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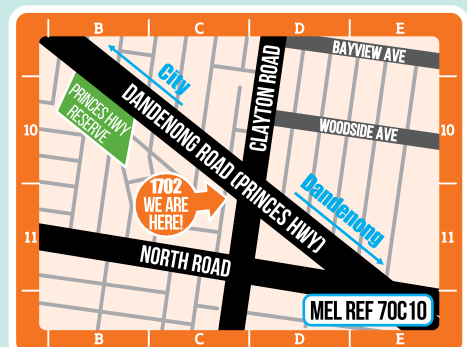


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Scouts
AUSTRALIA



inside...



COVER:
1st North
Balwyn Scouts
setting out across the Crosscut
Saw. Photo: Nigel Woodman



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regulars

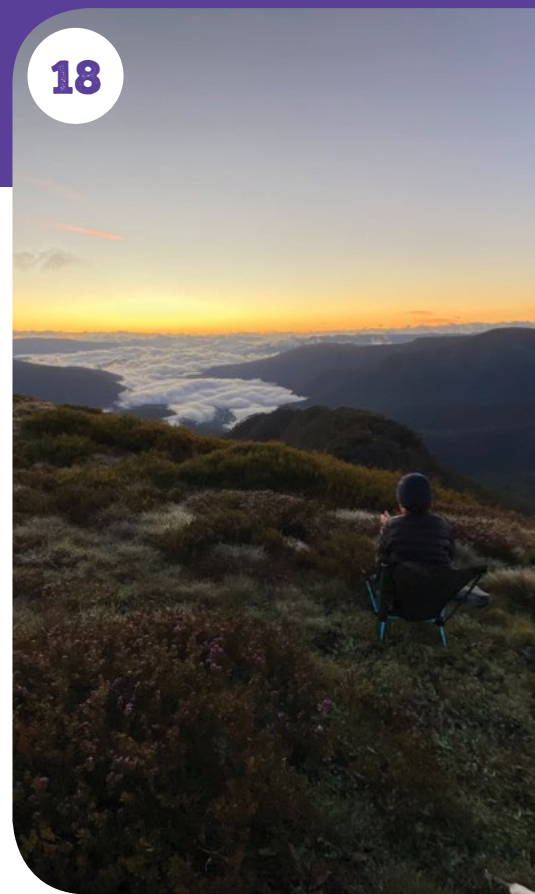
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2nd Clifton Hill



Newborough

Exciting new halls!

By **TEYANAH BROWN**

New and updated halls are being completed across Victoria with exciting new features.

Four halls in Victoria have been rebuilt or updated bringing our halls into the 20th century.

2nd Clifton Hill's brand new hall was 10 years in the making. It has a massive kitchen, access to parklands and an exciting bouldering wall running along an inside wall. The bouldering wall has colourful, movable boulders with safety mats just in case.

Newborough is a refurbished hall, opened on November 17, funded by the LaTrobe Valley Authority. More Gippsland halls are ahead. Newborough includes an awesome external Rover den completed entirely by the Rovers.

Traralgon has also been refurbished with funds from the LVA



West Traralgon

with a new Venturer den also completed by the Venturers, a brand new kitchen big enough for whole Sections to do cooking activities and a feature wall with the new Section's colours.

Finally, 1st Canterbury has been renovated to remove posts in the middle of the hall, allowing many more games to be played in their beautiful, longstanding hall.

1st Eltham Scout Teyanah Brown did work experience with the Scouts Victoria marketing team.



1st Myrtleford

1st Myrtleford Cubs had a combined night with the Joey Scouts and built bush shelters. Cub Scout Leader Jo McIntyre was surprised by what happened next: "I got a call from the School Principal to tell me what our Joeys and Cubs had been doing in the playground - building bush shelters! Youth leading youth, and doing some recruitment! I now have two more wanting to join Cubs. Am I excited and proud of them all? You betcha! Our program works!"



Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell

Scouts Victoria Life Member the Hon Michael Baden-Powell - a grandson of the Founder of Scouting - is now Lord Baden-Powell, following the death of his older brother in England on December 28. Michael and his sister Wendy live in Australia.

B-P, the Founder of Scouting, was awarded a baronetcy by the King at Balmoral in the early 1920s. In September 1929, around the time of the 3rd World Scout Jamboree at Arrowe Park, the King bestowed a barony or peerage on B-P, making him Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell.

The title is hereditary. On B-P's death in 1941 it passed to his son Peter, then in 1962 to his grandson Robert, who has no children.

So Michael becomes the new Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, and 4th Baron of Gilwell. His eldest son, David, is now the heir presumptive.

The Gilwell referred to in the title is Gilwell Park, near London, but as a Scout Leader and Scout dad, Michael is also very familiar with our Gilwell Park, near Gembrook.



Joey Scouts from Macedon Ranges District will be ready for Kangaree!

They held their first District camp at Treetops at Riddells Creek in November. Joeys from 1st Gisborne, 1st New Gisborne, 1st Kyneton, 1st Riddells Creek, 1st Romsey and 1st Woodend – plus their buddies from 1st Sunbury - had their first two nights camp under canvas.



The theme was Dr Seuss and the Joeys enjoyed activity bases run by Scouts, including bush golf, archery, low ropes, commando course and Cub jungle.

The Joeys had to set up their beds and keep their tents tidy, pack their own day packs with morning and afternoon tea, use their dilly bags for meals in the hall, wash their own dishes, be part of a patrol for the duration, do their best on all the activities; and most importantly... have fun!

Kangaree is a life-changing adventure for our youngest Scouts – two nights away from home on the weekend March 7-9.

Applications must close on February 15.

Scout Christmas Trees

Victorian Scout Groups have made more than \$600,000 profit by selling Christmas trees in late November and December. More than 90 Scout Groups at nearly 100 locations shared a common marketing program but organised their own project. For a number of country Groups this was their first effort – and reports have been positive. Apart from raising funds for Kangaree, Cuboree, fees, equipment and hall maintenance, Groups enjoyed strong community visibility and fielded membership enquiries.



Mutant Camels

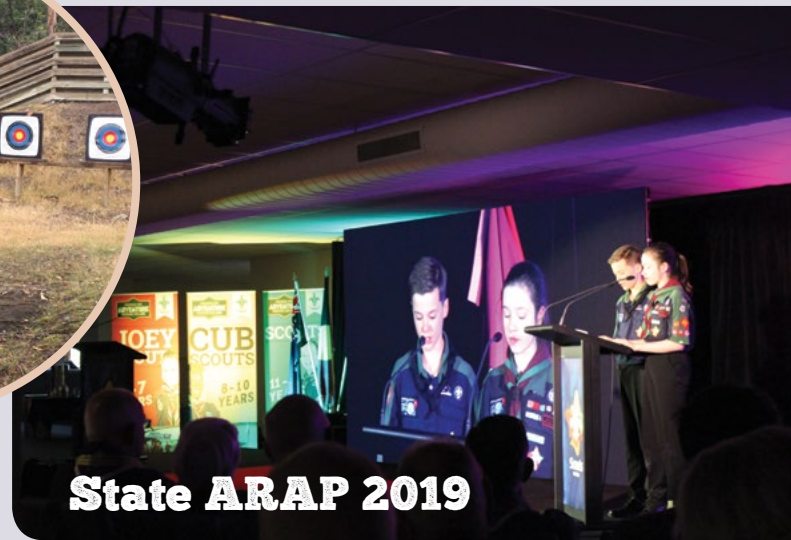
January 3 – exactly two years from the opening ceremony for 26th Australian Jamboree – saw the release of episode four of the series “Mutant Camels do AJ 2002”. There are four more episodes to come, as the Mutant Camel Patrol prepare for Elmore.



The series is designed for older Cubs and younger Scouts who will be Scouts but not aged 15 on January 3 2022. You should be planning now to attend AJ 2022!

You can download the series at www.aj2022.com.au.

Or share episodes with friends from www.facebook.com/AusJamboree2022/



State ARAP 2019

The Scouts Victoria Annual Report and Awards Presentation was a fast-paced 60 minutes with eight videos, 25 youth speakers (and one Chief Commissioner), and heap of awards – including presentations to those who have served 50 years or more, and the announcements of our latest Life Members – Lord Michael Baden-Powell, Lilian Beard, James Cameron OAM, and Frank Waterton. Just 60 minutes – supper went longer!

There were many highlights in the youth presentations including the stories of Rover Kent Bennett’s six-month journey from Mount Kosciusko to Lake Eyre, the Platypus project by 1st Bright Cub Scouts, and 1st Kyneton Joey Scouts’ Kindtown project. More than 400 enjoyed our annual celebration.





a few words from **brendan**

Brendan Watson OAM
Chief Commissioner
Scouts Victoria

New Groups, new halls

We have welcomed many new communities to Scouting, and brightened up our facilities.

New Groups include 1st New Gisborne, Blackburn South, Clyde, Colquhoun Sea Scouts, Epping North, Hazel Glen, Lalor, Port Melbourne, and South Morang.

Thanks to local Groups, State Government and councils, we have magnificent new halls at Hazel Glen, Caroline Springs, Point Cook and Clifton Hill.

We have refurbished halls throughout the State, such as Red Cliffs, 2nd/7th Waverley, 3rd Ballarat, Glengarry, Stratford, Montmorency and Carrum Downs.

And we have a new activity hall at Camp Warringal near Whittlesea.



Thanks to all who have worked on these many projects.

More members, more fun

We continue to bring the benefits of Scouting to more young people and their communities.

In the past six years, since February 1 2014, we have (at today's date, January 9 2020) gained an extra 1998 youth members, 514 Leaders and 666 Adult Helpers.

Thanks

This is my last Australian Scout magazine as Chief Commissioner so I wanted to share a range of highlights from our past six years. These are not my highlights - this is the work of a huge team of adult volunteers across Victoria.

So I want to start out by thanking all who have contributed to our achievements over the past six years:

- To every Joey, Cub, Scout and Venturer Leader, and Rover Advisor, who turn up every week and many weekends to deliver great program.
- To every Group Leader, District Commissioner and Region Commissioner for their leadership and support for our adult members.
- To our program teams, Adventurous Activity Leaders, campsites teams, Fellowship, office bearers, Adult Helpers, and so many others...
- To the staff at Scouts Victoria.
- To the Branch Executive Committee and their sub-committees.
- And to the uniformed team at State - State Commissioners, Assistant State Commissioners, State Leaders, for your work day after day.



Thanks for making a difference in the lives of many thousands of young Victorians.

SLT

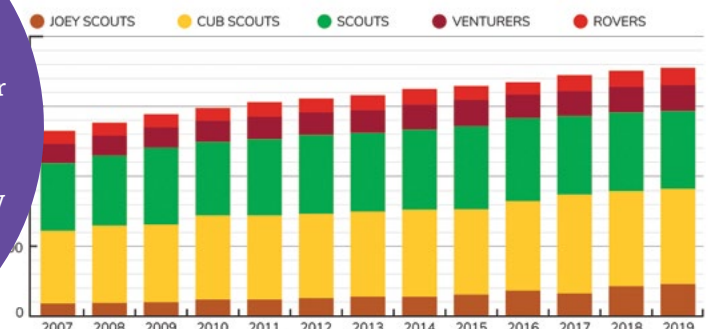
Then there is my team. Every two weeks for the past six years the State Leadership Team has shared dinner then sat down for a few hours to work and plan.

Then headed home for another solid 13 days work.

We've worked hard and we've become stronger friends.

Thanks SLT - past members and present!

A special thanks to my friend and Deputy Chief Commissioner Jon Willis. No-one has put more into Scouting in the past six years than Jon!



New Adventure Centres

Good program requires good facilities, and our Adventure Centres are available to assist Section Leaders.

New facilities include the Scout Heritage Adventure Centre at Bentleigh, the State Performing Arts Adventure Centre at Nunawading, a second Baw Baw Adventure Centre for our younger Sections (the Rovers have chalets at Baw Baw and Bogong), and the Warburton Trails Adventure Centre for bike journeys and mountain trails.



State Q-store

The State Q-store has become an important support for many Leaders, thanks to Trevor Howlett and the cheerful team who volunteer there each week.

Major events

The past six years have seen

- Two Kangarees with growing numbers - and the next Kangaree is in March
- Two Cuborees, also with growing numbers - and the next Cuboree is in October.
- Jamborees at Cataract Park, NSW, and Taillem Bend, SA, with the next one at Elmore, Victoria, in January 2022
- Ventures in Adelaide (2015) and Brisbane (2018)
- Moots - including the 2017 Australian Moot, hosted by Victoria at Mafeking Park, near Yea
- Big Day Scout - a 2015 event that brought 8000 to Melbourne for a unique wide game based on street art and SMS clues, followed by a concert and the investiture of the Chief Scout
- The visit by the World Scout Foundation - and a host of events including Baloo's Day at the Zoo, and an ASM presentation at Williamstown.



Youth empowerment

The increased emphasis on youth leading and adults supporting has seen positive change in Scouts Victoria.

There are elected Scouts on the State Scout Council, and Venturers on the State Youth Venturer Council.

More regular Section Councils are being held thanks to MC4, PC4, and TC6 - programs that urge a minimum of four Mob Councils, four Pack Councils, and six Troop Councils each year.

We have also seen a shift in our Annual Report and Award Presentations from business meetings to youth-led celebrations of Scouting, where the business is dealt with efficiently so we can maximise the time on youth sharing positive Scouting stories.

Political engagement

Over recent years we have become better organised at engaging with all levels of Government - local, State, and Federal - in a bipartisan, friendly, respectful way. We appreciate those who serve in these roles, and their support for Scouting.

We've had fantastic support from all levels of Government, and all parties, in recent years.

Program

We are transitioning to a new program and that is exciting. So far in Victoria we have adopted many of the key elements of the new program, year-by-year. Soon we will all be on a program that is common to the five Sections, with age-appropriate challenges as youth members progress through their Scouting journey.

Finances

We have overhauled our insurance to make it fairer to all formations, and Scouts Victoria continues to support Groups with new halls.

We also support two big annual fundraisers - the Monster Raffle and Scout Christmas Trees - and these bring massive funds to participating Groups.

Welcome

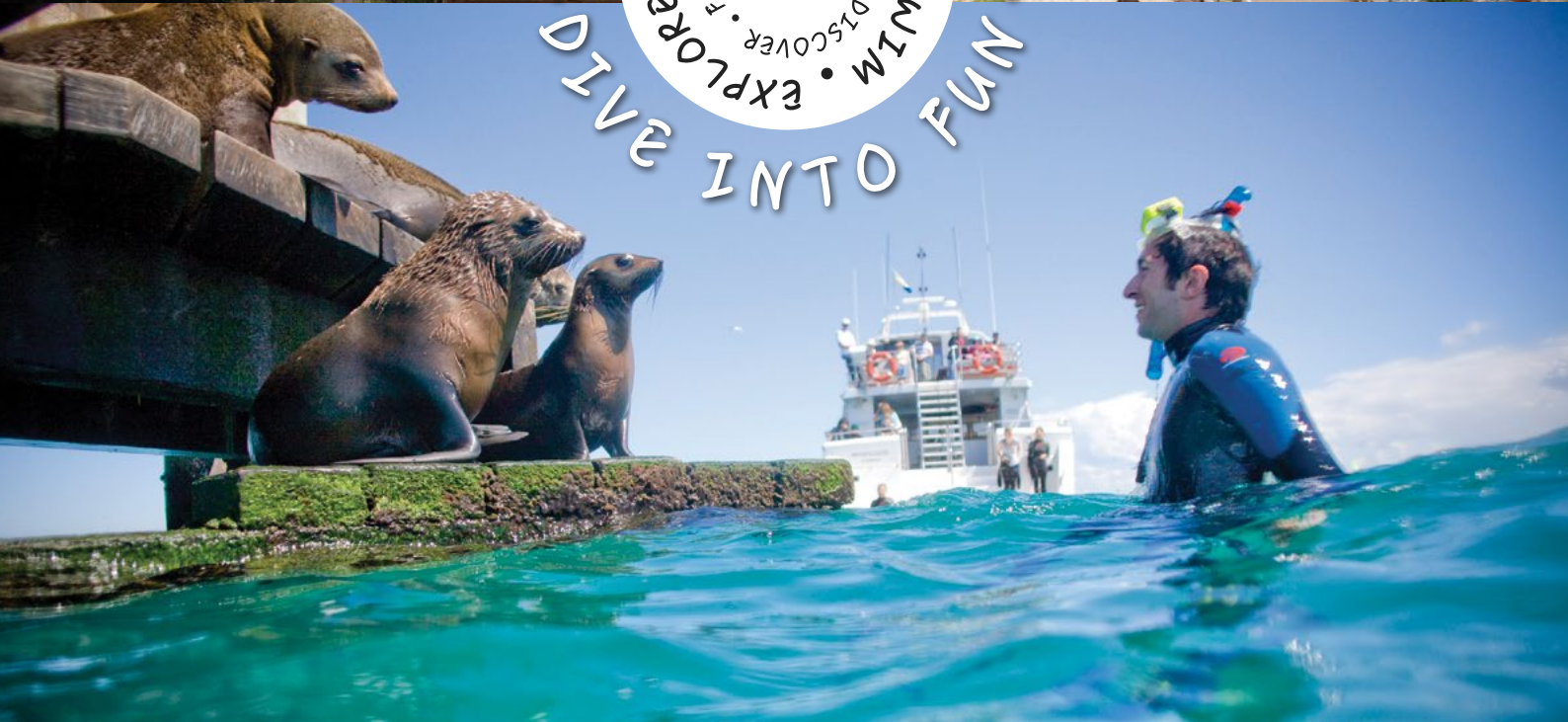
As I head out the door I want to congratulate Rod Byrnes who has been chosen to lead Scouts Victoria as the new Chief Commissioner.

I wish him and his team every success, and hope they have as much fun as we've had over the past six years.





AND SOAR TO ADVENTURE
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Rod Byrnes: the next Chief Commissioner



Rod with his family, Annie, Luke, Wendy and Paul.

"What's happening in there?" asked Luke. "Why are they yelling?"

So father and son peeked inside the door, Luke's eyes wide open.

"Memories came flooding back to me. It was a lone Cub Leader and 18 Cubs. Akela invited Luke to join in, while she looked desperately at me, a prospective Leader."

The next Chief Commissioner of Victoria has a Sydney Scouting story that includes long walks through urban streets to get to Cubs, and being poached as a Leader from his original Group.

Rod Byrnes, 59, husband of Wendy (District Commissioner for Nillumbik/Whittlesea) and father of three, will be invested as Chief Commissioner at the Leader of Adults conference on February 1.

Since August 2014 he has been State Commissioner for Venturers in Victoria, but his Scouting story began on the streets of inner Sydney.

His parents didn't own a car so he would walk to Cubs with two mates - from Ultimo across Broadway, then through Redfern to reach 16th Sydney in Chippendale.

It was a four kilometre night-time journey each way, and his Cubbing finally ended when parents decided the walk was too dangerous.

It was a sad ending: "I loved Cubs. It was the best thing I did in my entire life."

Fast forward to 1997 and Rod's family were living in Ermington (near the Olympic precinct), just three doors from the local Scout hall. Out walking with elder son Luke, the noise from the Scout hall was very attractive.

Rod was asked to help for a few nights and went home to discuss the invitation with Wendy. "Meanwhile Luke took three hours to settle."

Rod joined the Group, but then second son Paul wanted to join in, and the nearest Joey Scout Mob was at Meadowbank Scout Group.

On a family camp, the Meadowbank Group Leader convinced the whole family to come across - with Wendy on the Group Committee, and Rod as Cub Scout Leader.

The GL became a significant friend and mentor. "Benny always reinforced "this is all about our youth" and that mantra has stayed with me throughout my Scouting career," says Rod.

In 2005 the family moved to San Francisco. Rod also has a professional life - with 30 years of consulting to major firms in

Australia and overseas in disciplines such as change management, corporate communications, business strategy, and people strategies.

The family checked out the Boy Scouts of America program but it was very different to the community style of Australia. In the USA, Scout Groups are chartered by churches and schools and Scouting can be secondary to other agenda. Annie continued her journey in the Girl Scouts as a Daisy with Wendy as a leader.

In 2007 they returned to Australia for Rod's new job in Melbourne and joined 1st Greenhills at Greensborough. With Rod now volunteering in the Venturer Section, it was Wendy's turn to be a Cub Leader, while Luke was a Rover, Paul a Scout, and Annie a Cub.

Scouting highlights for Rod include major events such as New Zealand Ventures, a large Australian expedition to Kandersteg, and the recent 24th World Jamboree.

Rod's role is usually in the welfare area, often liaising with parents before major events over particular issues, then keeping an eye on Venturers who may bring challenges and anxiety to their weekly Scouting.

But far from home, in an adventure with hundreds of their peers, they usually emerge and get over any hurdles. "You literally see growth in front of your eyes," says Rod.

Another recent highlight is the transformation of the Venturer Section to younger leadership, with Aly Harris the first Venturer to also be a Leader (as State Leader for Venturers) and Zoe Herrera as our first 18-year-old State Commissioner Venturer Scouts.

The next three years will be interesting!



Rod and his son Luke





Solve the mystery: the 22nd New Zealand Jamboree (December 28 2019-January 7 2020)



By TOM FEENEY

The New Zealand Jamboree was like a few months packed into two weeks. It was all I hoped it would be, and more. I would seriously recommend it to anyone. (The next one is in December 2022-January 2023.)



Getting there

At the Australian Jamboree last January there was advertising for the New Zealand one, and I was enjoying AJ 2019 so I decided I'd try to go on the New Zealand one too.

Mum and I looked it up and saw that I could go and that it was in 12 months, so over the year I did badgework and saved up so I could go.

I had to save a third of the money, through odd jobs for neighbours, paper deliveries and other jobs.

Soon it was time to leave. We met everyone at Melbourne Airport and caught a plane to Auckland. We had around five hours to look around Auckland. We split into five different groups then met back at the park and played games for three hours.

Auckland is really nice. It's clean. Later that day we saw Frozen 2 at IMAX, and stayed in the university halls.

The next day we packed our bags, got the bus, went to Hamilton Zoo, and then to the Jamboree at Mystery Creek, Hamilton, about an hour and a half from Auckland.

A NZ Jamboree site

The Troop sites and sizes were like an Australian Jamboree, with a big event centre in the middle of the Jamboree. This was used for the opening and closing ceremonies, an international night, and a campfire ceremony.

There were around 4000 people there, about a third the size of AJ 2019. It was also a lot easier to go around everywhere because everything was closer. And there was grass. I missed having dust. There was no dust!

There was a single Jamboree shop at the side of the event centre. They sold food and drink, but ran out of most merchandise - like hats, polo shirts, and towels - on the first day. After that they mainly had badges.

The badge trading was really good, a lot better than AJ 2019. That's probably a big highlight. On one side of the event centre people sat down in rows to swap badges. We called it the Black Market. There were rules like swapping had to be one-for-one - mostly - and Leaders weren't allowed to ask Scouts to swap.





Entertainment

The opening and closing ceremonies were smaller than AJ. The opening ceremony started with abseilers coming down into the crowd. The presenters were members of the Jamboree Patrol - a team of 16-20 Venturers and Rovers who ran things at the Jamboree. It was really different to see so many young people running things, like having Venturers on stage instead of Leaders.

On international night, different contingents went on stage and did a song. Australia had a guy called Seth who played ukulele really well, and about 30 people came on and did a set of Wiggles songs.



Tom with his badge collection.



Activities

Wet and Wild was an overnight activity at the Waikato Dam, which is a world-class kayaking and water sports centre. We arrived late on the first day, had a briefing, and went to bed. Next day we had to be up at 5.30am to have breakfast and make our lunch at 6. There were six or seven activities: kayaking, paddle boating, sailing, slip and slide (which was a bungee but the bungee rope snapped in the first hour), rafting and a mystery activity.

Everyone said the mystery activity was bird watching, but it turned out to be jet boating on the nearby Waikato River. We got into our Patrols and were lined up for our seats, then went down to get into the jet boat. We went very fast - heading for a wall then doing close turns, spinning away, going fast through sticks and narrow gaps, and doing 360s. Our driver then stopped the boat for a bit and told us about the history of the river.

There was also a mystery tour where you could do all sorts of activities like mini golf or go-karting. My mystery tour did laser tag and Leap, which is like Bounce, plus rock climbing and an orienteering course. A good day!

We also walked offsite, next to the Jamboree, for Fast and Furious where we rode quad bikes around a track, did archery and shooting, and rode bikes.

On site there was a challenge valley built by Rovers. This was fun, with mud pits and climbing walls. There was also an Inflatable course, and an area called Home Zone where you did activities like using tools, making a woggle, or spray painting a white T-shirt. All the activities finished around 4.30pm so there was time to rest and get ready for dinner.

Most nights we were free to hang out with our friends.





Family Day

Family Day was in the middle of the Jamboree, on New Year's Day. We had a band and music and all stayed up until midnight to celebrate New Year in New Zealand. We just did Kiwi-time then went to bed.

Next day was also Market Day. Instead of sub-camps there were villages, and half the villages did it in the morning, and the others in the afternoon.

The tokens were plastic chips that were recycled later. These were like the Jambucks at AJ 2019, but we got more - 30 each instead of 10. There were prizes at different stalls or you could dunk your dad in water. My sister collected tokens and paid for my dad to be blindfolded and then threw Vortexes at him.



The end

At the closing ceremony they promoted coming events in Australia like Oz Venture and AJ 2022. After the Jamboree many Australians headed off on a post-tour. I went on holiday with my family.

Tom Feeney is a Scout at 1st Canterbury, Victoria.

Thanks to the Jamboree Team for their photos.



Helping others



Rovers packed emergency supplies for bushfire victims as service on their CBR Moot expedition.

Victorian Scout Groups have responded quickly to Australia's bushfire disaster.

Groups have donated to the Victorian Bushfire Relief Fund through activities like Bunnings barbecues, raised funds directly for organisations such as WIRES, CFA and RFS, made wildlife pouches and gloves for organisations supporting wildlife rescue groups, extending to possum hutches/boxes, collected food



Bushfire Badge

This is a special Scouts Australia badge to raise funds for those affected by the bushfires.

The badge is funded by Snowgum and Scouts Victoria, so 100 per cent of all sales will go to bushfire relief.

This limited edition badge is just \$5 and Victorian Scouts can wear it on their uniform, on their right chest.

Postage and handling is a flat \$5 for any quantity so get one or get 100.

You can order now at <https://scoutshop.com.au/products/bushfire-badge>

for Foodbank Australia and other organisations which were capable of receiving food at the time, and assisted when requested at evacuation centres such as Wodonga.

Members of the Carlton Scout Group quickly organised a collection at Barkly Square shopping centre, raising \$4183 on

the Saturday for Wildlife Victoria. They returned the next day and collected \$4412 for Red Cross.

2nd Springvale were busy at Bunnings where their barbecue made a profit of \$4691.25 to donate to the bushfire appeal.

Paynesville Scout Group supported the supply of equipment, including items for the Bairnsdale Relief Centre.

Shepparton Groups sewed items for injured animals.

Wodonga Rovers spent many mornings cooking a barbecue breakfast at the local showgrounds for evacuees. They also helped out the Rovers returning from the truncated CBR Moot as they passed through Wodonga and slept and breakfasted at 3rd Wodonga hall. In their spare time they helped check out donated tents before they were given to evacuees, and packed other donations to be moved to fire-affected areas. It was a busy time for Rover Callan Spinelli, who is also District Leader - Scouts. He was in the middle of moving house and his property was in the fire area near Myrtleford.

City of Knox/Boronia Scout Group raised funds and delivered goods to the RFS/CFA people. Members of the Group are involved with the CFA. Says



Scouts Millar from Victoria and Cameron from Queensland accept a bushfire donation from the 22nd New Zealand Jamboree. All proceeds from the sale of the Day 8 badge, a campfire design, were donated by NZ Scouts to help with Australia's recovery.

Region Commissioner Brett Cole: "The level of support from Knox Groups was outstanding. They are a great community."

Scouts Victoria provided agencies with a full inventory of gear in the State Q-store, such as stretchers, marquees and tents that might be useful at relief centres, and a list of 700+ halls and campsites available for the community across Victoria if required.

Groups have opened up their halls for those relocating from bushfire prone areas before significant fire danger days.

The cancellation of the CBR Moot meant international Rovers were caught short without program and accommodation. A number of Groups opened their halls to accommodate Rovers as they continued their travels. They included 3rd Wodonga, 2nd-11th Brighton, 1st Elwood, and the BAYWAC hall.

Our wider network also helped move our members out of bushfire-prone areas.



Carlton Scout Group raised \$8597 over two days at Barkly Square shopping centre for Wildlife Victoria and Red Cross.



2nd Springvale and Willara Venturers made a profit of \$4691.25 for the bushfire appeal from their barbecue at Bunnings. Who could resist?



A group of Venturers from Emerald hiking near Portland were picked up by the local Group Leader and moved to Portland Scout Hall – saving their parents and Leaders an 800km round trip.

Scouts Victoria is also grateful and proud of the efforts of our hundreds of members who are involved in response and recovery efforts including:

- CFA firefighters, both career and volunteer
- SES volunteers
- MFB and Forest Fire Management Victoria firefighters
- those working in local government and the Department of Human Services.

- our members working with other volunteer and staff-based organisations such as wildlife support organisations.

Victoria Police Leading Senior Constable Surrey Hunter, Venturer Leader at Myrtleford, was recalled to work on January 2 to manage liaison between the many agencies involved, including CFA, SES, Victoria Police, Parks Victoria, Forest Fire Management, the local council, and the Agriculture Department. He's just one of many who keep the community safe, and volunteer with young people in their spare time.

Burnt area maps are now up to date due to rapid impact assessment teams. At this time, January 9, no properties owned or operated by Scouts Victoria have shown up inside these areas.



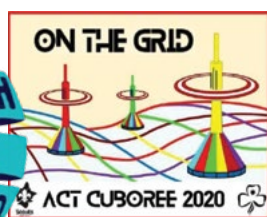
When they weren't cooking breakfast for evacuees, Wodonga Rovers were checking donated tents for evacuees, to make sure the equipment was correct.



International

Scouts around the world have sent messages of support including World Scout chairperson Craig Turpie, who sent an impassioned video message for the closing ceremony of the CBR Moot, and Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, Ahmad Alhendawi, who wrote:

"The reports and images of devastation that are reaching us are heart-breaking. The human casualties, material and wildlife loss are very saddening. I also wish to express our sympathy with the organising team of the 13th Asia-Pacific and 21st Australian Rover Moot and the 515 participants from 22 countries. Thank you for keeping young people and volunteers safe during this difficult time. Please do let us know how the World Scout Bureau could assist the efforts of the Scout Association of Australia. We keep the Scouts and people of Australia in our thoughts and prayers under those difficult circumstances."



CBR Moot

More than three years in the planning, the National Moot – CBR Moot at Camp Cottermouth in Canberra - was moved to the city, then ended five days before its scheduled close.

By LIAM MILES

CBR Moot was the 21st Australian Rover Moot and 13th Asia-Pacific Region Moot. Australia's last Moot was at Mafeking Park in Victoria in 2017.

CBR Moot 2020 – also known as the Constantly Being Relocated Moot – began on Monday December 30 and was to be held at Scouts ACT's Camp Cottermouth campsite, 15 minutes from Parliament House.

More than 500 Rovers, staff and international participants from 23 countries had descended on Canberra for the opening ceremony when, due to the extreme heat conditions, the CBR Moot team moved location to Trinity Christian College. We

enjoyed a fun-filled night of entertainment for New Year's Eve.

We also had the pleasure of meeting Craig Turpie who is the chairperson of the World Scout Movement. He inspired us with his thoughts on the future of Scouting and reminded us why coming together at big events and sharing our Scouting journey is important. We are very privileged that these events attract international participants and many members of Scouting worldwide.



Cancelled

CBR Moot was just one of the major Scouting events impacted by the bushfires.

The 7th NSW Cuboree ("What on earth") – scheduled for January 5-9 at Cataract Scout Park – was cancelled just before Christmas on the recommendation of the NSW Rural Fire Service.

The ACT Cuboree ("On the grid") – scheduled for January 17-21 at Camp Cottermouth – was cancelled on January 3 on the advice of the ACT Emergency Services Agency.

All were massive events, with years in the planning by hundreds of volunteers.



After the opening ceremony participants and staff headed to their chosen expedition, ranging from 4WD, scuba, beach activities, hiking and everything in between.

Due to the bushfires and air quality in Canberra the CBR Moot team and Scouts Australia decided to cancel the Moot once participants returned from their expeditions on January 5.

The Victorian Contingent, along with some Rovers from SA, Tasmania, UK, NZ and Japan enjoyed the road trip back to Melbourne together, stopping in at 3rd Wodonga Scout Hall for a night, before heading to 2nd/11th Brighton for the next few days to continue our Moot experience together. (Some other internationals were accommodated by Scouts NSW.)

While enjoying our time in



Brighton together, we had water activities and city exploration for our international friends.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the CBR Moot organising team who have put years of hard work into this event. Thank you for relocating us and ensuring our safety. We also thank everyone who assisted us to get home safely and provided accommodation.

Liam Miles is the Victorian Contingent Leader to CBR Moot.



Taking care

The fire crisis can be a tough time for some people: youth members, those impacted by the fires, volunteers and professionals responding to the disaster. Advice from the experts includes:

- Fear is an important and normal reaction that helps us to make decisions to protect our own life and that of loved ones, friends and neighbours. It takes time for memories of intense fear to dwindle – this is normal.
- Those at home may feel helpless, followed by feelings of wanting to help. This is normal as no person ever wants to see others suffering. We train our youngest members, Joey Scouts, to “Help other People”.
- These feelings should progressively dwindle over time. But if a person is not functioning as their normal self after a month, it is important to discuss this with a GP or mental health professional.
- Friends, loved ones or work colleagues may see these reactions in you, rather than yourself. They will pick up on situations where you are confused, anxious, grumpy, snappy or in a state of depression. Listen to them and discuss these issues with a GP or mental health professional.
- Spend time with people who care, give yourself time, find out the impacts of trauma and what to expect, try to maintain normal routine, talk about how you feel, do your normal hobbies and things you enjoy, set goals to be motivated by.

Helping others

There are many ways to support those affected by the bushfires including:

Victorian Bushfire Appeal

Donations can be made at any Bendigo Bank Branch or online: <https://www.vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal>

Red Cross Disaster Recovery Fund

<https://www.redcross.org.au/campaigns/disaster-relief-and-recovery-donate>

Warringal celebrates its re-opening

By **BARBARA BROOK**

Camp Warringal is back in business after being battered in the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires.

More than 160 people drove through the top gate in sunny weather on Sunday November 10 2019, down the lovely tree-lined driveway, past the chapel, for the opening of the new Camp Warringal Activity Centre.

This is a great hall with Leader and youth accommodation all under the same roof. As Chief Commissioner Brendan Watson told us: "young people don't remember their best day of TV, but they remember coming to camps."

Greenhills Joey Scout Cahira Hampton (the youngest Joey in Banyule District) and Peter Rutley (State Commissioner-Campsites) cut the ribbon.

This was held by Brendan Watson and Honorary Commissioner Ada Wilkinson, a former Akela, and member of the Camp Warringal Committee. At 98, Ada is the oldest member of the District.

The other speaker at the opening was Yan Yean MP Danielle Green, who was on the back of a firetruck, in the vicinity of the campsite.



During afternoon tea Alan Harding, Region Commissioner Plenty Valley, announced that the Hall will be known as Rutley Hall to honour the extraordinary work of Jo and Peter Rutley.

Camp Warringal badges were for sale as a memento of the day (to assist fundraising) and can still be purchased.

Much has happened at Camp Warringal since Saturday February 7 2009.

Many remember the days immediately after the devastating fires, when, with the blessing of the CFA, a small team of four went in with chain saws and water, cutting down dangerous trees and putting out spot fires.

Thanks to Elvis the water dumping helicopter, and the work of the CFA, on that awful day, some buildings remained, but the large hall, an accommodation building, the chapel and many trees were destroyed along with the campfire circle.

The camp was closed for 18 months after the fire, and volunteers including the Rover Task Force and the Camp Warringal Committee in the first few weeks were covered in ashes and thick soot as they worked each day to make the property safe.

The buildings at that time were well insured, but after the fires, building

requirements changed, increasing costs dramatically.

The fundraising began and over barbecues at Bunnings Coburg a wonderful relationship developed. Here the Committee and friends could be seen every second Friday.

To date there have been 181 sausage sizzles, which include 66,236 sausages (5116 kg, or 10 kms) as explained by Peter Rutley, Chair of the Camp Warringal Committee, at the opening.

With the sausage sizzles on a Friday, many of the Committee were also at Camp Warringal each Wednesday, not just for regular maintenance but working tirelessly to again provide Banyule District with a wonderful manicured campsite.

Seedlings were gathered from the pods that had opened during the fires, and cultivated off site. More than 1500 native trees were planted at Camp Warringal and started growing.

There will always be memories of the fire. A framed board prepared by Scout Heritage is mounted on the hall wall, with some of the items, melted and twisted, collected from the rubble.

However, the best memory for me is standing in the new Rutley Hall, filled with people, as a new era of Scouting begins.

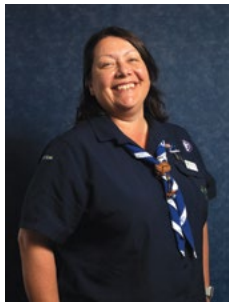
Barbara Brook is a member of the Camp Warringal Committee.



Meet more of Victoria's Leaders

Nikki Coffey, Assistant State Commissioner - Cub Scouts

Nine years ago I started my journey as a Cub Scout Leader. Best thing learned? It is amazing what can be achieved by a group of like-minded people. My favourite memory in my Wood Badge presentation ceremony at Braeside Park with family, Leaders and Cub Scouts in attendance. If I wasn't volunteering in Scouting, I would still be enjoying outdoor adventures with a different group of people but would be missing the fun of major events in Scouting.



Sheldon Smith, Assistant Cub Scout Leader 3rd Wodonga

(Sheldon is Wodonga's 2019 Young Citizen of the Year.)



It seems like yesterday - it was 12 years ago - when I started as a Cub Scout at the age of eight. I have learnt so much, like adapting from being a youth member to leading youth, which has been such a rewarding experience. My favourite memory is attending the All Section Advanced Training Course at Gilwell Park in England, where I was presented with my Woodbadge by Lord Michael Baden Powell. If I wasn't in Scouting I would probably be volunteering in another community organisation such as Interchange (Upper Murray Family Care) or with youth or in the disability sector.

Marie Portz, Patrol Activities

I live in rural Victoria in a little place called Nanneella. I am an active Scout Leader (older than some), for the past 18 years a team member of Gilwell



Park Patrol Activity Camping. To observe Scouts just fresh from Cubs attending a camp, lacking confidence in some cases and wanting knowledge, welcoming them back to our camps regularly in those four years, and watching them growing into confident, practical, lovely young people is a pleasure to see. I have the privilege of working with four of the most remarkable men (Ian Campbell, Ken Reid, James Baker and Alan Palmer). I have gained friends for life. If I wasn't in Scouting I would still be involved in volunteering at various Agricultural Societies' Annual Shows doing book stewarding or stewarding in general.

Giff Hatfield, Rover Adviser, Box Hill North

From Cub Scouts to Queen's Scout to Rover, Giff also given 65 years service as a Leader, attending five Jamborees (including one international) and six Moots (two of them international), as well as many training courses. The best thing he has learned through Scouting is how to listen to people (especially youth) and ask questions to help them develop and lead, "in which I also continue to learn. This has been of great value professionally and with family as well as in Scouting." Physical/technical skills learned in Scouting have been very useful in personal, family and military volunteer (CMF) activities and in non-Scouting remote area rescue situations. A favourite memory of Scouting is the many young people who later became long term Leaders in Scouting and the wider community - "including five of my Venturers who started our Group's Rover Crew - and named it after my family - while I was a Leader in California, USA."

Deborah Clow, Group Leader, Tullapark Scout Group

A Group Support Committee member for 16 years and now a Group Leader for the past eight years: "Scouting has let me do things I wouldn't normally



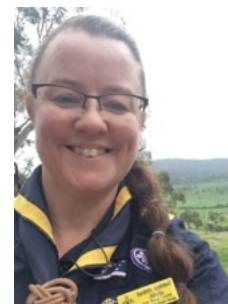
Here is another sample of our outstanding adult volunteers, who have completed their Advanced Leader training and earned their Wood Badge so they can deliver the best possible programs and care for our young people.

try like abseiling - I conquered my fear of giving it a go. I love that I meet so many people from all over Australia and the world. My favourite memory is being able to drive at Mudbash for the first time with my sons who were Rovers. This is still something that we continue to do together and I really enjoy spending time with the Rovers as well as the younger Sections. If I wasn't Scouting I'd be travelling around Australia to those quiet out of the way places. I'd also like to work more with conservation and education of youth on recycling etc.

But I know that Scouting will be part of my life for a long time as my grandchildren go through their Scouting journey, and maybe their children."

Judith Liddell, Cub Scout Leader, 1st Upwey

I joined Scouting as a committee member eight years ago when my sons joined Cubs. I changed roles into a Cub Scout Leader five years ago when I realised being a Leader was more fun. I have since maintained and run a Cub Pack of 24 Cubs and completed all of my Advanced Leader Training. I have learnt how to plan>do>review what I do. This has given me the confidence to try new activities and then improve when things do not go as planned. Being a Cub Scout Leader gave me the confidence to go back to university and become a teacher. Being part of the Scouting community has taught me about the network of people out there making the world a better place, and given me a community in which I belong and I can make a difference. If I wasn't Scouting I would probably be driving my family mad with activities. Or maybe I would actually finish one of my quilting projects. I still coach and play softball, play netball, learn Japanese, teach full time and manage a family of teenagers. I have always believed that you have to give back to the community and with Scouting I have found I can do that and have fun as well."



Hiking the Crosscut Saw



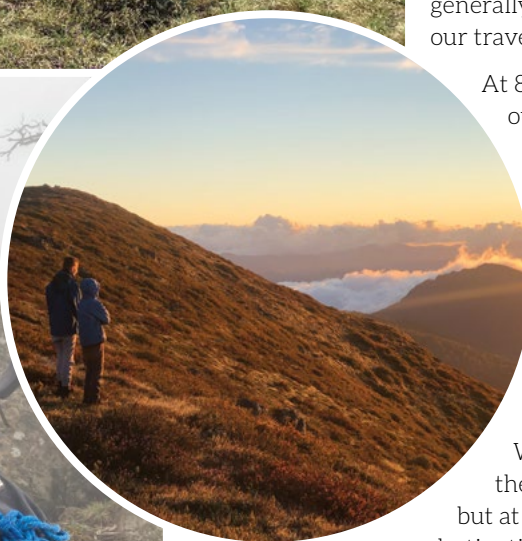
By **THOMAS WOODMAN**

On Cup Weekend 2019, 1st North Balwyn Scouts set out across the Crosscut Saw. The hike was dual purpose: it was Charlie Baniyas' green cord hike and also a major training hike for our Overland Track expedition in January 2020.

A lot of planning and preparation had gone into the hike and there had to be when the destination is Mt Speculation via the Crosscut Saw. You might get freak weather, someone might get hurt, you might find that despite your best efforts one Scout doesn't have one important piece of equipment that was specifically on the packing list! But that's the beautiful thing about Scout hikes - that is how we learn, and as a bonus we generally pick up some decent stories on our travels.

At 8am on Saturday we arrived at our Scout hall and food was distributed. After assigning Scouts to cars we set off for a five hour drive to Heyfield where we stopped for lunch. Carbo loaded with pizza we then continued onto Licola where we regrouped and began the ascent up to the trail head at Howitt carpark.

We put on our packs just as the rain started bucketing down but at least we were finally off. Our destination for the first night was Vallejo Gantner Hut. Although it was only a short five kilometre hike into the hut, the driving rain had soaked through





many of our jackets by the time we arrived. We took refuge in the hut that the other occupants had kindly warmed up for us with a crackling fire. We had dinner, set up tents and headed to bed, the rain unrelenting the whole time.

The next day we got up and had breakfast, but tragedy had unfortunately struck with a member of the group falling ill to a virus. We waited as the Leaders walked him back to the carpark where he would be driven home. We then set off at around 11, which was two hours later than planned. The track followed Macalister Springs for a short way before cutting across it and heading up to the turnoff to Mt Howitt.

We stopped for a quick break at the turnoff. By now a fog had settled in so visibility wasn't the best but we decided to climb Mt Howitt anyway. Dumping our packs, we set off. We couldn't see anything up there but it was still spectacular. We continued on to the aptly named Mt. Buggery before descending into Horrible Gap, a place deserving of its name because of the elevation loss.

We then finally began the steep climb up to Mt. Speculation. After a few short patches where pack hauling was re-

quired, we arrived at Mt. Speculation at 7pm after eight hours of hiking. Despite the ferocious weather of the last day the forecast was improving. We set camp just off the summit of Mt Speculation and were rewarded with a magnificent sunset.

We awoke on the final day to an absolutely beautiful sunrise, packed up our stuff for the last time and set off. Although we were backtracking all the way back to the carpark the clear skies and great visibility kept the day fresh and new. The fact that we could now see what we had done the day before was quite incredible and personally I've never experienced anything quite like it. When we arrived back at the hut we stopped and had the mandatory Scout's Own which allowed the Scouts a well needed moment of quiet reflection.

We then finished the last five kilometres off in under an hour. To give us a little taste of what we might experience in Tasmania we even had some light snow which was quite exciting. We got to the carpark at around 5pm and quickly hopped in the cars. The five hour drive went past quite quickly and we arrived at Melbourne at around 10pm. Despite the challenges the hike was a success. Overland Track, here we come!

Thomas Woodman is a Scout at 1st North Balwyn.

Photos: Nigel Woodman, Nigel is an Assistant Scout Leader at 1st North Balwyn.





Mt Kosciusko to Lake Eyre

By **KENT BENNETT**

Some of my passions are botany, Australian landscapes and outdoor recreation, so on the conclusion of my university studies I knew that I had to take a break and go on a bit of an adventure. The idea of travelling from Australia's highest to lowest point first arose during a conversation at a Rover meeting as a bit of joke. But when some of the Crew remarked at how cool it would be, I didn't hesitate in starting to

plan. That was three years before I embarked on my journey.

Slowly but surely a route began to develop, hiking the first part, kayaking along the Murray and cycling through South Australia to reach my destination, Lake Eyre. This was a solo expedition, so I had to make sure that I was extra cautious when it came to safety, ensuring I was adequately prepared for all eventualities. I had a lot of experience hiking and kayaking which was built on through my involvement in Scouting, but cycle touring was something that was new to me and it passed through the most remote part of my trip. Over this period of three years I put together all the equipment, undertook risk assessments, familiarised myself with emergency procedures and ensured I had all the

knowledge for an undertaking of this scale. As you might imagine, some of my biggest concerns were fire and the availability of water.

After concluding a traineeship at the CSIRO and Botanic Gardens in Canberra, I packed my bag and headed off for Kosciusko. I have to admit the first day was a little nerving, I have never been on an expedition of this scale, but I quickly found my rhythm and reminded myself it is no different to anything I have done in the past, just a bit longer.

The whole trip took me six months to complete and covered a total distance of approximately 2700kms of which 400kms was hiking, 1300kms kayaking and 1000kms of cycling. Each mode of transport had its unique advantages. Being on foot allows you to fully immerse yourself in the bush, and stop when and whenever you want. This was often for me, exploring the plant life around me and taking plenty of photos of the landscapes. The kayaking was much less draining than hiking, considering that I was going with the flow of the river (although at times it seemed like there was no current at all) and it gave me a lot of opportunity to drift and ponder. I did find at times I was restricted to the Murray and didn't get the opportunity to check out its surrounds, so I made sure to pull into towns whenever I could. It is amazing the distance you can cover on a





Wilpena Pound.



Passing through a lock.

Six highlights

The question I am asked all the time is 'What was your favourite location?'. Being away for so long it is so hard to narrow it down to one, so instead I have six.

The High Country

This is where my expedition began. There is something special about this place, standing on the top of Australia and looking out to the rolling mountains in the distance that just seem to go on for ever. Crossing crystal clear streams and absorbing myself in the local flora. This region is home to some of the smallest and tallest plants Australia has to offer, a range of bryophytes (mosses and related plants) and eucalyptus trees.

Burrowa-Pine Mountain National Park

Being a bit of a plant nerd, it is no surprise that many of my favourite places are influenced by the vegetation of an area. Burrowa-Pine Mountain National Park was quite unique. Every ascent or drop into a saddle welcomed me with a range of different species. The western slopes had a bushfire a few years before, so it was nice to observe the regeneration that I had learnt about in my studies.

The Narrows and Barmah Lakes

This is a narrow section of the Murray and the current increases, which makes it really fun zig-zagging between all the

snags. This then opens into the Barmah Lakes, large expanses of shallow water that is a haven for birds. I saw everything from Pelicans to Kingfishers to a pair of Emus that were feeding knee deep in water. However, it wasn't all a positive experience as there was also evidence of environmental disasters such as the population explosion of introduced carp and land degradation due to the lack of flooding.

Ned's Corner

This is a large station in north-west Victoria that is managed by Trust for Nature. I was fortunate to be able to attend a workshop they were running and learn about techniques that private land holders can use to improve the quality of their land. The section of river was also spectacular, with large red cliffs and the river is incredibly wide in places.

Chowilla and Danggali Wilderness Area

This is where I first started on the bike and I threw myself in the deep end. Sand dunes for as long as the eye could see. It is here that I took on some advice from someone I met earlier in the trip 'It's called a push bike for a reason - when the going gets tough, get off and push.' The Mallee is a vegetation group I had learnt a lot about through university, but it was nice to be able to observe it in a semi-arid environment.

The Flinders Ranges

The Flinders Ranges are so vastly different from anything else I had passed through. Here I had a bit of a break managing to fit in a couple of day hikes. I have a habit of talking to people on the trail and on one of these days I think I may have been mistaken for a ranger as one individual fired all these questions at me. Fortunately I had done my research on the region and was able to answer all of them. To make the most of the Flinders Ranges and Lake Eyre while it was in flood, I did a fly over. I have never felt so small, seeing the land just go on forever.

bike. I was averaging about 60kms a day on gravel tracks.

I took as many back roads as I could to limit the number of cars and road trains I was sharing the road with. Safety always being a priority. Cycling in the desert during winter means you wake up with very fresh mornings (-5°C) but would always have beautiful sunny days of about 25°C. *Cont. on page 20*





Sunset just past Wentworth.



Flinders Ranges from the air.



Burrowa - Pine Mountain National Park.

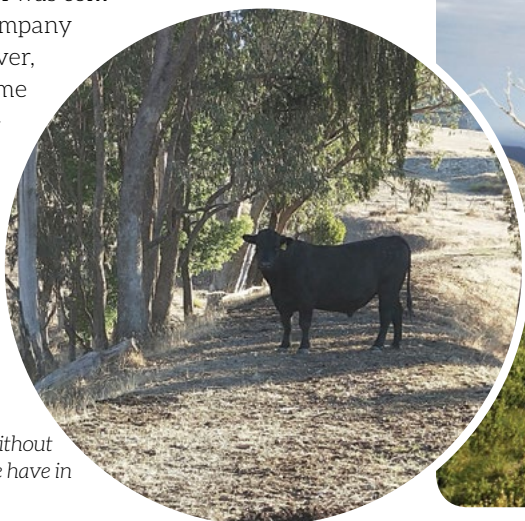
Food and water

For food I had to be self sufficient, carrying enough on me to get between towns where I would do a big restock. This did mean at times my pack was quite heavy, but by the end of the week it would be lighter again. Water was collected from streams and when I was kayaking on the Murray, it was collected from the Murray itself. I would always purify my water twice, firstly using a UV steripen and then with tablets. I didn't want to take any chances. The exception was when I was cycling through the desert where places to restock and refill were too far apart. I was fortunate to have my grandparents being my support vehicle and I would meet them at designated locations every four to five days where I would pick up food and water.

I am frequently asked: On such a long solo trip, did you ever get bored or lonely?

You can never be bored in the bush. There is always so much going on, so much around you. Sometimes you look at things up close and other times step back and see the whole picture. I am so intrigued by the natural sciences that I was always interested while on my trip. At times you would go a week without seeing anybody else, but I was comfortable with my own company and expected this. However, travelling solo also gave me some incredible opportunities; people were more inclined to invite me over to share a campfire with them or talk at the camp kitchen in the caravan parks, and I was inclined to reciprocate.

A large steer blocking the rail trail that I was walking on. Without a doubt the scariest animal we have in Australia.



Everyone I met was friendly and eager to hear about what I was up to and the opportunities I had were incredible. I was invited to attend meetings by environmental action groups, invited to dinner by a celebrity chef, paddled with an adventurer who has summited the highest peaks on six continents and rowed the Atlantic, been given tours of timber mills and land used for conservation. It was fantastic talking to farmers and getting their perspective on environmental issues and seeing the power of volunteers in reviving a 100-year-old bakery in the middle of the desert. It was incredible how my story would sometimes travel ahead of me and at times I was expected at certain towns, with people looking forward to hearing more about my adventure.

Now I don't expect many people to be able to do a trip like this, but I hope that I have inspired some to experience outdoor recreation and what the Australian bush has to offer.

My moto for this trip as been: 'Time, distance and difficulty are all just perceived barriers... If you are willing to commit, anything is possible.'

So get planning, go out and explore!

Kent Bennett is a member of the Everest Le Page Rover Crew at 1st Beaumaris Sea Scouts.



The high country.



Joey Scouts Zoo Day

Last year saw another great turn out for Joey Scouts Zoo Day. The Joey Scouts had an awesome time hopping around checking out all of the animals at Melbourne Zoo!



Manningham Tende Beck's Septemba Advencha



By **SUE ADAMS**

Our "Septemba Advencha" started on a sunny day in late September. Fourteen youth members assisted by 14 adults and supporters headed off for a tour that was several years in the making.

Brucknell Scout camp was our first stop that night. A camp with great buildings and good wheelchair accessibility, it was our base for two nights to explore the area. We headed off after a breakfast of pancakes to the Timboon Ice Creamery to do "Sundae School" – learning about how ice cream is made and then tasting some. Then lunch at Port Campbell and on to see the Twelve Apostles. Next was the Otway Fly treetop walk which is wheelchair accessible (but needs muscles for the steepish hill to get back to the top). Luckily we had lots of helpers who all put in. Then a barbecue dinner at Melba Gully where we went for a walk to the small waterfall at the end of the track in daylight as a reconnoitre for the after dark walk in the same place to see the glow worms the area is famous for. Back to camp for a good night's sleep after day two of our adventure.



Moving on the next day, we had morning tea at the Allansford Dairy Centre (with yummy Timboon Ice cream of course) and visited their free museum. Then on to Flagstaff Hill at Warrnambool where we had lunch and time to explore. As it was school holidays, there were lots of things to do including making wooden models with the local woodworkers. Portland was visited for a ride on their restored vintage cable tram – even a local seal came out to sit on the pier and watch us go past. After an exciting day's activities we went on to Mount Gambier where we were staying at the Old Gaol. This building has been converted into accommodation and had a variety of rooms as well as a large walled courtyard (where the prisoners used to exercise) that was perfect for playing games as well as drawing on the concrete with chalk the "warden" provided.

Day 4 was spent touring more sights around Mount Gambier. Did you know that there is a wheelchair accessible cave at Tantanoola? The stalactites and stalagmites were amazing and our tour guide explained how the formations occurred. A photo stop at the beautiful Blue Lake surprised everyone – it was grey green when we arrived late yester-



day but was an amazing iridescent blue today. We visited the sink hole garden and then explored town in small groups before walking back to camp – a leisurely stroll as everything was close together. Some free time in the courtyard before we walked down the street to meet 1st Mount Gambier Scouts for dinner. Koala and her team put on an awesome barbecue dinner for us and then everyone was invited to join in while our Scouts demonstrated juggling and other circus skills led by Nathan. Some tired Scouts and supporters walked back to our gaol to snuggle into bed.

Early start today – we lose half an hour going back across the border into Victoria but by now everyone has become proficient at packing their own gear and helping load the bus. The teamwork is great as everyone pitches in. Morning tea at Casterton in a small park next to the river and then a walk to the Australian Kelpie Centre in the main road. Councillor Karen organised some local kelpies and their humans to come and visit with us – lots of doggie kisses and cuddles for everyone who wanted them. We had time to explore the Kelpie Centre before boarding our bus again and then an extra surprise was the visit of two new kelpie puppies who came on board to visit (more cuddles).

A short stop at Wannan Falls to stretch our legs and then on to the Ansett Transport Museum for lunch and a tour. We learned that Reg Ansett started his business by selling people oranges with a side order of transport (to get around licensing restrictions of the time) and checked out the old buses, planes and memorabilia. Down the road a bit more for our last night at the Grampians Retreat.

Celebration dinner tonight where everyone received a certificate and a special award, being inducted into the "Royal Order of the Cave Bat" (named after our tour at Tantanoola Caves). A special



presentation was made to Conroy (one of our youth members) who achieved 100 nights of camping with our Group during this trip. He was presented with a certificate as well as having his name inscribed onto the perpetual honour board. In a Group where all members have a disability of varying degrees, 100 nights camping is a significant achievement. After dinner, the circus gear came out for more performances under the supervision of Ringmaster Mitch and Timekeeper Alex. Singing, dancing, juggling and plate spinning were all on display.

We awoke this morning to the sound of birds singing in the surrounding bush and to see kangaroos grazing just metres away. Packing up for the last time, we were on our way to Ballarat. A barbecue lunch in the gardens beside Lake Wendouree and then a ride on the vintage tram with Chris the conductor and Neville our driver before a look around the tram workshop. It tried to rain on us but the sun came out for a glorious day.

We arrived back at the Scout hall where our families were waiting for us and we all



pitched in to unload our mountain of equipment and bags – a bit smaller than when we departed as we had eaten most of the food.

And so our “Septemba Advencha” came to an end. Tired but satisfied, we all wended our way home to sleep in our beds, dreaming of all the wonderful things we had seen and experienced over five and a half days of fun and adventure.

Manningham Tende Beck Scout Group, based in Doncaster, Victoria, is a specialist group that supports young people with disabilities of all types. We strive to be inclusive and supportive while having adventures and doing “everyday” Scouting with support to enable people to achieve.

Sue Adams is Group Leader of Manningham Tende Beck Scout Group.

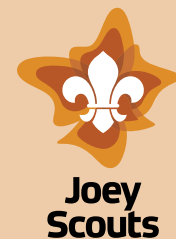


Thanks

Everyone commented that it was an amazing trip and they had really enjoyed it. The biggest thanks goes to Grant Morrow who organised the entire trip over several years (including visiting every single place on the tour several times, confirming, updating and liaising with them to give us a really good price to make the trip affordable). Several places turned out to not be suitable for our particular Group – research that all takes hours of time and commitment. Helen from Bayside Coaches was our awesome driver and joined in with the general craziness, becoming part of the team. Luke, Sue C, Linda and Wendy were our Leaders who gave up their time to come along and be bus Dad and Mum, cook and first aid for us. Thanks also to the family members and paid support workers who joined us and helped everyone, not just their own young person. And (of course) our youth members. We may have done the trip for you, but you made it awesome for us as well. Teamwork, friendliness, smiling and joining in with all of the activities helped everyone have fun, feel included and appreciated.

Joeys

Are you ready to go 2020?



By ANN NAUGHTIN

Are your programs fun, adventurous, challenging and inclusive?

How are you going to do this?

Are you programming using the four challenge areas?

The Scouts Victoria website under 'Our Program' has information about the growth areas.

- Personal growth
- Outdoors
- Creative
- Community

MC4 - Mob Council 4

Log onto the Scouts Victoria website click on Joey Scouts, you will find all the requirements on running a MC4.

As Joey Scouts choose activities, get the Joey Scouts to place their ideas in the appropriate challenge areas. Write the Joey Scouts name next to their chosen activity. Sticky notes are great for this.

| | |
|---|---|
| Personal Growth Blind Fold Obstacle Game (Cooper) Cross The Circle Game (Oskar) | Outdoors Water Activities (John) Cycling (David) Walk at the National Park (Taylah) |
| Creative Chinese New Year Dragons (Jane) Puppet Show (Mia) Build a bridge from rolled up paper (Emilia) | Community Harmony Day (Kelly) Sausage Sizzle (John) Community Festival (Jack) |

Ideas for Programs

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Founders day | Gang Show, Showtime etc. | Science |
| Kangaroo | Bush walking | Recycle |
| Water activities | Easter: Eggs, Egg Hunt | Cooking |
| Chinese New Year: Dragons | Hiking | Snow |
| Possum Prowl | Harmony day | Sport |
| ANZAC Day | Penny Hike | Nuts and Bolts |
| World Environment Day | Campfires | Ropes |
| Heritage Centre | Camping | Tents |
| Cycling/Scouting | Mudbash Open Day | Farm |
| Olympics/Commonwealth Games | Circus | Space |



| Date | Event | Joey Scout/Leader | Location | Parent on Duty |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 12/2/2020 | Water Night | John | Hall | Sam |
| 19/2/2020 | Founders Day | Possum | Hall | Sue |
| 26/2/2020 | Tents | Simon | Hall | Kerry |
| 4/3/2020 | Challenge Night | Cooper and Oskar/Wombat | Hall | Val |
| 7/3/2020 | Community Festival | Jack/Skip | HR Reserve | All Parents |
| 11/3/2020 | Cycling/Scouting | David/Echidna | Bike Track - High Street | James |
| 18/3/2020 | Chinese New Year | Jane/Kanga | Hall | Mazz |
| 25/3/2020 | Walk | Taylah/Dingo | FTG National Park Carpark | Michael |



Don't forget to Plan > Do > Review

Ann Naughtin is Joey Scout Commissioner - Regions.

By MICHAEL WONG

I would expect as a generalisation that we all have commitments and relationships outside of Scouting. The obvious ones include our families, our work, friends and acquaintances, possibly involvement in School Councils, sporting clubs and other volunteer organisations. They all require a commitment of our time to varying degrees and all provide a measure of satisfaction and fulfilment.

I would also expect that by involving ourselves in these relationships and commitments that we don't plan to fail as an expected outcome. By that I mean that in starting out in a new relationship, a new place of employment or having made new friends for example, we don't plan that in eight months' time that relationship is over, that you're needing to leave that place of employment or to end that friendship. In starting something new or continuing our involvement, we always hope for success and fulfilment and not for it to fail or end.

Hopefully that same premise that we don't plan to fail applies to our involvement in Scouting. Hopefully we all have a vision of success for our Cub Scouts and indeed ourselves as Leaders. So we'll agree that we all share a vision of success.

Planning for 2020... Let me first say this.

We can undertake a plan for 2020 that details our objectives for the year, all the things we want to achieve. That plan might include all the outdoor adventurous activities our Cub Scouts love being involved in. We can plan for the best Pack Holiday in the Pack's history or for all of our Leaders to achieve their Wood Badge. But the reality is in undertaking all that planning we may not achieve our objectives. That happens.

But if we don't plan, then we're guaranteed not to achieve our objectives for the year.

Which camp are you in at the moment? So we don't plan to fail and if we don't plan we're definitely guaranteed to fail.

Planning for 2020. What do we need to do? Plan>Do>Review>

Here are a couple of thoughts:

- Who will complete the plan?
 - Involve as many people as you can in your Pack's planning process as we all have a vested interest in the Pack's success.
 - Include other Section Leaders of your Group, your Group Leader, parents, members of your Group Committee, local community leaders, Leaders from other Packs and most importantly the Cub Scouts.
- Where do we want to be in 12 months' time, three years' time, and five years' time? What are we trying to achieve with this plan? What are our objectives?
 - You can't plan a year without knowing what it is that you're wanting to achieve within and by the end of the year.
 - That requires input from the Cub Scouts, Leaders.
 - Make sure this is a robust conversation.
 - Agree on a set of clear objectives and goals, outcomes that are achievable.
 - Will our plan for 2020 deliver the Purpose of Scouting to our Cub Scouts?
- Detail
 - The opportunity to compete the best laid out plans is in the detail.
 - Make sure each part of the plan be it a hike or camp is clear, well-defined with easily understood objectives.
 - Keep it simple and comprehensive.
 - Make sure everyone understands what their role is in completing any part of the plan.
- Flexibility
 - A good plan isn't written in concrete and should be flexible enough to incorporate changes throughout the year.
- This means it's a living document. Don't complete your Pack's plan then file it away. Revisit the plan on a regular basis to ensure it is still achieving your year objectives.
- If it isn't then make changes.
- Existing Resources
 - Any plan should be achievable within your Groups existing resources and should maximise and fully utilise the Groups resources.
- Ownership
 - This is the Pack's plan for 2020 so everyone involved with the Pack should take ownership and commit to the success of the plan.
 - Share the plan with your Cub Scouts in a way that they will understand and too take ownership.
- REVIEW
 - Plan>Do>Review> is a process that we use so well within the program night and the principles equally apply to your plan for 2020 because it promotes continuous improvement often within an environment of change.
 - Review the plan as often as required and include the Cub Scouts in that process.

We are all individuals bringing to Scouting a diverse range of skills and commitment of time. What we all share is a commitment to provide the very best Scouting experience for our Cub Scouts that delivers on the Purpose of Scouting. Having an effective plan in a form that is right for you and that provides a clear objective outcome is a step in the right direction.

We don't plan to fail!

Michael Wong is State Leader – Program Support Specialist Cub Scout Section.

Scouts

Survivor!



By **JOEL, ALEX, ARCHIE and JACK**

Survivor 2019 was an extremely incredible experience for all Scouts attending! The camp, which was hosted by 1st City of Camberwell, was based on the reality TV show "Survivor" and was filled with difficult challenges and activities and to win you had to be thrifty, cunning and resilient.

Scouts from 1st City of Camberwell, 19th Camberwell, 2nd Clifton Hill, 4th Kew, Richmond and Carlton Scout Troops all took part in this amazing camp. We were lucky enough to have the assistance of a Venturer Unit, Kew and Richmond, who assisted the Leaders to run the camp.

At the beginning, we had a brief run-down of camp and split into Patrols. We got to know each other and began the challenges! The first challenge was called Colour Blind. It required quick thinking and multitasking. A caller was chosen from each Patrol and the rest had to repeat an order of colours that the caller called out with materials that they had found. As the game went on, the orders became longer and harder to read. It was a fun, difficult and team building activity. Other challenges over the course of the camp included:

- **Throw and Catch:** This challenge was the most physically demanding of all and if you didn't complete it, you would not receive a Dutch oven for that night's cooking. You had to run about 100 metres downhill to a creek and fill up a bucket then run back with the full bucket and throw the water to another patrol member holding an empty bucket. Then the second patrol member would throw the remaining water into a Dutch oven. The cycle repeats until the Dutch oven is full!
- **Unlocked:** This challenge involves codes and cyphers. As a Patrol you had to decode phrases to find the combination for a lock. Inside the





lock is a compass bearing which you had to follow to the next lock's location.

- The Gross Encounters: This challenge, as its name suggests, was very gross. It was basically a general knowledge quiz but every time a question was answered incorrectly, one Patrol member got food (eggs, tomato sauce, baked beans, spaghetti or milk) poured over them. The bathrooms smelt bad afterwards!
- Shoot Out! This challenge required teamwork and knowledge of knots and lashings. Each Patrol got 40 minutes to create a slingshot using six spars, seven ropes and a sling. Once the 40 minutes was up, each Patrol took turns slinging tennis balls at targets worth different points. The Patrol with the most points won!

All these challenges earned you different amounts of coins called 'Survivor Dollars', depending on how you performed. You could then use these at the Survivor Market to buy supplies (such as tents, tarps, rope and matches), and add-ons for meals. Gold Survivor Dollars were also rewarded for doing good deeds throughout the camp. The Survivor Market was run by our Kew and Richmond Venturers.

At the end of the camp, all the coins that were earned from all the challenges and deeds were added up in each Patrol, and the winner was announced! The Red Patrol (Joel, Lexie, Jack, Elaine, Brendan and Ray) finished on top, followed by Blue patrol and then Purple patrol.

On the first night, everyone slept under an improvised shelter using a tarp and anything else they could find or buy at the Survivor Market. Although the shelters kept out the water and cold, many creepy-crawlies scurried under the tarp! Besides the spiders, mozzies and beetles, a yabby crawled into the Red Patrol's shelter! On the next two nights, anyone who could afford a tent slept in them without any mysterious, uninvited creatures!

Although the weekend was packed with torrential rain, spiders, leeches, mud and sharp sword grass, all the Scouts made new friendships, overcame challenges, and overall it was an incredible experience!

Joel, Alex, Archie and Jack are Scouts at Carlton Scout Group.



Rovers



A year in the life of a Rover Advisor



By MARIA ARMSTRONG

I have often had Leaders from other Sections tell me how lucky I am that my role as a Rover Advisor is so much easier, because the Rover Section are adults.

As an ex-Joey Scout Leader, I think that the Rover Advisor role is misunderstood.

Rovers are amazing. It is the only Section that is eight years long. While we might believe that it is that long because change and development slows once these young adults turn 18, I believe it's because they need that additional time to really grow into themselves.

I get to support their broken hearts, when they have relationship and friendship troubles, and have seen love blossom and grow into marriage between two Rovers.

I get to be there through university or a trade apprenticeship, and the struggle of where they are going, and question-

ing if they've made the right decision. I get to rejoice with them when they get their first 'real' job, and commiserate with them when they find out that working life is not all they were promised at high school.

I see them celebrate moving out of their parents' house and finding out that even carrots are rather expensive when you have an electricity bill to pay. And watching their Crew rally around to make sure the program caters for everyone, especially those struggling to buy carrots.

A Rover Crew's program is wide and varied, and each Crew is different. They also go in cycles, and because the Rovers drive the program, it will depend on the ages and experience within the Crew as to what they program.

Like every Section, there are some much loved favourites for the program, as well as some major events.

The idea of Manderson Rovers was created by a group of nearly 18-year-old Venturers, in the summer holidays, while hiking and swimming. They were a close-knit Venturer Unit and happened to have a good number all turning 18 within a few months of each other. And so a Crew was born.

In Rovers, new Crews need to be approved by their local Region Rover Council, and meet a certain number of criteria to start up. Luckily Manderson met those requirements and was officially registered as a Crew.

That was nearly seven years ago, and the Rover Crew has gone from strength to strength. We currently have 20 registered Rovers, and more looking to join.

Our program for this year has seen a huge variety of activities, including hiking, biking, racing a car at Mudbash, making soy candles, learning to play touch footy, and of course our much loved favourites, time spent on the river or at the lake with the canoes as well as beach days.

This year the Crew learnt that one of their own was a triple murderer, while playing a murder mystery game. It was certainly a challenge to work out the clues, while enjoying a meal together.

As with all 'young' Rover Crews, we hadn't held many Boots, which is where we say goodbye to our 26 year old Rovers. This year we held two Boots, and also got to present one of our Rovers with his Baden-Powell Scout Award, which is the highest award a Rover can earn. He was our third BPSA recipient in the Crew's seven-year history.

The coming 18 months will be a big one for Manderson Rovers, as the majority of our Venturers who made up that founding group will all be turning 26.

This year we've spent time with our Cub Scouts, challenging them to games. Sad to say I think the Cubs bested the Rovers almost every time.



Pineapple sculpting at Pineapple appreciation night



Mudbash - Manderson Rovers with our car 'Thrifty'.



Carving with the Joey Scouts.

As canoeing on the lake is one of the Crew's favourite activities, every summer we take our Joey Scouts down to the lake and take them canoeing. It's amazing seeing their concerned little faces light up when the canoe first pushes away from the dock and they realise it's not going to sink and the Rovers are going to look after them.

This year we also took our Joeys caving. Luckily they were indoor caves, built out of boxes and hessian. The Rovers ran a safety briefing before going into the caves and we explored to find different rocks and learned about the different types of caves. The Joeys had a ball and when the Rovers weren't getting stuck in the Joey-sized cave system, they too had fun!

Venturer Leaders will know that the way to a Venturer's heart is usually through food. There isn't much change there, especially in the early years of a Rover's life, so our program of course includes food-focused nights with the usual \$5 cooking challenge and camp cooking. The Crew has mixed it up a little this year and had food appreciation nights, where we learnt all about and ate certain foods. One night it was pineapples, and another it was potatoes. I do wonder what food we'll look to appreciate next year.

Our Crew tends to program a lot of water-based activities, but it's not easy getting out on the lake or river in the middle of winter, so a much loved favourite for the middle of winter is water aerobics down at our local indoor heated pool, where I've learnt that while the Crew might be great at water activities, they are not terribly graceful at water aerobics.

The other thing that happens to water in winter is that it freezes, which means lots of snow! Manderson have a core group of passionate skiers, who were out on the snow regularly over the winter, dragging along a few Rovers this year who had never skied. Much fun had in the snow, and no broken bones!

This year Manderson Rovers attended MARB (Metropolitan Area Rover Ball), which is a fancy dress ball for Rovers, and keeping with the frozen water theme, decided to go as penguins.

Anyone who's heard a bit about Rovers, is likely to have heard of Mudbash, which is one of the major events on the Rover Calendar each year. Mudbash is a camp on the Queen's birthday weekend in June, at Mafeking Rover Park. Rover Crews build buggies, which are cars with

roll cages and harnesses and more, and then they compete in a series of events. This year saw Manderson take a car for the second year in the Class C event which doesn't require a roll-cage. So our program has also included many a night checking and repairing the car, cleaning it, painting it and more. It has been a wonderful experience, particularly for the Crew members that don't really know much about cars. We've also invited our Venturers down to help with a number of the car-related tasks, which they have loved.

Easter is on our Crew calendar as a must attend. Every year almost the entire Crew heads to the Bogong High Plains, to stay in the Bogong Rover Chalet. The Easter weekend is known as 'wood week-end' where the wood for the chalet for the entire winter is delivered. Manderson Rovers, along with other Rovers and ex-Rovers, go to the Chalet for Easter and spend the weekend stacking wood, painting and general other repairs needed. Luckily the Easter Bunny manages to find us every year, this year, our Easter Egg hunt was done amongst the snow falls that we received overnight. It made it a bit trickier to find our eggs, but we hunted them all down.

You may well be able to translate Manderson Rover's program, directly into almost any other Section, but the program is not what makes Rovering and the role of a Rover Advisor unique. As in all Sections of Scouting, we use the program to give the youth members a chance to challenge themselves, grow and shine.

More than 100 years ago Baden-Powell decided that the ideal age for Rover Scouts was to finish at 26 years old. The reason for that age was never defined by Baden Powell. He simply stated that it was when they were "men", which we now would translate to mature adults.

Only in the last couple of decades have scientists found that the human brain isn't fully developed until it is at least 25. The area that is still in development stage during the critical years of Rover-



Penguins for MARB.



Our three BSA recipients: Chris Park, Melissa Nisbet (nee Nicholls), Travis Nisbet.

ing is the 'rational thinking' area of the brain. This is the area that aids in good judgement and awareness of long-term consequences. This is where Rover Advisors are critical. Our role is to guide the Rovers to make sound decisions, but also to let them try and sometimes fail, and to learn from that failure in a safe environment.

As a Rover Advisor, I can't tell the Rovers what to do, or how to do it. The only thing I can do is ask them to stop and consider what the outcomes of their actions might be. Sometimes, it's like doing a risk assessment on the fly, with Rovers getting excited and planning an activity or in a heated discussion within the Crew, and I have to get them to slow down and reflect on whether that's the path they actually want to take.

I have been a Rover Advisor for nearly five years, and, like any other role in Scouting, it can be challenging and frustrating, but when I see young adults growing into outstanding adults, ready to take on the world, with all the learnings and experiences that Rovering has given them, that's when I get re-charged and re-inspired to continue supporting the youth of the Rover Section.

Maria Armstrong is Rover Advisor to the Manderson Rover Crew at 1st Croydon Hills.

LOCAL LOOK

Send photos and captions to editor@australianscout.com.au



Boroondara District's bSUMMIT

October saw nearly 50 Scouts from across Victoria embark on Boroondara District's biannual leadership course, bSUMMIT. The Scouts, along with a number of amazing Leaders and Venturers, journeyed to Seymour in the Goulburn Valley, where they undertook a range of activities and challenges, all designed to grow their leadership and teamwork skills, as well as give them the opportunity to challenge themselves and make new friends. The course was an outstanding success and all of the youth participants should be congratulated for their enthusiasm and resilience. bSUMMIT continues to go from strength to strength as a unique and transformational leadership program.



13th Malvern



13th Malvern Scouts led by intrepid Jono, climbed Mt Loch near Mt Hotham as part preparation for their trip to Kandersteg International Scout Centre next July.

Sitting at 1862m above sea level and with Mt Feathertop in the background, they took in the top of Victoria vista before trekking back via Spargos mountain hut.



They also welcomed a new recruit on the trip at the Summit of Mt Hotham on Cup Day.

13th Malvern also did some fundraising for the trip to Kandersteg with a stall at the Rotary Community Market in Malvern East.

Using the new Scouts Victoria table cloth, their table has great impact and helped present their 'Scout-made' scented candles beautifully.



Lachlan, former Scout Leader Andrew Johnson, James, Venturer Leader Dale Sutton, Richard and Group Leader Phil Seeber.

Queen's Scout Award Success

By TIM DUFF

2nd Woodend Scouts celebrated the Queen's Scout Award achievement for three of its Venturers last month - Richard, Lachlan and James. In the seven years since its commencement, 2nd Woodend has had seven members complete the award, which is a testament to the dedication and vitality of Venturer Leader Dale Sutton and the adventurous and exciting program both designed and run by our youth. The ceremony was held in Jackson Hall at Braemar College, with many in attendance. Congratulations to Richard, Lachlan and James, and we wish them every success in the coming months with their exams, and future endeavours.

Tim Duff is the Chairman at 2nd Woodend.



First ever Joey Scout District Camp for Moonee Valley

November saw the first ever Joey Scout Camp for Moonee Valley District. The camp was held over two nights at Rowallan Scout Camp, with almost half of the 50 Joeyes in the District in attendance. A mostly activity station-based camp was run to prepare our Joeyes for Kangaree in March 2020.

On Saturday, the Joeyes were split into four Mobs and rotated through six activity bases including screen printing, Lego Duplo challenge, bubble ball sumo wrestling, makin' music, archery and Joey Scouts Own. Followed by some quiet time and dinner, the Joeyes enjoyed a campfire with songs, skits and marshmallows. Several Scouts and Venturers were invaluable for the smooth running of the weekend's program.

Sunday included pack up, a recycling talk from the Camp Ranger, sharing of weekly section hall games, and a play on the onsite playground and flying fox. The Joeyes all cheered their Leaders into having a try of the flying fox too!

All Joeyes left camp with smiles on their faces and new friendship bonds formed - mission accomplished! Most Leaders in the District didn't know each other before planning began, and this camp is testament to how Scouting brings out the best in everyone wanting to 'HOP'.



Clyde's Joey Mob had their very first camp under canvas at GWS Anderson Scout Park. The Mob set up their tents and kitchen just in time for lunch, afterwards they got a chance to try out being bee keepers at the Bee Experience. They got to dress up in bee keepers outfits and use the smokers. There was also plenty of hiking, kite flying, tyre swinging, yabby net throwing, and marshmallow roasting well into the night. The kids were full of energy and awake the next day at 5.30am ready for more. They even invested three new parent helpers into the Group.



Northern Rivers Scuba Diving Adventure

Lake Boga Sea Scouts and Catalina Venturers had the chance to learn scuba diving at their local swimming pool. The day was organised by District Commissioner - Northern Rivers, Carmel Tyres. It was a great opportunity for the Scouts and Venturers to expand their horizons, and a lot of fun was had by all.



Macleod Scout Group held a fundraiser at their local Christmas Fair. They sold snow cones and their inflatable climbing tower was very popular!





4th Williamstown Sea Scouts

By MICHELLE GOWING

Joey Scouts from 4th Williamstown were treated to a one-off special tour of the Port of Melbourne Control Shipping Tower. This amazing work environment is not usually open to the public. The Mob was so excited to view the busy goings on from the 72-metre high tower.



Giving Tuesday

The youth members of 4th Williamstown from all Sections recently participated in Giving Tuesday, a social media driven annual gift drive. As a result, the Group presented 136 gifts to the West Welcome Wagon. The gifts were chosen by the youth themselves and were then distributed to asylum seeker youths in Melbourne's west for Christmas.



It was a delightful project to participate in and was the brain child of our Group's committee secretary Sue Laws.

Michelle Gowing is a Joey Scout Leader at 4th Williamstown Sea Scouts.



2nd Colac

What may have looked like a painted fridge box, captivated the imaginations of 2nd Colac's Cub Pack as they travelled back in time to explore the history of Lord Robert Baden Powell and the creation of Scouting. They followed his journey as he became a soldier and gained inspiration to start Scouting. The Cubs were intrigued by the original uniform and customs, and surprised that girls and boys originally didn't participate in Scouting together.

When they arrived back to their Scout hall, they found they had picked up a traveller along the way - John Dunne, who is currently part of the Otway Plains District Personnel Committee, but was formerly a Scout in England and a Scout Leader at 2nd Colac. He discussed more of Baden Powell's history and shared some relics from the past, which the Cub Scouts happily passed around and asked questions about.

At the end of the evening the Cub Scouts created a time capsule with items that they chose to represent 2019, including a copy of the days Colac Herald. The Cubs will leave instructions for the opening of the time capsule in the future.

The time travel night is one of many programs that started off as a wild idea dreamed up by one of the Cubs at their Pack Council meeting.





Great Vic Bike Ride

Robert Irvine, an Assistant Venturer Leader at 3rd Sunbury Scout Group recently participated in the Great Victoria Bike Ride. Along the way he met members of 1st Timboon Scout Group.



Country Area Rover Ball 2019

Rovers from all around the State gathered in Geelong for their annual Rover Ball in November. This year CARB was presented by South West Rover Region with the theme Space Cowboys! The event was an overwhelming success with 88 Rovers attending. The

night consisted of a three course meal, games and music. Prizes were awarded on the night to; best dressed individual – Jordan Chan, best dressed couple – Dylan Peebles and Sarah Fraser-Ison and best dressed crew – Mullumbimba Rover Crew. Next year we are all looking forward to CARB being hosted by Murray Midlands.



1st Strathmore

Members of 1st Strathmore Scout Group Sally, Mellissa, Amy and Holly recently volunteered at the Melbourne Special Children's Christmas Party, where they helped hand out toys and games to children in the Toy Cave.

Around 7000 people attend the event, which features a variety of activities for children run by volunteers.

Sally, the Cub Scout Leader was also recently nominated for the Westfield Local Heroes award. It is awarded to a person who attributes social wellbeing and/or harmony, and benefits the local community across one or more of the three social values of Family, Youth Opportunity and Inclusion. It was great recognition for contribution to Scouting and the community.

Westfield Local Heroes decided to also make a donation to the Group, to assist with some of their upcoming projects. As part of the donation Westfield is allowing the Group to have a community stall at the shopping centre, which will be a great recruitment opportunity.



1st Koo Wee Rup Celebrates 90 years

Over 100 gathered to celebrate 90 years of 1st Koo Wee Rup Scout Group and its service to the local community.

Current youth members, Leaders and the Cardinia District Team gathered around the new flagpole in honour of former Leader Chris Burhop.



Adults in Scouting

Long Service Awards

October

5 Years

Tim Fleming, ASF-Goulburn Murray
Jess Whitehead, AJSL, 1st Rutherglen

20 Years

David Baker, District Treasurer, South Western District
Melissa Duguid, DC, Alpine Gateway District

40 Years

Maurice Reid, ASF-South Western

50 Years

Glenyce Liersch, CSL, 1st Warracknabeal

November

5 Years

Alexis Bassingthwaighte, Office Bearer, 1st Balnarring

David Bonfield, AVL, 1st Gembrook

Daniel Buick, ASL, 1st Mount Waverley

Rae Burnett, AGL, 1st Sth Frankston

Alyshia Challenger, Adult Helper, 1st Tullapark

Brad Clarke, AVL, 1st Carrum Downs

Tony Crawford, Group Treasurer, 1st Ballam Park

Daniel Eastwood, Group Support Committee Member, 1st Tullapark

Catherine Gulliver, SL, 1st Elwood

Kathleen Hudson, Group Chairman, 1st Balnarring

Graeme Jones, Group Support Committee Property Maintenance, 1st Seymour

Matt Leithhead, AVL, 3rd Croydon

Fiona Macisaac, Group Rostered Parent, 1st Eltham North

Julz Matheson, Group Rostered Parent, 1st Eltham North

Kieran McGuinness, District Leader - Cub Scouts, Glen Eira Stonnington District

Carolyn Murphy, ASF-Yarra Ranges

Liz Murray, Group Support Committee Member, 1st Coburg

Matt Nolan, ACSL, 10th Malvern

Paul Sheer, Adult Helper, 2nd/7th West Waverley

Giles Willoughby, ACSL, Baden Powell Park

10 Years

Michelle Dale, ACSL, 3rd Sunbury

John Damiano, Group Rostered Parent, 1st Greenhills

Denis Fook Loo Yong Kee, Group Treasurer, 9th Caulfield

Andrew Ham, PGL, Mont Albert North

Bruce Hart, ASF-Whitehorse

Paul Hunt, Group Support Committee Quartermaster, 1st Narre Warren North

Carol Jenkinson, Group Secretary, 1st Hurstbridge

Roy Kaplan, DC, Glen Eira Stonnington District

Shane Meerkotter, ACSL, 1st Woori Yallock

Matthew Minski, ASL, 10th Caulfield

Anton Parker, ACSL, 1st/14th Brighton

Nathan Pearson, ASF-Tilba Tilba

Sonia Randle, Group Treasurer, 1st Greenhills

John Riley, Badge Examiner, Sorrento Sea Scouts

Long Truong, AVL, Hoa Lu

Siw Vane Loo Yong Kee, Group Treasurer, 9th Caulfield

Ian Wake, PASL, 3rd Ringwood East

Leanne York, Group Support Committee 2nd Hand Uniforms, Rosanna

Michael Zeeng, PGL, 12th Caulfield

15 Years

Laura Bennett, ASF-Yarra Ranges

Malcolm Chatto, AVL, 1st Koo Wee Rup

Paola Cheng, ASL, 1st Lower Templestowe

Patrick Jackson, ASF-Whitehorse

Craig Legge, ASL, 1st Selby

Ian Mackessack, SL, 3rd Croydon

Darren Martin, ASF-Frankston

Regina Neven, ASL, 1st Wallan Wallan

Gordon Williams, AVL, Pakenham

20 Years

Deborah Clow, GL, 1st Tullapark

Aileen Denier, CSL, 2nd Springvale

Christine McKillop, ACSL, 1st Glen Iris

25 Years

Paul Bryans, TASL, Rosanna

Ben Quirk, Adult Helper, Aspendale

Jo Salter, Group Rostered Parent, 1st Mooroolbark

35 Years

Peter Bellis, ASF-City Of Knox

Sue Glenn, District Leader - Adult Training Support, Greater Dandenong District

40 Years

Peter Laxby, ASF-Maroonah

Alan Wilson, ASL, 1st Vermont

50 Years

Keith Yelland, Camp Committee Member, Mt Dandenong Region

55 Years

Stan Parsons, ASL, 4th Ringwood



Honorary Commissioner Frank Waterton was inducted as a Life Member of the Victorian Branch and received his 70 year Service Award at the State ARAP at Moonee Valley

Having a cuppa afterwards with fellow Gippslanders Don Leeson of the Australian Scout Magazine Committee and former Gippsland Region Commissioner Cliff Dent.

Wood Badge Awards

October

Joey Scout

James Warren, AJSL, 1st Oak Park

Jo Downs, PGL, Hampton

Anna Schoots, JSL, 1st Diamond Creek

Tracy Seeger, AJSL, 1st Broadford

Casey Bahr, AJSL, 1st Lang Lang

Vanessa Baillie, AJSL, 3rd/4th Colac

Cub Scout

Travis Harvie, ACSL, Narre Warren South

Lauren Sanders-Berg, ACSL, 1st Yinnar

Louise Knell, ACSL, 1st Doreen

Scout

Calum Marshall, ASL, Montmorency

Jason Barth, ASL, 1st Koo Wee Rup

Helene Bennie, ASL, 1st Myrtleford

Peter English, ASL, 2nd Eltham Sea Scouts

Grant Reid, ASL, 2nd Anza

Steven Denman, ASL, 2nd Mornington Sea Scouts

Steve Tevelein, ASL, 3rd/4th Colac

Jason Hagens, ASL, 1st Myrtleford

Jason McGuigan, ASL, 1st Mansfield

Venturer

Sam Parfuss, AVL, 1st Balwyn

Rover

John Goudie, PRA, Benalla

Group Leader

Andrew Goddard, GL, 1st Eltham North

Liesl Coulthard, GL, 1st Nunawading

District Leader/Commissioner

Sharon Noyle, Provisional Cub Scout Commissioner - Region, Vic Branch

Malcolm Noyle, District Leader - Development, Nillumbik District

Kieran McGuinness, District Leader - Cub Scouts, Glen Eira Stonnington District

November

Joey Scout

Daisy Coppa-Szitarity, JSL, 1st Riddells Creek

Aminah Boyd, JSL, Fawkner

Kathryn Crisp, AJSL, 4th Williamstown
Emily Kinross-Smith, AJSL, 6th Melbourne

Cub Scout

Rohan France, ACSL, 1st Beechworth
Matthew Weller, ACSL, 1st Gisborne
Nigel Stanford, ACSL, 13th Malvern
Matthew Zimmerle, ACSL, 1st Narre Warren North
Melanie Soklevski, Provisional District Leader - Cub Scouts, Manningham District
Georgina Storey, ACSL, 1st Bentleigh
Roberto La Bozzetta, ACSL, 3rd Sunbury
Doug Scott, ACSL, 1st Ferny Creek
Adi Nugraha Tedjasukmana, PCSL, 1st Point Cook

Scout

Mick Guley, ASL, 1st Strathfieldsaye
Owynne Zobel, SL, 1st/2nd Greensborough
Amanda Bodinnar, SL, 1st Paynesville Sea Scouts
Scott Turner, ASL, 2nd Mornington Sea Scouts
Tony Cawthorne, ASL, 1st City Of Camberwell
Jessica Rosewarne, ASL, 1st Ranelagh Assistant Scout Leader
Cory Bixler, ASL, 1st Mornington
Rob McDonald, ASL, Dromana Sea Scouts
Shane Dowsett, ASL, 1st Red Hill
Tyson Rangitakatu, ASL, South Morang
Anthony Spruit, Provisional District Leader - Scouts, City Of Knox District

Venturer

Jim McAlinden, PVL, Aspendale

Darryl Reynolds, AVL, 1st Kilmore
Geed Hook, AVL, Box Hill North

Group Leader

Sylvia Kuehn-Sauppe, AGL, 1st Yinnar
Jo Downs, PGL, Hampton
Colleen Peterson, PGL, Richmond

District Leader/Commissioner

Lauren McDonald, Provisional District Leader - Cub Scouts, Yarra District
Johann Anderson, DC, Boroondara District
Val Paton, District Leader - Adult Training Support, Nillumbik District

Adventurous Activities

Andrew Clark, Provisional Assistant Adventurous Activity Leader - Scuba, Scuba Team

A jewel in the sun Nillumbik Whittlesea District sails away!

By SHARON NOYLE

The Nillumbik Whittlesea District Cub Section end of year event was a huge success, with youth from almost every Group in the District attending. Our event, held at the Guide and Scout Water Activity Centre on the glistening coast of Port Philip Bay was an amazing surprise with fun and challenges for our youth.

This venue was such a fantastic find for us all, many had never been before and were really impressed to find a venue full of amazing Leaders, sailing boats, paddle boards, canoes and so much more.

Around ninety youth, Leaders, adult helpers and parents rocked up to this shallow and inviting beach, hidden away in the sand dunes only metres from the water.

Once the safety briefing and PFD's (life jackets to you and me!) were fitted for every member the fun started! A roster was set up and each of the three sailing boats took groups of five Cubs at a time out into the bay in ideal sailing conditions. While this was happening paddle boards and canoes were used extensively together with a few beach games as well.

The morning passed very quickly, and everyone was excited to come back to the hall and sheds for lunch, the sausage sizzle and fruit were eagerly anticipated by everyone and food vanished in a blink of an eye.

We then had an important ceremony, the awarding of the Wood Badge for Louise Knell of 1st Doreen Scout Group, a ceremony attended by State, Region and District Leaders celebrating this important achievement in Scouting. Then it was time for cake!

The afternoon was filled with more fun on the beach with sailing and



water activities, it was with great sadness and exhaustion that the event came to an end mid-afternoon.

If you have not experienced this venue, you should! Many of our Groups are already talking about using it for their next Pack Holiday. There are Leaders rooms for at least eight and a hall for the youth. It's a fun location with a sheltered beach and our District will certainly be back!

A huge shout out to David Bryar and his team for making us feel so welcome, providing all the facilities, experienced Leaders, sun screen, safety equipment and a BBQ. The District had a ball, thank you from all the Groups within Nillumbik Whittlesea Cub Section

Sharon Noyle is District Leader Cub Scouts - Nillumbik-Whittlesea District





1st Woodend Cub Adventure!

By LACHLAN & NATALIE

It was a cold and wet Saturday morning, but not even the dreary weather could dampen the excitement bubbling at the 1st Woodend Scout Hall. As the Burke Pack Cubs began to drift into the Hall at 8:30am, lugging in their sleeping gear, their drizzle-speckled faces were brimming with anticipation for the weekend ahead.

Before too long, Cubs, Leaders and parents alike were bundled into cars to begin the first leg of this great expedition; a drive down the freeway to the Essendon

Hangers at Essendon Air Fields. Upon arrival, the Pack were warmly greeted by Vas Nikolovski who introduced the Cubs to his team. Cubs were soon divided into three groups, each one to get a first-hand taste of life in the hangers.

Group one were off to the Air Traffic Control Tower where they met an Air Traffic Controller in action. The Cubs were introduced to the phonetic alphabet, Greenwich Mean Time and how the ATC team ensures the air space they are in control of remains safe. Group two were in for a real treat, boarding a luxurious private jet! It was rumoured that a well know celebrity had travelled aboard this very jet and the Cubs were exploding with amazement. Group three made their way across the windy airfields to the maintenance shed where the Cubs learnt about the expense involved in running and maintaining the airplanes.

Following a quick morning tea and a much anticipated paper-plane making competition, the troop were bundled back into cars to be pooled to their next stop - Essendon Bounce! Knowing that there were multiple trampolines waiting, the Cubs fuelled up with lunch at the Bounce Car Park Reserve followed by a fantastic session of bouncing madness! There were flips, rolls, drops and super-jumps!

A little wearier than before, the Cubs walked to the tram stop to make their way to the next leg of their adventure -

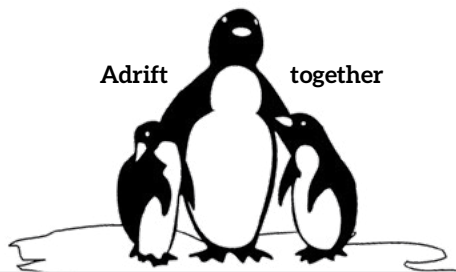


a tram trip to Flinders Street to view some of Melbourne's iconic street art, where the Cubs were surrounded by the vibrant sights, sounds and smells of the city. Followed by another walk, this time to Southern Cross Station, the Cubs practiced a great life skill of using their Myki card to catch the VLine back to Woodend Station.

With weary legs, tired eyes and loads of stories, this adventuring Pack walked their way back to the Scout Hall to be nourished with fish and chips for dinner and a chocolate mousse and ice-cream dessert. These guys deserved it! With some badge work completed and PJs on, it was not long before the Scout Hall was quiet and still with some very tired Cubs filled with some very happy memories.

Lachlan is a Cub Scout at 1st Woodend, and Natalie is his mum.





Minutes of the 2020 program planning Pack Council

Akela and the Sixers have met in a demilitarised zone to plot the 2020 program. Baloo was an apology until his mother told him to stop sooking and get down to the hall or there'd be no more honey. Bagheera's wife said he had to do the lawns first. Our Venturer helper Bandarlog had a shift at Sephora but she sent copious notes.

10 - Milk and slices of apple

There's a rumour that the Grey Wolf is changing. We're excited to be the first Cubs to earn the Grey Thylacine.

In Royal news, we've learned that the Hon Michael Baden-Powell from 4th Camberwell Central is the new Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell. We wondered if he will build a castle near the Norman Johnson campfire circle, and if it will be ready by Cuboree.

We discussed where to have our Term 1 Pack Holiday. Red Six suggested Hawaii, but Black Six said this wasn't the time to talk about Pack Holiday.

10.45 - Lemon mineral water and fairy bread

JOTA and JOTI: last year's highlight was texting a Rover in Sydney. This year we hope to Skype a Beaver in Britain, or a Grasshopper in Hong Kong, or a Girl Guide in the hall next door.

Father-and-progeny night: After 90 years, it's the end of a tradition - this year we won't make ashtrays for the dads. Or anything. Maybe a card.

Cuboree is in the T3-4 holidays. Sadly the ACT and NSW Cuborees were cancelled due to the fires. But in Victoria we traditionally worry about rain at Cuboree.



11.30 - Coke and deep fried cheese burgers

The decline of the refreshments is a metaphor for the program arc over the year. Good intentions in January, survival in December. At this point the hyper-Sixers were discharged to the care of their parents.

PS. Pack Council was concerned that apparently there's a new Brendan. And his name's not Brendan. It's something else. Just when we'd worked him out...

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