



Scouts in ACTION

Australian Capital Territory Branch

October 2014

Canberra Urban Rogaining Event

By Eric Zurcher

At this year's Canberra Urban Rogaining Event (CURE) we had 97 Scouts participating in 17 Patrols. Below are the top 5 positions. There are two scores in the table: the raw score and an age-adjusted score; it's the age-adjusted score that is used to determine the winners.

Rank	Group/Patrol	Raw score	Age-adjusted score
1	Mt. Mugga / Mortal Wobmat	660	699
2	Majura / Crazy Dinos	750	698
3	Air Scouts / War birds	575	560
4	Southwell	543	550
5	Stromlo/Garran / Orange gummy-bears	526	540

The defending champions from Majura Mountain Scouts were defeated by a single point! In fact they reached every control point and couldn't have done much to improve their score, but because they were mostly 14 year olds their raw score was adjusted downwards. The Patrol from Mt. Mugga had a lower raw score (they missed only 3 of the 48 control points) but because they were mostly 11 year olds, their score was adjusted upwards giving them the win by the narrowest of margins.

Overall all the Patrols did very well and we estimate they must have walked 18 kilometres or more to have reached as many points as they did. Not a bad day's effort.

From the Chief



Imagine cycling 756 km on all sorts of terrain and in all kinds of weather. That's exactly what 16 year old Venturer Hayden Muir, from Woodend, Victoria, did recently. What prompts someone to attempt - let alone accomplish such a task? Hayden witnessed one of his classmates having an epileptic fit. He felt helpless at the time and no-one else seemed to know what to do either. He decided that more awareness was needed about epilepsy and more understanding about what to do in similar situations. With his family and Venturer Unit behind him he planned and undertook the mammoth cycle epic raising (so far) nearly \$17,000 for the Epilepsy Foundation.

For me, as I watched our Prime Minister and his colleagues congratulate Hayden at Parliament House, this was one of those special moments in Scouting. I was reminded just how powerful and enabling Scouting can be in encouraging and preparing youth members to determine and take action for a great purpose. I thought this was the highlight of my day - but I was wrong. In the crowd, one of our local Scouts approached me and said that he was keen on cycling and thought he would like to do a similar ride. I suggested he speak with one of Hayden's support team and get some information. He came back even more enthused. I am sure you will hear more of this keen Scout in the near future - he now has a clear goal and it is up to us to help him achieve it.

I would like to thank Jacqui Coleman for organising our welcome to Canberra Team for Hayden at Parliament House and the youth and adult members who joined me for his arrival - and to one Scout in particular who is planning a new great adventure!

Birralee Snow Camp

by Sarah Kretschmer, Girrawah Scout Troop



When I arrived at the bus, the day was sunny and warm unlike the rest of the week. Everyone (when I say 'Everyone' I mean everyone) was excited and looking forward to snowball fights, tobogganing and just being with friends. No matter who you looked at every single person was smiling, grinning or laughing. The bus trip looked like it was going to be fun the entire way to Jindabyne. The TV screen on the bus went on and everyone fell quiet, craning their necks to see the movie.

The movie was turned off as the bus pulled into Cooma. Cooma's lights danced outside the windows. The bus stopped outside McDonald's. I got up and followed the crush of Scouts out of the bus, through the car park and to the entrance of McDonald's. The line of kids was so long that it took up the two ordering counters and the collecting counter before curving around half the shop, snaking around to the door and going outside to the car park. So there I was, standing outside in the cold night air with my friends watching other kids eating hot food inside the warm restaurant. After what seemed like an eternity we finally made it inside. Once we were waiting inside, the line seemed to go faster. Locals looked startled at the amount of kids and staff tried to manoeuvre around us all. When I reached the front of the line I ordered and went to the collection line. I got my food and went to find a table. Every table was full. After I while a found a spot and sat down. I ate and before I knew it, we were on the way to Jindabyne.

It was cold when we got off the bus. We got our bags and took them inside. Inside Jindabyne Scout Alpine Centre it was warm. Compared to outside it was wonderful. We found our way to our beds and quickly set up. We put on our sheets and unrolled our sleeping bags. Then we went and helped anyone who needed it. When we were finished we went to the hall to talk about what was going to happen. We either stayed and talked with friends in the hall or went back to our beds.

I was back at my room when I met one of my old friends. I had been good friends with Naomi when I was a kid but her family had moved away. I never thought I would see Naomi again, but here she was. I didn't even realise she was in Birralee's other Scout troop! I also met some people from school and sports that I already knew and were good friends with. Soon, a leader came and told us it was time to go to bed. The first night was like any other Scout camp. Kids were talking and giggling, other kids were telling them to stop and others were snoring so loudly you would have thought they would wake the dead. But eventually everyone fell asleep.

The next morning I woke up at about 6:30. All around other kids were waking up too. The lights were turned on and everybody got dressed. We went and had breakfast and then packed to go to Perisher. I got on the bus and found a friend to sit with. As we drove to Perisher, everyone was looking outside, hoping to get the first glimpse of snow. The first snow that we saw was just patches on the ground. Every 100 metres there would be another patch of snow. The further we went the more snow there was. The distance between snow patches became less and less until the ground had an unbroken covering of cold white snow. The bus kept driving until we had reached the parking lot at Perisher. Here everything was covered in snow and ice. The buildings had snow on their roofs and towering mountains were clothed in snow from base to peak. We got off the bus and put on our beanies and gloves and zipped up our jackets. We picked up some gear and followed the line of Scouts towards a flat plain of snow. The gear was sorted and given to Cubs, Scouts and Venturers. Then we separated and went off to our activities.

My first activity was shelter building. We were going to make igloos big enough to fit our patrols in. We were given snow saws to cut ice blocks to put our shelters together. We made our outline then cut out the centre of the floor. The walls were hard to build. The first layer of snow had to be scraped off, then someone had to saw the block and another person had to carry the block to the wall and find a spot to put it in. Next snow had to be packed into the gaps around the block so the wall didn't fall down. It was hard work but when lunch was called we had built a wall about a metre tall. Inside the igloo we had cut the floor so it resembled a circular chair. The top wasn't quite finished but at least the wall stayed up unlike some other shelters.

At lunch time everyone met back together for homemade hot minestrone soup or chicken noodle soup. I found out the Venturers had been tobogganing and the Cubs snow shoeing. After lunch we went tobogganing. Everyone had to trudge up the hill to the top of the slope then line up. The slope was so steep that you had no control of the toboggan whatsoever. Watching everyone go down didn't help with the nervousness as half of everyone going down the slope fell off their toboggans. When it was my turn I just jumped on and hoped I didn't fall off. It was a strange sort of fun. It was fun with scariness on the side, but that scariness was what made it so different from normal fun. After my first go I went to the smaller slope and started racing down the slope with friends. We raced over and over every time a different person won the race. Tobogganing is fun but tobogganing with friends was awesome!

Tobogganing had finished and snowballs were flying everywhere. We were having a massive snowball fight with the igloos as our cover. It was Scouts vs Venturers, who by the way had finished our igloo after lunch, completely closing it over.

After a dinner of lasagne, chicken, chips and vegies, I joined the group in a big parade that was so big we had to be outside because the hall wasn't big enough. The leaders presented Matthew Court, one of the Venturers, with his Queen Scout Award. After this the Cubs & Scouts played a few games outside before retiring to bed. This time everyone was asleep quickly and it was morning before I knew it.

On Sunday the weather was not so nice at Jindabyne. It was raining and very cold but up on the snow fields it was snowing. This time the bus took us to Smiggin's Hole instead of going onto Perisher. The Cubs went tobogganing, the Scouts went for a snow shoe walk and the Venturers went cross country skiing. It was snowing the whole time until I got back on the bus when it turned to rain. The bus took us back to Jindabyne where we had lunch and then got back on the bus to head back to our families waiting for us at the Scout Hall. I couldn't wait to tell mum how awesome the weekend had been. I hope we have another Group snow camp.

Les Explorateurs host renovation celebration

By Kate Lehane, Group Committee - Communications

Recent upgrades to the Ainslie Scout Hall, home of Les Explorateurs Scout Group, were unveiled on Saturday 6 September during a special Renovation Celebration. There was a fantastic VIP turnout with representatives from the ACT, Australian and French governments!

Les Explorateurs' Group Leader Darren Kriticos explained that the success of the group in obtaining a Building Multicultural Communities Program grant towards the end of 2013 enabled the group to undertake extensive renovations of the kitchen and bathroom facilities; as well as installing solar panels, a solar hot water system and a storage shed.

Government investment by both the Australian and ACT Governments in this valuable community resource has allowed the group to reduce both its environmental footprint and running costs, at the same time as making it more functional and pleasant for all hall users, including Les Petites Étoiles Playgroup.

One lucky Les Explorateurs Joey Scout was even invested during the celebrations by Chief Commissioner Peter Harris.



L to R: Dr Darren Kriticos, Group Leader - Les Explorateurs Scout Group, Dr Chris Bourke, MLA; Jaiden, Cub Scout; Senator Zed Seselja, Senator for the ACT; Senator Kate Lundy, Senator for the ACT; Chloe, Joey Scout; Mr Peter Harris OAM, Scouts ACT Chief Commissioner; Mr Eric Soulier, Head of Culture, Education, Science & Technology, French Embassy



One of ACT's newest Joey Scout invested by Chief Commissioner Peter Harris OAM while Dr Andrew Leigh, Member for Fraser and Dr Chris Bourke MLA and Charlene Barriga Joey Leader look on.



Well Station Cub Scouts Camping Trip to Honeysuckle Campground

By Jack Woodall

On the 19th of September, 10 other Cubs and I went to Honeysuckle Campground for a camp. The first thing I noticed was how cold it was. The second thing I noticed was how quickly the sun was going down. We started to pitch our tents before it got dark. Once we put our gear in the tents we had supper.

The next morning we had breakfast while we watched the Kangaroos, and started talking about the walk we were going to have. We started walking and crossed 8 streamlines and it took one hour to get to the base carpark. But we weren't done yet. we still had to walk up the mountain to Booroomba Rocks. About half way up there was a giant rock that had a bench chair on it. It was kind of weird to have a chair half way up a mountain. Some people sat on it while we waited for the others to catch up. Further up the mountain we passed some rock climbers coming down.

When we got to the top there was an amazing view. We could see Black Mountain Tower from there and there was miles of forest. While the others were coming we hid and made them try and find us. We explored and enjoyed the view, and climbed over the boulders. It took us all morning to do the walk and we drove back to the campsite in time for lunch.

In the afternoon we collected firewood and kindling to make little fires. After we lit our fires we started to make part of our own dinner and damper. My damper mixture got stuck all over my hands and then when I cooked it on the fire it kept falling off my stick and started burning. I had to lick my hands clean. We spent the rest of the night sitting by the campfire trying not to freeze, while I told scary ghost stories.

The next morning we got up and had breakfast and talked about another walk. Before we left we played around the campsite and had a run-in with a Brown Snake. We could hear it hissing and Kaa, our leader, told us to leave it alone or we'd get bitten.

We drove to the start point of our walk and walked to two different boulder fields. I was a bit surprised we didn't see many animals. On the first boulder field we had a Scout's Own, which is like a small prayer, that Aiden wrote. The second boulder field had huge boulders with rock climbers climbing them. We explored for a little bit, then Ethan helped one of the rock climbers tie a figure of eight knot. I found a really cool rock where you could see for miles. After a bit longer exploring we had to go back for lunch.

When we got back we found we didn't have to pack up our tents because my awesome parents had already taken most of them down.

It was a really, really fun weekend. I am looking forward to the next weekend away to Thredbo.

Port Neptune Regatta

By Michelle Taylor, Group Leader at Lake Tuggeranong Sea Scouts

The Port Neptune Regatta is the second longest running Scout Regatta in Australia and LTSS was again successful in running, canoeing and sailing with the following results (the only trophy that eludes us is the best campsite trophy but hey, who needs a clean campsite when you are having fun!)

Saturday: Sailing - 1st and 2nd in Division A, 3rd in Division B (pacers) and fastest Scout boat in Division A and Division B

Sunday: Fun Run - 2nd to our beautiful little token Joey, 1st in U13, 1st and 3rd in U15, 3rd in the open.
Canoeing - 3rd in U13 canoe sprint, 2nd and 3rd U15 in Canoe Marathon, 2nd U15 in Canoe Sprint, 3rd in Open Canoe Marathon . **Sailing** - 2nd in Division A, 1st and 2nd in Division B, fastest Scout crewed boat in Division B

Overall - Highest Canoe Point Score, highest Division A sailing point score, highest Division B sailing point score, *Head of the River!*

A big thankyou to all the parents who came along and helped out. It is a big weekend with travel but considering how much fun the Scouts have I believe it is well worth the effort.