Scouts Victoria Report to Victoria 2024







Acknowledgement of Country

Scouts Victoria is proud to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we play the game of Scouting.

The land where today we camp, hike and enjoy adventurous activities has been cared for by the First People of Australia for millennia.

We have much to learn from indigenous culture and we pay tribute to their elders - past and present.



CHIEF COMMISSIONER REPORT



Rod Byrnes Chief Commissioner Scouts Victoria



Daniella Taglieri OAMDeputy Chief Commissioner
Scouts Victoria

This past year has been full of growth and achievements across Scouts Victoria. Looking back on everything we've done together, I feel proud and grateful for each of you who has helped shape Scouts Victoria. From our youngest Scout to our dedicated Leaders, families, and community supporters, it's clear our strength lies in our shared commitment to Scouting values.

As Chief Commissioner, I believe our organisation thrives because of four key actions: Check in, Seek to understand, Share your knowledge, and Find your joy. These are more than words; they're principles I see in action every day across our Sections, Groups, and teams.

Checking in reminds us to stay connected, creating an environment where everyone feels seen, supported, and valued. Seeking to understand helps us listen closely and appreciate each unique perspective our Scouts and Leaders bring to the movement.

This year has been a testament to the dedication of our Leaders, volunteers, and members who continue to share their knowledge, passing on skills, traditions, and values that are vital to Scouting's legacy.

Finding joy in our experiences – whether around a campfire, on a challenging hike, or earning a milestone badge – reminds us of the lifelong impact these moments create.

A big focus this year has been on growth, making sure Scouts Victoria remains accessible and meaningful to more young people across the state. With the goal of every Group welcoming two new members per Section, we've worked hard to raise awareness, improve our

programs, and connections with communities.

This growth is about more than numbers; it's about building a movement that enriches lives, helping young people find purpose, confidence, and lasting friendships.

It's also been a privilege to see the power of youth voices shaping Scouts Victoria. Through Ambassador programs, Unit Councils, and events like our Bring a Friend initiative, more Scouts are stepping up, speaking out, and guiding their own journeys. Your voices and ideas are the heart of our movement, and I'm committed to giving you even more opportunities to lead, create, and inspire.

Fundraising and community support remain crucial, helping us build a sustainable future for Scouts Victoria. From local fundraisers to the Monster Raffle, every dollar raised and every hour volunteered makes our vision a reality. Thank you to everyone who has contributed – your efforts make a real difference in keeping Scouting accessible and vibrant for current and future members.

Looking ahead, I'm excited about where we're going. We have so much to look forward to, from more inclusive programs to improved facilities and resources that reflect our commitment to quality Scouting.

As we continue on this journey, I ask each of you to stay engaged, keep sharing your knowledge, and find joy in the path we're paving together.

Thank you for making Scouts Victoria a place of growth, adventure, and community. It's an honour to serve alongside such inspiring individuals, all dedicated to making a difference.

Let's keep moving forward with purpose, building a future where every young person can find their place in Scouting.









CHAIR'S REPORT

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I am extremely pleased to report that Scouting in Victoria continues to make an important difference in the lives of young people right across the Victorian community.

Despite continuing challenges for all volunteer based organisations in retaining members and volunteer Leaders, Scouts Victoria – through the dedication, perseverance and strong belief in the value of the Scout program to the positive development of young people – continues to see strong member numbers and participation in Groups right across the State.



Jon Willis OAM
Chair
Branch Executive
Committee
Scouts Victoria

We have enjoyed the opening of new Halls in Aintree, Albert Park and Strathfieldsaye and gratefully

acknowledge the strong financial assistance of both the State and Federal governments with these wonderful facilities. We continue to allocate significant resources to our Group facilities support programs – both for new Halls and existing facilities – recognising that having quality, fit for purpose home for our young people to conduct activities is crucial to our member experience and enjoyment.

In a similar way, our Gilwell Park revitalisation project continues to gather pace with planning progress achieved for our ambitious plans to revitalise both the Leader training areas and youth camping facilities. Our aim is to make Gilwell the pre-eminent Adventurous Activities Centre in Victoria, generating revenue from the school sector during the week to provide amazing facilities for Scout use on the weekends.

Litigation continues to have an impact. The number of cases is reducing but the financial statements continue to show there remains a substantial potential expense into the future.

Insurance costs also continue to require careful focus and management as factors outside our control increasingly affect both cover on offer and cost. To manage this risk, we have made significant steps towards our desire to move to self-insurance for our property assets, with the financial statements indicating the creation of a separate fund category to allow us to operationalise – potentially as soon as the next insurance renewal round. We believe careful management will contribute to giving us an ability to restrict membership fee increases and to continue to deliver the important professional services which support

our Groups. Indeed, the Branch Executive Committee has taken the decision that there will be no increase in membership fees for the coming year – a strong and tangible support to our families and Groups in the current economic conditions.

No less important to our future prosperity is our growing Container Deposit Scheme business - Scouts Victoria Recycling - which is now officially one year old. We are indebted to Greg Landgren as the Chair, along with Board Members and staff, of this major investment initiative for Scouts Victoria which we are confident will become an important part of securing the financial future of the Branch. There is more detail about this important and exciting initiative in Greg's report.

Jon McGregor, our Executive Manager and General Secretary, continues to provide exceptional leadership to our excellent staff team which supports our volunteers. We are truly privileged to have the group of highly committed staff that we do and I extend our thanks to each and every one of them.

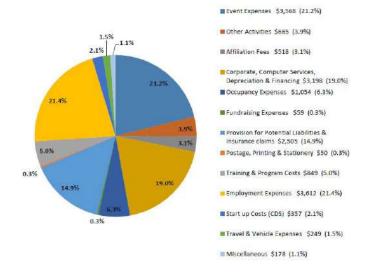
David Crundall, our Treasurer, with the support of the Finance team manages our funds carefully and effectively and we thank David and all that team for their hard work and expertise.

Rod Byrnes, Chief Commissioner, and Daniella Taglieri OAM, Deputy Chief Commissioner, lead our thousands of volunteer Leaders and supporters who provide the programs that the young people of Victoria benefit from week in and week out. Their work, together with the entire State Leadership Team, is why Victoria has the largest membership of any State and the diverse and engaging range of programs on offer for our young people.

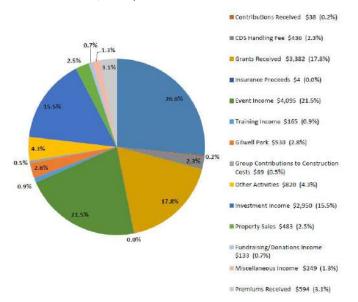
The Branch Executive Committee continues to work effectively and diligently to protect our organisation and support improvements. I particularly thank Cilla Boreham, our Deputy Chair, for her support and thank all BEC members for their willingness to freely give their expertise and effort throughout the year.

MAKE YOUR LAND IN THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY

All expenses 2023/2024 \$000's



All revenue 2023/2024 \$000's







SCOUTS VICTORIA RECYCLING TRUST

I am proud to report that the Scouts Victoria Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) has made progress in its first year, significantly benefiting both the environment and Scouting in Victoria. Through the hard work of our teams and the support of our community, we have processed 16 million containers through our 16 refund points, including our four high speed depots in Mount Waverley, Glen Waverley, Carnegie, and Burwood.



Greg LandgrenScouts Victoria
Recycling Trust

This initiative not only helps reduce litter and promotes recycling but also provides a vital source of funding to support Scouting in Victoria's future.

The financial benefits of the CDS to Scouts Victoria cannot be overstated. By creating a consistent, sustainable revenue stream, the funds will be reinvested directly into local Scouting programs, camps, and infrastructure improvements.



These funds ensure that we can continue to provide high-quality experiences for our youth members, helping them to develop key life skills while engaging in Scouting activities.

In recent months, we have taken a major step forward with the installation of a high volume Singulator at the Mount Waverley depot, which has enhanced our processing capacity.

This new technology allows us to handle more containers at a faster rate, making it easier to partner with commercial organisations and corporate entities such as hotels and clubs. This expanded capacity will play a crucial role in our ability to further grow the CDS program, helping to ensure that Scouting remains financially secure and sustainable for the years to come.



We have also focused on engaging directly with Scout Groups. By opening the doors of our depots during program nights, we've provided thousands of Scouts with a unique, behind-the-scenes look at the life-cycle of a can—from collection to processing and recycling. This hands-on experience has been invaluable in teaching Scouts the importance of environmental stewardship and reinforcing their role in creating a sustainable future whilst fundraising.

Additionally, we are working with Scout Groups across the state to supply signage and collection bins at local Halls, enabling Groups to collect eligible containers from their communities as a key fundraising initiative. This not only generates vital funds for individual Scout Groups but also strengthens the collective impact of our recycling efforts, benefiting the broader community.

Looking ahead, Scouts Victoria CDS will continue to be a key pillar of our financial strategy, supporting Scouting activities and ensuring our financial sustainability helping us grow stronger as an organisation.

The combination of environmental impact and financial benefit positions this scheme as one of the most successful and meaningful initiatives we have undertaken.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our success so far.







High Participation







Venture 24

December - January 2023/24

926 Participants including 882 Australians including 572 Victorians

January 2024

4000 Participants including 687 Australians including 210 Victorians

New Zealand Jamboree Governor General's Camp

April 2024

1400 Participants including 465 Victorians

Looking Ahead



Australian Jamboree

January 2025



World Scout Moot

July - August 2025



World Scout 26th Jamboree Scout Mondial

World Scout Jamboree

July – August 2027





Venturers who received the Queen's Scout Award at the May 2024 presentation at Government House will be the last recipients of this prestigious award title.

Following advice from Buckingham Palace as of August 2024, the Peak Award for the Venturer Scout Section will be renamed the King's Scout Award, reflecting the honour of His Majesty's support for Scouting in Australia.

The King's patronage officially commenced from the first anniversary of Their Majesties' Coronation.

Once again, congratulations on your Peak Award—it is a fantastic accomplishment, and we are honoured to share this journey with you.

His Majesty King Charles III has graciously accepted the Patronage of Scouts Australia.





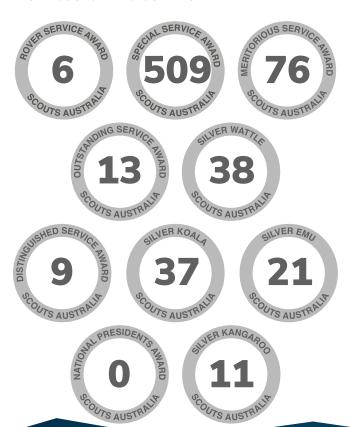
Highly skilled

Youth Peak Awards achieved



Highly respected

Victorian Scouting volunteers honoured with National Awards in 2024



Wood Beads achieved



Awardees of the Silver Kangaroo

Craig Whan

Assistant Chief Commissioner - People and Culture

Chris Young

Office Bearer - Scouts Victoria

Deirdre Lancaster

District Commissioner - Sherbrooke Yarra Ranges District

lan Campbell

State Leader - Gilwell Park Scout Patrol Activity Camping

David Reeve JP

State Leader - Treetops Scout Patrol Activity Camping

Mark Thornton

Rover Commissioner - Northern and Loddon Mallee Region

Daniel Attard

District Leader - Cub Scouts, Hume District

Sue Humber

Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Somerville

Gary Brand

Scout Leader - 10th Caulfield

Neil Chalmers

Activity Leader - Police Scouters

Antonio Cipriano

Scout Leader - 1st/14th Brighton

Gary Howard

Rover Advisor - 2nd Essendon







































Looking ahead, we're thrilled for what's next, especially Kangaree 2025! This event will bring our Joey Scouts together for an unforgettable camp where they can explore, make new friends, and grow in independence and resilience. Kangaree offers Joey Scouts the chance to experience the magic of camping on a bigger scale, helping them build confidence and create memories.

We can't wait to see what more adventures await our energetic, curious Joeys in the coming year.

Judy Niven, State Commissioner - Joey Scouts

Joey Scouts

What a year of adventure and excitement for our Joey Scouts! From challenges to camps and everything in between, our Joeys have embraced every moment.

An impressive number of Joey Promise Awards were presented at our November State Peak Award Presentation, showing just how much our youth members and Leaders are embracing the Scout Program. Joey Scouts proudly shared stories of their Adventurous Journeys and the memories they've made along the way. Across the state, Joey Scouts are discovering new skills, growing in confidence, and building friendships.

Our State Synchronised Sleepover was a standout event, bringing Joey Scouts together from all corners of Victoria. Joey Scouts travelled near and far, swapping Halls within their Districts and Regions or taking trains and buses to visit new places. A highlight of this adventure was a group from Northern Region making the journey to Melbourne to attend an AFL footy match – an experience they'll never forget!

All year, our Joey Units have been buzzing with activity, connecting Groups, Districts, and Regions in a way that has brought Joey Scouts across the state closer together. This sense of community is what makes our Program so special.



Cub Scouts

The year kicked off with Cuboree! Over 5,000 participants at Gilwell Park spent five nights diving into adventures, creating memories that Cub Scouts and Scouts are still sharing. A huge congratulations to everyone who made this experience possible, and a special shout-out to our Cub Scouts for bringing their boundless sense of adventure and fun. It's an achievement we can all be proud of!

To hear what our Cub Scouts enjoyed most over the past year, we spoke with nearly fifty Cub Scouts at a District scavenger hunt, asking them to share their favourite activities from the last year.

Here is a summary of what they told us:

- Attending the Governor-General's Camp was great, especially standing in the hot air balloon
- Planning our own Cub programs
- Camping with friends, having campfires and singing
- Going on bushwalks and bike riding journeys
- Getting invested or moving to Cub Scouts from Joey Scouts - well done to the Unit Council and Leaders!
- Trying new and different activities
- Doing Special Interest Area projects that I chose
- Meeting new people at District events
- Cuboree seeing friends and making new friends
- Cuboree all the fun activities, especially the mud run - and swimming in it!
- Cuboree the food

We would also like to share a heart-warming reflection from a Cub Scout.

As I sit by the campfire, under the stars in the sky, I reflect on my journey as a Scout. The friendships that I have made, the skills that I have learned and the challenges I have met, each adventure a memory, each moment I will remember forever.

I have grown in ways I never imagined and have discovered strengths inside me that I didn't know were there. Learning to lead, to try new things, to lose and to win. The Scout Promise and Law, guides my actions and decisions.

I am grateful for the lessons as it is not just about camping, knots, and eating, it's about being part of something bigger, by working as a team.

Alexander, 1st Caroline Springs Scout Group



None of these activities and experiences would have been possible without the passion and dedication of our Leaders and helpers. Their efforts are deeply appreciated, and the impact they've made will be felt for decades as we watch our youth grow and thrive.

Cub Scouts develop confidence in themselves and what they can achieve in the community. This growth is proudly reflected in the 459 Cub Scouts who earned their Grey Wolf Award in the 2023–2024 year.

Congratulations and thank you to all who make the Cub Scout experience a memorable and rewarding one!

Joanna McIntyre, State Commissioner – Cub Scouts

Scouts

This year, the Scout Section has been packed with activity and strong attendance at all our major events.

Scout Hike brought Scouts from across Victoria together to take on outdoor challenges and build skills as a Patrol. Our yearly events, like Stradbroke Cup, Cohen Shield, and Fantastic Race, continue to be favourites, with Stradbroke Cup drawing over 500 Scouts to one site alone.

A newer addition, Boost, has quickly become a highlight for our youth. Running for just the past three years, Boost is giving Scouts the chance to build Outdoor Adventure Skills (OAS) in ways that might not be possible on weeknights with their Units. This year, over 1,300 youth attended, showing just how popular Boost has become as Scouts get hands-on experience with outdoor skills.







Governor General's Camp was another special opportunity this year, where Scouts had the unique experience of camping right in the Governor's backyard in Canberra – an adventure they'll remember for years.

We've also seen Shakedown Camps happening around the state, preparing Scouts for the ultimate adventure in Maryborough QLD with over 11,000 other Scouts: AJ2025. Excitement is building as we look forward to the Jamboree at the end of the year. Jamborees are life-changing experiences, and our youth are in for an incredible journey, filled with new friendships, skills, and challenges.

With strong engagement and exciting opportunities, the Scout Section is set for an amazing 2025!

Nick Pike, State Commissioner - Scouts

Venturer Scouts

2024 has been a big year for our Venturer Section! We kicked off with Venture24, a huge success that brought Venturers together from across Victoria and other states. Venturers made new friendships and had unforgettable experiences.

The Venturer Victoria Council (VVC) has worked hard to add new resources to help make planning nights easier.

This year, we launched the Victorian Venturers Grand Slam and the Venturer Commissioners' Challenge. Grand Slam, is a badge competition that celebrates Venturers who take part in at least four major events over 12 months. It's been a huge success, bringing Venturers together through fun and friendly competitions.

The Commissioner's Challenge has also had a big impact, helping Venturers progress on their Achievement Pathways and encouraging Units to team up for exciting inter-Section link nights.

This year has created a solid foundation for 2025, with new ideas and energy across the Venturer Section. We're excited to build on this progress and can't wait to see what next year will bring.

Benjamin Holland, State Leader - Venturers



Rover Scouts

This past year has been fantastic for Rovers in Victoria, highlighted by exciting events and initiatives. Our key events have not only grown in quality but also seen increased attendance, a testament to the energy and engagement within the Rover Section.

Surfmoot kicked off the Rover calendar with a fantastic camp at Eumeralla, led by the dedicated Kira. Each year, Surfmoot continues to evolve to meet the needs of today's Rovers, and the growing numbers show how well it resonates. Mudbash followed over the King's Birthday long weekend, with Sienna at the helm. The event saw an increase in participants and an incredible turnout for the Mudbash Open Day, where over 1,000 people experienced the excitement of Mudbash and learned more about Rovers.





We also celebrated the 97th Metropolitan Area Rover Ball in St Kilda, where Rovers gathered to eat, dance, and celebrate together. A huge thank you goes to Michael and the team for organising this memorable night.

Administratively, we have focused on a cultural reset and revisiting our processes, laying the groundwork for a stronger foundation within the Rover Section. Building stronger relationships has led to improved collaboration, marking a high point in our Section's history.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the projects we have in the pipeline to build recruitment, boost retention, and strengthen our Units. The next year promises even more growth and success for Rovers in Victoria.

Zac Geddes, Chair - Victorian Rovers







DICK & PIP SMITH

LEADERSHIP THROUGH ADVENTURE FUND

Lucy Apted

Mullumbimba Rover Unit Overland Track, Tasmania

In December 2023, nine of us from the Mullumbimba Rover Unit in Victoria embarked on an adventure that took us deep into Tasmania's rugged wilderness. Over five days, we hiked through the Walls of Jerusalem National Park and the Central Plateau Conservation Area, facing physical and mental challenges that pushed us all to grow as leaders and as a Unit.

We started our journey on the Higgs Track, fully prepared for the fact that we wouldn't see another person for at least three days. The isolation was both exhilarating and daunting. It forced us to rely completely on one another and to be responsible for our safety.

Navigation was critical, as there were no clear paths, and crossing streams with heavy packs presented real risks. We were fortunate to have the right tools, like GPS and PLBs, to guide us through unmarked terrain, but every decision on where to cross was a careful balance of safety and efficiency.



One of the most valuable parts of the trip for me, as the lead, was the leadership experience. Organising and executing this hike taught me more than any leadership course ever could. I learned how to communicate effectively, manage the group's needs, and make tough decisions—like when one of our members became unwell, and I had to decide how to proceed safely for the entire group.

Throughout the hike, we rotated leadership roles, giving each of us a chance to navigate and manage the group. It was challenging, but by the end, our teamwork and communication had improved immensely.



Planning was one of the trickiest aspects of this adventure. As the trip lead, I quickly learned the importance of following up on tasks, whether it was coordinating with transport or ensuring our gear was in order.

Our mentors advised us on financial planning, ensuring we had a contingency budget for any unexpected costs. This extra preparation came in handy, especially when facing some logistical surprises along the way.

After five days in the wilderness, we spent two days in Hobart, enjoying the city's sights and reflecting on our journey. It was the perfect way to end the trip before flying back home to Melbourne.



This expedition would not have been possible without the generous support of Dick and Pip Smith. Their donation allowed us to undertake an adventure that many have found inspiring, and for that, we are incredibly grateful. Our trip has sparked a lot of interest, and we're already planning our next big challenge.

We hope our experience encourages others in the Scouting community to embark on their own adventures!

Joshua SimnettHeathmont Scouts

Overland Track, Tasmania

In January 2024, a group of nine Scouts, seven Venturers, four Leaders, and two Adult Helpers from Heathmont Scout Group in Victoria embarked on a six-day trek along Tasmania's renowned Overland Track. With the support of the Dick and Pip Smith Leadership through Adventure Fund (LTAF), we had the chance to experience an adventure that was two years in the making.

Our preparation started in 2022 with training hikes in the Grampians, Wilson's Promontory, and other challenging areas in Victoria. By the time we arrived in Tasmania, we felt ready for the journey ahead, which took us through the rugged beauty of Cradle Mountain, Waterfall Valley, Pelion, and Narcissus Bay. We tackled steep ascents, rocky paths, and some very muddy terrain, and along the way, we experienced the best of Tasmania's wilderness.

The Overland Track isn't for the faint-hearted. We had to be self-sufficient for the full six days, as the trail is remote and only accessible at the start and end. This meant carrying everything we needed, from food and water to safety gear. We encountered various wildlife and even braved icy-cold lakes for a swim, which, while freezing, was a great way to cool down after long days of walking.



The most memorable parts of the trip was arriving at Waterfall Valley on the first day. The park ranger told us that many hikers often find the first leg overwhelming, with some needing to turn back the next day.

Hearing this, we were proud of our preparation, knowing we had what it took to keep going. That evening, instead of feeling defeated, we explored the valley, marvelling at its incredible wildlife and views.

The adventure also strengthened our leadership and

teamwork skills. We all took turns leading the group, navigating the track, and keeping everyone motivated with welltimed breaks.







Our experience in planning, packing, and navigating paid off, especially when managing challenges like blisters, sunburn, and tiredness. It wasn't easy, but everyone played their part in keeping the group safe and moving forward.

We also learned valuable lessons about responsible risk-taking. From crossing streams safely to ensuring we had the right equipment for any weather conditions, we relied on our training and each other to make smart decisions throughout the hike.

Since returning, we've been sharing our experience with other Scouts at events like Scout Hike and Stradbroke Cup. We've posted photos on social media and are working on a detailed article for an upcoming Scout newsletter. Our Leaders have suggested we present our story to other Scout Groups, so more young people can be inspired to take on their own adventures.

A huge thank you goes to Dick and Pip Smith for their generosity through the Leadership through Adventure Fund. This hike would not have been possible without their support, and it has truly inspired us to continue seeking out new challenges. We're already planning our next adventure and can't wait to see what's next.

Thanks again to everyone who supported us on this journey. We hope our story encourages other Scouts to take on the wonders of the Overland Track.

Cooper Bellette1st Ballan Scout Group Cradle Mountain, Tasmania

In April 2024, a team of five Scouts, nine Venturers, and five Leaders from 1st Ballan Scout Group embarked on an 11-day expedition across Tasmania's Overland Track. This ambitious journey, two years in the making, showcased the spirit of Scouting—resilience, teamwork, and a commitment to adventure. As one of us noted, "The journey we've been on just to get here makes this all the more exciting."

Arriving in Launceston, our group enjoyed the hospitality of 1st Tamar Sea Scout Group, who provided not only accommodation but essential equipment. Final preparations included gathering wet weather gear and exploring Launceston—a relaxed beginning before the real challenge.

At Ronny Creek Carpark, the northern gateway of the Overland Track, our group took it's first steps into the wilderness. Greeted by the local wildlife, including friendly wombats, we began our ascent to Scout Hut. The reality of the trek set in as we encountered rough trails, tree roots, and steep climbs, but we supported each other along the way.



One of the expedition's highlights was Summit Day, a momentous climb to Cradle Mountain. As we neared the summit, we moved at our own pace, encouraging one another to reach the top. "It was amazing to finally make it," said one of the Venturers. The summit offered breathtaking views, a sense of achievement, and a moment to reflect on our shared journey. But, as every mountaineer knows, the climb down is just as challenging.

Each day presented its unique trials, from traversing exposed boardwalks to navigating slippery roots and muddy trails. We trekked through alpine plateaus, camped in the shadows of Barn Bluff, and embraced the natural beauty of Tasmania's wilderness. On a particularly wet day, we found ourselves enchanted by the misty rain, discovering "enchanted forests" rich with vibrant green moss and lively streams.

Waking up to a dusting of snow one morning, we couldn't resist some playtime on Mount Pelion East, embracing the wintry landscape. Each step brought new sights—snow-capped peaks, ancient huts, and pristine lakes.







Du Cane Hut, built in 1910, was a highlight as we learned about the area's history and took detours to explore the nearby waterfalls, marveling at the natural beauty surrounding them.

Our teamwork shone as we supported a fellow Scout who re-injured their knee and in true Scouting spirit, everyone pitched in—carrying gear, cooking, and planning the route forward. As one Venturer shared, "It was amazing to see everyone come together to help out."

After nearly two weeks in the wild, we reached Lake St Clair, marking the end of our incredible journey. Tired but elated, we celebrated our accomplishment, reflecting on the landscapes, camaraderie, and newfound resilience. "It was a chance to truly connect with others who get the hiking life," one Scout reflected. "The hiking community rocked, and the support from both our team and other hikers was incredible."







Our journey across Tasmania's Overland Track was only possible thanks to the incredible generosity of Dick and Pip Smith. Their donation allowed us to embark on this unforgettable adventure, and their support inspired us every step of the way. We are deeply thankful for their role in making this experience a reality.





































David W. Jones AM FCA AFAIMPresident and Chair
Victorian Scout Foundation

This November, the Victorian Scout Foundation turned 40 years old and I am happy to say that we have had another great year in 2024, with a net profit of \$758,188 after distributing a grant to the Victorian Branch of \$300,000.

The total assets of the fund now stands at \$14,813,691 which is an increase of \$1,568,519 since last year. This is a great result and I am sure you will agree.

This has allowed us to continue supporting the Victorian Branch and for them to be able to make grants to fund the Monster Raffle \$20,000, assist with supporting the Heritage Centre \$10,000 and provide funds for the upgrade of Scout Halls around the State \$270,000.

Since inception in November 1984, we have been able to provide funds to the Victorian Branch to allow for grants of over \$8.3 million.

You can help this to continue to build Scouting in Victoria, by supporting the Foundation and becoming a member.

Contact the Victorian Branch on 8543 9800 for more information and become a part of the most successful Scouting fundraising organisation in Australia.





Victorian Branch Personnel

Patron of Scouts Victoria -

Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret

Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria

Chief Scout - Shane Jacobson

Chief Commissioner – Rod Byrnes

President – John de Wijn AM KC

Vice President – Richard Simpson

Treasurer - David Crundall

Branch Executive Committee

Elected members

Chair - Jon Willis OAM

Deputy Chair - Cilla Boreham

Lucy Saaroni

Sarah McGeehan

Steve Prossor

Ex-officio members

President – John de Wijn AM KC

Vice President – Richard Simpson

Treasurer - David Crundall

Chief Commissioner – Rod Byrnes

Deputy Chief Commissioner – Daniella Taglieri OAM

Assistant Chief Commissioner - Phil Britt

Youth Representative

Chair. Victorian Rovers - Zac Geddes

Victorian Commissioner Team

Chief Commissioner – Rod Byrnes

Deputy Chief Commissioner – Daniella Taglieri OAM

Assistant Chief Commissioners

Adventure - Mathew McKernan

Major Events - Phil Britt

Marketing and Communications – Janet Granger-Wilcox

People and Culture - Craig Whan

Program – Morris Orchard

Program Support Leaders – Wombat Lyons

Risk and Finance – Peter Wotherspoon

Region Commissioners

Bays – Damien Kuzek

Geelong – Russell Phemister

Lerderderg - Andrew Bowyer-Smyth

Loddon Mallee - Dan Cliff

Melbourne – Roy Kaplan

Mt Dandenong – Terri Verberne

Northern – John Horn

Plenty Valley - Damion Toes

Western - Leigh Cooksley

State Commissioners

Joey Scouts – Judy Niven

Cub Scouts – Jo McIntyre

Scouts - Nick Pike

Venturer Scouts - Duncan McColl

Rover Support – Stephen Carter

Adult Training and Development – Emma Watson

Adventurous Activities – Scott Rosicka

Campsites - Peter Rutley OAM

Gang Show - Robert Motton

Gilwell Park - Russell Bradd

Group Support - Peter Marriott AM

Heritage – Peter Datson

Quartermaster – Trevor Howlett

International – Leah Gibson

OAS Leader Support – Narelle Lowdell

People and Culture, Adult – Paul Byrnes

People and Culture, Youth – Jenni Walden

Performing Arts - Doug Wright

Risk and Safety – Simon Casey

VET - Molly Venables

Major Events – Josh Cashill

STEM – Andy King

Digital Transformation – Andrew Sanderson

Diversity and Inclusion – Christine Almaraz

Environment – Martin Williams

Assistant State Commissioners

Joey Scouts – Rosemary Redgrave

Scouts – Aidan Ritchie-Neilsen, Ian Lancaster

Venturer Scouts – Chris Anderson

Rover Support - Sarah Austin, Lachlan McDonald

OAS Leader Support – Jenna Denley

People and Culture, Adult – Frank Moore

VET – Matthew Grieshaber

Digital Transformation – Paul Kennedy

Adventurous Activities – Caitlin Parsons, Ken McLean,

Lachlan Shield

Adult Training and Development – Jody Freeman

Campsites – Darrell Lewis

Major Events – Joan Dillon OAM, Peter Macdonald

Staff

Executive Manager – Jon McGregor

Marketing, Communications and Fundraising Manager –

Michelle Strachan

Marketing and Fundraising Team - Sarah Gray,

Kate Leyden, Chris Mcquinlan

Program, Membership and Training Manager –

Rosemary Redgrave

Training and Membership Team – Lea Gray, Owyne Zobel,

Rebecca Reichelt, Jesse Carter, Michelle Grierson, Jan Black

Administration Assistant - Emily Purse

Adventurous Activity Project Lead – Bob Edwards

Manager, People and Culture – Kathleen Bradley

Child Safe Project Officer - Melissa Reoch

Finance Manager – Leanne Sheehan

Finance Team - Christine Stephenson, Stephanie Bi

Facilities Manager - Rob Dixon

Facilities Team – Peter Jankulovski, Sam Wells, Claire

Maddison

Commercial Manager – David Spelman

Campsites – Fiona Hocking, Ian Thorne, Pete Pearce, Kylie Thomas, Dean Tomaselli, Corey Cockroft, Maxine

Kylle Thomas, Dean T

Strategic Growth Manager – Michael Thomas

IT Manager – Nicolas Tao

IT Team - Phung Tran, Steven Chiu, Jackson Isted,

Adam Moar, Mahesh Kharel

Branch Council

Chief Scout - Shane Jacobson

By-Law 4b - Branch Council Member holding Designated Offices (The persons for the time being respectively holding the following offices, namely President of the Branch, two Vice Presidents of the Branch, Honorary Treasurer, Chief Commissioner, Deputy Chief Commissioner, Assistant Chief Commissioners and all other Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners with the exception of Honorary Commissioners and Assistant District Commissioners)

President – John de Wijn AM, KC

Vice President – Richard Simpson

Treasurer – David Crundall

Chief Commissioner – Rod Byrnes

Deputy Chief Commissioner – Daniella Taglieri OAM

Assistant Chief Commissioners

Janet Granger-Wilcox

Craig Whan

Phil Britt

Morris Orchard

Wombat Lyons

Mathew McKernan

Peter Wotherspoon

State Commissioners - 24

Assistant State Commissioners - 20

Region Commissioners - 9

Section Commissioners - Regions - 32

District Commissioners - 35

By Law 4c - Region President/Chair (Region President and or Chair)

Bays Region - David Jones AM

Geelong Region – Ken Kinloch

Melbourne Region – Jamie Hyams

By-Law 4d - General Secretary

Jon McGregor

By-Law 4e - Elected Lay Member (Such other persons, not exceeding 36 in number, as may be elected by the Council from time to time as

lay members)

Adam Bandt MP

Cilla Boreham

John de Wijn AM, KC

Richard Hamer

Greg Landgren

Neville Lee OAM

Brad Miles

Lucy Saaroni

Richard Simpson

Jackson Taylor MP

Kelvin Thomson

Kim Wells MP

Chris Young

By-Law 4f - (Two additional members from each Area Council approved by the Committee, one only of whom may be a Scouter. These additional members shall be respectively elected by the Area

Council which they are to represent)

Bays Region – Katherine Dowsett

Bays Region - Michael Jones

Geelong Region – Bryce Hutton

Geelong Region - Jacqueline Sawyer

Lerderderg Region – John Ravenhall AM

Lerderderg Region - Leigh Hardinge OAM, JP

Mt Dandenong – Nick Wakeling MP

By-Law 4g – (Life Members) (Such members as determined and nominated by the Committee as Life Members, with the number not exceeding four (4) annually, the total of which shall not exceed 25 at any time.

Shirley Bean OAM

Lillian Beard OAM (dec)

Basil Bowman OAM (dec)

James Cameron OAM (dec)

Neville Cartledge OAM

Graeme Cumbrae-Stewart OAM (dec) Sir James Gobbo AC CVO KC (dec) Elizabeth Golec OAM Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell (dec) Tom Hartley OAM (dec) Gifford Hatfield OAM David Jefferson OAM (dec) David Jones AM Greg McDougall OAM Alston Park AM, JP, KSJ (dec) Jack Paterson OAM Jean Paterson OAM Russell Payne OAM (dec) Joan Summers OAM, PSM Elizabeth Tanck Margaret Tremewen OAM William Wells AM (dec) Neil Westaway AO (dec) Francis Waterton Bill Wilkins OAM (dec) Ada Wilkinson OAM (dec)





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Thank you to everyone who submitted

Scouts Victoria is a Child Safe organisation with zerotolerance for any harm, abuse or neglect. We value the diversity of our members, including gender, sexuality, race, religion and ability. Visit our Child Safe Scouting webpage for more information.

