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Deadline for the next
issue is
18 April 2008

The next issue is a
family issue

ANOTHER GREAT CUBOREE

On Friday afternoon of 18 January 2008, 533 young Agents of Change began to gather at Camp Cottermouth in Canberra for the 8th ACT Cuboree.

The Cub Scouts and Guides from New South Wales, South Australia and the ACT, were joined by 321 helpers - Guide and Scout Leaders; older Guides, Venturers and Rovers; Parents and Adult Helpers; as the Cuboree began.



Our picture shows attendees doing the 'Thinkers' action for the Cuboree song.

A full report is on page 4.

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NEW SHAKESPEARE CENTRE to OPEN AT CENTENARY CAMP

What better way to celebrate the Centenary of Scouting in Australia than to camp at Camp Cottermouth?

And when better to open the new training and accommodation facilities at Camp Cottermouth than during the Centenary Camp?

Five years to the day after the old Shakespeare Centre burned to the ground in 2003, the new Shakespeare Centre welcomed its first guests, Cuboree staff, on 18 January 2008. And the official opening of the new centre will occur on 8 March at midday, the first item on the program of the Branch Centenary Camp.

The Centre is to be opened by Sir William Deane, a past Chief Scout of Australia while he was Governor-General and since then a tireless worker for Scouts all around Australia. He has taken a keen personal interest in the

regeneration of the Shakespeare Centre.

Mrs Heather Shakespeare, Patron of the Arthur Shakespeare Foundation for Scouting, and a generous and keen personal supporter of Scouting in the ACT will then dedicate the Centre.

And Camp Cottermouth will be ringing at the time to the sounds of hundreds of Scouting families gathering for the Centenary All-Sections Family Camp. After the Shakespeare Centre opening other camp activities for all youth members are planned in Section groups until Sunday afternoon when the camp will officially end.

Those who wish to stay longer can do so, as the Monday is the Canberra Day holiday.

See page 7 for details of how to secure a campsite for your Group.

2008: Year of the Scout

FROM THE CHIEF



Year of the Scout

I would like to welcome each one of you to 2008, the Year of the Scout, and the Centenary of Australian Scouting. The Federal Government has declared 2008 as the Year of the Scout in recognition of the wonderful work done by our volunteer Leaders over the past 100 years, to develop our nation.

Whilst our main celebration will be a All-Sections Event, at Camp Cottermouth on 7 to 10 March (see below) there are several other associated events marking this auspicious year for us.

- On Thursday 7 February, a number of our youth members were involved in the centrepiece of the launch, by the Governor General, of the 2008 Year Book Australia.
- Last Friday, the former Governor General and Chief Scout of Australia, Sir William Deane, launched the \$1 circulating coin which recognises the achievements of Scouting over the past 100 years.
- On Friday 14 March, the Canberra Philatelic Society will be featuring the Centenary of Scouting in its annual Stamp Show with the Chief Commissioner of Australia, John Ravenhall AM, invited to open the show.

ACT Scouts has been invited to participate in events associated with the Beijing Olympic Torch Relay in Canberra on Thursday 24 April. We are immensely proud that Hannah Lord, one of many outstanding in Canberra on youth members, has been selected to carry the Olympic Torch. Hannah is a Rover and has been selected for her contribution to the community as a volunteer on numerous humanitarian projects. She was also Young Canberra Citizen of the Year in 2007.

Three stamps commemorating the

Centenary of Australian Scouting were released by Australia Post on Tuesday 19 February. They include a 50 cent standard postage stamp.

To celebrate the Scouting Centenary, three commemorative coins have been struck and are now available for purchase. They range from \$4.45 for the 50 cent uncirculated coin, to \$65 for the \$5 silver proof coin, and \$210 for the \$10 gold proof coin in an impressive jarrah presentation box.

I urge you to buy your coins through ACT Scouts. We receive a portion of the purchase price of all stamps bought through us, and all of our proceeds will go to our Family Support Fund. Please place your order with Branch Office, and further details are available from Rob Gee on 6258 1521. Please note that a very limited number of the gold and silver coins have been minted.

All of these outcomes are in recognition of the wonderful work volunteer Leaders, past and present, have done for Scouting. Congratulations and thank you!

Cuboree

What a wonderful event this was! Our youth members may not remember the wet conditions on the Friday and Saturday (unlike our adults), but they are sure to remember the new skills they learnt, the new friends they found. The congratulations go to all those who helped make it such a memorable occasion for all the Cubs and Guides. Special mention goes to Peter Harris (Activity Leader) and Dave Cocking (Chair of the Organising Committee). They were each assisted by wonderful teams.

Throughout the event, I was struck by the commitment of our Leaders, our Venturers and Rovers and our helpers. I was equally impressed by the creativity shown by our Leader at the activity bases, and the sheer hard work by many to make the event the tremendous success it was. Like others, I would like to express my sincere thanks to those who stepped in at the last moment to assist with particular tasks.

The 2008 "Agents of Change" Cuboree will live in the memories of our Cubs and Guides for their lifetimes. Congratulations and thanks to all involved!!!

Child Protection

As Chief Commissioner, I want to assure Leaders, youth members and parents that the protection of our young people has been, and will continue to be, my number one priority. Every youth member, regardless of age or gender, must be able to participate in Scouting activities with the knowledge and confidence that it is a safe environment. I have a "zero tolerance" attitude for offences involving any form of abuse or neglect of children and youth.

I refer to our Child Protection Policy, which is linked to our website. There are 4 key principles underlying this statement:

- the best interests of the child or young person must always be a primary consideration;
- all children and young people should be treated fairly and with dignity and respect;
- all children and young people have the right of protection from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation; and
- all children and young people have the right to express their view on matters that affect them.

As a youth organisation, we will respond promptly to any suspicions or allegations of inappropriate behaviour, and investigate any incidents with respect for the needs and rights of all parties.

National Youth Council Applications

A reminder that applications are about to close for positions on the National Youth Council. Positions are guaranteed for each Branch, including the ACT, and are open to (older) Scouts, Venturers and Rovers. Interested youth members are referred

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

to the national website. You can discuss your application with Rob Frederickson (Scout Commissioner on 0400 856 609); Max McDonnell (Venturer Commissioner on 0414 067 188); or Sophie Feint (BRC Chair on 0439 901 607).

Scholarships

Valued at up to \$2,500 each, applications are now open for the Jack Deeble Memorial Scholarship and the Ross Hohnen Memorial Scholarship. Funded by The Arthur Shakespeare Foundation for Scouting, the scholarships recognise the outstanding contributions of the late Jack Deeble, and the late Ross Hohnen, to Scouting in the ACT and internationally. They provide wonderful opportunities for our youth members to attend national and international Scouting events.

Further details appear on page 9.

Opening of "Our" Shakespeare Centre

Midday Saturday 8 March will see a dream come true, with the official opening of the (new) Shakespeare Centre at Camp Cottermouth. Sir William Deane, former Governor General and Chief Scout of Australia, and currently National President of Scouts Australia, will open the Centre. The opening coincides with the All-Sections Camp, to celebrate the Centenary of Scouting.

The new facility belongs to each one of us in Scouting. I would like all of us to promote the use of the Centre amongst our Scouting friends and perhaps work colleagues, organisations and clubs, both local and interstate. We have a wonderful asset, and it is up to each of us to help maintain it in superior condition. The future financial viability of ACT Scouting is very much dependent on the success of Camp Cottermouth. As

individual shareholders, I ask that we all work towards helping Camp Cottermouth be a great success.

National Operations Committee Meeting

We are delighted that the first National Operations Committee meeting for 2008, the Year of the Scout, will be held in Canberra on 29 and 30 March. The weekend meeting, chaired by the Chief Commissioner of Australia, John Ravenhall AM, and attended by National Commissioners and Branch Chief Commissioners, will see a range of youth program issues and national projects being discussed. Youth and adult membership levels, adult training and development, and the Venturer Section Review will again feature throughout the meeting.

Neville Tomkins

Chief Commissioner
Scouts Australia (ACT Branch)

DEVELOPMENT

If you haven't read *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling, go and read it before you go any further. Done that? Right, now we're all on the same wave length.

Mowgli's wolf mother? Remember her? Ferocious in protecting her cubs, helping them learn and giving them space and opportunity to do so, able to teach, able to deliver a correction when needed without hurting in doing so, well able to attend the council rock and wise and articulate in speaking before others. What a Group Leader she would have made!

When you think about it, that's a fair list of the skills we look for in a Group Leader – and they can be found in a wide range of people. Think about a Scout Group without a Group Leader and how it can flounder because no-one is attending to all those important things that make a Group work well. A Group Leader is often the one who first meets new members of a group and their families, makes sure that the section receiving the new member is ready



and welcoming, deals with the paper work, and attends the investiture. A GL can monitor the quality of the program being delivered and is able to go in search of extra resources when needed to keep things sparkling. And then the GL is able to form the link between the front-line program delivery (the all-important section leaders) and the back-up support teams – the parents' committee and the Region and Branch teams.

Next time you talk to a GL, tell them that they are appreciated. A hug might even be in order. Because a GL is a special sort of person doing an amazing job.

How can we contact YOU?

In this day of instant messaging and e-mail it is hard to imagine that people can be uncontactable—but sometimes they are.

While many leaders gave an e-mail address when they registered with Scouts ACT, many haven't. And of those who did, many have forgotten to notify us of changes to their e-mail address over the years. As a result, we are not confident that e-mails taken from registration details are usable.

And there is no process to advise Branch of the names and contact details of committee members, especially Presidents who are all members of the Branch Council and who the office need to formally advise about the Annual Meeting.

Could all GLs please get your leaders' and your committee contact details on extranet checked and verified and updated. And while you are at it, how about logging on to the web site and signing up for ScoutsIT? It's another good avenue—but only to those on it!

Final Cuboree preparations at Camp Cottermouth had been in high gear for over a week by the time the 528 young people and their adult helpers arrived on site late on Friday afternoon, 18 January. Most days 20-100 "adults" were on site in 35 degree heat doing this work – by Friday morning over 250 people were hard at work.

The Counties of Change were ready for the activities which would begin on Saturday morning.

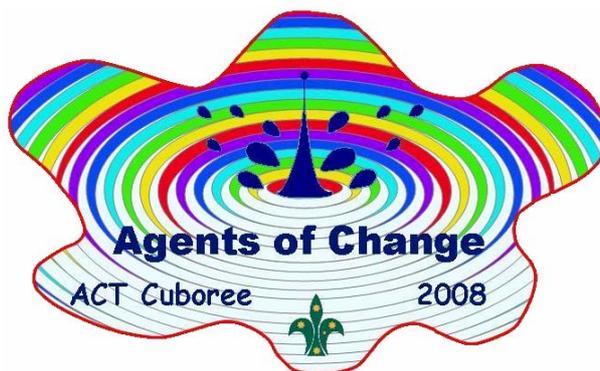
The Agencies where the Cubs and Guides would camp and eat were ready for them.

The Activity areas had 16 separate tents or waterproof shade canopies erected to protect the young people from the expected summer sun and heat. Most of this shade was lent to us free of charge by the Department of Defence and the Dickson Tradies Club.



The new Cottermouth Stage had sides on it and was set up with sound and lighting for the Cuboree Ceremonies. The newly completed Shakespeare Centre for Scouting was ready to accommodate 75 activity and service leaders and to be the kitchen and dining room for 160.

CUBOREE



Agents of Change - ACT Cuboree 2008

Camp Cottermouth 18-22 January 2008

The food had been bought and was on site, apart from daily deliveries of milk, bread and cold meats.

Three tons of ice was in the refrigerated truck ready to keep food and people cool over the weekend.

By the time the Cuboree Closing Ceremony was completed on Tuesday morning all 850 people involved in Cuboree had experienced 4 days of learning, fun and magic. Everyone went away on a high, having experienced one of the great events which Scouting has to offer to both youth members and adults. The Agents of Change had not only journeyed through six

Counties and 24 Cities, having fun and learning new skills, but had unravelled some of the mysteries of managing change. Finally they all became members of one of the Counties and were given a special Agents of Change woggle.

Along the way we experienced a variety of weather conditions.

Just as the young people arrived on Friday the drizzle started, and by the time scheduled for our Cuboree Opening Ceremony it had turned into steady rain. So in keeping with the Cuboree theme we all learned to change.

The Opening Ceremony was delayed until Saturday morning and the Line Leaders and young people showed that they could all be "wet weather" Guides and Scouts, successfully camping in the rain. Some clothes and bedding became wet, but the leaders coped admirably, drying them out and carrying on. Saturday morning saw a break in the rain allow us to formally open the Cuboree, and then it was time for activities.



The rain came back, the young people put on their raincoats and carried on in high spirits, and 50mm of rain in 24 hours did not stop Cuboree.

Change came again with the Saturday evening Ceremony, where for the first time a Cuboree Ceremony moved around the Agencies so the young people could stay under shelter.

Chaos County had become very muddy during Saturday, so after the activities finished in the late afternoon, the County Team with assistance from the Service Team moved the County to a new dry location and rebuilt it. By 1030pm Saturday it was ready to go for Sunday morning, another tribute to the hard work and resilience of the Cuboree attendees.

From Sunday morning everything just became better and better. The rain was gone, the weather was pleasantly cool, everything dried out, and the Ceremonies and Activities continued at full speed.

Two and a half absolutely fabulous Cuboree days ensued. The young people finished visiting all six Counties of Change. They experienced two wonderful evening Ceremonies at the Stage. By Tuesday morning most of us had forgotten the rain as we enjoyed the Cuboree.



Cuboree 2008 was an outstanding success. The young people and adults experienced the magic which is an ACT Cuboree, and young and older alike went away having had a chance to learn and grow.

In the next edition of Woggle we plan to give a photo spread of the Cuboree and an outline of some of the events that made the Agents of Change Cuboree so special.

The Organising Committee for Agents of Change - ACT Cuboree 2008 would like to thank everyone who attended the Cuboree. The wonderful team spirit which pervaded Cuboree was clear to everyone involved and was a tribute Scouting and Guiding.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Annual Meeting of the ACT Branch Council to consider the 2006 report was not held in 2007. The 2006 financial records are now ready for audit and the BEC is looking to hold an ACM in mid-May in a central location to receive that report. There is not expected to be a similar delay in preparing the 2007 books for audit and the 2008 ACM is expected to be held in the second half of the year.

Group Financial Returns

Audited Group financial returns for the year ended 31 December 2007 are due at Branch Headquarters in March. The pro-forma is available on the website. The branch books cannot be prepared for audit for consideration at the ACM until group returns are received.

ACT SCOUT FELLOWSHIP

Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month – 7.30pm Branch Headquarters Garran

Chris Clark
Fellowship Chairperson
6231 8934

WANTED: A FEW GOOD PEOPLE

Scouts ACT are looking for a few good people to fill key leadership positions. These people need to be capable of leading adults, and will need experience as a leader in Scouts, preferably in the ACT.

We are looking particularly for Region Commissioners to replace current ones who have expressed a need to relinquish the role.

Region Commissioners encourage the expansion of Scouting opportunities in their Regions and to support their Groups, helping them to participate in programs beyond their own neighbourhoods, and be a link to the central ACT Branch management

If you would like to volunteer for one of these jobs, or know of someone who might fit one of them, please contact the Chief Commissioner, Neville Tomkins (0412 258 374) and he will contact the person you suggest. A duty statement and selection criteria will be provided to interested people and they will need to provide Neville with a written statement of claims against the selection criteria by 14 March 2008. We wish to select our new Commissioners as soon as possible.



PRESIDENT'S PEN

Things to Share

I am very pleased to be able to contribute to Scouting in the ACT as its president until the next annual Council meeting and am firmly committed to making a difference by my involvement. Not surprisingly I am on a very steep learning curve but I have been very much encouraged by the support I am receiving from the Chief Commissioner Neville Tomkins, the new vice president Graham Hannaford, Branch office staff and my Branch Executive Committee colleagues.

I have chaired several meetings of the Branch Executive Committee and am focused on a number of critical issues including the Branch's financial position and reporting, its administration, the membership database and the review of our constitution.

Volunteers have long helped out in the office and we are building on this to have a robust and sustainable volunteer program. A number of new volunteers have been 'integrated' into Branch administration. This is a critical initiative for our effective operations and the volunteers are already making their presence felt.

We are keen to have more volunteers with appropriate skills or experience willing to serve on our committees, particularly the finance committee. If you know of anyone who might be suitable, I would be grateful if their details could be passed on to me.

I particularly want to stress the importance of an effective group committee. We need more parents and others prepared to help the terrific work of our uniformed leaders by being involved in group committees. A relatively modest contribution can make a huge difference - as we all know, many hands make light work. I

know from my own experience as a group president many years ago that it is also a great way to meet people and make new friends. Ultimately, without a group committee, programs for our children can't be delivered and the burden on the Branch office increases. If you know of anyone who might be suitable to help on a group committee please put them in contact the Group Leader in their area.

The Branch has a relatively new finance manager/executive officer, Mr David Low. Many of you may have met David by now. He has hit the ground running and is busy dealing with end of year financial reporting and the 2008 budget. While this is a lot later than is desirable BEC's objective will be to bring the reporting and budget process forward in the future.

We are also looking at membership database issues with the help of a volunteer and this includes looking at alternatives.

The BEC also agreed on a process to bring closure to a long running review of our constitution. Graham Hannaford is coordinating work to conclude the review so that it can be considered at the next Annual Branch Council meeting.

Change to Administrative Arrangements

As many of you probably know, as a result of a Branch office restructure, BEC has reduced the permanent staffing in the office by half. This was necessary to drastically reduce Branch operational costs. There are now just three permanent office staff - the finance manager/executive officer (David Low), the development officer (Peter Harris) and the office manager (Wendy Freeman).

Branch office resources are to be complemented by a sustainable volunteer program and this is being

put into effect. While it is early days for this arrangement, the volunteers so far working in the office are making their presence felt and this is very encouraging.

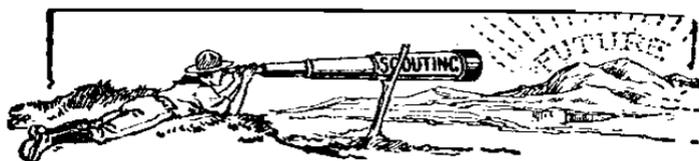
As a consequence of this reduction it is also necessary to progressively review and streamline administrative arrangements. One change to administrative arrangements involves the current practice of groups being able to charge the cost of certain goods and services to their accounts with Branch and Branch then recovering the funds from groups in due course. This involves Branch staff in considerable paperwork and follow-up.

From **1 February 2008** this arrangement will no longer be available to groups. Where groups require Branch to acquire goods/services on their behalf, the person requesting the assistance on behalf of a group must first provide payment by way of either cheque or cash.

I regret the need to introduce this measure because I can appreciate the convenience the current arrangement must be for groups. It is, however, necessary in the current climate. It will mean that persons intending to use Branch to acquire a good or service must think ahead a little and arrange to obtain payment or reimbursement from their group treasurer as is necessary when purchasing from any other supplier.

I appreciate that it may seem as if Branch HQ is both reducing services while increasing registration fees, but the reality is that for some time the office has been operating at a considerable loss, and we are only now beginning to try and ensure that costs and income match up.

Trevor Wheeler
President



'100 Years of Scouting in Australia'
ACT Branch Centenary Camp
Together We Can Make A Better Tomorrow
 Kangaroo Flat - Camp Cottermouth
 Friday/Saturday/Sunday/Monday
 7/8/9/10 March 2008
All sections - Group/Family Camp

Activities Sat PM till Sun PM organised on a section basis including Scout Raft Regatta.

Camping is on a Group basis and self-catered.

Completed in January 2008 especially for groups of youths. Includes facilities for mobility impaired people.





- 20km West of Canberra - Appx 15mins from Parliament House!
- Short drive from ACT tourist and educational sites
- Accommodation for groups of 10 - 70 at 'Scout rates' in air-conditioned facilities
- Full or self cater hire available
- Separate facilities for supervising staff and bus drivers
- Many hiking routes in area
- River close by suitable for swimming, and canoeing
- Set amongst scenic areas of native bush and wildlife
- 2 Multipurpose training rooms
- You won't be disappointed

Our Adventure Trail has been planned to provide graded challenges from young children to adults!

Contact and Bookings: Scouts ACT
 89 Kitchener Street, Garran, ACT, 2605
 Phone: 0447 48 1 803 Fax: (02) 6260 5089
 Email: actscouts@act.scouts.asn.au

CAMP COTTERMOUTH - ACT
 Your activity base on the Murrumbidgee

Saturday night activities for all sections. Groups can camp all weekend or just one night. Contact Max McDonnell to arrange your campsite. Application on website.

Saturday 8th, 12.00 noon
Opening Parade and the official opening of the New Shakespeare Centre for Scouting by Sir William Deane

GREEN SCENE

2008 is upon us and I guess we are all looking forward to the year ahead.



But in reality we need to be looking forward to the next couple of years ahead for it is now only 23 months until the next Jamboree AJ2010.

Looking in that direction I would like to congratulate Alan Murray who has taken up the challenge of being the next Contingent Leader.

With a theme of "Test your Limits" I would like to challenge all Leaders, Scouts and those who will be scouts by the Jamboree to look at how they are going to be there for what promises to be a very exciting event.

However, before we get there, we have several activities available to attend and first up there is the Branch all-sections event 8-9 March and by now I am sure you will have seen plenty of information about it. The major thing of note for Scout Section is that the Branch Camp will contain the Raft Regatta (details on the regatta are available on the Website). Cotter Shield is a little later this year on May 23-25 Full details available soon. Our most ambitious event in the next 12 months will be Summer Camp in January 2009. It's been a few years since we last did a Branch Summer Camp. If you don't remember them ask anyone who was around when we were running them and they will tell you what good events they were for both Scouts and Leaders.

So 2008 is underway. I look forward to a good year and of being able to assist where I can, and to a range of stimulating and interesting programs arranged by and delivered to the scout section.

Rob Frederick
BC Scouts

AJ 2010 Cataract Park 4 – 14 January 2010

Scout Commissioner Rob Frederickson and I attended a Jamboree Organising Committee (JOC) meeting at Cataract Scout Park in January.



Whilst there is not the space here to relay all of the information, there are some things to think about in preparation for the Jamboree.

We are looking for about 40 volunteers to become Jambassadors. Jambassadors will receive a badge and certificate and are able to assist with promotion of the Jamboree within their own Group. If you are interested in being a Jambassador, please send me an email with your contact/address details.

A4 and A3 posters have been provided through Branch Headquarters to each Group. JOC has produced a wallet sized card containing website access details to the Jamboree Website. I have ordered a number of these for distribution. Some promotion will commence at Branch Camp from 7-10 March and Cotter Shield in May. Group/Troop promotion will begin in the second half of this year.

A contingent budget is being developed and creation of the Contingent team has commenced. If you are interested in a position on the Contingent team and/or hearing more about the Jamboree in general, any questions can be forwarded to me at alsuemurray@bigpond.com

Alan Murray
Contingent Leader



Queens Scout Courses for 2008

Below is a list of dates to assist venturers planning to complete Courses in 2008 towards your Queens Scout Award:

- Unit Management Course - 15 Mar or 16 Aug
- Initiative Course - 4-6 Apr or 19-21 Sept
- Leadership Course - 30 May - 1 Jun or 28-30 Nov

More information about the activities will be issued closer to the dates. Like last year, it is hoped that all leaders will volunteer to support at least one course this year. Please contact Attila and let him know which activity you will support.

Further enquires can be directed to Attila on 0421 600 018 or aovari@hotmail.com.

National Venture 2009

The next National Venture will be run in Jan 09, and is to be held in Western Australia. If you wish to attend, please register at www.escape2venture.com



There will be an information night at the next (March 4th) BVC. Leaders and Venturers are both welcome. Our Contingent Leader, Ben Keily's phone number is 0402 115 287.

Branch Venturer Council

BVC is held on the first Tuesday of each month, starting at 7pm, and usually is finished around 8pm. It is essential that all units are represented. Leaders are encouraged to attend. For more information, call me on 0414 067 188 or 6161 8950.

Max
BC Venturers

TRAINING TEAM TOPICS



Training in 2008 - back to Cotter!

How wonderful it has been to have commenced our transition back to Cotter. The facilities provide us with additional opportunities in outdoor activities, nature activities, wide games, networking, campfires and hiking - to name just a few. A huge B-r-a-v-o-o-o to the hard working David Cocking, Geoff Sheehan and all involved for the progress that has been made at our campsite.

The training calendar for 2008 is available on the ACT Scout website. Please note requirement dates for applications because our campsite must be run efficiently on a business basis, and we must be diligent with our bookings.

Certificate III workbooks

Congratulations to Lisa Cocking who has been the quickest person ever to return her Certificate III workbook after completing Basic Training!

For those who would like some assistance, remember that we are at the Branch Office

from 7.30pm on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Monday of each month (but not 24th March).

For your diary

| | |
|--|--|
| 25 th February | Certificate III/IV workshop, 7.30pm, Branch Office |
| 11 th March | Certificate III/IV workshop, 7.30pm, Branch Office |
| 12 th , 19 th , 26 th March | Leaders of Adults Phase 2 - training applications by 29 th February |
| 13 th March | Basic Core Part 1, 7pm, Branch Office - training applications not required |
| 15 th March | Training Small Groups - applications by 29 th February |
| 15 th , 16 th March | Camping skills (for Scout section leaders) - applications by 29 th February |
| 16 th March | PLA and Instructor Program |
| 29 th , 30 th March | Advanced Core - applications by 14 th March |

Fond Farewells

Alan Arentz and Carol Mead (previously Hart) retired from Scouting at the end of last year. Both Alan and Carol have made enormous contributions to scouting generally in the ACT, to training in particular and to national events. A huge number of current leaders in the ACT have been participants in their training sessions and will understand how much they will be missed.

TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS

Scouts ACT provides annual scholarships to allow Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and young leaders to attend major events. Two scholarships are offered each year – the Jack Deeble Memorial Scholarship for Scouts and Venturers, and the Ross Hohnen Memorial International Scholarship for leaders under 30 years of age and Rovers. Scholarships now open will be for travel to occur before the end of March 2009.

Jack Deeble Memorial Scholarship

The Jack Deeble Memorial Scholarship helps an individual Scout or Venturer or a group of Scouts or Venturers to attend an international event or a unique national event. The aim is to broaden the Scouting horizons of the attendees and enable them to enhance their own personal

Scouting life as well as those of their mates by bringing back to their Troop or Unit new ideas. Although more than one person can travel on this scholarship, they must all be listed on a single application. Examples would include a Scout Patrol, or a Venturer Unit travelling as a group.

Ross Hohnen Memorial International Scholarship

The Ross Hohnen Memorial International Scholarship helps a Rover or young leader to attend a major international Scouting event. The aim is to emphasise the 'world-wideness' of Scouting by helping the attendee to meet Scouting people of many other countries and engage in cultural exchange with them. Attendees are also expected to bring back new ideas to Scouts ACT and are required to continue in a leadership capacity for some time to

allow the new ideas time to grow in the ACT Branch.

Scholarship amounts

Each scholarship provides up to \$2500 towards the cost of attending the event. Costs which could be covered are costs of travel, activity fees, departure taxes, transfer fees, accommodation.

Detailed information and Closing Date

Scholarship details and application information are posted on the Scouts ACT website or are available from **S t e v e R o w l e y** (steverowley@goldweb.com.au) or by phone on 6254 4675.

Applications will close on 28 March 2008 and the awardees will be announced by late April 2008.

NATIONAL NOTES

Scouting is known for its training and learning in Effective Leadership.

The concept and practical application are vital – actions speak louder than words.

Strong and effective leadership includes support and listening, encouragement and “coaching” at least as much as providing direction or re-direction.

In Scouting, we aim to contribute significantly to the personal growth of individuals, most often by working in a team or patrol.

In basic terms, we use a simple model for leadership of a group or team of:

- Setting clear goals or objectives, communicating them and achieving them to the best of our ability.
- Ensuring that the group works effectively together, assisted by positive re-inforcement.
- Ensuring that every individual contributes and gains satisfaction from doing so – she or he feels valued.

As for all things, leadership requires planning and preparation, development of sensitivity, listening skills and decision-making, so that when leadership decisions have to be made quickly, an effective leader draws on her/his personal experiences and learned ways of acting – his/her developed range of leadership styles.

Leadership Style is the way a person acts as a leader - what he or she actually does.

Effective leaders learn to adjust their leadership style according to the assessed competencies and commitment of the individuals and team they are working with.

Everyone in a team has a leadership role to play, whether or not he/she is the designated “leader”.

They may be supporters, carers, directors, listeners, suggesting ideas, being positive in all situations,



perhaps particularly when circumstances are not easy (A Scout is cheerful!)

A leader in Scouting has to judge how best to act, to provide leadership in the particular circumstance, with the group of people with whom he/she is working. This may be the Pack or Troop Council, Unit Council, Group Council or Committee, Region or Branch team, Cuboree, Jamboree, Venture or Moot Council.

This means giving the correctly assessed combination of support and direction. Getting the mixture wrong means giving ineffective leadership, for example, giving too much direction and not enough responsibility to competent, committed people – young or older; or standing back and allowing inexperienced people to flounder along in a new area of responsibility, whether a Unit Council Chairman or new Cub Scout Leader.

Scouting, for youth and adults, includes development of individuals through constructive learning activities, usually based on teamwork - quite distinct from sitting alone at a computer, even considering electronic communication methods.

Much of our learning and practice of effective leadership is achieved by delegating responsibility on young or “new” shoulders, if they receive the right balance of support and direction. This is why, for example, the support of the Troop Council and Scout Leader is so vital for a new Patrol Leader, or why an effective Personal Leader Adviser is so necessary for a new Section Leader.

This care and support also enables *Scouts* to receive the most benefit from “formal” training in leadership, where Scouting provides not only practical experience in leadership learning, but the knowledge framework underpinning it. We provide this combination as well as

anyone else does!

Think not only of the young people that have developed in confidence, self esteem and leadership effectiveness through Scout activities, but also the adults you know. It works!

We can provide and teach leadership so well in the Scout Movement. The “Year of the Scout” is a great opportunity to demonstrate this to new members and the whole community.

SCOUT UNIFORM – Last year for the old one

The current Australian Scout uniform was approved by the National Executive Committee in June 2003 and was available from the beginning of 2004. A five year “changeover” period was allowed, so that people did not have to “throw away” their khaki uniform. So from January 2009 the only valid Australian Scout uniform will be:

- The current dark blue shirt and official logo, with Section colours for Youth Members and all blue for Adults;
- The Scout scarf and woggle;
- The dark blue webbing Scout belt.

The only badges permitted on the uniform are those described in Policy & Rules - Rule 14.4 (and official Scout handbooks) or specifically authorised by the Branch Chief Commissioner – Rule 14.1.

Not official uniform, but:

- Neat attire below the waist is expected. This was not specified, but left to individual choice, to reduce the cost of uniform, so often the subject of comment.
- For formal occasions, such as a Queen’s Scout or Scout Medallion presentation, the leader/organiser of that activity will specify a common mode/colour of below-the-waist wear (which will not cause participants to have to buy

(Continued from page 10)

special clothing). Scout Shows/Gang Shows generally set a great example in this respect.

- Suitable head wear, appropriate to the circumstances, e.g. helmet or sunhat.

Many Scout retailers provide a range of "official accessories" to the uniform.

Granted the flexibility in below-the-waist attire to minimise costs, smartness and excellent presentation is still expected of everyone wearing the Scout uniform!

To quote B-P: "Smartness in uniform and correctness in detail seems a small matter to fuss about, but it has its value in the development of self-respect, and means an immense deal to the reputation of the Movement among outsiders who judge by what they see. . ."

The Founder went on to say how important it is for Leaders to set the best example.

John Ravenhall
Scouts Australia

Exciting Times for Scouts

By the time you read this article the Year of the Scout will be well underway. Hopefully you will have removed the Centenary of Scouting badge from your uniform and are wearing the 2008 woggle. Don't they look great! All Branches received their supplies before Christmas, so I expect they would have been sent out to you in early January.

In December I went, along with other members of the National Team, to Bondi Beach to take part in the exchange of flags between the Surf Lifesavers and Scouts Australia. 2007 was the Year of the Lifesaver and the event was the symbolic handing over from 2007 to 2008. What a fantastic atmosphere there was at the beach with a Surf Carnival taking place, and participating teams from all over the world.

Now it is up to us and our Branches to

continue to spread the message of Scouting during 2008. All Branches are gearing up to run their multi-Sectional Easter events – and what a variety of activities are being planned. I wish I could visit them all!!

In January I spent time working with John Ravenhall and Peter Blatch on the report for the Venturer Scout Review. We have been working very hard on the Review and want to try and get an initial report ready prior to our next meeting in March.

Whilst in Sydney I headed to Aussiemoot to attend the Youth Forum. This is the opportunity for representatives of the Rover Section to have input on the wide range of topics which have been selected. This is also the chance for Rovers to have a say in Scouting decisions – decisions for the future. Over the past few years, in particular the Rover Section along with members of the NYC, have been leading examples of what our young people can do within Scouting. The older youth Sections are made up of the young people who will be taking Scouting into the next decade.

Following the presentation of the final report from the Youth Forum, copies of the recommendations are being sent to all Chief Commissioners, the National Youth Council, the National Rover Council and the National Rover Program Committee for discussion and to take action as required.

The National Rover Council meeting took place after the Moot. With representatives from all over Australia, it is always a valuable meeting. There were also representatives of the Venturer Section that visited the NRC each day.

At the end of January I went back to Cataract Park for the Jamboree Organising Committee meeting. Yes, the Jamboree isn't until 2010, but planning is well underway!!

Have a wonderful year in 2008 – the *Year of the Scout*.

Julie Creed
National Commissioner Youth

Check out the National Youth E-News – it rips!

Check out the National Youth E-News. It has heaps of awesome stuff written by youth members across Australia. Are you registered to receive it? Go to <http://www.scouts.com.au/register.asp>

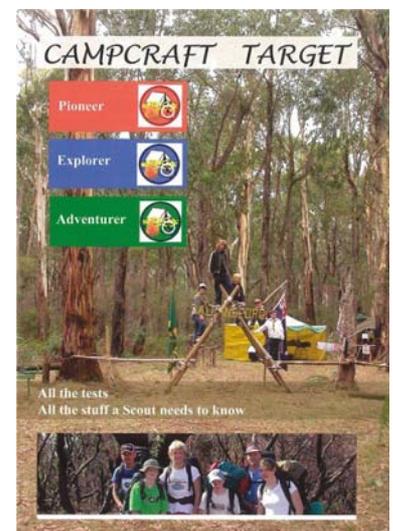
Register for Scouts Australia and Rovers Facebooks

Are you registered as part of Scouts Australia's Facebook Group or the Rovers one? Get with the program and be part of it! www.facebook.com.

NEW RESOURCES

Campcraft Target Book (Code: SCP50168)

A must have for any Scout and Scout Section Leaders. Contains information they need to know about achieving the



Campcraft Target Badges at the *Pioneer*, *Explorer* and *Adventurer* levels.

Baden-Powell Scout Award Certificate (Code: RVS51553)

This is a revised version with a new code. This certificate is presented at Government House when the BP Award is achieved. **Not for general sale. Approved through Branch Commissioner Rovers.**

PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

Jonathan Mandl, a Cub Scout Leader with Air Scouts Canberra, won the Silver 2nd Prize for the *5th Asia-Pacific Region Scout Photo Contest 2007*. His winning photo was called: *Deep Underground Investiture*. This



was a great achievement by Jonathan in light of the fact that Scouts Australia received 120 entries excluding overseas entries.

LEARNING THE LAND

Camp Cottermouth 15-16 March 2008

Greening Australia, Friends of Grasslands and ACT Waterwatch will help you to see and understand Camp Cottermouth in a new way.

Professional artists will work with you to help you to create art works using a variety of print and painting methods in response to the environment at Cotter.

These art works will be professionally exhibited at ACT Arts Centres in June and December 2008. The exhibitions will be open to the public as an example of how Scouts respond to their environment.

This project will qualify you for the Scout art proficiency badge and be part of Venturers' expression badge.

Accommodation, tuition, art materials and exhibition fees are covered by a grant awarded by the ACT Government through an ACT Environment Grant—the lucky participants only have to pay for their food for the weekend.

Contact Nicky Dickson on 62867653 (AH) or nickydickson@bigpond.com to book a place.

SCOUTS ACT CALENDAR

March 2008

| | |
|-------|--|
| 3 | Kanyana Venturer-Rover Mindari |
| 4 | Branch Venturer Council (Escape2Venture Info) |
| 6 | CCAG |
| 7-10 | Branch All-sections camp |
| 8 | Opening of Shakespeare Centre—12 noon |
| 11 | Certificate III workshop |
| 12 | Scout Mindari Leader of Adults Phase 2 |
| 13 | Basic Core Module Part 1 |
| 15 | Unit Management Course |
| 15-16 | Learning the Land camp |
| 21 | Harmony Day |
| 21-24 | Easter (Dragon Skin) |
| 26 | Leader of Adults Phase 2 |
| 28 | Hohnen and Deeble Scholarships close |
| 29 | National Ops Committee |
| 29-30 | Advanced Core Module |

April 2008

| | |
|-----|--|
| 1 | Annual Census Branch Venturer Council |
| 3 | CCAG |
| 4-6 | Venturer Initiative Course |
| 7 | Scout Mindari Kanyana |
| 8 | Certificate III workshop |
| 11 | End of Term 1 Pittwater Project |
| 18 | Woggle News deadline |
| 24 | ANZAC Eve Sleepover |
| 25 | ANZAC Day: Dawn Service; Remembrance Service |
| 28 | Term 2 Starts |

ROCK OUT!

Do you like adventure? Heights? The dark? Mud?

Ever wondered what is behind the SRWE tag in the branch calendar?

Scout Rock Weekends are a chance for you to experience something new, to test yourself on a cliff-face or in the dark underground, and, to earn badges with support from a team of Adventurous Activity Leaders qualified in conducting fun and challenging abseiling, rock climbing and caving activities. The rock activities calendar sets aside the first weekend in a month for training, the second weekend for cubs, the third weekend for scouts and the fourth weekend for Venturers.

Gear hire is \$5 per set for each youth member or non-uniformed parent or helper. This money pays for replacement helmets, headlamps, abseiling and climbing harnesses, ropes and all the extra technical gear that is needed depending on your activity; but if you need a headlamp, you'll always need to bring your own batteries.

Rock activities are very popular and we need to carefully manage the number of eager participants with available leaders and necessary gear to keep everyone safe so if you are interested, you should contact the ACT Rock Activities Team by emailing us at our website on Yahoo rockactivities@yahoogroups.com or direct to the relevant section contact so we can take your booking and arrange to pay you a visit at your hall before the activity to explain everything you'll need to know to have a great time with us.

Joey's and Cubs - John McAlister
(H) 6299-8647 jjmca@bigpond.net.au

Scouts - Geoff Crossley (H) 6286-1113
geof2pip@bigpond.net.au

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Rock Committee Secretary -
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Rock Training Co-ordinator -
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Semi-official Photographer (& all-round Rock Dude Committee member) -
Pete Davey peted56@iinet.net.au