



**2020 in  
Review**

**Planning for 2021**





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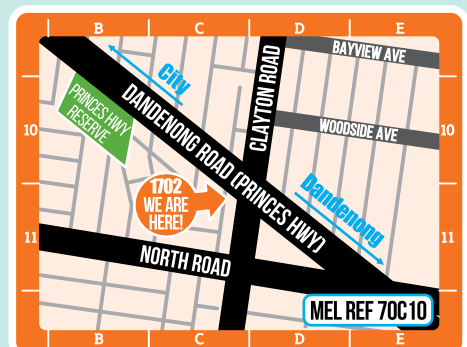


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COVER:  
Camel trekking  
through dry  
riverbeds with  
the 1st Cameleer Venturer Unit.  
More on page 8. Photo: Phil Rouillon

# inside...



8



18



16

## regulars

- 4 News
- 22 Local Look
- 24 Adults in Scouting
- 27 Windy Valley

## features

- 5 **2020 in Review**  
*From Scout's Victoria's Report to Victoria.*
- 8 **Camel Trekking with the 1st Cameleer Venturer Unit**  
*Venturers headed off for the trek of a lifetime.*
- 10 **Planning for 2021**  
*Is your Group prepared for 2021?*
- 16 **Get out with our Activity Teams**  
*Book now with the Abseiling and Rock Climbing Teams!*
- 18 **The Great Victoria Online Camp 2020**  
*Tilba Tilba District held an amazing online camp!*
- 20 **Have you checked out our Campsites?**  
*Camp Waringal and Caringal Scout Camp are some great options.*

# The Rover Plasma Challenge 2020

By Georgie Wildoer

The Australian Rover Plasma Challenge 2020 had one ultimate goal; 500 donations in three months. This year, the lifeblood team designed the challenge to promote more donors to experience a plasma donation.

From the outset, it certainly felt like a challenge to mobilise Rovers across the nation to roll up their sleeves and donate plasma. But as a testament to the passion and service of Rovers Australia wide, the live tallies got off to a roaring start in the first few weeks of August.

As we know, 2020 is a year like no other. Coincidentally, the second lockdown in Victoria became the catalyst for a surge in donations across the state, as donating blood became one of the four reasons you could leave home. For most people, donating became the most exciting outing of the week!

As the challenge powered on, Units across the country battled it out for first place on the region leaderboard! A special mention must

be made to the loyal supporters of the challenge, who helped to book group donations, transporting people to the centres and cheering our donors on every step of the way.

With a big smile and a virtual high-five to all involved, I'm so glad to say that in the final week of October, we hit 500 donations! To capture the final results in a few quick statistics, the challenge involved 272 total donors, 50 of which were new donors. In terms of age, 25% of donors were over 30 showing the wonderful support of ex-Rovers, Rover Advisor's, family and friends throughout the challenge.

Each and every donor and supporter should be incredibly proud of drastically exceeding our plasma challenge goal, with the final tally hitting 533. That equates to 1599 lives saved. You are all bloody lifesavers.

**Georgie Wildoer is a Rover at Mullumbimba Rover Unit.**



# Get your Christmas Tree from Scouts!



Scouts  
VICTORIA

[scoutsvictoria.com.au/christmastrees](https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/christmastrees)



# 2020 in Review

## From Scout's Victoria's Report to Victoria Chief Commissioner's Report



**Rod Byrnes**  
Chief Commissioner  
Scouts Victoria

2020 has certainly been a whirlwind of an introductory year as Chief Commissioner for Scouts Victoria! Many thanks to Brendan Watson, Jon Willis, and the rest of the outgoing State Leadership Team for their fantastic work over the past six years; you've left a solid foundation for my new team to build on. That building has already begun! As a State Leadership Team, we have a list of focal priorities that really emphasise our Scouting passions.



**Danielle Taglieri**  
Deputy Chief Commissioner  
Scouts Victoria

### Growth

We're aiming for 14 years of growth. We want all Groups to have all five Sections and we want to develop new Groups in the growth corridors. Why? Because we think Scouting helps develop better young people, and that means better communities, and a better Victoria.

### Youth leading, adult supporting

Youth leading, with adult support, allows our young people to have a voice, to develop and run their program and to learn by doing. At the same time, they are supported and mentored by friendly and wise Leaders. We want more young people to have more leadership opportunities. We're about to deliver on this promise with three new senior leadership roles. These roles will be the first in a series of Youth Commissioners

to be rolled out across all levels of Scouting Leadership in the Victorian Branch.

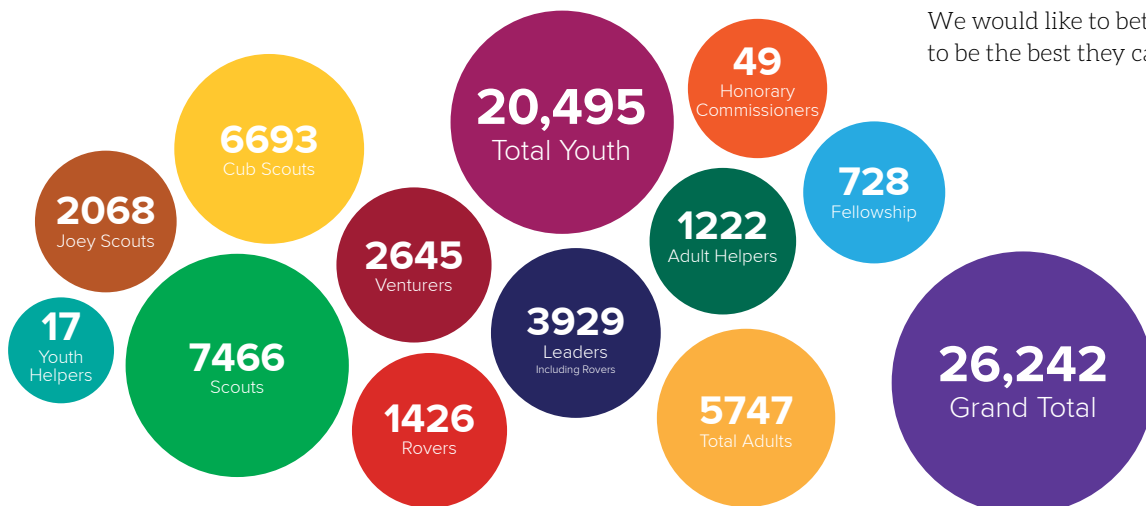
### Program

Our program has continued to roll out across the State, with the introduction of Participate, Assist, Lead and the Milestones occurring this year, and the last instalments of Outdoor Adventure Skills and Special Interest Areas coming in 2021. We've also had the introduction of Scouts | Terrain; an exciting new platform to track badgework, programming, Patrol activities, and Unit Council. So many new and thrilling developments are happening in this space, so make sure to stay up to date.

### Being your best self

We would like to better support Leaders to be the best they can be, not only

## Scouts Victoria Today



because it's better for our own health, but also we can be better role models for our young people. This means supporting our Leaders through training, through strategy and through program. We want our Leaders to discover their best selves.

### AJ 2022

We want to create and deliver an innovative and exciting AJ2022. There is great work happening with site planning, and the Mutant Camels have really made their mark. The Mutant Camels video series is an idea which came from our youth members and was then developed by youth members (with adult support, of course).

### 2020 - a year to remember

From these initial priorities, we've had some new hurdles to overcome too. With a global pandemic hitting our members and their families hard, we endeavoured to lighten the load any way we could. Our Free Scouting until March 2021 initiative has meant that no Scouting member has needed to give up one of their biggest support systems and social networks during a time when they need it most. We're even more proud to say we've welcomed new members to join in on the fun fee-free too!

### Scouting at Home

Another point of pride this year has been the adaptability and resilience shown by all our members with the smoother than expected transition to Scouting at Home. We may not have been able to meet in our halls or face to face, but that didn't stop us from running engaging programs from Joeys right up to Rovers. With Scouting at Home

lasting much longer than any of us initially anticipated, we were aided by a hard-working team who constantly came up with and distributed new ideas for weekly programs for Units to adapt to their own needs. I would like to commend every single members' efforts for persevering through such an unprecedented year of the Scout program.

### Scout Quest

What a highlight these events have been! Scout Quest has brought the sense of Scouting adventure and inquisitiveness to living rooms across the state, hitting the screens of 155,000 viewers of both Scouting and non-Scouting background. Some of the big hits have been the live instructive sessions like our Cook Along and Consentino's Magic School, where viewers can follow along with the host's instructions and learn by doing right there at home, whilst still interacting with their peers right across the state.

We've also held some inspirational question and answer sessions with Olympians and our very own Scout Australia team from the World's Toughest Race; with our youth members facilitating the live interviews and fielding the questions submitted from the audience. To draw on our own internal resources, we've also hosted presentations from some of the teams here at Scouts Victoria; with Adventurous Activities and First Aid holding informative and useful sessions.

Most recently, our Scout Quest adventure culminated in live events from the RSPCA and Robert Irwin from Australia Zoo! Who doesn't love animals? These events certainly proved popular with our viewers. It may not have been a normal year of adventure for Scouts Victoria, but we sure do know how to keep it interesting.



### Be A Scout

Our #BEASCOUT campaign is taking off! Don't forget to promote what your Group is getting up to, out and about in the community by including the hashtag in your social media posts. The strategy is working, and the movement is gaining momentum. Let's show everyone what it means to be, and why they should #BEASCOUT!

### Kangaree

This event deserves a spotlight, as one of the only events able to run normally this year. It has certainly been many members' favourite part of 2020, and for a good reason! James Warren and his team pulled together an enormous weekend, jam-packed with only the best activities for our littlest members. This Kangaree also had our Joey Scouts camping in tents for the weekend, which was a huge success.

### Looking Forward

With this year finally coming to a close, we all get to start looking forward to 2021 and what our next adventure could be. Restrictions to activities are easing, and hopefully our Scouting calendar will look a lot more like what we're all used to - full of action and adventure. But we need to remain cautious for everyone's safety.

Let's start planning big, bounce back stronger than ever, and kick off an awesome new year of Scouting.





# 2020 in Review

## From Scout's Victoria's Report to Victoria Chairman's Report



**Greg Landgren**

**Chairman  
Branch Executive Committee**

It has been a personal privilege to Chair the Branch Executive Committee this past year. We had no idea it would develop into such a challenging time, with no playbook on what to do next. To witness the energy, skills and time that our Leaders have committed to Scouting this year is humbling.

Into this unheralded time, we welcomed Rod Byrnes as Chief Commissioner and Daniella Taglieri as Deputy Chief Commissioner. Rod and his team have done a sterling job in getting up and running and tackling the big issues strongly and quickly. The Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on Victorian Scouting presented challenges that they and the BEC chose to rapidly respond to. They have used this opportunity to find creative ways to retain and grow our youth membership. All indications are that they have done a sterling job.

The BEC recently discussed its five-year financial plan. This shows how we are challenged by reduced revenue due to Covid-19 and increasing costs of Redress and litigation. It shows how we will tighten areas of expenditure and continue a program of selling underutilised properties to fund new facilities. We remain confident that Scouts Victoria's planning and financial programs have the ability to manage these stresses and to continue to focus on growth.

The Strategic Plan for the next three years of Scouting in Victoria is very close to release. This plan will provide an

opportunity for input and will form the basis upon which we plan, do and review for coming years.

It is likely that Scouts Victoria will make a decision in the next year as to whether we participate in the State Government's Container Deposit Scheme. It appears there is a wide range of options on how Scouting in Victoria might participate in this potentially profitable can and bottle recycling program. This could become a major venture and there will need to be broad input as the options are refined.

Our leadership remains focused on presenting the best possible Scouting program and finding ways to bring Scouting to more youth across all of Victoria. The new program will require the BEC to turn its focus to providing facilities and infrastructure in support. There will be an increased emphasis on the quality and utilisation of our campsites.

The more constrained operating approach will mean that our professional operations, our staff and our IT systems will become key areas of focus. We will look to find ways for these to provide a better service to our members, youth and adult, whilst containing costs.

Government engagement, especially through Executive Manager Jon McGregor, continues to strengthen. Our key Ministers and Departments talk of the resilience we bring to the youth in the State and are in awe of the rapidly rolled out Covid programs.

Litigation and Redress payments continue to feature heavily in our forecasts of expenses. Litigation claims, supported by recent high-profile settlements, are increasing materially in value. We continue to work to ensure that appropriate compensation is made available whilst respecting our survivor members, both past and present.

The staff have worked tirelessly during a difficult year. They have adapted rapidly to the changing work environment.



*Harriet Shing MP with Cub Scouts from West Traralgon at the opening of their new hall.*

Perhaps more importantly they have worked with all parts of the organisation to rapidly evolve and improve the many different areas they are involved in. The past 12 months have not been a time of battering down the hatches to ride out the storm. Rather we have all used the chance to drive the organisation forward. They have never been busier.

During this huge year, Jon McGregor has shown tremendous leadership and we are grateful for his skills and work ethic. He has faced the challenges with energy and creativity.

After many years of service on the Branch Executive Committee, Alex Forrest is not standing again. Alex has always provided tremendous strength and support to our members, especially in his role of Chair of the Group Facilities subcommittee, helping Groups to manage the upgrades to their halls. He will not be lost to Scouting; he is just completing his tenure on the BEC.

Finally, we applaud Neil Comrie as he completes his time as President of the Branch Council. Neil showed tremendous commitment to the role, including his very regular attendance at BEC meetings. He has provided wise and considered counsel to all of us during his time. When Neil spoke, we always knew it worth listening to.



# Camel Trekking With the 1st Cameleer Venturer Unit

In the September school holidays of 2019, Stringybark Venturer Unit, as well as some members of 4th Knox Venturer Unit, embarked on the adventure of a lifetime; a 10 day camel trek through the Flinders Ranges in South Australia with the Flinders and Beyond Camel Trek Company. This trip allowed us to experience the beauty of outback Australia, form friendships, as well as make strong, surprisingly deep emotional connections with the camels themselves.

This trip definitely challenged all of us at some point or another, but every single participant pulled through and has come out the other side better for it, with a great sense of accomplishment and really fantastic and fond memories.

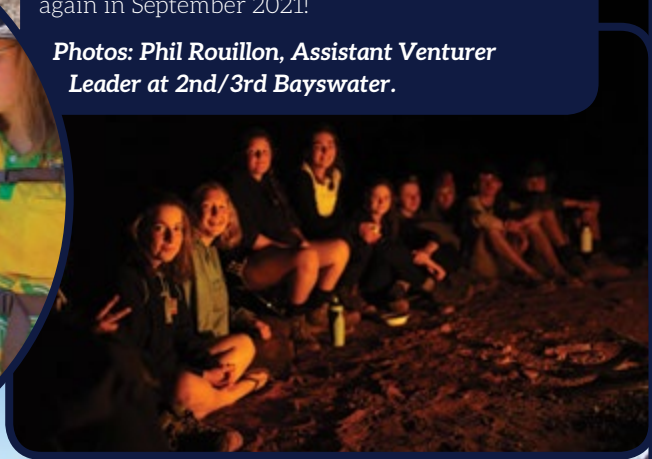
We cemented the friendships we'd made and acknowledge the amazing journey we had all just experienced by founding the 1st Cameleer Venturer Unit. All participants of the tip were invested into the newly formed Unit, even the Camels!

Plans are already being made to run the trek again in September 2021!

**Photos: Phil Rouillon, Assistant Venturer Leader at 2nd/3rd Bayswater.**



Traveling through dry river beds amongst giant river gums.







When loading the camels each morning we had to make sure both bags on each camel weigh approximately the same so as not to over balance.



Lowering fences so we could cross safely with the camels.



At the end of the trek, looking back over the amazing distance they had travelled!



The Venturers are now proud members of the 1st Cameleer Venturer Unit.



# Planning for 2021

Be prepared, as someone famous once said.

No one could have been prepared through the turmoil of 2020, but we adapted and coped.

The next challenge is to be prepared for 2021.

It's that time of year when youth members and Leaders in every Group in Victoria should be planning their 2021 program.



## Joey Scouts

Some ideas from the State Joey Scout Council.

- Have a Unit Council and get your Joey Unit excited for the huge year ahead based on their ideas.
- Everything is possible if you manage the risk, so push your boundaries and help make the Unit's ideas come to life.
- Plan a Unit Camp or a Sleepover make it big, memorable and special. Get your Unit talking about it and assisting to plan.
- MESS IS GOOD! Have a messy night with shaving cream, slime and bags of flour.
- Get out of your hall as often as possible – run your Unit night in a nearby park.
- Have a campfire with lots of singing. Make sure the Unit helps plan and, of course, sets the fire while learning fire safety.
- Plan a bushwalk or hike with your Unit.
- Small Patrol-based rotational activities work great and give your Patrol Leaders a great chance to Lead.
- Ceremonies should be special. Make sure you plan well ahead for investitures, transitions and presentations and have them Youth-Led wherever practical.
- Get out in your community. Go fishing, Aussie Backyard Bird Count, Tree planting, Rogaining.
- With your Unit, plan and plant a veggie patch or trees at your hall.

This means applying the Plan>Do>Review> process, with support from Patrol Discussion and Youth Leading, Adults Supporting resources.

See the sidebar on Resources.

Here are some thoughts on how to tackle this task, plus some ideas from other Leaders.

There are also some specific thoughts for each Section - Joey Scouts to Rovers.

### Who: youth

Scouting today – as it has largely been since Brownsea Island in 1907 – is about youth leading, and adults supporting.

That means that youth members, particularly Patrol Leaders - but also every young voice in your Unit - should be heavily involved in planning your Unit's 2021 program.

It may be worth emphasising to the whole Unit that everyone has a voice in program planning.

Of course, you probably can't have every member of your Unit meeting together to plan next year's program.

It's hard enough with four or five Patrol

Leaders plus a few Leaders.

But it is very useful to begin the program planning at the Patrol level, with short structured exercises led by the Patrol Leader to give everyone a say in what they want to do next year.

The Patrol Discussion schedule will help the PL lead a review of the program cycle just completed and seek activity ideas from the Patrol to take to the Unit Council.

### Who: Leaders

You might start by reviewing the materials on Challenge Area Brainstorming, and Youth Leading, Adults Supporting. There are links in the sidebar on Resources.

Leaders have many roles in planning – gathering resources, teaching youth members how to run planning meetings, and seeing that tasks are followed through.

It is not the Leaders' role to dominate planning or decide on program, but to listen, answer questions, and offer advice when appropriate.

Straight after the Unit Council it can be useful for the Leaders to meet separately for a brief chat (pizza and a drink?) on who's doing what to help the youth achieve their goals.

### When

If you've not already started your 2021 planning, now is the time.

It's best done over a few short meetings, rather than one long, boring, exhausting meeting.

One option is for Patrol Leaders and Leaders to go away for a 24-hour camp and alternate 60- or 90-minute planning sessions with fun activities like swimming, games, meals, or a movie.

The goal should be to end the 2020 Scouting year with a largely planned calendar for 2021.

That means broad highlights like camps and other events for the full year but fine detail likely weekly program for the next term.

Fine planning will still be required for many events through the year, but finalising your 2021 program now will



## Cub Scouts

- Plan an exciting Unit Holiday for term one.
- Aim to have at least two adventurous outdoor activities each term, like a hike in the bush.
- Have an inter-Unit activity with another Unit from your District or Region.
- Catch the train into the city and have lunch on the edge of the Yarra River.
- A movie night with popcorn and ice cream treats.
- A campfire with the Scout Unit with lots of songs and skits.
- Plant some sustainable trees and shrubs around your Scout hall.
- A reverse night where you do everything backwards.
- What can we make with icy poles and rubber bands?
- Water, water and even more water...

take the stress of Leaders next year, and give families adequate notice of your major events.

### Where

Many Units choose to meet in their hall or den.

The advantage is that it close to home, useful resources may be at hand, and it's familiar.

The disadvantage is familiarity and distracting – planning a year's program can benefit from a special setting.

One option is to have two or three meetings over a weekend at the home of a Unit member or Leader.

Or to go away for 24 hours to a Scout camp or the holiday home of a member's family.

### How

There is a range of topics to be considered before you start meeting.

In addition to the topics about, you might consider:

- Who will lead your planning meetings, and who will prepare them for this task
- Who will record your planning meetings (is this the task for a leader so the youth members can focus on discussion?)
- How will you share and promote your program to all your families before the end of the 2020 Scouting year?
- How will you remind all your families in January 2021?
- What resources do you need to have information for your youth members to create a good program?
- Who is looking after food, drink and other catering?
- When will the leaders meet to share their tasks to help support the Unit Council's program?

### Resources

Some items that may be helpful in giving your youth members ideas for their program include:

- The 2021 [Scouts Victoria Program Planner](#)
- Your District program
- Any major Group events (ARAP, group birthday, family camp, sausage sizzles)



- Recent past programs of your own Unit (don't forget past successes)
- The programs of other Units in your district (steal their best ideas)
- Details of Scouts Victoria's adventurous activities programs
- Dates of Scout performing arts performances (Gang Shows and Showtimes)
- A map of Scouts Victoria campsites (is this the year to try something different?)

### Special considerations

The Unit's 2021 program is not just about filling the dates.

Every event on the calendar should have purpose.

For the first few weeks of the new year, this may be about having fun and getting the Unit back together after the summer break.

The last meeting of each term may also be fun - a breakup night that is different every term.

But through much of the year, in addition to fun and friendship, Scouts want to learn new skills and try new things.

Not like school, but in practical ways that challenge and extend them.

## Scouts

- Check out the calendar on the [explorerscouts.com.au](http://explorerscouts.com.au) website for your Patrol activities and State events.
- Register early for Patrol activities to ensure you don't miss out.
- Talk to your District Scout Leader and find out what District events are running as well as organise with your District Unit Council any events you want added to the program.
- Jamboree is running in January 2022, so ensure you have planned four nights consecutive camping as well as the other requirements (Pioneer or Milestone 1).



## Venturers

- All Venturers are encouraged to contribute activity ideas and suggestions, and assist the Unit Council put together a first term program cycle including assigning Leads and Assists.
- Have Venturers investigate course dates and have the Venturers book themselves in.
- Discuss what Outdoor Adventure Skills activities interest the Unit, form Project Patrols to explore an Outdoor Adventure Skills activity and contact the Activity Team to start making plans.
- Plan a Unit Camp or hike to get back outdoors and sign-off Venturer Skills hikes or Outdoor Adventure Skills core skills.
- Reach out to any Scouts that may have aged out and not transitioned to Venturers during the virtual Scouting period. Invite the Scouts to outdoor activities that showcase Venturer activities as adventurous, fun, challenging and inclusive.
- Make sure any awards earned during lockdown are presented, especially any Queen's Scout Awards.

### 1. Our new program

Units are at different stages in implementing the new program with all Scouts expected to have completed the transition to Program Essentials by the end of 2020.

Whether they are well down the path, or relatively new in their transition, an understanding of the new program is essential for all before planning 2021.

We need to ask ourselves: does our program provide opportunities for our youth members to achieve against the structure of the new program.

Remember, Program Essentials is a Scouts core Scouting experience and it's expected that all Scouts will achieve their Program Essentials Milestones regardless of their interest in exploring other aspects of the program such as achieving their peak award.

### 2. AJ 2022

For the Scout Section – and possibly for other members of the Group including Leaders, Venturers and Rovers – the Jamboree in January 2022 will provide a purpose for some of your 2021 program.

Scouts will require to have achieved certain levels in the award scheme, and to have met the camping requirement before the Jamboree.

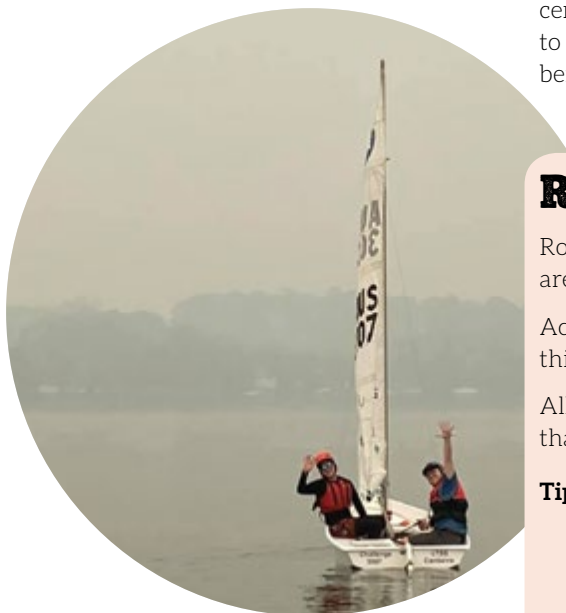


In addition to personal fundraising, most groups will have a fundraising program to benefit all members attending AJ 2022.

There are some ideas on the AJ 2022 fundraising posters.

Remember, it's better to run a few large fundraisers than exhaust everybody with too many small events.

Here are some more planning ideas for each Section from other Leaders.



## Rover Scouts

Rover Scouts are most engaged and activities prove to be most successful when they are planned by the Rovers themselves.

Activities should be hands on and engaging, meeting the interests of the Unit. And this will look different for every Unit as there will be different interests.

All Rovers should be given the opportunity to participate, assist and lead in activities that interest them.

### Tips for Planning

- Write down all of the challenge areas and get the Unit to provide ideas of activities that fit into the Challenge areas.
- Ensure your program includes the Challenge areas covered and who is leading and assisting to each activity.

Activities that should be in your program:

- Inter-Section activities (including linking activities with Venturers).
- Inter-Unit activities (e.g. Region/State events, activities with other local Units).
- Activities that cover all four challenge areas.
- Outdoor activities and adventures.

## Group Leader

Here are three ideas for getting your Group off to a great start in 2021.

### Season launch

One Group, for many years, has begun each new year with a family barbecue. A social gathering for parents, games for children, and often a large-scale water fight.

But the highlight is 5-8 minutes of formality: the Group Leader might introduce an older youth member to talk about coming program highlights across the whole Group, then a few words from the Group Chairman about the Committee's fundraising, maintenance and other projects for the year ahead, and finally another youth member to say thanks to Leaders and parents in anticipation of the great year ahead.



### A night out for the Committee

Christmas is too busy, so some Groups begin the year with a dinner for the key adults in the Group. Leaders and Committee members might pay for their own meals, while the Group provides the drinks. A barbecue at someone's home, or a cheap night at a local restaurant.

### LeaderBuild

The LeaderBuild presentation should be run annually to introduce new parents to the full breadth of Scouting, and invite their participation as Leaders (or Adult Helpers or Committee members).

After the broken year that was 2020, there may be many new parents in your Group who would benefit from a well-run 35-minute LeaderBuild presentation.

Some Groups even ran LeaderBuild successfully online during lockdown. 1st Nunawading recruited seven new Leaders, four Adult Helpers, and one Committee member from a Zoom presentation by an experienced presenter. (A number of Groups have used external presenters from other Groups.)

There is support for Victorian Groups at [leaderbuild@scoutsvictoria.com.au](mailto:leaderbuild@scoutsvictoria.com.au)

Why not use a Leaderbuild night to encourage ideas for the 2021 program?

## Resources

The Achievement Pathways program is supported by valuable resources for both youth and Leaders. We encourage Leaders to visit these resources to expand their program knowledge or as an opportunity to refresh.

Here is a sample of resources to support planning of the Unit's 2021 program which are available on the Scout Victoria Our Program webpage. Also visit [pr.scouts.com.au](http://pr.scouts.com.au) for the full suite of national resources.

### Read

The Patrol Discussion, Program Review> and Planning> Resource Explained

The Patrol Discussion Explained is [here](#).

Patrol Discussion – Program Review> and Planning> template – A step-by-step process for the Patrol to Review> and generate ideas for the next program cycle

The Patrol Discussion template is [here](#).

Youth Leading, Adults Supporting – Scouting is a youth movement.

The Challenge Area Brainstorming poster assists Scouts to come up with activities aligned to the four Challenge Areas.

The Challenge Area Brainstorming poster is [here](#).

Challenge Areas – Our Ideas: this poster resource allows Scouts to allocate their ideas to a Challenge Area. Have the Scouts write their activity ideas on Post-It notes so that activity ideas can be moved around to achieve a balance of Challenge Area activities for the program cycle

Challenge Areas – Our Ideas poster is [here](#).



### Videos

The Scouts Victoria Our Program Resources webpage has a series of useful videos that will assist Scouts understand the important role they have in planning their program. The videos are a “must” view for Leaders.

Videos are available [here](#).

Video topics include:

- Youth Led Programming
- Youth Engagement Across our Age Sections
- The Fundamentals of Scouting
- This is Our Youth Program...
- Our Program Overview
- Program Essentials
- Scouts | Terrain
- Our Program Our Journey



# CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE 2021!

**January**  
Surfmoot



**May**  
Scouthike



**February**  
Anything Goes



**June**  
Mudbash



**July**  
Snow Activities



**March**  
Top Gear  
Venture



**April**  
Cuboree



**June-October**  
Scout Shows







**September**  
Armstrong  
500



## Adventurous Activities

Add some adventure to your program!

- Abseiling
- Air Activities
- Bushwalking
- Paddling (Canoe and Kayak)
- Caving
- Cycling
- Four Wheel Driving
- Radio and Electronics
- Rock Climbing
- Sailing and Power Boating
- Scuba Diving
- Ski Touring
- Water Skiing



**October**  
JOTA

## Scout Shows around Victoria



**November**  
Gilweroo



**December**  
Vic  
Gathering

**VG**  
VIC GATHERING



**January**  
AJ2022





# Abseiling Team

Take a deep breath and make that brave first step over the edge. Abseiling is a thrilling way to explore nature, supported by a rope as you walk your way down a vertical tower, cliff or rock face.

We prepare you for the adventure with the best practical and technical training available, and we're committed to risk management and safety.

Your confidence will build with each step, as you feel secure with your training and equipment, and you start to feel the pride of what you're achieving.

The objective of the State Abseiling Team is to promote abseiling to our youth members and to ensure that all persons conducting these activities do so with the best technical and practical skills and training available.

The Team is committed to providing abseiling activities accessible to all youth sections and supporting leaders in Victoria. Standards and procedures for abseiling within Scouting in Victoria are set and monitored by the State Abseiling Team. The team maintains a high safety standard through the application of effective risk assessment and management procedures.

The State Abseiling Team provides appropriately qualified Activity Leaders and Leaders in Charge of activities that are booked and accessed through either the activity calendar or by making a

private booking. Please note that section leaders booking activities must also abide by the Scouts Victoria requirements of notifying or seeking approval from Group Leaders for outdoor activities.

The State Abseiling Team is running a new set of activities for youth members. The program calendar is updated continuously and is available [here](#). Activities are held over weekends at a variety of locations around Victoria. There are activities for all Sections from Joey Scouts to Rover Scouts throughout the calendar year, with activities being targeted toward particular Sections, depending on the site used. Please check when booking whether the weekend is suitable for your youth Section.

The State Abseiling Team adapted its calendar to include the stages of OAS each activity is aimed at. When booking private events please discuss with us what stage everyone is at and whether we can modify the event to include activities that suits participants needs to help them with their OAS stage.

Section Leaders wishing to become involved in abseiling are welcome to become trained as Leaders thus allowing them to make more abseiling activities available to their youth members.



There are a number of satellite teams that operate under the auspices of the State Team, to conduct local abseiling activities for youth members and Leaders. They can call upon the State Team (and vice versa) for support as and when necessary. The teams, where qualified, will also provide introductory training for anyone interested in progressing to be formally qualified under the State Abseiling Team umbrella.

Abseiling with Scouts is all about fun and adventure, but there are even greater rewards as well.

Formal qualifications as an abseiling instructor are available, with Level 1 and Level 2 courses running throughout the year allowing for people to apply for Abseiling skillsets from Certificate II or III in Outdoor Recreation.

**For information contact State Leader - Abseiling, [state.abseiling@scoutsvictoria.com.au](mailto:state.abseiling@scoutsvictoria.com.au)**

**Other Contacts: Wilson-Nunn Tower (Emerald) [www.emeraldscouts.org.au/feat-abseiling/](http://www.emeraldscouts.org.au/feat-abseiling/)**





# Rock Climbing Team

Take in some amazing scenery, while testing your strength, agility and balance. Your success is literally in your own hands (and toes) as you select grips to climb up, down or across rock formations.

Rock climbing is physically and mentally demanding and it's about to enjoy a new popularity thanks to the sport's inclusion the 2020 Olympics.

You can practise your techniques and build your skills indoors, before taking on the challenges of nature. Or you can start in the great outdoors straight away. Whichever way you choose, it's important to have the right equipment, the right training and the right people around to make it happen safely.

The Outdoor Activities Skills allows all youth to attain skills in Vertical Activities, from a young Joey Scout to an adult Leader.

There are nine levels of Vertical Skills in our program that can be obtained and whilst the Branch Rock Climbing Team predominantly run outdoor climbing activities focused on level 5 and above,

we also offer training and advice for all Section Leaders for levels 1-4.

There are many different ways to tackle a rock face. We mostly work with Top Rope Climbing, either the northern Grampians/ Arapiles or Mt Macedon. It's a similar method to climbing in gyms, but the view is much better when you get to the top.

In Top Roping climbs, the rope is always anchored above the climber. Any fall would only be a short distance, quickly stopped by the rope. It's ideal for beginners because they can concentrate on technique and enjoy progress without too much fear of falling. Advanced climbers also turn to Top Roping when they want to develop new techniques or work on their endurance.

Top Rope Climbing is open for Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders (Cubs linking to Scouts are also accepted). Climbs are available for all experience levels, from the most nervous first timer to gifted climbers. It's all about challenging the participants to gain new skills and to achieve more than they expected.

In order to maintain the quality of the rock-climbing experience, we have to limit the number of participants at top rope activities (15 Participants).



**For bookings or information contact [booking.rockclimbing@scoutsvictoria.com.au](mailto:booking.rockclimbing@scoutsvictoria.com.au)**



# The Great Victorian Online Camp 2020



Tayla from 1st Doncaster East.

## By Steve Ellis

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a difficult and challenging time for most of us, and Scouting has been no different. We have had to adapt and take our programs online.

I was lucky to be a part of an online camp run by Scouts ACT, called Cubornet. This was such an enjoyable experience for the Cubs that I wanted to replicate it in Victoria.

The initial push for a Victorian online camp was for Cubs only, but had no

traction. A second attempt was for it to be an all Section camp for the 1st Seymour Scout Group.

From here, the idea was shared within Tilba Tilba District, and then Plenty Valley Region. Support to spread the word of this online camp was also provided by commissioners. Finally, it was promulgated on the Be Informed newsletter.

I have heard that Leaders and Cubs had the same idea, so you never know what you could do with like-minded people unless you give it a go.

The initial aim was to find those like-minded Leaders who would be willing to run activities. Luckily this was not a problem as many proactive Leaders were willing to contribute to a good cause. Information was sent out to these and many other leaders.

The program was filled quickly, as Leaders stepped forward with activities they wanted to run over a 30 to 40 minute program. Fortunately there was a great variety of activities, ranging from traditional Scouting skill such as navigation, first aid, cooking through



Hamish from 1st Eltham enjoying the campfire.

to the creative such as Lego, magic and making ice-cream.

The program was a perfect balance, including a variety of simpler activities that required less equipment and were run a short time after the start of the other activities in case there were problems with Zoom.

This online camp had a plan from the get-go, but was flexible enough to adapt to the many good ideas floated by Leaders. For example, changing the date of the camp to the middle of the school holidays so that everyone would have a break from Zoom, how we managed information on Facebook, a different design for a parents poll, using Try Booking for badge sales, having an indoor fort challenge and creating a flyer for parents.

## Some tips we learnt from our online camp:

- Have a plan for getting information out there, consider a communications role, and lean on your Scout friends in higher places.
- Select a proportion of activities that are traditional Scouting and others that are creative to achieve a good balance and ensure all age groups are catered for.
- Be flexible, and be open to better ideas. There are plenty out there.
- Facebook was great as a means for parents to share photos of what their Scouts were doing, so that Leaders and fellow parents could see what was happening on the other side of the screen.
- Posting PDFs on Google Drive was better than a PDF straight into Facebook. But, links posted as comments were better than Google Drive links.
- Posting links just before the commencement of activities provided a degree of protection, as they are less likely to be disseminated to third-parties.
- The ideal is a website that only Scout parents can enter using the Scout's registration number, a means to disseminate Zoom links that all parents can receive, and Facebook to share feedback from the camp.
- During the campfire, all Scouts were muted to prevent lag and so all Scouts could hear the Leader. The Leader singing was also spotlighted so everyone could watch the actions for each song.
- Chat was not used unless Scouts were assigned a task. So it was useful to ask questions and get them to put the answers in chat - that reduced spam to almost zero (almost!)
- It was suggested that using the file section of Facebook for programs, timetables, and Zoom logins would be ideal so they don't get lost in the general chat of the site.



Hayley, Annika and Toby from 1st Mansfield participating in the engineering activity.



Choosing how to communicate was straight-forward. Without access to a technical team, it was decided to use Facebook. Everyone has access to this platform, but it was discovered that not everyone chooses to use it. Even then, not everyone who accessed Facebook could open all the information that was posted.

When using Facebook, even as a private group, we had to make sure that only Scout parents were entered. This was achieved by only Leaders entering Scout parents and then confirming what Scout Group each parent was affiliated with. Further, Scouts attending activities were in uniform with the camera on.

Badges are much loved in the Scouting community. A graphic artist was engaged and provided an excellent logo. It was decided that a traditional badge would be better, and so a fun design was created, showing a campfire in a lounge room with a shocked Leader in a monitor.

We used Zoom as our video conferencing service. It has great functionality, and many people are using it for their Scout meetings. We checked to see if any Leaders weren't using it and needed tuition but everyone was good to go. No parents reported having issues once they were able to access the Zoom link, and got into the activity.

All the activities that I logged in to have a look were very well ran. The Leaders were friendly, knowledgeable and passionate. Some had historical notes, interesting information, videos, jokes, provided opportunities for Scouts to provide feedback, and all provided opportunities to learn.

Given how many Scouts were registered, it was decided to run two campfires. The first was for Joeys and young Cubs and the second was for the rest. We had three Leaders sharing the singing, with one Leader including his wife and son.



Reilly and Tameka from 1st Hoppers Crossing making rice paper rolls

**What did some parents think of The Great Victorian Online Camp? As with all Scouting activities, we have Plan-Do-Review. For the review part we asked parents to provide feedback on Facebook. The responses were overwhelmingly positive. Many provided lessons which have been included in the article. Here are some more responses.**

"I loved how kids from all over Victoria could be involved in a bigger experience than their local camps."

"Thanks for organising the event, our household had an awesome time. I think the range of activities was awesome, with something for everyone for each time slot."

"Absolutely fantastic. We had a ball in our house participating over the weekend. The links worked well, we really appreciated that the resources were shared early enough to print out. Really great to see a diverse group of scouts from right across the state join in. Activities did a great job at including all age groups."

"Thank you so much to all involved. It was thoroughly enjoyed by our Scout, who wasn't sure about it beforehand. Had a fabulous weekend. Super well organised and smooth sailing (from our end!)."

"A fantastic, well organized and run event, everyone was so enthusiastic. My kids weren't too sure about it beforehand (Zoom fatigue), but they thoroughly enjoyed every session."

"Feedback wise it would be great to do this every year it opens up scouting to a range of kids that struggle with normal camps. Some kids have difficulties with social and anxiety issues and this allows them to be in their comfort zone while joining in."

"Was wondering if in future years we do this and Cubs could meet at their hall and do as group from there as well as individuals from home."

"Scouting really has helped us all get through this crazy lockdown business."

"They did separate activities then share their experience to each other. It was a great bonding time for them too. And we, as parents absolutely love it as well, seeing them doing activities and helping each other out."

About 432 Scouts registered for this online camp, from 92 different Groups. Not all the Scouts attended all the sessions. 21% were Joeys, 48% Cubs, 29% Scouts and 2% Venturers. We averaged 370 participants for each session of four concurrent activities. A total of 24 activities were run by 34 Leaders. The most popular activity was making ice-cream with 198 participants (not a shock...).

A massive thank you to all the Leaders who contributed to this online camp. Most ran or assisted with activities, some were members of a committee of sorts, many contributed ideas, and one became a Facebook mentor for parents. Well done to you all.

What of the future? A few Leaders have suggested that this could become an annual event, even when we are face

Joseph and Finbar from 1st North Balwyn Murder Mystery.

to face again. An ideal time to try again may be winter, when it is generally too cold and sometimes wet for camping. Keep an eye out for The Great Victorian Online Camp in the future.

**Steve Ellis is DCSL Tilba Tilba and ACSL 1st Seymour.**





# Camp Warringal

## 340 Bruces Creek Road, Whittlesea North

Camp Warringal, the “hidden gem” at the foothills of Mt Disappointment, Whittlesea North.

This well kept, well run campsite sits on 7.2 hectares of land which was recently re-opened in November 2019 after surviving the 2009 bushfires.

The Warringal Centre is a newly constructed purpose built Scout and Community facility consisting of a large hall, kitchen, accommodation, accessible toilets, four meeting rooms, plus ducted wood heating.

This building compliments other buildings that survived the 2009 bushfires which also has accommodation, a kitchen, dining room and a small recreation room with a Jetmaster wood heater.

### Accommodation Options

- Accommodation for 60 people
- Camping for 200
- Two Shelters both with Bunnings style barbeques.
- Non-denominational chapel ideal for Scouts Own, quiet reflection and weddings.

### On-site Activities

- Low climbing wall
- Bush mini golf
- Campfire circle
- Hiking
- Orienteering
- Native wildlife.

### Off-site Activities

- Funfields (Whittlesea)
- Uncle Nev's Horse Riding (Upper Plenty)
- Hiking into Mt Disappointment



For information email [campsite.](mailto:campwarringal@scoutsvictoria.com.au)  
[www.scoutsvictoria.com.au/about-us/  
campsites/camp-warringal/](http://www.scoutsvictoria.com.au/about-us/campsites/camp-warringal/)

Camp Warringal Facebook [www.  
facebook.com/campwarringal/](http://www.facebook.com/campwarringal/)



# Caringal Scout Camp

## 655 Telbit Road, Tyers Junction

Welcome to Caringal. Just 90 minutes from Melbourne you can be in the Gippsland bush ready for adventure.

Caringal is open to Scout Groups as well as the general public, with discounts being offered to Scouts.

There's so much to do and so little time to do it you'll just want to return!

Nestled in a quiet opening we have a consecrated chapel that is very popular for Weddings and vow renewals - packages are available.

There are a whole range of activities both on and off site and the Warden can give you help and details.

## Accommodation Options

- Bunk house - Including lounge, four rooms with six beds, one room with two, 26 beds in total.
- Lodge - Including kitchen, one room with six beds, one room with four beds, ten beds in total
- Rover Hut - Including ten beds
- Bert Spackman Lodge - Including six beds
- Leader Hut - Including kitchen and two beds
- Patrol sites - 100 sites, four powered sites
- Over 45 campsites
- A large mess hall is a caterers dream.

## On-site Activities

- Climbing Wall
- Abseiling Tower
- Obstacle course
- Fishing
- Swimming
- Tube 'rafting' (depending on river flow)
- Archery
- Walking
- Cycling and dirt bike trails
- Four Wheel Driving tracks
- Bird spotting

## Off-site Activities

- Mt Baw Baw and Mt St Gwinear resorts for snow activities - accommodation is far cheaper at Caringal.
- Water activities on Blue Rock dam or white water raft on the Thompson river.
- Learn the history of the area. Visit Walhalla gold mining town.



For information email [campsite.caringal@scoutsvictoria.com.au](mailto:campsite.caringal@scoutsvictoria.com.au)  
[www.scoutsvictoria.com.au/about-us/campsites/caringal-scout-camp/](http://www.scoutsvictoria.com.au/about-us/campsites/caringal-scout-camp/)

Visit [www.caringalscoutcamp.com.au](http://www.caringalscoutcamp.com.au) and click on the Scout page.



# LOCAL LOOK

Send photos and captions to [editor@australianscout.com.au](mailto:editor@australianscout.com.au)

## Scouts celebrate Father's Day on Zoom

Scouts and their Dads came together for our Zoom meeting on the first Tuesday after Father's Day. With lockdown preventing us mixing together, we still wanted to have the Scouts and their Dads doing an activity at home.

During the week, Leaders had organised materials for two projects for Scouts and Dads to do together. Two weeks earlier, we'd had a Zoom visit from Barb who runs the Winchelsea Wildlife Shelter. Barb gave us heaps of information about the wildlife she has encountered in her rescue work, why wildlife needs rescuing and how animals are later released back into the wild.

Over time, Barb has had heaps of animals in her care – possums, birds, lizards, bats and koalas. While in Barb's care, the possums live in possum boxes. When the possums are released into the bush, their artificial homes go with them and are secured in trees in suitable areas.

Our projects for our Dad's night were wooden possum boxes for larger possums and dreys for smaller ringtails. One of our dads cut the timber into kit form, and the kits and the hanging baskets for the dreys were dropped off at the homes of our Scouts. On the night Scouts and their Dads put together the hanging baskets together and built their possum boxes, proudly displaying them over Zoom. Over the next week, the Scouts painted them in camouflage colours.

This program ticked lots of boxes in terms of badgework for the Scouts, provided an avenue for some 'normal' type Scout/Dad activity and supported an organisation within our local community.



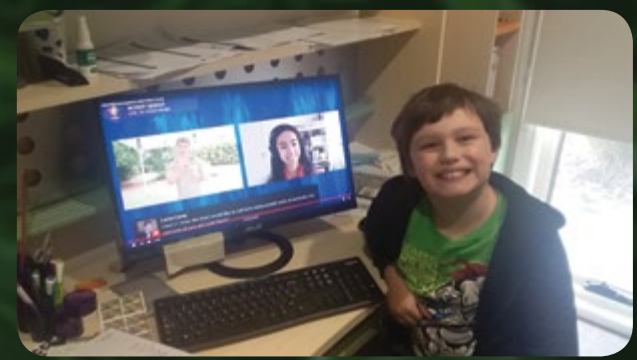
Ethan delivering his drey and box to Barb at her Wildlife Rescue Shelter.



**1st Traralgon**  
1st Traralgon celebrated 30 Years of Joey Scout with a pirate party!



A brand new Joey Scout and Scout from Waverley Valley Scout Group enjoying Robert Irwin's Scout Quest.



Jonah also enjoyed the Robert Irwin session.



## Zooming to the UK

1st Woodend Joey Scouts, together with their friends from 1st Romsey Joeys, recently Zoomed all the way to the UK to meet their Beaver Pen Pals from 109th Leicester Countesthorpe St Andrews Scouts.

The Joeys and Beavers had been writing to one another for a couple of months and the annual JOTI/JOTA event was the perfect opportunity to enhance the Joey's global citizenship and develop friendships.

Thirty seven little Zoom screens made for a busy but fun meeting for all participants.

The online session started with the traditional opening 'HELLO' for the Beavers, followed by the Joey 'HOP'. Straight into a gratitude scavenger hunt, running to find their favourite spread for toast, book, teddy, sports team merchandise and toy. This prompted an interesting discussion on the difference between Marmite and Vegemite, as well as the variety of different sporting teams supported by the Joeys and Beavers.

Next on the agenda was show and tell in the breakout rooms where Joeys partnered with their



Pen Pals to 'meet' their new friends. The Joeys shared something unique to their country, their favourite Scouting memory, or simply something they loved and wanted to share.

The sessions finished with the Beaver 'GOOD NIGHT' (despite it being morning in the UK) and the Joey Scout HOP. It was a whirlwind experience but fantastic for everyone who attended. Both the Joeys and Beavers are looking forward to their next online meeting together.



**Jo McIntyre, Cubs Commissioner - Northern Region came up with a little Covid Christmas carol. It is a summary of terms on Zoom in the Cub Scout Section.**

**On the first day of Covid, a Cub Scout said to me** - why can't I climb a gum tree?

**On the second day of Covid, a Cub Scout said to me** - 2 missed emails why can't I climb a gum tree?

**On the third day of Covid, a Cub Scout said to me** - 3 lost connections, 2 missed emails and why can't I climb a gum tree?

**On the fourth day of Covid, a Cub Scout said to me** - 4 Mum can't do it, 3 lost connections, 2 missed emails and why can't I climb a gum tree?

**On the fifth day of Covid, a Cub Scout said to me** - 5 please ask your Dad - 4 Mum can't do it, 3 lost connections, 2 missed emails and why can't I climb a gum tree?

**On the sixth day of Covid, a Cub Scout said to me** - 6 I'm late Akela, 5 please ask your Dad, 4 Mum can't do it, 3 lost connections, 2 missed emails and why can't I climb a gum tree?

**On the seventh day of Covid, a Cub Scout said to me** - 7 check your program, 6 I'm late Akela, 5 please ask your Dad, 4 Mum can't do it, 3 lost connections, 2 missed emails and why can't I climb a gum tree?

**On the eighth day of Covid, a Cub Scout said to me** - 8 forgot my scarf, 7 check your program, 6 I'm late Akela, 5 please ask your Dad, 4 Mum can't do it, 3 lost connections, 2 missed emails and why can't I climb a gum tree?

**On the ninth day of Covid, a Cub Scout said to me** - 9 online badges, 8 forgot my scarf, 7 check your program, 6 I'm late Akela, 5 please ask your Dad, 4 Mum can't do it, 3 lost connections, 2 missed emails and why can't I climb a gum tree?

**On the tenth day of Covid, a Cub Scout said to me** - 10 I can't unmute myself, 9 online badges, 8 forgot my scarf, 7 check your program, 6 I'm late Akela, 5 please ask your Dad, 4 Mum can't do it, 3 lost connections, 2 missed emails and why can't I climb a gum tree?

**On the eleventh day of Covid, a Cub Scout said to me** - 11 I am over Zoom, 10 I can't unmute myself, 9 online badges, 8 forgot my scarf, 7 check your program, 6 I'm late Akela, 5 please ask your Dad, 4 Mum can't do it, 3 lost connections, 2 missed emails and why can't I climb a gum tree?

**On the twelfth day of Covid, a Cub Scout said to me** - 12 days until we go outside, 11 I am over Zoom, 10 I can't unmute myself, 9 online badges, 8 forgot my scarf, 7 check your program, 6 I'm late Akela, 5 please ask your Dad, 4 Mum can't do it, 3 lost connections, 2 missed emails and why can't I climb a gum tree?



# Adults in Scouting

## Long Service Awards

### August

#### 5 Years

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**Katrina Balzat**, Adult Helper, Lynden Park

**Olympia Baniyas**, Adult Helper, 1st North Balwyn

**Luke Clair**, Adult Helper, Berwick Central

**Jess Cook**, ASF-Ballararat

**Matthew Cullen**, ACSL, 2nd/6th Hawthorn

**Dean Currey**, Group Support Committee Property Maintenance, 1st Echuca

**Narelle Currey**, PJSL, 1st Echuca

**Vanessa Cutcliffe**, ACSL, 1st Greenhills

**Thomas Di Palma**, JSL, Epping North

**Phi Dinh**, ACSL, Hoa Lu

**Ian Dorward**, Camp Committee Member, Clifford Park

**Leah Echanes**, Group Secretary, 2nd Lara

**Jacob Granek**, ACSL, 10th Caulfield

**Susan Gray**, Adult Helper, 2nd Lara

**Yvette Gregorovich**, Adult Helper, 2nd Springvale

**Liz Hodgkinson**, Group Support Committee Member, Rosanna

**Rachel Janson**, ACSL, 1st/14th Brighton

**Helene Kamieth**, Group Rostered Parent, 1st The Basin

**Nils Kvalheim**, ASF-Adventurous Activities

**Hamish Lahiff-Jenkins**, ASL, 1st Reservoir

**Tim Lee**, Provisional District Leader - Scouts, Sherbrooke Forest District

**Tim Mallett**, Adult Helper, 2nd Lara

**Belinda May**, JSL, Narre Warren South

**Michelle Morley**, PVL, 1st Beaconsfield

**Thuy Nguyen**, AJSL, Hoa Lu

**Nicole Pouw**, AVL, 1st Inverloch

**Phil Pram**, ASL, Allansford

**Anna Raftry**, Group Secretary, 1st Echuca

**Kathrine Rix**, Group Treasurer, 1st Caroline Springs

**Nick Rix**, Group Rostered Parent, 1st Caroline Springs

**Paul Sadler**, PGL, 3rd Beaumaris

**David Sporle**, Group Support Committee Member, 1st Upwey

**Yvonne Tomkins**, Group Support Committee Member, 2nd/3rd Bayswater

**John Turnbull**, Group Rostered Parent, 1st Ivanhoe Sea Scouts

**Karina Walker**, CSL, Benalla

**Janet Wason**, Group Support Committee Fundraising, 1st Cobden

**Danielle Watson**, ASF-Moonee Valley

**Matthew Weller**, ACSL, 1st Gisborne

**Dianne Zammit**, Group Treasurer, 1st Taylors Lakes

#### 10 Years

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**Bazza Adams**, ASL, 1st Hurstbridge

**Nadine Balfour**, ASL, 1st Glengarry

**Ross Beggs**, PASL, 1st Upwey

**Trevor Bell**, ASF-Mafeking Rover Park

**Marg Broadbent**, ASF-Police Scouters

**Raquel Browne**, ACSL, 1st Mitcham

**Benjamin Cardinal**, ASL, 3rd/4th Colac

**Eric Churchill**, PAVL, 1st Yarrunga

**Ailsa Cooke**, Provisional District Leader - Cub Scouts, Casey District

**Lorna Dent**, CSL, Croydon Central

**Phillip Doyle**, PSL, 4th Knox

**Anthony Evans**, PAGL, Viewbank

**Robert Gollan**, ASL, 1st Yackandandah

**Tony Gustus**, VL, Baden Powell Park

**Melinda Gustus**, Group Support Committee Member, Baden Powell Park

**Samantha Hamilton**, SL, 1st Gembrook

**John Iverson**, SL, 1st Wodonga

**Amanda Kelsall**, Group Secretary, 1st Bennettswood

**Rachael Luke**, PGL, 1st Sandringham

**Anna Nieuwerth**, Group Chairman, 1st Wodonga

**Linda Schulz**, Trainee Rover Advisor, 4th Horsham

**Terry Spencer**, ASF-Banyule

**Aaron Sytema**, District Property Officer, Werribee Plains District

**Paul Worsnop**, District Leader - Chaplain, Whitehorse District

#### 15 Years

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**Bryan Ackerly**, TAAL, Radio & Electronics Team

**Steven Beshara**, Provisional District Leader - Cub Scouts, Macedon Ranges District

**Stephen Boujean**, District Executive Committee Member, Djerriwarrh District

**Rob Box**, Group Support Committee Property Maintenance, 1st Chelsea Heights

**Daryl Bullen**, ASF-Yarra Ranges

**David Farrell**, GL, 1st Castlemaine

**Ruth Gilbert**, ACSL, 1st Anakie

**Kerrie Hibbins**, Group Support

Committee Fundraising, 1st Maryborough  
**Quinn McLean**, Camp Manager, Cooina Burrong Scout Camp

**Enid McMillan**, District Personnel Committee Member, Wimmera District

**Leslie Miles**, ACSL, 1st Kallista

**Peter O'Donoghue**, Group Treasurer, 1st Bennettswood

**Susan O'Malley**, ACSL, 1st Glengarry

**Brian Parfrey**, SL, Hamilton

**Travis Rigoni**, RA, 1st Craigieburn

**Andrew Rothwell**, ASF-Gilwell Park

**Michael Sterling**, ASF-Nillumbik

#### 20 Years

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**Douglas Clarence**, Provisional Assistant Adventurous Activity Leader - Abseiling, Abseiling Team

**Daryl Clark**, Camp Committee Member, Cooina Burrong Scout Camp

**Jody Freeman**, Project Commissioner, Vic Branch

**Margaret Keech**, Provisional District Leader - Cub Scouts, Bendigo District

**Terry Lambert**, PGL, 1st Ferny Creek

**Lisa Wright**, Group Treasurer, Whitehorse Showtime

#### 25 Years

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**Chris Allan**, Provisional District Leader - Development, Monash District

**Peter Baranow**, ASL, 10th Ivanhoe

**Barbara Kelly**, Group Support Committee Member, 3rd/4th Colac

#### 30 Years

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**Ikki Millear**, ASF-Moreland-Darebin

**Peter Newell**, ASF-South Western

**David Smith**, AGL, 1st Belmont

#### 35 Years

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**Robert Bradley**, TACSL, 1st Oak Park

**Elaine Connolly**, AGL, Moodemere

**John Fry**, SL, 1st Mount Clear

#### 45 Years

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**Robert Motton**, State Commissioner - Gang Show, Vic Branch

**Bruce Venville**, ASF-Central Committee Member, Vic Branch

#### 55 Years

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**Michael Baden-Powell**, State Commissioner - Special Duties, Vic Branch

**Raymond Weston**, Honorary Commissioner, Honorary Commissioners



## 60 Years

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**Doug Pittard**, District Heritage Team, Ballarat District

## October

### 5 Years

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**Matthew Absolom**, PVL, 1st Belgrave South

**Annette Badham**, Adult Helper, 1st Rowville

**Ruth Baker**, ASF-Boroondara

**Craig Benson**, Adult Helper, Wurringga

**Johannah Boyce**, PASL, Sale

**Susan Bromage**, Group Rostered Parent, 1st Ranelagh

**Sarah Brook**, Group Rostered Parent, 6th Melbourne

**Ben Browning**, District Executive Committee Member, South Gippsland District

**Dion Chapman**, PVL, Epping North

**Luke Cornelius**, Branch Council Member (4E) - Elected Lay Member, Vic Branch

**Christopher Davis**, AVL, 1st Strathmore

**Solomon Dent**, ASL, 1st Oak Park

**Nyree Dewis**, Group Support Committee Fundraising, 1st Moe

**Aaron Donnelly**, ACSL, 2nd Werribee

**Jude Faliszewski**, ASL, Pakenham

**David Forbes**, ASL, 1st Drouin

**Rebecca Gibbs**, Adult Helper, Waverley Valley

**David Gnieslaw**, ACSL, 10th Caulfield

**Hamish Green**, ASL, 1st Point Cook

**Kim Green**, Group Support Committee Member, 1st Point Cook

**Kirstyn Hall**, PAVL, 5th Ballarat

**Troy James**, ASL, Hazel Glen

**Sam Kaye**, Group Rostered Parent, 1st The Basin

**Jackie King**, Group Chairman, 1st Werribee

**Nansi Kunze**, Group Rostered Parent, 1st Trafalgar

**Cass Lamb**, ASL, 1st Wendouree

**Brad Male**, ACSL, 1st Knoxfield

**Sarah Marriott**, ACSL, 1st Lilydale

**Linda Martin**, Group Treasurer, 1st Eltham North

**Stacey Maughan**, ACSL, 1st Sth Frankston

**Ken McAlister**, ACSL, 1st/14th Brighton

**Sue McCracken**, AJSL, 1st Coburg

**James McCrory**, Group Rostered Parent, 5th Brunswick

**John McDonald**, Provisional District Leader - Cub Scouts, South Western District

**Duncan McKimm**, Adult Helper, Wonga Park

**Toni McMahan**, ASL, 1st Maryborough

**Hamish McMichael**, Adult Helper, 9th Box Hill

**Robyn Meade**, ASL, Portland

**Tamara Mercer**, Group Treasurer, 1st Yarrunga

**May Nelson**, AJSL, 3rd Wodonga

**Michelle Nokes**, ACSL, 2nd Mildura

**Chewy Padgham**, GL, Warrandyte

**Lorraine Park**, AJSL, 1st Werribee

**Cam Pearce**, Venturer Scout Commissioner - Region, Vic Branch

**Kylie Pepyat**, ASL, 1st Lower Plenty

**Sharrena Pires**, Adult Helper, 1st Keilor Village

**Sarah Prossor**, ASF-Rover Fellowship

**Michael Rawson**, Group Support Committee Fundraising, 1st Moe

**Jason Rogers**, Adult Helper, 2nd Melton

**Marty Rowley**, Group Rostered Parent, 1st Eltham

**Lucas Russell**, Provisional Scout Leader, 1st Alexandra

**James Russell**, ACSL, 1st Greythorn Park

**Dale Sebire**, Group Support Committee Member, 4th Ringwood

**Jodie Skeels**, PJSL, Moodemere

**Jenny Stannard**, Group Support Committee Member, QM Resources

**Sophie Taylor**, ACSL, 1st The Basin

**Duncan Thompson**, PCSL, Viewbank

**Lisa Van Meurs**, ASF-Mafeking Rover Park

**Philip Walford**, Group Rostered Parent, 5th Brunswick

**Allison Walker**, PJSL, 1st/2nd Ocean Grove

**Tanya Wright**, Adult Helper, Watsonia

**Gina Zumbo**, Honorary Commissioner, Catholic Regional College Sydenham

### 10 Years

---

**Robert Adamson**, AVL, 1st Glen Iris

**Jason Browne**, ACSL, 1st Taylors Lakes

**John Buchanan**, Group Support Committee Member, 1st Tootgarook

**Rob Chrisfield**, PAVL, 1st City Of Camberwell

**Kate Corrigan**, Group Secretary, 1st Newborough

**Tyrell Cramond**, AVL, Bailey Reserve

**Martine Currie**, Adult Helper, 1st Maroondah

**Phil Fisher**, AJSL, 1st Gembrook

**Sheryl Ford**, Group Support Committee Fundraising, 1st Maryborough

**Joe Gulino**, Group Chairman, Leopold

**Daniel Gutsell**, ASL, 1st Nunawading

**Lyndal Haffenden**, VL, 1st Wallan Wallan

**Benjamin Hodder**, SL, 1st Barwon

**Alex Hoppen**, ASL, 1st Kyabram

**Allan Lamb**, ASF-Casey

**Cate Leslie**, Provisional District Leader - Scouts, Banyule District

**Helen Lulofs**, Group Rostered Parent, 2nd Mornington Sea Scouts

**Peter Luu**, ASL, Yet Kieu Sea Scouts

**Ken McLean**, VL, 1st Malvern

**Megan Merrillees**, Group Rostered Parent, 7th Ringwood

**Tracey Mitchell**, ACSL, Croydon Central

**Lynne Paterson**, ACSL, Mont Albert North

**Greg Pratt**, Group Rostered Parent, 2nd Mornington Sea Scouts

**Terry Prudden**, ASL, 2nd Mornington Sea Scouts

**Karen Rogers**, Group Chairman, 2nd Glen Waverley

**Sue Young**, ASF-Strzelecki

### 15 Years

---

**Chris Ballard**, DC, Moreland-Darebin District

**Terry Better**, ASL, 15th Brighton

**Leon Dent**, SL, 1st Stratford

**Peter Donaldson**, ASF-Banyule

**Belinda Dowel**, GL, 1st Eltham

**Bob Edwards**, AAAL - Rockclimbing, Rock Climbing Team

**Meredith Gallagher**, Group Rostered Parent, 1st Strathfieldsaye

**Fotakis Georgiou**, PCSL, Moodemere

**Sherreill Hansen**, Office Bearer, 1st/14th Brighton

**Russell Jenkins**, Group Rostered Parent, 6th Melbourne

**Janice Lawlor**, CSL, 1st Nunawading

**Hugh Maclaren**, PVL, 4th Williamstown Sea Scouts

**Maureen Marshall**, Group Support Committee Member, 2nd Footscray

**Hong-An Nguyen**, ACSL, Yet Kieu Sea Scouts

**Lothar Ploss**, Adult Helper, 4th Williamstown Sea Scouts

**Mic Smedley**, AVL, Berwick Central

**Dean Spicer**, CSL, 1st Heatherdale

**Lyn West**, CSL, Watsonia

### 20 Years

---

**Scott Baillie - Martin**, RA, 1st Werribee

**Alex Brunacci**, AAAL - Canoeing, Paddling Team



**Nick Bywater**, ASL, 1st/3rd Cheltenham  
**Regi Caesar**, Assistant State  
Commissioner - Rovers, Vic Branch  
**Helene Deahl**, GL, 3rd Williamstown  
**Alicia Gaitan**, CSL, 1st Altona  
**Ross Gardner**, ASF-Banyule  
**Rob Graham**, ASL, 1st Wantirna South  
**Noel Hendrickson**, ASF-Ballarat  
**Drew Holst**, AVL, 7th Ballarat  
**Adam Wookey**, ASF-Strzelecki

### 25 Years

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**Jenny Birthisel**, AVL, 2nd/3rd Bayswater  
**Gerald Davis**, District Executive  
Committee Member, Boroondara District  
**Lynette Fairweather**, JSL, Narre Warren  
**Rodney Jones**, District Personnel  
Committee Convener, Boroondara District  
**Greg Lanyon**, Adult Helper, 13th Malvern  
**Stephen Milne**, ACSL, 1st Hoppers  
Crossing  
**Gavin Mulholland**, State Leader -  
Abseiling, Abseiling Team  
**Forde Nicolaidis**, Group Rostered Parent,  
6th Box Hill  
**Greg Tyrrell**, PAVL, 1st Alfredton

**Greg Wiener**, PRA, 7th Ballarat  
**Robert Wilson**, Adult Helper, 2nd/3rd  
Bayswater

### 30 Years

---

**Bruce Ellis**, State Leader - Scuba, Scuba  
Team  
**Marsha Ellis**, ASF-Macedon Ranges  
**Michelle Grierson**, Project Leader - Adult  
Appointments, Vic Branch  
**Jim Johnson**, District Executive Property,  
Frankston District

**Ted Linnell**, PCSL, 1st Nunawading  
**Peter MacLennan**, ASF-Treetops  
**Lorraine Nicholson**, PGL, 1st Diamond  
Creek

### 35 Years

---

**Matt Anderson**, GL, 1st Croydon Hills  
**Alistair Horne**, Assistant State  
Commissioner - At&D - Leader Of Youth,  
Vic Branch  
**Geoff Peacock**, ASF-Yarra Ranges  
**Marion Rhead**, SL, 1st Epping

### 40 Years

---

**David Bossen**, Project Commissioner -  
Gap Year, Vic Branch

**Michael Judd**, District Personnel  
Committee Member, Upper Murray  
District

**Peter Rutley**, State Commissioner -  
Campsites, Vic Branch

**Marg Shawcross**, ASF-Goulburn Murray

### 45 Years

---

**Stephen Condron**, CSL, 4th Brunswick  
**Maureen Rumble**, ASF-Yarra Ranges

### 50 Years

---

**Stan Laughter**, District Vice Chairman,  
Glen Eira Stonnington District  
**Grant Morrow**, SL, Manningham Tende  
Beck  
**Ian Shepherd**, District Executive  
Committee Member, Whitehorse District

### 55 Years

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**Kevin Eddy**, Scout Foundation Fellow,  
Honorary Commissioners

### 60 Years

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**Kingsley Davis**, Scout Foundation  
Member, Victorian Scout Foundation

## Wood Badge Awards

### August

#### Cub Scout

---

**Rebekah Grubb**, ACSL, 7th Cheltenham

#### District Leader/Commissioner

---

**Calum Dyer**, District Leader - Venturers,  
Maroondah District

**Wendy Byrnes**, DC, Nillumbik District

**Paul Van Bergen**, DC, Mornington  
Peninsula District

**Alan Richmond**, State Commissioner -  
Adventurous Activities, Vic Branch

#### Joey Scout

---

**Sunny Aguilar**, AJSL, 9th Brunswick

#### Scout

---

**Sara Southam**, ASL, 1st Alexandra

#### Venturer

---

**Charles Caldwell**, Provisional District  
Leader - Venturers, Casey District

**Thomas Harrold**, AVL, 1st Drysdale

### September

#### Cub Scout

---

**Patrick Cuddihy**, ACSL, 1st Kew

**Tim Aston**, ACSL, 1st Queenscliff

**John Pleasants**, ACSL, 1st Craigieburn

#### Rover

---

**Catherine Marley**, TASL, 1st Craigieburn

#### Scout

---

**Damien Hort**, ASL, Heathmont

**Angela Toomey**, ASL, 1st Inverloch

**Su Rogerson**, ASL, 9th Brunswick

#### Venturer

---

**Julie D'Amore**, GL, Wonga Park

**Stuart Steiner**, AVL, Wonga Park

**Narelle Lowdell**, State Commissioner -  
OAS Leader Support, Vic Branch

### October

#### Cub Scout

---

**Scott Hart**, PCSL, 3rd Wodonga

**Diane Webster**, ACSL, 1st Ashburton

#### District Leader/Commissioner

---

**Diana Swift**, Assistant Chief  
Commissioner - Program, Vic Branch

**Terry Marshall**, District Leader -  
Development, Sherbrooke Forest  
District

**Jesse Carter**, State Commissioner -  
Communication, Vic Branch

**Michelle Saffin**, Victorian Rover Council  
Chair, Vic Branch

**Steve Weaver**, Provisional District Leader  
- Cub Scouts, Moreland-Darebin District

**Damien Kuzek**, DC, Casey District

#### Group Leader

---

**Catherine White**, PGL, 5th Footscray

**Glen Crawford**, PGL, Viewbank

#### Scout

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**Maddy Willcock**, ASL, Richmond

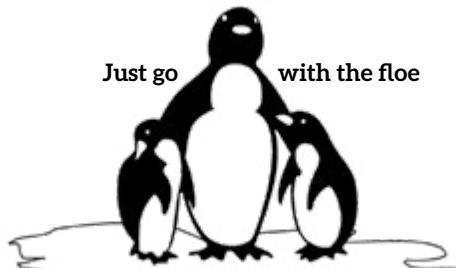
**Craig Byron**, ASL, Pakenham





# The 1st WINDY VALLEY

Just go with the floe



# Monthly BLAST

December 2020

When too much resilience is barely enough

Edition 147

## An even better 2021

What could possibly beat a year of Zoom, Kahoots, backyard backwoodsmanship, and badges presented by Australia Post? Answer: Almost anything.

So our Sections have been busy planning something special ...

**Joey's:** The Joey's have formed into four Patrols called Chilli, Bandit, Bingo, and Bluey. It could have been worse. 1st North Windy Valley Joey's have grouped themselves into the Seven Deadly Sins.

**Cubs:** The Cubs have been asked to stop dumping their unwanted craft and burned biscuits at the Baden-Powell Home for Bewildered Former Scout Leaders. This year they have a new project: Adopt-a-Brownie. We're running this one past the Group Committee's ethics sub-committee.

**Scouts:** With Bosun McPrussick on psoriasis leave, Nackers Magillacuddy is CRASL (Casual Relief Assistant Scout Leader). He's brought back the Lord of the Flies camp, last run in 1953. Armed only with a Bowie knife and a roll of twin-ply, Scouts will be dropped in the Little Desert and probably picked up some time later. (Almost certainly.)

**Venturers:** Term 1 begins with their traditional preparation for a hard year of school: yoga, tai chi, meditation, massage, and way too much incense. Term 2 is healthy body, healthy mind: judo, jujitsu, sumo, naginatajutsu and origami. Venturers will learn how to fold an attacker into a swan. Term 3 is Hanging in the Venturer Den. Term 4 is Exam Panic followed by Scouties Week.

**Rovers:** To make up for 2020, the Ritalin twins have organised a surfing weekend, a waterskiing camp, Mudbash buggy maintenance, guest speakers on personal finance, a dinner party with the Olaves, and a working bee at the District camp at Lake Miasma. And that's just January.

Plus weekly training for the big event of the year - our annual ten pin bowling night with the Joey's. So far it's 15-0, but the Rovers are quietly confident that this is their year to triumph.



### Scouts Victoria

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**Patron**  
Linda Dessau AC  
Governor of Victoria

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Neil Comrie AO APM

**Chairman**  
Greg Landgren

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#### Deputy Chief Commissioner

Daniella Taglieri

#### Assistant Chief Commissioners

Alan Harding  
Matty McKernan  
Lisa Picking  
Diana Swift  
Michael Thomas  
Jason O'Donnell

#### Immediate Past Chief Commissioner

Brendan Watson OAM

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**Geelong** LIC Wayne Gunn OAM  
**Gippsland** Phoebe Hicks (acting)

#### Lerderberg LIC Wayne Gunn OAM

**Loddon Mallee** LIC Dan Cliff

**Melbourne** Roy Kaplan

**Mt Dandenong** Brett Cole

**Northern** Darren Leckie

**Plenty Valley** LIC Damion Toes

**West Coast** Robert Rowe

**Western** Ian Lock

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AJ2022 is going to be the experience of a lifetime for over 8500 Scouts! Participants will be encouraged to Take it to the Next Level with 10 days of incredible activities & entertainment. There will be a mix of onsite, offsite and night activities with something on offer for everyone.

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