – more news coming soon about a one-page guide to reporting.

Some exciting news is also coming soon about a proposed Diversity and Inclusion badge where we get a chance to learn more about helping our diverse membership get the best out of Scouting and how we might encourage everyone to feel valued and included. In return we get to wear possibly the most colourful badge ever! Are you interested in having a say – please let me know.

Lastly, please remember to send the Executive Officer or myself an email to record any incidents that involve harm to our youth or adults in Scouting.

National News

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

- From Input to Improvement: Achievement Pathways Review
- Flexible Volunteering Trial
- Tell Us What You Think - Program Made Easy
- Join the AJ2028 Marketing Team

Heritage Team Update

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

The Heritage Team would like to know more about your Group. Do you know the history of your scarf's colours? Is there an interesting fact about your Group's history or does the Group hold an interesting Scout heritage item? Please let us know so that we can document it. Group cookbooks were popular at one time. If anyone has one of these that they would be willing to donate, we would love to receive it.

The Heritage Team is willing to visit Unit meetings and do a presentation for youth members. If you are interested please contact wendy.freeman@coutsact.com.au for more details.

Upcoming Events

[Bryn Catlin](#), Branch Commissioner Events

Cotter Shield 2026 - 'Blast to the Past'

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

Registrations for Cotter Shield are now open!

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 2026** at Camp Cottermouth with the theme **Blast to the Past**.



For more information or to register, visit <https://forms.gle/2S2cqVDMRwTaHmhNA>

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. A huge thank you to Burgmann Anglican School for the loan of their bus for the third time running!

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.

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,

Peak Awards

Congratulations to all our youth members who earned their Peak Awards in January and February 2026:

Joey Scout Challenge Award

Finn Manley	Southwell
Harmony Bosma	Mulga
Hugo Bell Samper	Well Station
James Gardiner	Mt Rogers
Leo Bell Samper	Well Station
Marlow Cole	Majura
Oliver Collins	Mulga
Sahiru De Silva	Majura
Taryn Gowty	Mt Rogers
William Gray	Majura



Grey Wolf Award

Amelia Keily	Badimara
Byran Butler	Fadden Pines
Charles McLachlan	Fadden Pines
Erica Bishop	Fadden Pines
Heidi Rowan	Fadden Pines
Seth Hofland	Badimara
Tom Sagrott	Diamantina

Australian Scout Award

Aidan Sohi	Majura
Carina Damino	Birrlee
Dhanvanth Sujith	Amaroo
Lachlan Done	Mulga
Santi Gonzalez Rodriguez	Mulga



Sophie Li	Les Ex
Tobis Leask	Mulga

King's Scout Award

Thomas Carlile	Birralee
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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.

