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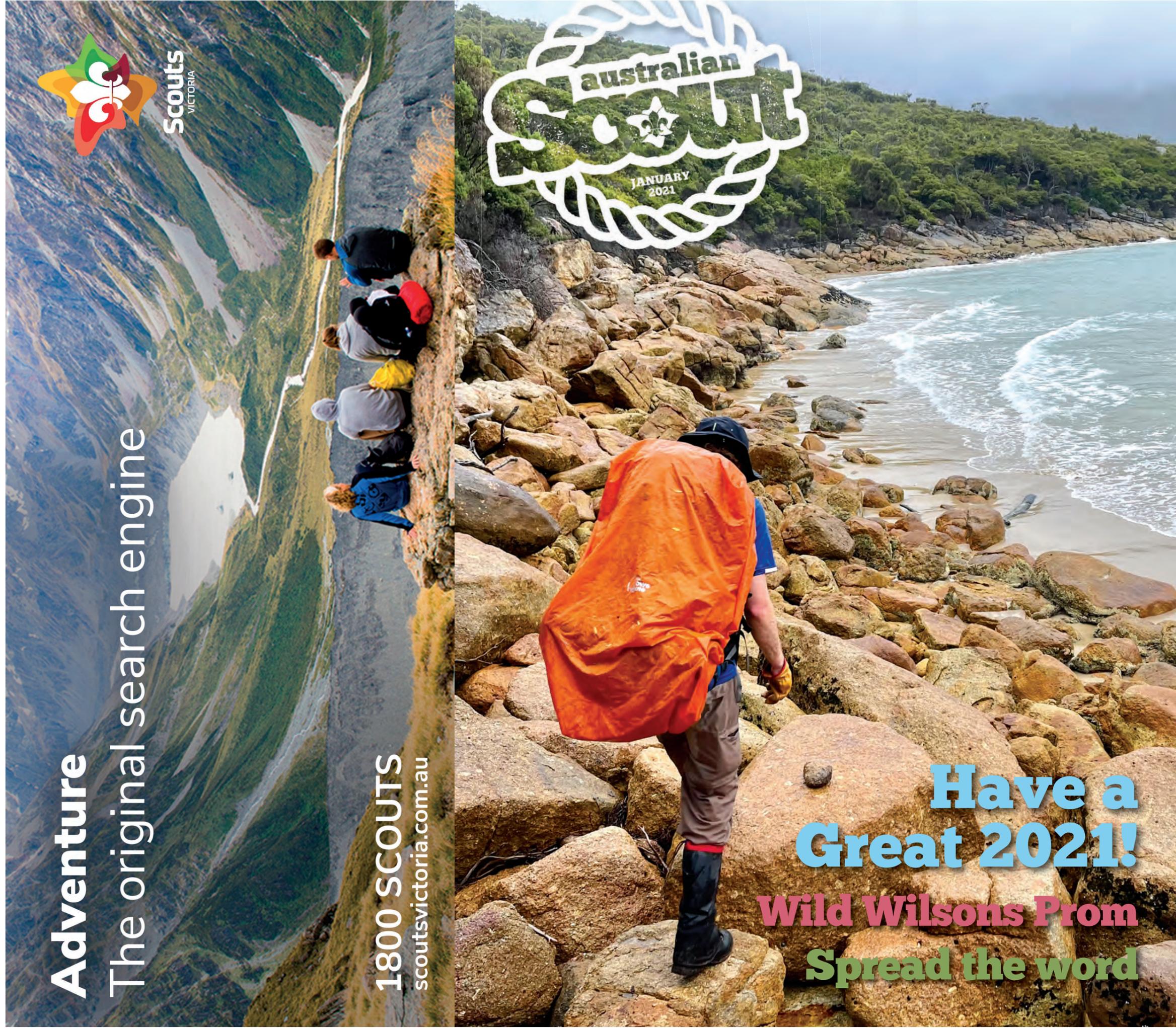
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The 1st WINDY VALLEY



Just go with the floe

Monthly BLAST

January 2021

When too much resilience is barely enough

Edition 148

The Group boosts its local profile

By the GROUP LEADER

With the launch of a new year, it's time the Group had an image makeover.

Yes, I know I've been saying that every year since the Second Boer War.

But this time it's different. I've challenged every Section to make one contribution to making our Group's name known throughout the local community. Extra marks if it's in a positive way.

The Joeys want special signage. Every Group has signs on the front of the hall or nearby street poles. But we will be recognised from space!

Our youngest Scouts have been up on the roof of the hall, with brushes and buckets of paint, singing and whistling as they worked, without a care in the world, or even scaffolding.

Check out the roof of our hall in the next iteration of Google satellite view. Standing proud in two-metre letters: "1st Wendy Valeey is the beast".

(Unfortunately paint brushes don't have spell checkers.)

Meanwhile the Cubs have pooled their pocket money to invest in paid social media. We believe we may be the first Scout Group in Australia to have our own influencer.

Expect a flood of magazine covers, theatre premieres and elite sporting events showing our influencer at work. With a "1st Windy Valley" nametape lightly tattooed on her right bicep.

The Scouts decided to do something about online bullying. I assumed they meant against it. It turned out to be a series of Tik Tok videos based on 1st North Windy Valley patrols at last year's Rambo Simpson Funboree. Their Group Leader has lodged an official protest but I told him I still have that video of him at the District breakup and if he doesn't pipe down, I'll turn him into a viral sensation. Kids! Where do they get it from?

The Venturers have made a music video, a nihilistic lament called 'Necromancy in the Q-store'.

Basically it's a 10-minute drum solo using Patrol boxes, daxies and tent pegs. Extraordinary. And very expensive.

Personally I found it quite depressing, and I don't come to Scouts to be depressed. I can do that at home.

Thankfully, You Tube parental controls mean the Joeys, Cubs and Rover Advisor will never have to see it.

Meanwhile the Rovers have set up two fake Tinder profiles and are frantically swiping potential recruits to join the Crew.

Of course, Scouts Australia will probably pinch these ideas to promote Scouting nationally. But by then we'll be onto something new! Like forming a Scout bugle band to play at church bazaars.

Scouts Victoria

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Warragul Scouts

During and after lockdown

During Lockdown

By LUCINDA REEVES

We were able to do our weekly meets over Zoom, though our numbers did drop rapidly. We went from having about 32 active members in our Unit, to having 12 Scouts over Zoom. We did what we could towards making the nights interesting, but they gradually became more and more repetitive. We all knew we would rather be out and about or at the Scout hall.

As the restriction eased we were able to meet up by splitting the Unit in half. Half at a nearby rotunda and the others at the hall, but it still wasn't the same. We were struggling with getting our head around the new program, and we were unable to do a proper Unit Council due to all our PLs and APLs not parading or moving up to Venturers. We had people who had only just become PLs and APLs, and Patrols were becoming smaller and smaller.

Eventually the restrictions eased enough so we could have a proper Unit Council. We were able to go through the new program system, and we were finally able figure out who the PLs were. Gradually people started to come back in, and our weekly number went from 12 to 20, and sometimes even 25. We would still split and parade in the two groups, and that gave the new PLs some time to adjust to their new leadership.

It was a challenge, but we managed to come out of lockdown with good numbers, keen and ready to Scout outdoors again.

Lucinda Reeves is a Scout at Warragul.



After Lockdown

By AMALIE NICHOLLS

As soon as the restrictions lightened up the Scouts were meeting face to face again and as you could imagine, talking to people while they are right in front of you is WAY better than having to talk to someone through a laptop that glitches out every now and then.

We weren't allowed in the hall and we had to (still have to) sanitise our hands and everything the Scouts had touched at the start and end of the night. Not a lot of people came for the first few weeks so we would usually separate into two different Patrols. It was however a lot quieter which was nice.

We did activities like games and reflections and would sometimes talk about Jamboree. A few weeks past and we still had small amounts of people show up to Scouts. The restrictions then lightened up again and we were let into the hall. More Scouts started coming back and they were more excited than ever. Even more people started linking up to Scouts or coming off the streets and our Scout Unit slowly started growing.

Everyone was a bit loud and rowdy because of the lack of communication with our friends.

We now get to do way more fun activities like wide games, cooking nights, building nights and game nights.

As PLs and APLs we have been able to get together and plan ahead for next year's activities.

We have been working on our building, knot tying, teamwork and leadership skills by working together to get things done. For example just recently the PLs and APLs had a two day planning weekend to get to know the new program and Terrain. As a break we had to build an hour glass tower and if you have seen or built that before, then you will know it takes lots of communication, teamwork, time and patience to complete it. We got it done within an hour or two and we did a pretty good job.

All together the Scouts are all so happy to be back again and getting to talk to each other and do more amazing activities as a Scout Unit.

Amalie Nicholls is a Scout at Warragul.



Scouts AUSTRALIA

inside...



COVER: Taking on the challenge of the northern circuit at Wilsons Promontory. More on page 14. Photo: Nigel Woodman.



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The Scout bushfire badge the 12-month report

The 2019-20 summer saw intense bushfires in many parts of Australia.

The fires heavily impacted New South Wales and eastern Victoria, with emergencies declared in New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT, and reinforcements brought in from throughout Australia and overseas.

The fires also led to the early closure of the national Rover Moot, and the cancellation of the New South Wales and ACT Cuborees.

The fires burned nearly 20 million hectares, destroyed 6000 buildings and killed at least 34 people. Some three billion creatures were impacted.

In early January 2020 the Chief Commissioners of Australia agreed to produce a badge to raise funds to support Scouting families in the fire-damaged regions.

Despite shipping delays due to COVID 19, badge orders continued to accelerate, and some international Scouting organisations made cash donations to our fundraising effort.

In the end we sold 183,000 bushfire badges and donated \$733,089.60 inc GST to the bushfire appeal.

This averaged just over \$4 a badge. (The first 20,000 badges generated a profit of \$5 per badge thanks to our donors, but production costs came out of the later ones.)

Of those 183,000 badges, 149,000 were sold internationally and 34,000 were sold within Australia.

This is the largest fundraiser that Scouts Australia has run, with thanks to the World Organization of the Scouting Movement (WOSM) and Scouting's Asia-Pacific region.

Fortunately, a relatively small number of Scouting families were directly impacted but Scout halls and campsites in New South Wales were lost.

Projects to benefit from the bushfire appeal include the rebuilding of the Wondalga Scout camp, and the completion of the 1st Murrumbateman Scout hall, which will be also used as a local Rural Fire Service training centre and staging post.



Who bought the badges?

International	148,813
ACT	965
NSW	6216
NT	300
QLD	8578
SA	1558
TAS	526
VIC	13,905
WA	2225
Total	183,086

The initial batch of 20,000 badges was funded by the Victorian Scout Foundation and Inspire Apparel, who make Scout products like uniform and badges. They set a fundraising target of \$100,000.

But soon the initial production run was exhausted and orders were coming in from Scout Groups and individual Scouts around the world. This had not been anticipated.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Matthews family on winning the first prize in this years Monster Raffle, they were lucky enough to drive home in a brand new Holden Trax! Their son Simi is a Scout at 1st South Frankston.

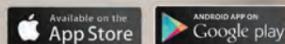
The Monster Raffle is a great fundraising opportunity for Scout Groups as well as schools and community groups. Find out more information at scoutsvictoria.com.au/monsterraffle.



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Search Scouts Victoria in the App and Google Play stores.



Dennis Ramsay, CSL, 1st Baranduda

Peter Robinson, TASL, 1st Kew

Karen Robinson, PACSL, 1st West Waverley

Craig Rowley, Branch Council Member (4E) - Elected Lay Member, Vic Branch

David Shallcross, Group Support Committee Member, 3rd Doncaster East

Nick Tobin, Group Support Committee Member, 4th Brunswick

Graham Van Damme, ASL, 1st North Balwyn

Tracey Wyllie, ASF-Hume

Michelle Zimmerle, TAGL, 1st Narre Warren North

Matthew Zimmerle, ACSL, 1st Narre Warren North

10 Years

Greer Arnott, AVL, 1st Hastings

Ian Campbell, District Secretary, Kariwara District

Amelia Dell, AGL, 1st The Basin

Mark Dixon, PRA, Sorrento Sea Scouts

Simone Hayes, TAJSL, 3rd/4th Colac

Mark Newman, GL, 1st Wallan Wallan

Graham Rawson, ASF-Barwon

Kimberley Rogers, Adult Helper, 2nd Melton

Jade Rosenberg, ASF-Glen Eira Stonnington

Travis Winters, ASL, 5th Brunswick

Brad Woollam, PJSL, 2nd Werribee

Jamie Wursthorn, Group Secretary, Lakeside Pakenham

15 Years

Tony Bellette, ACSL, 1st Ballan

Catherine Bergin, ASF-Manningham

Neil Comrie, Branch Council Member (4E) - Elected Lay Member, Vic Branch

Gary Park, ARC - Development, Mt Dandenong Region

Helen Quinn, Group Support Committee Member, 1st Healesville

20 Years

Julie D'amore, GL, Wonga Park

Thanh Nguyen, PGL, Phu Dong

Su Perrins, DL - Adult Training Support, Boroondara District

Mark Rosenberg, ASF-South Metro Showtime

Jan Sanders, ASF-Whitehorse

25 Years

Patrick Chan, ACSL, Lynden Park

Christopher Clark, CSL, Sorrento Sea Scouts

Heather Davis, TAJSL, 2nd Strathmore

Geoff De La Rue, VL, 3rd/4th Colac

Bryce Hutton, Camp Committee Chairman, Eumeralla Sct. Camp

Colin McEwan, RA, 1st Bendigo

Richard Simpson, Honorary Commissioner, Honorary Commissioners

Jill Simpson, District Treasurer, Geelong Peninsula District

Alexandra Urcola, SL, 3rd Chelsea Air Scouts

Carolynne Venn, ASF-Hume

30 Years

Michael Adams, ASF-Casey

Graham Blair, District Personnel Committee Member, Wimmera District

Russell Bradd, SC - Gilwell Park, Vic Branch

Brian Corbett, Leader In Charge, Clifford Park

Milton Fairweather, AJSL, 2nd Mornington Sea Scouts

Brian Smith, Camp Manager, Camp Niall

35 Years

Val Bucknell, Camp Committee Member, Camp Niall

David Searle, DC, Sunraysia District

40 Years

Barb Peacock, ASF-Yarra Ranges

45 Years

Trevor Howlett, SC - Quartermaster, State Quarter Master

Peter Rutley, SC - Campsites, Vic Branch

50 Years

David Welch, ASL, 1st North Balwyn

Wood Badge Awards

November

Venturer

Tim Knowles, AVL, 1st Rutherglen

Group Leader

Cameron Nowell, GL, 1st Reservoir

Simon Rumbold, PGL, 1st Canterbury

District Leader/Commissioner

Peter Jarry, DC, South Western District

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

December

Cub Scout

Rebecca Blackmore, ACSL, 1st Cranbourne

Darren French, ACSL, Viewbank

Rebecca Wheaton, ACSL, 1st Belmont

Scout

Adam Ford, ASL, Baden Powell Park

Andrew Larmour, ASL, 1st Ferntree Gully

Group Leader

Philip Awadalla, GL, Oakleigh Coptic



Congratulations to Gifford Hatfield and Jack and Jean Paterson on their appointment as Life Members of Scouts Victoria. They were presented their awards by Chief Commissioner Rod Byrnes.



The Scout Heritage team enjoyed their Christmas lunch - the first time they had been together since March.

Team members Jack and Jean Paterson, both OAM, were presented with an engraved glass plaque made by Doc Sharpe, to commemorate them being named Life Members of Scouts Victoria.

Adults in Scouting

Long Service Awards

November

5 Years

Toni Arnold, Adult Helper, *Port Fairy*
Rebecca Atkinson, Group Rostered Parent, *1st Gembrook*
Jess Bonnett, Group Rostered Parent, *1st Glen Iris*
Damien Cox, Adult Helper, *1st Belmont*
Rebecca Dannals, ASL, *1st Bendigo*
Ian Edge, Group Treasurer, *Dandenong*
Cassandra Finney, ASL, *1st Strathfieldsaye*
Francesco Garbellini, (District Personnel Committee Member, *Yarra District*)
Jano Ghaly, AGL, *St Mina Hallam*
Iman Habboucheh, ASF-Moreland - Darebin
Jason Hagens, SL, *1st Myrtleford*
Adrian Heal, ACSL, *1st Bentleigh*
Janet Hicks, Group Rostered Parent, *Deepdene*
Perri Hobbs, ASL, *1st Baranduda*
Kylie Hopson, AJSL, *1st Echuca*
Marshall Kelahe, ACSL, *Richmond*
Alex Kovacs, AVL, *1st Traralgon*
Steve Lomas, ASL, *1st/14th Brighton*
Michael Lukins, PSL, *1st Glen Iris*
Tom Maddison, Provisional State Leader-Top Gear, *Vic Branch*
Luke Maslen, PACSL, *1st Glen Iris*
Shaun McCallion, Group Rostered Parent, *1st Caroline Springs*
Scott McKendry, ACSL, *1st Bayswater*
Brian O'Connor, Group Rostered Parent, *1st Bennettswood*
Celia Paine, Group Rostered Parent, *Deepdene*
Steve Pemberton, ACSL, *2nd Mornington Sea Scouts*
Dale Roberts, District Secretary, *Wimmera District*
Malcolm Rosewarne, Group Rostered Parent, *1st Ranelagh*
Kylie Schilling, AJSL, *1st Yackandandah*
Nicole Tuddenham, Group Secretary, *1st Baulkamaugh*
John Uren, ACSL, *3rd Ringwood East*
Glenn Wilkins, ACLS, *1st Eltham North*
Kym Wilkins, Group Rostered Parent, *1st Eltham North*
Greg Young, ACSL, *1st Traralgon*

10 Years

David Barraclough, VL, *Bacchus Marsh*
Tony Brooks, PGL, *1st Bright*
Natalie Davies, Fellowship, *Treetops*

Simone Dent, AVL, *Warragul*
Carolyn Donovan, Group Rostered Parent, *2nd Melton*
Mark Grainger, ASL, *1st Seaford*
Cameron Nowell, GL, *1st Reservoir*
Chris O'Meara, ASL, *2nd/7th West Waverley*
Phil Paton, PACSL, *1st Gisborne*
Barry Plummer, Group Registrar, *1st Wantirna South*
Stuart Scanlin, AVL, *3rd Sunbury*
Sam Schulz, ACSL, *1st Warracknabeal*
Ryan Tofts, AVL, *2nd Springvale*
Veronica Van Galen, Group Rostered Parent, *1st Modewarre*

15 Years

Alister Blaney, ASF-Adventurous Activities
Dean Castle, ASF-Rover Scout Motorsport
Maria Di Fede, JSL, *Dingley*
Scott Grant, ACSL, *Baden Powell Park*
Raymond Gutscher, Group Support Committee Member, *Barry's Reef Scout Camp*
Robert Irvine, AVL, *3rd Sunbury*
Sheridan Loughhead, PGL, *5th Mildura*
Miriam-Ann McDade-Tait, Adult Helper, *1st Wodonga*
Chris Richards, Fellowship, *Caringal*
Juliann Richards, ASF-Mt Baw Baw
Clarke Thuys, ASF-Whitehorse
Kristen Versteeg-Brown, PSL, *2nd Glenroy*
Stephen Walsh, Provisional District Leader - Scouts, *Maroondah District*

20 Years

Jenni Dowell, ASF-Gilweroo
Berice Ellis, ASF-Monash
Roger Jeffrey, ASF-Ballarat
Tracie Owens, District Leader - Cub Scouts, *Yarra Ranges District*
Howard Rice, District Personnel Committee Member, *Monash District*
Helen Watson, District Personnel Committee Member, *Cardinia District*

25 Years

Rob Bailey, GL, *1st Grovedale*
Sandra Cooling, District Personnel Committee Member, *Frankston District*
Suzanne Fatone, ACSL, *1st Balwyn*
Sue Keks, District Leader - Cub Scouts, *Boroondara District*

30 Years

Stuart McMillan, Scout Foundation Member, *Victorian Scout Foundation*

35 Years

Les Delbridge, AAAL - Water Skiing, *Water Ski Team*

40 Years

Bill Henley, DC, *Whitehorse District*

45 Years

Lawrence Allen, ASF-Scout Heritage Geelong
Margaret Feldtmann, PGL, *1st Dookie*
Berri Trump, District Leader - Venturers, *Mornington Peninsula District*

50 Years

Margaret Tremewen, Life Member, *Victorian Scout Foundation*

60 Years

Lorrel Samson, ASF-Strzelecki

December

5 Years

Joshua Baker, TGL, *2nd Leongatha*
Adam Bandt, Branch Council Member (4E) - Elected Lay Member, *Vic Branch*
Paul Baumgartner, Group Rostered Parent, *Mentone*
Reggie Chang, PAVL, *4th Brunswick*
Jonathan Cotterill, Group Rostered Parent, *1st Mansfield*
Susan De Castella, Adult Helper, *1st The Basin*
Nicholas De Castella, Group Rostered Parent, *1st The Basin*
Brian Douglas, ACSL, *Richmond*
Stacey Eddington, ASF-Nillumbik
Ben Gristwood, Group Rostered Parent, *QM Stage*
Paul Groves, ASL, *1st The Basin*
Thao Ha, Group Support Committee Member, *Tran Hung Dao*
Cameron Hattam, TASL, *4th Preston*
James Honey, SL, *2nd Lara*
Brett Hough, ACSL, *1st Timboon*
Karan Jones, Group Secretary, *4th Brunswick*
Brad Kent, ASF-Rover Scout Motorsport
Michael Kost, ACSL, *1st Bennettswood*
Nikki Lockwood, Group Rostered Parent, *1st Werribee*
Christopher McConnell, ASL, *1st Kerang*
Miriam McCoy, Adult Helper, *First Aid*
Nicole Membrey, Group Rostered Parent, *1st Casey*
Kelly Mentiplay, ASF-Mafeking Rover Park

Sally Mitchell, Group Chairman, *4th Brunswick*
Patrick Mulcahy, AAAL - Rockclimbing, *Rock Climbing Team*
Maureen Naguib, AJSL, *3rd Doncaster East*
Cameron Polan, AVL, *1st Upper Beaconsfield*
Ron Powles, ACSL, *1st Kyabram*



a few words from Rod

Rod Byrnes
Chief Commissioner
Scouts Victoria

We're back and 2021 will be bigger and better than ever!

We have so many big and exciting activities to look forward to. Over the next few months, there should be something for everyone!



Put down your phone
And what are you left with?
**Confidence, Resilience
and the skills to succeed!**

Looking Forward

Retaining our members through fun and exciting programs and events is key to our ongoing success. But recruitment and growing your Group is also important. Scouting continues to be free for all of Term 1, so now is the perfect time to encourage new members to try us out and sign up. Our #BEASCOUT campaign is really gaining momentum, so jump on board and see those numbers grow.

As we reflect back on the incredible resilience, innovation, ingenuity and creativity we saw from everyone in 2020, I'm anticipating seeing some of the best programs ever in 2021. This year we'll be introducing the final elements of Our Program - Outdoor Adventure Skills and Special Interest Areas - providing scope for new adventures driven by our youth and what they choose to do. All in all, 2021 is set to be a fantastic year for Scouts Victoria. I'm looking forward to experiencing the adventure with you all.

Follow Rod



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Events

Our year of adventure kicks off with the annual Surfmoor weekend at Eumeralla. Our Rover Scouts are looking forward to an exciting weekend of soaking up the sun with beachside activities, socialising without using Zoom and pumping up the entertainment while celebrating the Australia Day weekend.

On the last Saturday in January, we will once again meet with our Leaders of Adults at our annual conference. It's a great opportunity to start the year off on the same page, hear from our Leaders, and showcase

LoA
CONFERENCE
2021

the next year of Scouting. We're trying something different this year; with all the virtual meeting practice we aced in 2020, this year's LoA conference attendees can choose to participate virtually or face to face! One thing we learned from 2020 is that the flexible format makes it easier for regional participation.

Moving on to February, we have our hugely popular Anything Goes. So many Venturers are hanging out to do what they do best: socialise and do high energy activities and "AG" offers both. With registrations already open and the team working hard, it's sure to be a jam-packed weekend of every adventure imaginable.



We're excited to announce that Cuboree X is going ahead this April! After having to be postponed, our amazing organisers have planned the five day extravaganza to be a once in a lifetime experience. Our Cub Units will be preparing with pack holidays and practice camps, to ensure every Cub Scout is ready for this awesome adventure.

Applications are already open and close on February 14, so there's no time to waste. Apply today!

With all these top-notch events and experiences on the horizon, now is the time to be revving your groups up to jump back into face-to-face Scouting at full throttle. If you do need support, our team at Scouts Victoria has created a host of resources for our long-awaited return. The 'Adventure is Calling' campaign is all about keeping our members involved and excited and helping everyone get up to speed once again.

Introducing Badge Boy!



Lachlan, a Cub Scout and Sixer of Black Six at 1st Ballan in Victoria, set himself a goal to earn every Cub badge!

By **LACHLAN BELLETTE**

After I earned my Joey Promise Challenge Award, I came up to Cubs. I was amazed by how many badges there were in Cubs.

During 2017, my first year of Cubs, I watched all of the older Cubs earn lots of badges, on their way to their Grey Wolf Award. My first achievement badges were Level 1 and 2 swimming.

The thing that everybody wanted to go to was Cuboree. I went to Cuboree in 2017. We went with 6th Melbourne and I had the best time there!

After Cuboree I came up with a challenging goal, to earn all the Achievement Badges (Level 1 and 2.) There are 34 badges in each level, and I wanted to earn all 68 badges. I went to my Akela said, "Is it possible to earn all 68 achievement badges?" Akela said: "Yes it is, but you have to have time to earn all 68 badges, and you have plenty of time."

So I thought about it for about one day. Then I said Yes to my personal challenge.

The next Cub night Akela told the Leaders, then he told the whole Cub Pack, about my personal challenge. With my dad being the Akela, he could help me along the way, but he couldn't sign off any of my badges. So Rikki Tikki Tavi, Chil and another parent helped me to achieve my goal.

Sometimes when I handed in my badge work, I got presented with a badge that

night, but other times I'd have to do more work to get the badge.

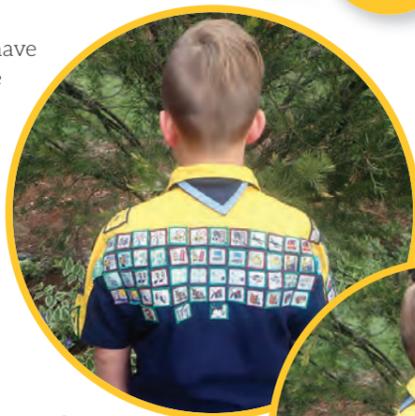
For the past three and a half years my Yellow Cub Book and I have been everywhere.

We have navigated the streets of Brisbane with Grandpa, to achieve my Traveller Badges. We photographed wombats at Wilson's Prom and ancient temples in Japan for my Photography Badges. We have made clay sculptures with the Cubs, to earn my Mask and Sculptures Badges. We built Lego and solar kits to earn my Engineer Badges.

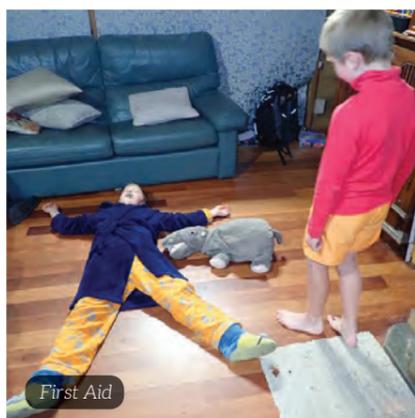
Along with reading books for my Literature Badges, I also achieved my Lester Literature Badge.

I have also ridden more than 250km, canoed in Lake Catani at Mt Buffalo, the Glenelg River, Tidal River at Wilsons Prom and at Anglesea. In Canberra I went to a Cub Pack and performed magic tricks in front of their Pack. I sailed at the Guide and Scout Sailing Centre at Sandringham as well as at Mornington and Ballarat.

While canoeing down the Glenelg River I looked at birds and animals. I wrote letters to my penpal in England. His name is Ewan and in 2019 I got to meet him and his family, while travelling in England with my family.



Sailing



First Aid



Handyworker



7th Ballarat-Sebastopol

7th Ballarat-Sebastopol Scout Group had a great break up night with sack races, tug o' war, water bombing a BBQ, even Santa arriving on a Harley!



1st Doncaster East

1st Doncaster East Cubs presented seven Grey Wolf awards to some very patient young Cubs (now Scouts), most of whom have waited right through lockdown for this moment. It was a special honour to have Doc Sharpe there as he made the beautiful plaques for each awardee, and we as their Leaders were very proud to be able to present these personally to each of them.



Hatfield Rovers

Congratulations to Ged from Hatfield Rover Crew on receiving his Baden Powell Award.



Tarneit Scout Group

Scouts Victoria would like to welcome our newest Group, Tarneit!

They held an investiture night where they invested a fantastic 20 Joeys, 23 Cubs, 16 Scouts and their first Leader!





1st Croydon Hills spreads Christmas cheer!

1st Croydon Hills Scout Group were excited to deliver their first Christmas tree to federal MP Michael Sukkar's office in the electorate of Deakin to help support the Christmas Giving Tree Appeal.

Michael has provided much support to the Group throughout the year and helped raise the profile of Scouting in the local community.



1st Seaford

Congratulations for Emma and Nathan from 1st Seaford. Emma achieved her Grey Wolf Award and Nathan his Australian Scout Medallion. Their Leaders are all very proud!



Lakeside Pakenham

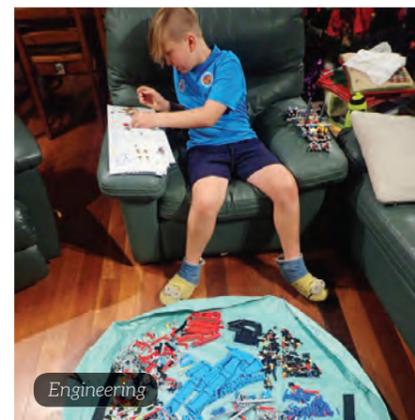
End of year fun and games. Thank you to all our youth, parents and fantastic Leaders for all your support through the challenging year.

A special Congratulations to Charlie and Olivia on achieving their Promise Challenge Award and Morgan for achieving his Scout Medallion in what has been a very difficult period.



Norlane West

Norlane West got out and explored the Point Lonsdale rock pools with the Marine Discovery Centre.



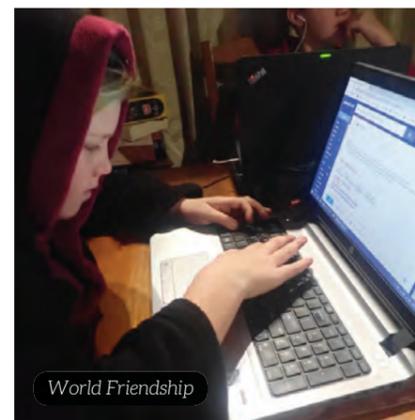
Engineering



Citizenship



Cooking



World Friendship



Gardening



Traveller

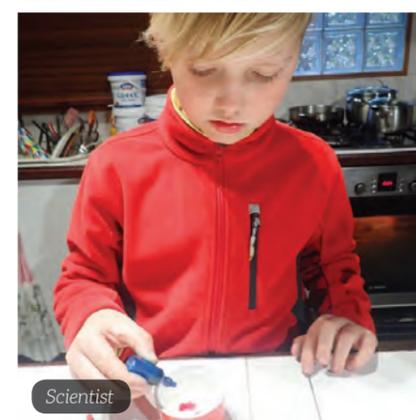
As a family we are Camp Hosts at Mt Buffalo National Park, at Easter every year and I have worked on many badges with the Park Rangers.

Those were some things I did for some badges.

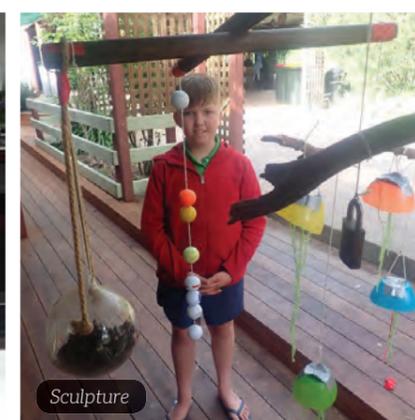
I really enjoyed achieving all of these different kinds of badges, learning so many different things along the way and having lots of fun.

My journey doesn't just involve earning Achievement Badges. Along the way I have earned, most of the Special Interest Badges including helping raise more than \$2000 with my Pack for the KIDS Foundation in Ballarat to achieve our Messenger of Peace Award, and my Bronze, Silver and Gold Boomerangs. And in February 2020 I was presented with my Grey Wolf Award - the highest Cub Award - by our State Cub Scout Commissioner, District Commissioner and District Cub Scout Leader.

My journey at Cubs has taken me everywhere from adventures with my friends to overseas, including a Scout Group in Singapore where they do Scouts at School on a Saturday, sleeping in a hammock with my family on Brownsea Island, enjoying a fun night with Scouts all over the World at the International Scout Centre at Kandersteg



Scientist



Sculpture

in Switzerland, and visiting Úlfjótvatn Scout Centre, the northernmost National Scout Centre in the world in Iceland.

I challenge all Cubs to do their best at anything, and achieve as many badges as they can.

Thank you to my Cub Pack, the Rangers at Mt Buffalo and Wilson's Prom, my penpal, my family and a big thank you to the 1st Ballan Leaders that helped me along the way.

Now I look forward to my journey as a Scout.

Lachlan Bellette is now a Scout at 1st Ballan.



The First Four Weeks



They reckon it takes 30 days to form a new habit, like remembering to make your bed first thing every day. To get your Unit back to regular Scouting in 2021 is similar – four fun weeks. And you'll be set for the rest of the year.

It's critical to make a good start to a new school year. To shift sleep patterns for an earlier rise. To be organised. To keep on top of schoolwork so it doesn't pile up. It's a good feeling to be under control.

The same goes for Scouts. Except this isn't just about you, but about your whole Unit.

It's a challenge for Patrol Leaders and Leaders to make the start of 2021 something very special.

Joey Scouts

- Make some musical instruments from whatever can be found in the hall.
- Have a science night with exploding sandwich bags and make ice cream in a bag.
- Go on a "penny hike" around your community.
- Have a messy night with Oobleck, have fun mixing flour and shaving foam or have a custard bob with some lollies floating in a sea of custard.
- Ask your Venturer Unit to run a disco night.
- Have a backwards night where everything is done in reverse. Even have the Joey Scouts wear their uniform in reverse.

- What about a week long summer camp for the whole Scout Unit? Invite the Venturers? Families?
- But for the first few weeks, as we adjust to school and work, just getting to Scouts is an achievement.

So make it fun! Properly organised and worthwhile. (Nothing too babyish or boring.)

Cub Scouts

- As a Patrol, build a structure out of odds-and-ends from the Q-Store.
- Go on a bike hike and along the way have some fun activities such as:
 - A slow race between two points (who can take the longest?)
 - How many laps of the oval can you do in 15 minutes?
- Challenge another Unit to a billy cart race.
- Which Patrol can build the biggest tower using marshmallows and skewers?
- Giant Nerf Night – form castles and walls with cardboard boxes, perhaps a rope bridge with tunnels made with wheelie bins, tables and blankets.
- Flush the poo – provide each Patrol with a pile of large tubing, pipes and a cork representing the "poo". Don't forget a bucket with water. Which Patrol can flush the poo from one tree to another?

Creative Names

"Science night" or "Volcano night"?

"Pet night" or "Please don't bring snakes or spiders night"?

For that night when Patrols do a quick inventory of their Patrol boxes:

- make it easy by preparing an online form that Patrols can complete on a phone rather than starting from scratch
- make it fun, with a food reward when the task is finished

So, in the term program, it's not called "Q-Store night" – it's "Pizza night".

Section nights and weekends away are more fun with creative names.

Water + Food = Program

Some of the best nights to start the new year simply involve water and food.

A night at the beach or pool. A cricket set or volley ball net to break up the night.

And sausages in bread with cold drinks to finish.

Or a sports night in the local park, including water relays, and a commando course (each Patrol constructs one obstacle) with the added challenge of a few super soakers. Then a box of cones, a Leader doling out scoops of ice-cream, and an array of sprinkles and toppings for DIY decoration.



Manningham Tende Beck

Manningham Tende Beck Scout Group were very excited to be back in the hall and meeting face to face. They celebrated with toasted marshmallows!



Joey Scout Liam with the Joey Mascot Rocco.

1st Noorat

Noorat Joeys, Cubs and Scouts embarked on a bike hike from Glenfyne to Timboon. The Cubs and Scouts started at Glenfyne, with the Joeys starting at Curdies Trestle Bridge.

Once they got to Timboon they enjoyed locally made Timboon Fine Ice Cream.



1st Langwarrin

Congratulations to Leo, Oskar and Brodie from 1st Langwarrin Scout Group on receiving their Australian Scout Medallion.



1st Whittlesea

1st Whittlesea Scout Group enjoyed a beautiful day for their end of year group hike and BBQ at Jehoshaphat Gully, Kinglake National Park. The Joeys, Cubs and Scouts all hiked different distances to all finish up at Jehoshaphat Gully for a BBQ.

They also celebrated two Cubs linking to Scouts, two Scouts linking to Venturers and a Grey Wolf presentation.



Heathmont Scout Group

Heathmont Cubs and Scouts were very excited to be off Zoom and into Bounce for their last night of 2020!



LOCAL LOOK

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



3rd Wodonga

Congratulations to Lucas, Will, James and Liam from 3rd Wodonga Scout Group, who all received their Grey Wolf Award.



Frankston District

Frankston District did a night paddle along Patterson Lakes Canals to view the Christmas lights.



1st Strathfieldsaye

Cub and Scout families from 1st Strathfieldsaye generously made donations to the Bendigo Foodshare food drive. The Symes family helped Group Leader Margaret Keech drop everything off. Warehouse manager Annie was very happy to see all of their donations!



John Gardiner Rovers

John Gardiner Rover Unit enjoyed a beautiful sunrise with an amazing view while investing new members Emma and Syllós. The investiture was live streamed to Syllós's family in Brazil.



Pakenham Scout Group

Pakenham Scout Group were lucky enough to take part in the Art Show Pakenham Christmas Windows, where they created a Scout themed window.



There are some great ideas provided by the five Sections – Joeys to Rovers. But you might be able to adapt many of them for any Section.

Getting the whole gang back together

A good start to the Scouting year means getting the whole gang back together. Not everyone may return on week one. But, with your encouragement and follow up, they might make it for week two. Your Unit will be a happier and happening place with the return of familiar faces.

After eight weeks of no Scout meetings – after a year of mostly being on-line – it can be easy to let Scouting slip. "I'm too busy." "School is getting harder." "I want to play chess instead."

But Scouting is worth the effort. Life skills, friends, school-life balance, better mental health, leadership skills. Some parts of Scouting are more important

than school, and will help you for the rest of your life.

After getting past that first hurdle, and especially after the first weekend away, any doubts about continuing Scouting pass pretty quickly.

There is a separate article in this issue of Australian Scout on communicating within your Group (and beyond). For the start of the 2021 Scouting year, you might consider sharing your Section program by email or social media.

But it's even more effective and will stand out – and be retained – if you print your program and mail it (with a friendly letter) to every member at least a week before your first meeting. A small investment in maintaining relationships.

Don't forget phone calls or visits by the Leader or Patrol Leader to check on anyone who misses the first meeting. Or second meeting...

Scouts

- Patrol spar competition – provide each Patrol with the same number of spars and rope to see who can construct the most interesting structure.
- Have a water night with each Patrol running a water-based activity or game.
- A wide game at your local reserve followed by hot chips.
- MasterChef Outdoor Cooking – provide each Patrol with ingredients to invent a dish for a specific course to share with the Unit.
- Have a chat about the next Unit, Patrol or even a Unit Council camp at a totally new location.
- Attend a Cub Scout meeting and construct a rope bridge for Cubs about to transition to the Scout Unit.

Venturer Scouts

- Form Project Patrols to attend great events in 2021 – there's an event for every Venturer – Anything Goes, Top Gear Venturer, Hoadley Hide – Exploits on the Goldfields, Snow Venture, Iglute, Armstrong 500, BARCOM, and Vic Gathering.
- Plan an adventurous journey over the Easter break.
- Look Wide – challenge the Unit participate in eight new adventurous activities over the year.
- Plan a formal-dress dinner to celebrate the start of 2021.
- Consider a Rogaining activity in the country if you're a metropolitan-based Unit, or in the metropolitan area if you are a country-based Unit.

Share your success

The Scout who misses out on activity, and the new Scout who hasn't even started yet, don't have to miss out on the fun.

Record your adventures and share the highlights with parents, the other Sections in your Group, and prospective members.

Ideas include photo posters in the hall, private social media, a Group newsletter, and website photos and videos.

Send your Scouts home ready to share each night with their parents by using a simple prompt at final parade:

- What were the highlights tonight?
- What did we learn?
- What should we do differently next time?

Apart from being a rehearsal for Scouts to tell their parents what they've been up to, a brief re-cap of the night can be very entertaining!



Rover Scouts

- Chat about the Unit's participation in some legendary Rover events in 2021 – Metropolitan Area Rover Ball (MARB), Country Area Rover Ball (CARB), The Moot, Surfmoor, Rover Dinner, Motorsport Winter Challenge, and Mudbash.
- Chat about new and exciting locations to invest new Unit members.
- Plan a formal-dress dinner to celebrate the start of 2021 in the most unlikely environment.
- Challenge another Rover Unit to a water based activity.
- Beyond the Horizon – plan a hot air balloon activity over the Yarra Valley region. What a setting for an investiture!

Spread the Word



By JASON O'DONNELL

When we talk to someone outside Scouting, it can surprise us to hear how little people know about Scouting, or how old fashioned their perception is.

Scouting is a modern, diverse and innovative movement. We have traditions, but we're also ready to explore the unknown, try new things and embrace new technologies. How we market our Scout Group should be the same!

Local schools

Unless your local school principal is a Scouting parent, it's unlikely they know any of their students are involved. While Branch send letters to schools letting them know a student has achieved a Scouting peak award, it's a great idea to follow up locally. There's every chance that the student will be well-known to the principal - for all the right reasons - so connecting the dots to Scouting might just turn your principal into an advocate.

It can be hard for Leaders to connect with busy principals. The best approach is usually by a parent with children at the school, particularly a parent who is on School Council, or prominent in fundraising or working bees.

Your Scouts might be interested in writing an article for the school newsletter - this is particularly effective when you have a number of Scouts at the same school. Get them to talk about the latest Scouthike and describe the distance travelled and the nights camping away... it will put the Duke of Ed kids to shame!

Facebook

If you're looking to attract Joey or Cub Scout aged youth to your Group, you need to be targeting parents in the age group 32-42 years. Facebook is a highly effective platform for reaching young parents.

The Scouts Victoria Marketing team has pre-made social media campaigns ready for posting on your Group Facebook page. With the help of Scouting parents sharing your posts, you have the potential to reach hundreds of families in your local area.

What do you post?

To encourage your Scouting parents to share your Facebook posts, you'll need to talk about things that are optimistic and uplifting. It needs to use accessible language (it has to be understandable to lay people), and highlight the positive things that their children are involved in. Was there a story to share from the Scout Quest Community Challenge in 2020, when Scouts connected with local nursing homes?

Give new parents a vision of Scouts that they aspire their children to become - active in their community, compassionate towards others, caring for their environment and ambitious in achieving their goals.



Haley Amor from 2nd Korumburra

By PHOEBE HICKS

Haley Amor had never been camping before she joined the 2nd Korumburra Scout Group in 2014. She was the last to join the local Group following her younger sisters and her mum.

Scouting has been more than a fun social outlet, having led Haley to her decision to make a career out of outdoor adventuring. "The plan is to get into nature tourism. Scouts introduced me to a love of hiking, camping and outdoor adventure," Hayley says.

Haley received early offers from a number of TAFE's but accepted a position at Holmesglen TAFE to complete a Cert IV Outdoor Rec and Guiding. The 12 month course in Glen Waverley will take her on new adventures of snow camping, rock climbing and abseiling. She hopes to complete her industry experience in the Northern Territory and has great plans to head overseas with her qualifications.

A champion fundraiser, Haley and her local Group have managed to fund a few big trips through tirelessly fundraising together. "We live in a small country town. To have the community behind us this way is really encouraging," says Haley.

The local markets donated a stall to use for a BBQ, and locals donated goods for garage sales. Cookie drives were also part of their fundraising success.

"We all went to AJ2016 through fundraising. We also had enough left over to do a trip to Tasmania together for all of us, 18 youth and two Leaders."

Haley has already done two overseas trips. The first was a three week-long Messengers of Peace trip to Oman with around 12 youth members and six adults from 2nd Korumburra. "One of our

parents at the time was a tour guide for trips there and helped to plan the trip," explains Hayley. They were to meet the Sultan, but this fell through and instead they had an audience with the Education Department Ministers. "We visited mosques, wadis, little towns, markets, schools and Scout Groups. It was a once in a lifetime experience. Again, achieved through fundraising."

The second trip was to World Scout Jamboree in America in 2019. Hayley again attributes so much thanks to the local South Gippsland community who supported fundraising to make this trip possible - including a post-Jam Canada trip.

Although Haley didn't attend AJ2019, she said she feels like she did with her gear used by her sister and Mum there, still containing Tailem Bend dust to this day.

In 2019 Haley participated in the South Gippsland District Debutante Ball run by Deb Parks from Tarwin River Venturers and the District youth members. A different kind of adventurous activity, learning to dance and wearing a dress and heels instead of hiking boots for a change.

Her younger sisters and Mum are still in uniform at the local Group and have dedicated time to assist with the Coal Creek Venturer Unit in which Hayley was an inaugural member when it reopened three years ago after being in recess.

"Doing year 12 in 2020 was really challenging, but having Venturers continue gave us an outlet after remote learning. Even though it was mostly online, they're like family. We've come through the Sections together."



On the post-Jam trip in Canada.



Haley was set to be an Ambassador for Oz Venture which was unfortunately cancelled. The next Scouting event on the calendar for Haley will likely be a Rover Moot and she plans to attend the next Australian Jamboree in 2022.

Somehow Haley finds time to work in the family business as well as at a local café and markets, cooking and serving seafood around the South Gippsland region.

Haley gives a shout out to someone she calls the 'backbone' of the Group and the whole South Gippsland District: "Shirley Reeves has been a huge mentor, along with my Leaders Belinda Slinger and Ross Olden." She says, "they've both been there have been there to guide us and challenge us. They both bring different skills and perspectives to the Group which is great."

Phoebe Hicks is an Assistant Cub Scout Leader at 1st Trafalgar and writes the blog [Faces of Gippsland](#).

Do you know someone who could feature in 'Faces of Scouting', nominate them or put your own hand up to be featured, email editor@australianscout.com.au.



Haley at the South Gippsland District Debutante Ball.

Faces of Scouting

Phoebe Scalora from 1st Lake Boga

By PHOEBE HICKS

Phoebe Scalora is from the small town of Toolybuc outside Swan Hill, just over the Murray River on the edge of NSW. She started her Scouting journey on the south side of the border in Nyah before moving to 1st Lake Boga Sea Scouts outside Swan Hill.

Having recently finished Year 12 and now 18 with no Rover Crew nearby, she's excited for the next chapter in her Scouting journey, as she heads to Melbourne to accept a place in a Bachelor of Arts course with a major in stage performance.

In 2019 Phoebe travelled overseas twice with Scouts attending the 14th New Zealand Venture and again as part of the Australian Contingent to the 24th World Scout Jamboree.

"Going to the World Jamboree was the most amazing thing I'd ever experienced, being in another country with others from all over the world," says Phoebe.

"The activities and people we met were all different, entertaining and funny." The Korean World Scout Jamboree in 2023 is firmly in the diary for now and Phoebe was successful in being appointed the Assistant Contingent Leader for Australia. "I'm excited to see other people

get the most out of their overseas Jamboree adventure," explains Phoebe.

Even with international events under her belt, Phoebe still says one of the best Scouting experiences aside from the overseas trips she has had was on BARCOM, a two week raft expedition down the Murray River held in the September school holidays.

The rafts are 3m wide x 4.8m long and the crews carry all they require for one week. Each raft has a crew of eight, so each expedition can accommodate 32 participants (each crew travels for one of the two weeks).

Of her raft mates, Phoebe only knew one other before they set off. In week one the rafts travel from Murrabit to Swan Hill. Phoebe was part of the second of the two weeks, travelling from Swan Hill to Woodwood.

"Honestly it was one of the best experiences. It was near the end of year 11 and I really needed some time away from study. A week on a raft, with a good current, you rarely had to do much other than enjoy the ride." Although as Phoebe was navigator, she also had to keep a keen eye on their location along the route. "We had fun. We made up songs, we had some friendly rivalry with other raft crews, it was great," says Phoebe.

While Scouting clearly has a special place for Phoebe, she is also a talented performer. She's danced tap and jazz since she was two years old and loves drama and being on the stage. Her last performance was in the ensemble for 'Spamalot'. She calls herself a double threat with dancing and acting being her strengths and voice requiring further development.

In Swan Hill each year a team of creatives bring together young people for the Fairfax youth initiative. They build plays, develop new drama skills

Phoebe at the 14th New Zealand Venture.



and character skills from all around the world. This has fed her love of drama and stage performance.

With no Gang Show nearby Phoebe is keen to get involved once she gets to Melbourne, along with finding herself a Rover Crew to join.

One of the stand-out mentors for Phoebe during her Scouting journey was her Scout Leader Amber Moynihan. "She took me in when I moved to her Group and she just gets Scouting." Phoebe went onto explain: "Amber has the right balance of giving freedom and offering safe supervision for taking risks and encouraging youth members to challenge themselves."

Phoebe says, "this is what led me to be involved in the next step of being an Assistant Contingent Leader. She is such a great Leader, hearing our ideas, leading us in a safe way to take risks; to avoid serious injury but also to make mistakes and have fun."

Her advice to other young people, "don't be tied down by badge work, enjoy yourself, have fun, learn," says Phoebe. Using a gaming reference, she says that badgework is a side quest. Although Phoebe has achieved her Scout Medallion and Queen's Scout along the way, she says locals who don't understand that Scouting think we just do badge work all the time and tie knots.

She encourages linking Scouts and new Venturers to get along to an AG and VG saying "there's nothing like them, it's part of just enjoying the journey. Learn about ourselves and other people as we become Leaders."

Your hall

One of the most powerful marketing tools we have in Scouting is our halls. Make sure your signage is up to date with accurate meeting times – nothing will turn a new family away faster than turning up on the wrong night. Also ensure all Scout logos are the new version. It's vitally important that we have consistent branding across everything. We risk confusing the public when they see one logo on a poster at the supermarket and another when they drive past a hall – they might think that there are two different Scouting organisations in their town. It's also important to make sure that the Scout sign on your town's info board is current.

You might also consider approaching local businesses to sponsor the painting of the new Scout graphics on the side of your hall. The Scout 'gumtree graphics' pattern is eye-catching at 12 feet tall.

Inside your hall, make sure your notice board is located close to where parents will hover when they first arrive. Put up posters of your upcoming events, photos from previous activities, and the term program for each unit. Ensure the notice board is kept fresh – remove the hand-drawn pictures of Baloo from 1995!

It goes without saying that outside the hall should be well-kept and tidy, with lawns mowed at all times of the year. But another thing people should see outside your hall is... Scouts! Whenever practical, your Sections should hold as much of their program as possible outside. Is there a local reserve perfect for a wide game? When the public see us in uniform, respecting traffic and the road rules, it does great things for the perception of our movement. And when we're finished playing on the reserve, an "emu bob" for litter will remind people that we always strive to leave places better than we found them.

Communications

Our most successful Groups send regular email newsletters to parents. This is also a great marketing tool for new or prospective families – forward the last newsletter to them to show off the great activities your Sections have been up to; the work being done by your Group Committee; and the planning for your next all-Sections camp.

You should also aim to contact all families a week before the start of Term 1 – and get them pumped for the year ahead.

Consider mailing a hard copy of the welcome back letter and Term 1 program if you want to grab their attention. And youth members love getting their own mail. Label the program 'Fridge note' and many will take the hint and put your program on display. (But keep it tight – a single A5 or A4 page.)

Make sure you include all new families that enquired during the previous year. You might not have heard from them, but there's a chance that the fire is still there and your Term 1 program might just be the fuel.

You might consider regularly mailing your programs (and include other notices, like the next camp) a week before the start of each term. A small investment for a great return.

Local businesses

Your local supermarkets have community notice boards and you'll attract attention if you have a full colour poster on display. Putting up a poster for an upcoming event like Kangaree has the benefit of showing what we're about too. And if you leave contact tear-offs at the bottom, make sure you remove a couple- it will catch their eye better than a full sheet will, and suggests that there's a demand they need to jump ahead of.

A clever idea is to drop copies of Australian Scout magazine to your local doctors and dentists. Ask if they could be placed in the waiting room. A note on the front cover could provide the details for your Group.

More

You can find lots of useful Marketing resources on the Scouts Victoria website at <https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/age-sections-adults/member-resources/marketing/group-marketing-resources/>

Jason O'Donnell is Assistant Chief Commissioner - Marketing and Communications, Scouts Victoria.



At the 2019 World Scout Jamboree.

Adults sharing the fun of Scouting



LeaderBuild is a Scouts Victoria program which explains Scouting to parents, older youth members and others in a tight 35-minute presentation.

The program was developed in conjunction with the University of Western Australia, and is now run in all States and Japan.

LeaderBuild explains the real purpose of Scouting, the benefits of Scouting for young people, and how parents can help their children get the most from all the vast opportunities that Scouting offers.

After their initial presentation, Scout Groups usually run the program once each year for new parents – and older youth members who might be considering options such as Rovers, a Leader position, or both.

It's also a way to bring back former members of the Group, and sometimes community members or relatives may be invited by members of the Group.

Few Groups ran LeaderBuild in 2020 but those that did – even on Zoom – had the usual excellent results: a growing Leader team, some fresh energy, and a long-term viability of their Leader numbers.

Here are four perspectives on LeaderBuild.

For enquiries about LeaderBuild contact the State Leader for LeaderBuild, James Warren, at james.warren@scoutsvictoria.com.au.

1: The District Commissioner

By JOHANN ANDERSON

I have presented LeaderBuild at a number of Groups within the Boroondara and Yarra Districts with varied success.

In two cases the results were outstanding.

At Lynden Park, where I am also Group Leader, I presented the beta version of LeaderBuild over two nights early in 2018 and we had 12 positive responses. I had the pleasure of signing up seven new Leaders – two for Joey Scouts, three for Cub Scouts and two for the Scout section. These new Leaders came from parents and also Rovers.

I assisted 19th Camberwell Scout Group by presenting LeaderBuild for them on both Cub and Scout meeting nights and the results were very positive – 11 responses over the two nights. Seven of those respondents took the next step and signed up. Another great outcome for the Group was that two of the new Leaders committed to starting a Joey Scout Unit.

At Richmond I presented over two nights and the responses were also very positive with three parents offering to assist with Leader roles in Cubs, one for Joeys and one for Scouts. One parent also offered to become an Assistant Group Leader.

In each case many parents many have elected not to be Leaders but have offered their assistance in a Group Support Committee role. Although this is not the primary objective of the presentation, the side benefit should not be discounted.

I have had disappointing results at another Group.

A couple of offers to assist but they did not follow through.

Tips:

- Planning is key – set dates well in advance and give everyone plenty of notice.
- Don't forecast doom or make it too dramatic.
- Run it on meeting nights – at the start of the night, not at the end when parents may want to take their children home.
- Play up the theme of many hands make light work.
- Follow up promptly after the presentations.
- Preferably have a presenter who is familiar to the parent cohort (but in two of the successful cases above I was not).

Johann Anderson is District Commissioner of Boroondara District.

2: The Group Leader

By SUE HENLEY

LeaderBuild is a very good program that achieves results, but the Group Leader and the Committee have to make a commitment to run it correctly and to follow up with any person who shows interest in taking on a position in the Group.

First, the Group Committee commits to a meeting and decides who is going to run the session. We decided it was better for it to be someone from outside the Group as all our Leaders had regularly been asking parents to consider leadership.

The date is set in consultation with the chosen presenter, then a printed letter is mailed to all parents, some ex-members of the Group, and Rovers registered with the Group, inviting them to an important meeting about the Scout Group – with an RSVP required.

Ahead of the presentations there are also tasks like arranging supper, cleaning the hall, setting up chairs etc.

We formed a team consisting of a Leader and some committee members (plus the



James Warren started his Scouting journey at 1st Oak Park Joey Scouts in 2007, achieving his Promise Challenge award. James then transitioned through all Sections and is currently a Rover at Evans Rover Crew and a Joey Scout Leader at Pascoe Vale Scout Group.



Grace Archer is a Rover at Mullumbimba Rover Crew and Trainee Assistant Scout Leader at 1st Balwyn.

Damien Hort started Joey Scouts in 1996 and is now an Assistant Scout Leader at Heathmont Scout Group. Damien transitioned through all sections at Heathmont Scout Group and was also a Member of Melbourne Gang Show, Whitehorse Showtime, the Victorian Scout Band, and the Scouthike HQ team.



Kara Baker is a Group Leader at 1st City of Camberwell.



Daniel Almaraz, who started Joey Scouts in November 2007 at 1st Doncaster East Scout Group, transitioned through to Venturers and is now a trainee Cub Scout Leader!

Chris is a Group Leader at 1st Maroondah and was a Joey Scout at 6th Ringwood.



Australian Scout January 2021



Brad Peters is a Project Commissioner and was a Joey Scout at 1st Wantirna South.

Joey Scouts Grow up!



October 2020 marked the 30th birthday of Joey Scouts – our youngest and most recent youth Section.

Over the past 30 years Joey Scout numbers have steadily grown, more and more Joey Units have opened, and it's the aim of every Group to try to have all five Sections.

Former Joey Scouts are increasingly contributing to Scouting, as Leaders in all Sections, in roles on the State and National teams, or through international Scouting programs.

By JAMES WARREN

It was the year 1990 and it was the year of big things! The Hubble Telescope was launched into space, Bob Hawke was Australia's Prime Minister, M.C. Hammer's "U Can't Touch this" reached number two on the Arias, and Joey Scouts was born in Australia.

Fast forward 30 years and Joey Scouts in Victoria currently has more than 2000 youth members, supported by more than 500 Joey Scout Leaders!

The Joey Scout section, like the original Joey Scouts that started 30 years ago, has changed and developed significantly to provide engaging and fun programs for our youth members.

To celebrate Joey Scouts' 30th birthday we are taking a step back in time to see what some of our current Leaders looked like when they were 'Helping Other People' in Joey Scouts!

Now, in 2021, our youngest youth members are taking on new challenges like never before!

Jacinta Swift, once a Joey Scout at Heathmont Scout Group, is now a Rover and an Adventurous Activities Leader for Abseiling.

"The things I remember most about my time in Joeys was all the time we spent outdoors, exploring and learning new things," says Jacinta.

"This love of the outdoors continues to develop through all Sections in Scouting. In fact, now I get to take Joey Scouts abseiling as a member of the abseiling team!"

From abseiling and canoeing, to setting up a camp, our youngest Scouts are redefining what it is to be called Joey Scouts.

October 2020 commemorated the official starting date for Joey Scouts in Victoria. But, in these strange times, many were only meeting remotely. It's not too late to celebrate at the start of 2021.

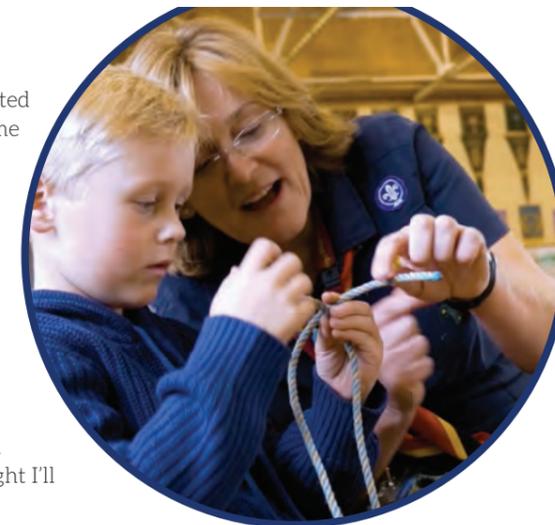
James Warren is a Joey Scout Leader and the State Leader for LeaderBuild.



Jacinta Swift is a Rover at Mannagum Rover Crew and a Leader on the State Abseiling Team.



Declan is a Rover at Heathmont and Gemma is a Venturer.



presenter). They had two meetings – first to discuss how to do the presentation and the second as a full rehearsal of the presentation. The latter was very important as we found a few "bugs" in the system and were able to resolve these prior to the actual LeaderBuild presentation.

We ran sessions concurrently with the Scout Section meeting. We have a small hall off our main hall so we could do this.

Parents were impressed with the presentation and interested in the information about Scouting.

Some tips:

- Keep a list of all responses from the meeting and follow up those who do not respond, by email.
- Set a date for a follow-up meeting for those who show interest at the first meeting, and, if a parent is interested in joining the committee, invite them to the next committee meeting.
- Important in the follow-up email to explain that they will need 100 points of ID at the follow up meeting.
- Need to continue to follow up those who have shown interest.

We ran the first session in May 2018 then a follow-up session in June 2019 for those who had joined the Group since the first presentation.

We ended up with a couple of Adult Helpers rather than Leaders but one of these is working towards becoming a Leader. We also gained three excellent committee members and two Scout Leaders.

We aim for another session in early 2021!

Sue Henley is Leader in Charge, Tally Ho Scout Group.

3: A Parent Who Became A Leader

By FELICITY BELLINGHAM

I grew up in the Guide Movement and moved across to Scouts as a Rover.

Before I had children of my own, I loved being a Venturer Leader and being involved at District and Region levels as well as being a part of Camberwell Showtime.

With all of this in the back of my mind, I had my eye on what local Scout Groups existed when I had my first child. I took a break from my Scouting involvement

for a few years while I concentrated on my preschoolers and then came the time when my daughter was turning five.

So I started enquiring at my local Scout Groups about a Joey Mob. I wanted my daughters to have the same adventures and fun I remembered from my own childhood.

Our Group did not have a Joey Mob yet, but they were holding a LeaderBuild presentation. I thought I'll just go along and listen.

I was immediately made to feel very welcome by other adults in the Group and the presentation reminded me of all the opportunities and benefits of Scouting for my girls and the lifelong community they would be joining.

So, I offered to be the Joey Scout Leader, knowing that would mean starting a new Mob. I felt comfortable with Scouting but Joeys were a bit different to Venturers! There were lots of resources to help and lots of people to ask.

We started our Mob in July 2019. We currently have 19 Joeys and three Leaders. We went on Kangaroo last year as well as many sleepovers and adventures. It's a privilege to get to know the Joeys and be part of some big milestones as they venture away from home.

As a busy working Mum and parent of two girls, Joeys is a fun bonding activity we can do together that also provides a break from the busyness of the week.

On a personal note, I have reconnected with Scouting friends from years ago and made new friends with like-minded adults who also see the importance of supporting youth and getting outdoors.

Felicity Bellingham is Joey Scout Leader at 19th Camberwell.

4: The Experienced Presenter

By NICK BROWNE

As a District Leader, I have presented LeaderBuild for a number of Groups over the last couple of years. Some presentations have been more successful than others, but all of them have resulted in parents signing up to be Leaders for a year.

Based on this experience, I have a few recommendations for Groups who are planning a presentation for 2021:

- Make sure your presenter has rehearsed the presentation – they need to look confident and knowledgeable. This doesn't mean memorising the whole script – but they need to know the content, and the sequence of details and ideas.
- Always check your hardware and practise with it beforehand. There's nothing worse than having the parents arrive and realising that your laptop computer doesn't attach to your projector, or that your screen won't stay up.
- Choose a presenter you think your audience will relate to. If it is someone who is a Leader and parent in your Group, that's great, but they need to have some credibility. I'd suggest that a youth member, no matter how skilled, is unlikely to be the right choice here. If you don't think you have someone willing and suitable in your Group, check with your District – or contact State Leader for LeaderBuild, James Warren, who can sometimes help by asking a volunteer presenter to help out.
- Stay focused! This is really important. Remember that the priority here is finding new Leaders, not Adult Helpers or committee members. While the process will often elicit volunteers for these roles as well, this is not the main aim. Ensure all Group volunteers present at the meeting are "on message" – especially those in uniform. The key messages of the presentation can be undermined by uniformed Leaders making irrelevant or conflicting statements.

Nick Browne is District Leader – Scouts, Whitehorse District.

The Wild Peninsula



Many Scouts hike at Wilsons Promontory. But few tackle the challenge of the remote northern circuit, a grade five wilderness hike. A mixed Patrol of two Rovers, a Venturer and a Scout share their experience of tackling the northern circuit in late December.

By **FLETCHER HAMILTON**

Wilsons Promontory is known as a wild and rugged place, most of all, its Northern Peninsula. After months of lockdown, starved of adventure and the outdoors, when Nigel Woodman of 1st North Balwyn proffered the idea of tackling Wilsons Prom's roughest quarters, I jumped at the opportunity. Having heard of the challenge posed by the little trekked trails, I felt apprehension at what lay ahead, yet relished the chance to push my limits once again. It surely was a worthy adversary, pushing my body and mind beyond the leisurely boundaries they had become

accustomed to during the sedentary months at home.

A slogging 20km along the ranger trail to our first camp at Five Mile Beach was a breeze in retrospect to what was to come, but, with our packs at their heaviest and our bodies unprepared for such punishment, it was a relief to take a seat on the beach, and tuck into some crackers and Tim Tams.

Wildlife abounded, with birdsong, among bull ants and soldier crabs our only companions for the next two days. That is to say, we had our fair share of snake encounters, a sight to be thrilled by, but a hazard to be wary of.

Day two saw us head up into the scrub, leaving wide sweeping tracks behind, for faded pink ribbons tied to trees as our only visual guide of the correct path amongst the spaghetti of animal tracks which crisscross the area. On occasion we would take a wrong turn, instinctively following the easiest route forward, missing crucial markers; only saved by a keen pair of eyes, searching for a flash of pink amongst the greens and browns, or Nigel's GPS map; a strong recommendation for such wild terrain. We raced the tides for the easiest path along the beach, where hard packed wet sand made swift progress and was much preferred to the two steps forward, one step back of the dry sand above the tideline. The 19km of bush, rocks and beach made for a varied day, keeping it fresh and entertaining. The calm waters



Be a podcaster

Young people will explore the expanding world of podcasting by planning, recording, editing and sharing an episode.

Suitable for: All Sections

You will need

- Paper
- Pens or pencils
- Computer or laptop with internet access
- Smartphone or voice recorder
- Headphones
- Free audio editing software like Audacity (audacityteam.org)

Instructions

1 What is a podcast? What are they about? Where can you listen to them? What makes you want to listen to them? What have you noticed about the podcasts they like? Eg is their format scripted, storytelling, factual, interview or conversational? Have a listen to a few different podcasts to get an idea.

2 Now it's your turn to make a podcast! Explore ideas for what the podcast could be about. Topics and formats could include: talking about different types of aircraft, what impact the weather has on flight, interviewing somebody who has flown an aircraft, or a time you visited an air museum and what you learned.

4 Plan, record and edit your podcasts by using the information and links provided on this page.

5 Share your podcasts with others by publishing them on the website of your group, district or state for everyone to enjoy!

Questions to ask yourself first...

- 1** What is my podcast about and what is it not about?
- 2** How can I make my topic clear and interesting?
- 3** How will I grab the interest of my listeners right away?
- 4** What do I want my audience to remember afterwards?

Where to find more help and advice for making podcasts

- bit.ly/soundpractice
- yr.media/diy/diy-toolkithow-to-make-a-podcast/
- buzzsprout.com/how-to-make-a-podcast

What's a podcast?

A podcast is an audio series of content that can include news, storytelling and many other things. When you subscribe using your mobile device, new episodes are downloaded automatically.

Top tips for making a podcast

- Practise recording your first name and the name of your section, asking questions and recording someone responding, while wearing headphones to make sure the sound is coming through.
- Upload the recordings to a computer or laptop and familiarise yourself with using editing and mixing software. There are lots of tutorials online.
- Have a list of any sounds you want to record, as well as the interview.

Outcomes

You will explore the increasingly popular medium of podcasts. You will discover different formats and learn some amazing new skills.



Reference: Scouts UK <https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources> - Make. Do. Share Spring 2020

Make a rainforest

Recreate the micro climate of a rainforest on a super-small scale.

Suitable for: Joeys | Cubs | Scouts | Venturers

Time needed: 30 minutes

Why are rainforests so special?

They're the largest source of oxygen on the planet, absorb carbon dioxide and occupy just 6% of the Earth's surface area yet house 50% of the world's plant and animal species... what are they? Rainforests! Vast areas of dense forest found in tropical locations with heavy rainfall, eg South America, Asia and Africa. Each rainforest has its own ecosystem, with temperatures between 27-32°C, and they're made up of layers, with the emergent layer - i.e. the trees poking out through the canopy - at the very top, then the canopy itself, where you'll find the majority of trees, followed by the understory layer, which is populated by many birds, snakes, lizards and larger predators, before lastly reaching the forest floor, which only receives 2% of the sunlight. It's the combination of this structure, high temperatures and rainfall that help form this unique microclimate.

You will need

- A glass jar with a lid and a wide base
- Small pebbles or gravel
- Potting soil

- Moss and plants such as tiny ferns, baby spider plants or miniature African violets (have a look in your garden for plants and moss you could use)
- Cup of water

Instructions

- 1 Have a look around your garden to see if there are any plants and moss to use in your mini rainforest.
- 2 Cover the base of your jar with pebbles, then spoon in a layer of soil about 5cm deep.
- 3 Next, spray your plants with water.
- 4 Plant your small plants into the soil.
- 5 Add little pieces of moss to the jar around the plants.
- 6 Water your rainforest a little.
- 7 Put the lid on and place the jar in a warm, well-lit spot.
- 8 Watch your rainforest bloom and record what happens over the next few weeks.

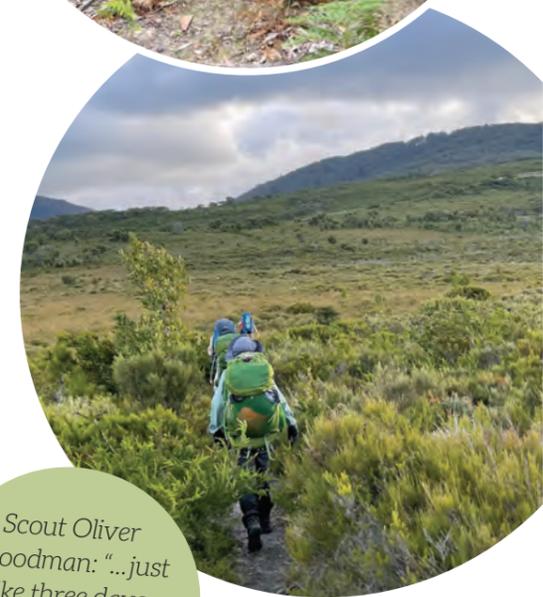


Outcomes

You will see first-hand how a rainforest's microclimate works and will learn that rainforests don't in fact require much rainfall at all.

Taking it further

Do some research in to the cycle of water, specifically about how the heat warms up the jar and how water vapours - or gases - are turned into liquid, forming on the inside of the jar and dripping down into the soil, which the plants take up through their roots. Think about what would happen, for example, if the jar had no light.



of Tin Mine Cove were a welcome respite from the day's efforts.

The final day saw 22km of the toughest trails ahead of us, with navigation becoming more difficult, and the terrain truly wild. In addition, the infamous swamp section of Chinaman's Creek awaited us. One hundred metres of waist deep water held the fastest but wettest route to the other side. With little desire to finish our hike drenched and with boots full of water, we did our best to circumnavigate the deepest sections, using animal tracks through the scrub to stay above the waterline. With 10 metres to go we had no option but to accept our fate and enter the muddy swamp, as the only route to the track was directly across open water. The sense of achievement having overcome such a formidable obstacle was paramount, yet the day was only half over. Another 3km of keen-eyed navigation took us to Lower Barry Creek Camp for a rest and lunch. Five kilometres of lighter scrub bashing led us back to the ranger trail via a spectacular view from a rocky outcrop

where we took the opportunity for some photographs. Back on the road, it was the final push to the finish. As the sun set, in the fading light, we returned to Five Mile Road Carpark and flopped down, exhausted, but gratified by our efforts.

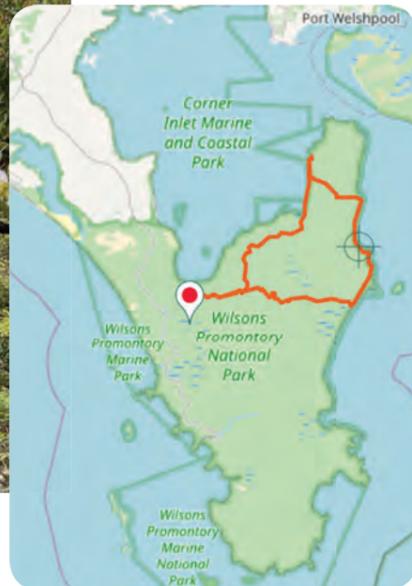
Aside from the formidable obstacles we faced, the scratchy, prickly, tearing branches, and the numerous blisters which eventuated on our unhardened feet; we all felt elated at having conquered such a wild and formidable trek. Sixty kilometres in three days sure was a challenge not to be taken lightly, but also one I recommend for those looking to test their resolve. To take on such a wild and untamed environment is a liberating experience, and I am proud to add the Wilsons Promontory North Circuit to my list of unique experiences through Scouting.

Fletcher Hamilton is a Rover at Mullumbimba Rover Crew.

Continued on page 12.

Scout Oliver Woodman: "...just like three days of Challenge Valley..."





The GPX file on OpenStreetMap of the northern circuit of Wilsons Prom. Source: Darren Edwards - www.trailhiking.com.au

By THOMAS WOODMAN

I went into the Northern Circuit of Wilsons Promontory with a decent amount of anxiety, having not hiked at all since the Overland Track in early 2020. I was well aware that we would be doing relatively long days of difficult coastal walking. However, an aspect of the hike I was quite excited about was the prospect of being able to do the hike with two Rovers, Lawrence Williams and Fletcher Hamilton, whom I had already hiked with in the past.

Day one was the most leisurely day with an 18km day walking on a vehicle track. A great way to get used to hiking with a pack again. The day's real challenge was beating the tide as the only potable water accessible from the campsite was on the other side of Miranda Creek.

Day two was for me the most challenging. We had light rain for most of the day. This made hiking uncomfortable and also made the rocks

along Three Mile Point quite slippery. It was one kilometre of treacherous rock hopping especially with a heavy pack. Any miscalculation could have potentially dire consequences, however we all helped each other along, with Fletcher and Lawrence helping to keep everyone in good spirits. After that it was a quick walk across Three Mile Beach. We then headed over to the western side of Wilsons Prom to a beach known as Chinamans Long Beach. After that it was a quick 1.8km walk over to Tin Mines Cove, with the day totalling 17km.

The final day was the longest with 22 kilometres to hike. It was a day of bush bashing through dense and in many cases prickly brush and swamp. The most challenging aspect of this day was navigating. We had a GPX track of the path on our GPS that was particularly helpful. There was also pink tape laid out by rangers who had passed through which was also quite beneficial. After having lunch at Lower Barry Creek, we continued with the worst of the bushbashing behind us. On reaching the fire trail, we walked for another 5kms

before reaching the car park, that marked the start of our journey.

The Northern Circuit pushed me past what I thought my limits, not due to its length but the type of terrain we were hiking. I can't speak for the others, but I had never really bush bashed through such dense scrub and swamp. I had also never really rock hopped in such challenging conditions. Everybody at some point lost the track which was quite humbling. While it was a tough hike, I feel better for completing it. Not only because it was an amazing and fulfilling hike, but it was also a great way to finish off what has been a year of missed opportunities.

Thomas Woodman is a Venturer at Maranoa Venturer Unit, 1st North Balwyn.

Photos: Nigel Woodman.



More information:
 Northern Overnight Hikes - parks.vic.gov.au
 Wilsons Promontory - Northern Circuit (60km), Wilsons Promontory National Park, VIC - trailhiking.com.au

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Just five days - but they come home a year older.

