

After a year off for Venturers to assist with flood relief, **KEN McLEAN** reports on the return of ...

Hoadley Hide 2012

Easter saw the Hoadley Hide competition hike come to bushland Victoria at Trentham, about 80 km north-west of Melbourne. Blessed with near-perfect hiking weather, teams of 4-6 Venturers and Guides tramped along the tracks from checkpoint to checkpoint where they were tested on their initiative, teamwork and leadership skills through a series of fun and challenging stunts. Rover Crews, Venturer Leaders and Scout Groups cooked up the stunt activities to the theme: Celebrate 60 years of the Hoadley Hide. To celebrate, each stunt revisited a past theme such as Vikings (1997), Wild Wild West (2002), Buccaneers (1990), Ghosts (2004), The Gathering of the Clans (1989), and Gold Fever (1968). Notably, this year saw a massive increase in the number of Initiative Course entries to the Hide, with more than 50 per cent of all entries attaining the Initiative award scheme requirement.

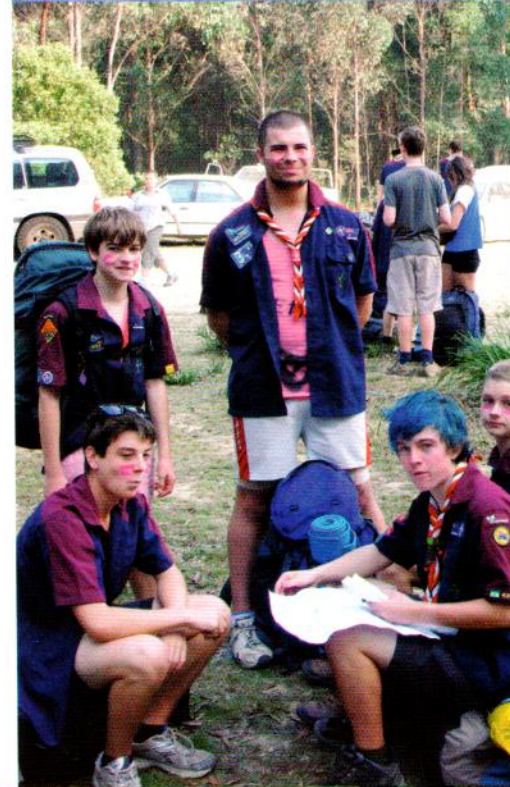
At night the Venturers stayed in one of the two Venturer Overnight Camps, also run and supervised by Rovers and adults, where there were roaring fires, hot water services, toilets, karaoke and DJs on the dance-floor. The Singstar karaoke knock-out competition was once again a big hit, with Maddy from Phoenix VU taking out the honours in the grand

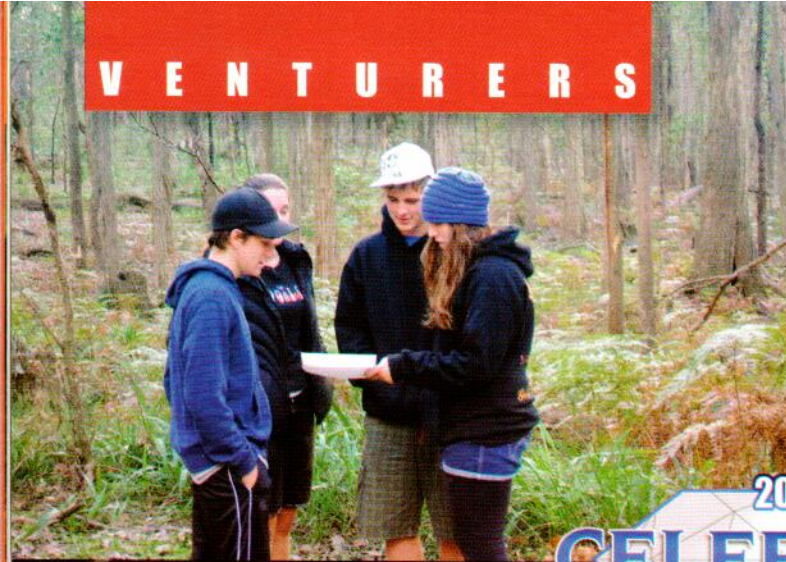
final over Rachael from Dandenong VU. The final night dance floor went off, as the young members celebrated their long-weekend in style.

After counting the points awarded by the stunts, the A-grade awardees of Hoadley Hide 2012 were announced at the final parade. The Hoadley Hide co-holders for 2012 are Waverley Valley VU, Red Hill VU, and Phoenix Mentone VU. The teams also voted Kulin Rover Crew as winners of the Ralph Simms Perpetual Trophy for best stunt. Best stunts for the Regions were Kulin RC (North and West Regions), Heathmont RC (North Eastern Regions), and Everest Le Page RC (Melbourne, Bays and Eastern Regions).

The theme for next year's event was also announced to the crowd: Comedy Capers will define the Hoadley Hide in 2013. Expect new and exciting changes to the event, including new activities to be announced later in the year. The Hoadley Hide management team are looking forward to the fresh look event and want to thank all the Rovers, Leaders and the Victorian Branch Venturer Council for their ongoing support, without whom the event would not run. See you next year for an Easter of Comedy Capers!

- *Ken McLean is HHMT Secretary.*





2012 CELEBRATE

60 Years of Howdy Hike

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