

INTERCHANGE

Vol. 28 No. 2

A MAGAZINE FOR VENTURERS & ROVERS

March 2007

Did you Get on the Tram on Sat. 24th Feb. 2007?

Founders Day 2007 - Melbourne

Where's Wally - can you spot the BC(VS) - in the crowd?

Vic, Nat & O/S NEWS

The Scout Uniform in Public

In November 2003 the present blue uniform was introduced as follows:

- **Adults** Blue shirt, belt and scarf
- **Youth** Blue shirt with colour on the sleeves and collar for each section together with the belt together with scarf

Clothing from the waist down was left to the choice of individuals requesting the colour worn would be of one colour but conservative, with the leader in charge of formal parades such as Anzac Day, Scout Medallion and Queen's Scout presentations having the right to stipulate the colour to be worn for the occasion.

It was envisaged that where many of the group attended similar schools they would have adopted the wearing of the school trousers/slacks/shorts but this has not happened.

- In the original uniform review committee it was recommended 'The shirt be worn with jeans or plain pants preferably navy, blue, black beige or dark green
- Any shoe suitable for the activity should be worn
- Any hat suitable for the activity should be worn

The change over period from the khaki uniform to the blue would a five year period ending November 2008 when all present members would be expected to be wearing the blue.

Those who continued to wear khaki were to ensure they wore the complete khaki uniform including the khaki trousers.

Since 2003 the dress of the Scout Association has deteriorated greatly in some instances with both adult and youth

- Wearing all types of clothing from worn out jeans to vividly coloured materials
- Thongs, no socks
- Khaki shirt with all types of gear below the waist and not khaki as expected.

I am pleased to say many groups, districts and region have since the 2003 inception date taken the initiative and recommended the shade that should be worn

At the combined meeting of Branch and Region Commissioners held early in February the commissioners discussed the present state of dress members wore in public and believe the reputation of the Scout Movement is being tarnished by the way we look.

As we celebrate the Centenary of Scouting in 2007 all are urged to have their activities and meetings in public dressed as scouts but we need to be seen as dressed neat and tidy.

One of the accolades expressed to members by the general public was the waves and waves of youth in the jamboree shirt and hat.

I am therefore appealing and asking all leaders and parents seriously all members to consider wearing below the waist:

- Trousers, slacks, skirts in a conservative colour from those suggested in the original uniforms recommendations of navy, blue, black beige or dark green or taupe.
- Strong footwear
- Hats with scouting emblems

Let us have great fun and games as we celebrate the Centenary of scouting outdoors and smartly attired.

Alston Park, Chief Commissioner

INTERCHANGE - YOUR COMMUNICATION & RESOURCE SERVICE!

- Aim:** to provide communication & resource material for Venturers & Rovers.
- Content:** the Editor reserves the right not to publish material that is contrary to or conflicts with, recognised Scouting practice.
- Contributions:** articles, photographs, reports, cartoons etc are most welcome, preferably submitted via email, but postal is acceptable.
- Postal:** **INTERCHANGE, c/o BC(VS) at P.O. Box 774, MOUNT WAVERLEY, VICTORIA, 3149.**
- Email:** interchange@vicscouts.asn.au
- Due date:** the due date for contributions is the last day of the month preceding the monthly issue (ie 30th June for July issue); this permits inclusion of info from the BRC (4th Wednesday), VVC (1st Tuesday) and BCs' meetings (1st Wednesday); for mailing on the next Monday - which will be the 13th of the month, at the latest.
- Distribution:** it is published up to 11 times a year by the Scout Association, Victorian Branch, with copies to each Crew and Unit.
- Web Page:** you can view 2 pdf versions of each issue (one with pics/graphics, one without) on the Victorian Branch web site, at: <http://www.vicscouts.asn.au/venturers/venstuff/Interchange.asp>
- Subscriptions:** Venturers, Rovers & Leaders may subscribe by sending \$15.00 (Victorian subscriber) and \$18.00 (interstate subscribers)
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Victorian Venturer News

APRIL 2007

HOADLEY HIDE 2007

Anzac Day - 25/4/7

Assist Veterans with the March
Banner carriers required

MAY 2007

INITIATIVE COURSE - WHITEHORSE
HOSTED BY THE AMAZING PEOPLE OF EJ
CHITTICK ROVER CREW 11TH - 12TH MAY 2007
CONTACT NOAH TO FIND OUT MORE...
NOAH-83@HOTMAIL.COM
PH: 0413 607 961 (AFTER HOURS ONLY)

10th Annual Jamboree on the Trail - May 2007

Jamboree On The Trail is an annual day for the World Scout Movement to hike together. All Scouts, whatever their age and wherever they may be in the world, are invited to participate in whatever way they can. Cubs and younger Scouting sections could visit a local nature trail as part of a weekend camp. A Scout Troop might check out a hiking trail while working on badge requirements. A Rover Crew might make a Service Project out of restoring or maintaining a hiking trail. In their own way, everyone will be hiking the same direction: towards a better future through Scouting. JOTT is held on the second Saturday of May each year.

Registration is \$2.50 ea. which includes the badge and administration. Please add .50¢ postage for orders under 10 or \$1.00 postage for orders over 10. Please make cheques/money orders out to:

Thanks for being part of a great movement,
Peter Thomas – Australian Coordinator – JOTT
www.jott.org

JUNE 2007

Please note a change of date for Temple Beth Israel from 25 May to 1 June.

I am pleased to advise that this year's activity will take place on Friday 1st June at 8pm. Last year we featured a Jewish wedding ceremony and this year we will feature a "Bar Mitzvah" (equivalent to a confirmation. As usual we will give a tour of our Synagogue and be able to answer questions. This is an ideal opportunity for Venturers to have their passports signed for part of Ideals.

Alan Samuel FTA, JP, Executive Director, Temple Beth Israel, 76 - 82 Alma Rd, St.Kilda, Victoria, Australia
Phone (613) 9510-1488 Fax (613) 9521-1229
alan.samuel@tbi.org.au www.tbi.org.au

JULY 2007

Deep Thought - 'The Question!'

Boroondara Personal Growth: Ideals 1 Course
Friday 13th July to Sunday 15th July 2007

Recruiting, Retaining Rovers

The number of Rovers has decreased from 2000 in 1990 to 930 in 2006, a 50% reduction, if this pattern continues Rovers will cease to exist by 2020 ! During the same period all of scouting has had a similar decrease, however the Rovers Section is likely to be the first to have major problems as it runs its own activities and maintaining it's own facilities. Luckily Rovers are also self governing and have the flexibility to address the issue through an improved focus on Recruitment & running great crews to enhance Retention. All of us need to do something different to what we have been doing in the past in order to turn this around, below are some suggestions, if you have good ideas please share them within your Crew & Region council.

Recruitment:

- Rovers - Invite people to key events, talk to potential people 1 on 1 about what you enjoy in Rovers, put a Crew Flyer at your work/Uni/sporting club;
- Crews - Program activities with Venturers/Scouts, pro-actively meet with V.L's, publish a crew PR flyer suitable for non scouting people;
- Regions - Link crews with Venturer units, Run Intro to Rovers course, Stock PR material, Contact Crews you have not seen and offer assistance, Review crew health at least 3 times a year.

Retention = A strong crew

Strong Crews typically have, Variety in activities, Friendly atmosphere, Good communication, SMS, E-Mail, WEB etc, Are open to new ideas, 80% of planned activities happen, Have options for all to participate, Review past events & a plan to improve next time, In small crews everyone contributes, Large crews have a 3 to 5 year plan. If your Crew is small plan joint activities with other small crews, attend a BASIC Rover training course and learn how to develop a great crew.

Further Help - Ask your RA, DRA, AAC Rovers, Region Council or me to help – or, bring new people to an Intro to Rover course

Chris Young - (03) 9870 4484, 0419303385, ABC Rovers, Development: abc.rovers.dev@vicscouts.asn.au

It's our responsibility to ensure today's Cubs have a strong Rovers section to enjoy, they have a right to have the same fun we have had !

W.F. Waters Award

The Victorian Branch Rover Council were proud to announce the recipients of the WF Waters Award, on February 22nd 2007. The WF Waters Award is presented to those who have provided outstanding

service to the Rover Section over a sustained period of time. Congratulations to the following recipients of the 2007 Award:

- Gifford Hatfield -. Hatfield Rover Crew, Yarra Valley Region: For service to the crew including 30+ years as advisor to the Crew, Giff has also assisted on Rover Training courses and with rock-climbing.
- William Gielewski - Kerrabee Rover Crew, Hoadley Region: For service to Hoadley Region where he has held various positions including Chairman, and for service to branch subcommittees principally Surfmoort (over at least four years) and as Deputy Chair to the Branch Rover Council
- Raymond Lubansky - Gravbrot Rover Crew, Yarra Valley Region: For service to Manibobar Region (BRC rep and Vice Chair) and the Branch Rover Council holding the positions of Assistant Chairman of BRC and Rover admin officer.
- Patrick McCormick - Sir Dallas Brooks Rover Crew, South Metro Region: For service to Rovers at a branch level, particularly as Deputy Chairman and two years as Chairman of the Branch Rover Council, however Patrick has also been active with Surfmoort, MARB and was deputy contingent leader to the 2003 NZ Moot.

The Victorian Rover Council would like to congratulate all of the above recipients. If you would like to attend the presentation ceremony at the Rover Dinner, to be held at the Olympic Hotel Preston, on April 28th 2007; then please phone the Victorian Rover Centre on 8543 9900 any Wednesday evening.

Craig Whan, Branch Commissioner

Victorian Branch Rover Council, www.vicrovers.com

Envirover is a weekend course based on the World Conservation Badge, for Rovers. It will cover all aspects of the badge, except for the Projects section, which would need to be completed after the course in order for the Rover to be awarded the badge. The weekend will include a variety of guest speakers, Rover input, and exploration of the natural world and how it relates to each of us. It will be fun, interesting and informative. For some background, see:

<http://www.vicscouts.asn.au/rovers/awards/WCBadge.asp>

The weekend will be held at Mafeking Rover Park on the 30th of June to the 1st of July, 2007. You will receive further information regarding the weekend upon confirmation of your application. If you have any comments, questions, or would like to know more, please contact Gordon Young, Victorian Branch Environment Officer at:

brc.environment@vicscouts.asn.au, or (03) 9870 4482, or 0403 591 045. **Applications close Friday 15th June 2007.**

Please enclose a cheque or money order made out to "Victorian Branch Rovers" for \$40. This covers your meals, bunk accommodation and extras for the weekend. Send to: Environment Officer, Victorian Branch Rover Council, 37 Evelyn Rd, North Ringwood, 3135.

Surname: First Name: Registration No.
Preferred name (for course name tag): Sex: M/F
Crew/Unit: Region:
Address: Postcode:
Contact Phone numbers: E-mail:
Any allergies or special dietary requirements?
Environmental experience relevant to the weekend?

Don't forget to send a Health form and cheque in with this application!

Scarf Up for Scouting

The second of the major 100 years of Scouting events is only a month away. All Crews are asked to have a meeting in Public, in uniform (or at least Scarf) between April 12 and April 22, 2007. These are the dates of National Youth Week.

Crews have let me know many of the plans for this week and have included Dinner in the Party Room at a Fast food place, A game of Chess in the park, Bike Riding along the Yarra River trail, attending the Footy.

What ever you want, you can do - as long as your crew, gets out into Public! Gets seen in Rover Red! Gets the Scarf out and about to show that Scouting is starting the 2nd Centenary strong.

Need Help planning something? Call Me

When you run your night, take lots of phones and email to me. Looking for to a fun time! Wombat

P.S. Other 100 years news;

- All 77 Victorian Mayors have been asked to wear a Scarf as part of National Youth week, 16 have said yes so far, only one no - a very good start.
- Tracy Bartram of Radio fame has been given her scarf and talked about it live on her radio show- she had a lot of fun joking about Alston Park's name!
- The Scouting Sunrise has 700 people booked to go, there is two weeks left for bookings, so register now. Visit www.vicscouts.asn.au and follow the centenary links

David "wombat" Lyons. wombatlyons@yahoo.com

ROVER CONGRATULATIONS

I have been unofficially advised of the Summer Blood Challenge Results a big Congratulations goes out to you all that donated throughout the challenge.

As like last year we have come in second, with CFA coming first. But this year a couple of things are different, we are not sharing second place with anyone and this year we have had approx 20 more donations than last year.

This is a real effort due to the fact that the Australian Jamboree was in the middle of this. So the total donations this year comes in at 292 with 37 of those being new donors.

We have also been awarded the Most New Donors award. But please remember that this is not about the recognition, it is about saving lives by donating blood.

If you would like more information regarding the final results for the Summer Blood Challenge please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks,

Chris Alleyn, BRC Service Coordinator

You're not too late to save money on a Winter Party at the Bogong Rover Chalet. Preferential Bookings close on the 1st April and download a bookings form at <http://www.bogongroverchalet.org.au/winterBookings.html>

Experience one of Australia's most unique and exclusive Alpine experiences - a week at the Bogong Rover Chalet in the alpine wilderness 13km from Falls Creek on the Bogong High Plains. For more information visit: www.bogongroverchalet.org.au

The Easter working bee is on 6-9 April 2007. Please contact the Bookings Officer on 0407242538 if you are coming along - for catering purposes!!

Luke Moore, Chairman

Alpine Rover Crew

Bogong Rover Chalet

0419585433

97370094 (AH)

www.bogongroverchalet.org.au

Come to South Australia this October for SANDBLAST!

That's right folks, Sandblast is back in 2007!

Whether you bring down a buggy to compete or just want to sit back and watch, make sure you head on down to South Australia. Racing during the day, with a few activities on top, plus the night time party atmosphere that only SA Rovers can provide!

Sandblast is being held over the SA October Long Weekend, which is Friday 28th September til Monday 1st October. Mark it in your diaries now!

We have managed to secure one hell of a track. Sandblast is being held just out of the town of Sedan which is only a pleasant hour drive north-east of Adelaide.

More information will be out in the next few days! Our new website will be updated with all your Sandblast requirements!

If you have any questions feel free to contact the committee on sandblast@rovers.sa.scouts.com.au or speak to Stuey (Vice Chairperson) on 0401 521 418

***We look forward to seeing lots of you at:
SANDBLAST 2007!***

Founders Day - 24 Feb 2007 - Melbourne

10-12,000 marchers, then up to 15,000 in the Treasury Gardens

<http://www.loopusphere.com/scouts/>

www.ScoutsReunited.com.au

2007 marks the Centenary of World Scouting and 2008 will be the Australian Scouting Centenary. This site enables thousands of past and current Australian Scouts to rediscover their Scouting friends, find out what they've been doing since, and to renew acquaintances. Scouts Reunited is a free service available to all current and former members of Scouting in Australia.

Register now on the website and start finding your friends!

Scarf Up for Scouting

With Founder's Day done and dusted it is time to move on to the next Centenary event – Scarf up for Scouting in National Youth Week (14-22 April). Each Branch and National have compiled a list of 100 high profile Australians living in their State/ Territory. We will be presenting these people with their scarves (after they accept) during April. It is useful that National Youth Week occurs the first week of the school term in Term 2 as we will use the school holidays to have the PR Youth Spokespeople present scarves.

Attached is the generic letter (see Vic web page) supplied by National for use around the country. I am aware that many Regions, Districts and even Groups are looking at getting local community members to scarf up. This is a fantastic idea that should be encouraged. The icon of the Scout Scarf should be seen everywhere during this week. I am happy for the attached letter to be used and modified for local purposes. Unfortunately we cannot afford to provide scarves for Regions/Districts and Groups to present but I am sure that our members will come up with creative solutions to ensure that we involve many many members of the public. During this week the plan is also to abandon our halls and indoor meeting places, to don our uniforms or a scarf at the very least and to get out and be seen. If you are planning a meeting for that week, as the Centenary committee will be, start talking now about where you will meet to get as much visibility as possible.

In addition, when you are out and about, ask people what they are doing. We want photos of great ideas sent in to the Scout Magazine.

Happy Centenary, Brendan J Watson OAM
BC - Special Projects, Centenary of Scouting
0417 403 055 Fax: 9585 2102
email: brendan.watson@vicscouts.asn.au

Scouting Sunrise 1/8/7

The registration process for those members who wish to participate in this exciting Centenary Year event to be held on 1st August 2007. Log onto the Victorian Branch's website www.vicscouts.asn.au and click the "2007 Centenary Scouting" icon in the "Shortcut Links" section.

1. Click "Here To Enter The Victorian Branch Century Of Scouting Site" link
2. Click the "Scouting Sunrise" on the third row of the right hand menu
3. Proceed to register your participation by clicking "Sunrise Breakfast Registration" link.

All members of the Association can register for this event by inputting your Registration number, surname and date of birth to verify your membership status prior to registration. Further improvements will be made to this website in response to your valuable feedback. Please send them to centenaryyear@vicscouts.asn.au so that we can provide you with better service.

Regards
Stephen S K Chew FCPA ACIS
Acting General Secretary, Scouts Australia (Victoria)

The 2007 50pence Scouting coin

is available for you to order for \$17.95 plus \$5 postage. If you would like to order this coin, please forward me your details and preferred method of payment, so that I can organise this for you.

Sharnet Hebel, Client Services

shebel@downies.com
www.downies.com

National Review of Venturing

1. National Ideas on Venturing!

The Venturer Scout Review Team wants your ideas on the Venturer Section so as to improve the programming and enjoyment of this vital component of Australian Scouting.

From May until mid-September, Scout members are invited to submit feedback via the National Website www.scouts.com.au on the best aspects and ways to improve the: organisation, management and leadership of Venturing; retention; linking; image of the Section; and the program and award scheme; amongst a range of other topics. You can also submit these ideas to Julie Creed, National Commissioner for Youth program, via email or hard copy through the National Office. There are prizes to be won for people's efforts!

Such a method of feedback and listening to our members created an avalanche of useful information for the Adults in Scouting Review (AIS) that is being acted upon.

So read all about the Venturer Scout Review and what we are looking for, on the National Website www.scouts.com.au from mid-April and be ready to submit your ideas from 1 May.

You are helping shape the future direction of the Venturer Section.

*National Meeting – 3 & 4 March 2007
First meeting of the Review Team
BC(VS)s with John Ravenhall and Julie Creed*

2. The Review!

Every 8 to 10 years, Scouts Australia undertakes a review of the youth program in each section. Given that this last occurred in the late 90's (was it really that long ago?) the time has come to review the content and delivery of the Venturer section youth program. It is difficult to argue that our program is attracting increasing numbers of teenagers – why is it so? What is it that we need to address, either by way of minor tuning or major changes, to recruit and retain greater membership?

Have you commenced local discussions re what we need to do to assist Venturing?

The first National meeting was held in Sydney on 3 & 4 March, and a VIC OPEN FORUM on Tuesday 6th March – a lot of research information has been collected and will be provided in a booklet format for Units for local discussion and comment. Also, a SWOT template has been provided to prompt such discussions.

Terms of Reference for the review and the template are available at: www.vicscouts.asn.au/Venturers/

So have your say on Venturing for the next decade!

3. Victorian Ideas on Venturing!

*Venturers and a Leaders at the
Vic Open Forum 6th March 2007*

The outcomes of the Vic Open Forum are listed for information – use some or all of these ideas to kick start your own review of Venturing, at Unit, DVC and RVC!

GENERAL COMMENTS REGARDING THE IMAGE OF SCOUTING/VENTURING

- People don't know who we are / what it is
- We need to get it out there; Advertise!
- Show it's not dorky to do Venturers
- People don't know we're still out there. Need to answer questions about Scouting Movement - Who we are, What we do, Why we do it, When we do it, How we do it
- We're not nerds doing badge work!
- Put it out there that it can change your life; you can be a scout and still be cool!
- Need to find what our role is, what we offer
- No public image, no promotion
- We are 100 years of scouting (100 years of lifesaving gets so much promotion and haven't changed that much over the 100 years)
- Need to promote, hand out information (can hand out pamphlets about scouting at sausage sizzles and other fundraising to get us out there.
- We're Australia's best kept secret. It's hard to promote
- Younger People to do promoting, they know what people want to see
- Uniform – what's happening with it?
- We've got a message but we don't know what it is. Internally we don't support ourselves.
- Image outside of scouting is 50 years out of date.

- Need to update. We concentrate on traditional aspects of scouting. Need to get “intouch” with what’s happening in the world today. Internet etc.
- We’re our own worst enemy.
- Why is it just now in our 100 years of scouting that we want to advertise? Shouldn’t we want to do it always..
- The way the media looks at us. Little geeks “dib.dib.dib.dob.dob.dob”
- Flexibility – need to relax
- Best promotion for Venturers is venturers themselves.
- Work on getting scouts up, a lot of them leave before venturers
- Get some younger leaders, can bring a younger point of view
- Further develop “Young leaders Program”
- Look into the future (the next 100 years) as a whole organisation. Don’t live in the past
- A lot of the things we are doing for 100 years need to be done more often.
- Need to remember scouting is a youth organisation. Leaders are here for the kids.

OUTCOMES OF THE VIC SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS

- People who are in it love it
- Social aspect, relationships with adults
- It’s possible to get people off the street
- Uniform; the change has given us a new image, moving with the times.
- Training
- History
- Jamboree
- Youth Acceptance
- Praise
- Police Checks
- Sharing of resources
- People Items
- Award Scheme
- Venturers are like a family – very close friends

WEAKNESSES

- Dorky
- Uniform can look shabby even though less formal people don’t want to have to wear it
- People don’t know what we’re actually about
- Image, perception
- Image, people ripping off scouting

- Communication
- Leader training doesn’t train effective Venturer Leaders
- Friends are not allowed to go to adventurous activities

OPPORTUNITIES

- Advertise in a way it will get noticed.
- Youth Award Scheme that can be promoted
- Create contacts to do promotions
- Communication, MSN, Myspace, Second life
- Updating /Modern

continued

- How we operate into today and keeping up to date
- Virtual marketing
- Associate Membership - Membership – 6 mths; ½ price; 3mths - Include in adventurous activities, not only in hall activities
- Guys off the street , pr
- Database – Examiners & Expeditions
- Flexibility across all parts of Venturing
- Best promotion for Venturing is Venturing
- Can we include in the VAS explicit reference/s driving lessons with Scouting Values? Not only driving lesson and driving time, but reporting to Unit on how driving taps Scout values as exhibited in the Promise and Law.
- Sexual health and mental health made explicit - the award scheme has mentioned drugs and other teen health issues, but has not been particularly up front about sexual and mental health, although both areas are now serious issues, now that STDs and mental health first aid have been shown to be too unknown amongst teens. There are STDs that show no signs, but can still be transmitted and can have serious impact on sexual health. There are new websites that cater specifically for mental health first aid and for teenage sexuality, so there is plenty of good information available ... but the topics are not yet discussable
- Australian Aboriginal History and Culture - Many V's know more about Native American and Native NZ aborigines than they know about Australian Aboriginal history and culture. It is somewhat easier to obtain information about Aboriginal history; there do not seem to be many good references on everyday, current Aboriginal cultural norms -- not just in the bush, but in urban and rural areas in which Aborigines live today. There ARE Aboriginal norms that are different from mainstream, dominant cultural norms. We might need to work together with others to develop some resource information.
- Some kind of half-way badge for people, not so into QS, major interest award; personal recognition

certificate; for great venturers that bust their ass but don't want to get QS.

- Need young people in all areas, different sections, branch etc, as youth spokespeople
- Movement has lost strategy; what do we really want? what are we aiming for?
- Youth council needs youth on it. Not only could the VAS include explicit reference to sexual and mental health, we could link sexual and mental health issues to Scout Values.
- The last meeting of branch DVLs come up with the suggestion of a Getting Started Award for Venturers to earn while still 15, for completing, say, a strip from each diamond or from three diamonds. At present, many Venturers do not complete many diamonds until almost completing the VAS. A getting started award would be positive encouragement and a reward.

THREATS

- Schools and outdoor ed
- DOE
- School
- Bad press
- Peer pressure
- Part-time work
- Cost
- Risks/rules etc.
- Out of school activities
- Branch/National - out of Touch

RISKS - RULES

- Overly restrictive rules re Risk management - Leaders can't do this or that or Units can't
- Too much time expected of leaders to train for basic level of activities
- Greater flexibility for non scouting youth to do adventurous activities and overnight trips and camps - not allowed at present
- Rules of Queen Scout are not that onerous rather it is how many leaders and DVCs interpret and run the QS
- There is some feeling to streamline the current paperwork
- Rules too strict on membership - maybe "Associate Member" needs refining, relaunched in a new style, more flexibility. Branch / National to handle so called "can" do because of risks problems.

Do you agree or disagree with any of the above - have your say now!

VENTURER SCOUTING NEW REVIEW AND OTHER CHALLENGES

With the Adults in Scouting Projects still in full swing, the Venturer Scout Section Review also commenced at the beginning of 2007, with research into the nature and needs of adolescents in Australia today and the first full scale meeting of Branch Venturer Scout Commissioners, on 3 / 4 March, with the National Commissioner for Youth Program, Julie Creed. The Venturer Scout Review is being chaired by National Project Commissioner, Peter Blatch.

Based on Terms of Reference adopted by the National Operations Committee, the Review committee's agenda includes:

- Adult Leadership, including outcomes from the Adult Review Projects
- The totality of the Venturer Scout Program
- Youth involvement in decision making
- The Award Scheme
- Minimising paperwork
- Linking the Award Scheme to relevant recognised National activities such as Harmony Day, Citizenship Day and so on
- Incorporating VET studies in the Award Scheme
- Links to the Scouts of the World Program

As for the Adult Review, there will be opportunities to contribute through the National Scout Web site, as well as through your Branch commissioner and review team.

Written submissions will also be invited through the NCYP at youth.comm@scouts.com.au

Articles will appear in this magazine and on the National and Branch web sites with information and ways that you and your Venturers can participate.

Here is very first notice, necessarily very brief, of just a few other challenges for Venturers, apart from the review! More details will follow via web sites, magazines, such as *Interchange*, etc.

INTERNATIONAL SPACE OLYMPICS

Venturer Scouts and Guides from all states, ACT and NT, aged 15 to almost 18 will be invited to apply to make up the Australian Contingent to Korolev City, Moscow, 17 – 27 October, 2007. Fantastic program and preparation, tough competition; info. very soon, but initial enquiries can be made to Lachlan@rmit.edu.au We entered for the first time in 2006, against all comers, not only *Scouts* and *Guides*. Individuals did

exceptionally well and the Team won the Cosmonauts Team prize!

Details will be available in a flyer coming soon. Team selection June 26 – 30; camp 8-9 July.

DEEP SPACE CAMP AT COTTER MOUTH NEAR CANBERRA 2007

1st-4th October 2007 is on and full ahead. Flyers to be released shortly from AVL, RMIT Associate Professor Lachlan Thompson. The event will have Scout and **Venturer Scout** components. A high level "Space Pursuit" camp includes high power rocketry, chat to a top Hubble astronomer and Science Education consultant from the European Space Agency; behind the scene tour of Deep Space tracking station, Tidbinbilla and top ANU rocket motor scientists.

Email: skipo@iprimus.com.au

KNOX QUILT

City of Knox Venturer Scouts are challenging Venturers, Rovers and Scouts to make a quilt to tell the history of their Unit, Crew or Troop for the Centenary year. Provided enough take up the challenge, it is intended to collect the quilts for a national display tour in December.

SCOUTING FOR BIRDS – can be a major component of the Environment Activity part of your award scheme - under fauna (including food and predation), habitats, climate, vegetation, waterways, contact with conservation organisations, etc. Birds are also indicators of environmental health and changes. Bird observing requires little equipment and transcends many physical disabilities.

To follow up on this idea, contact Scout District Commissioner, Annette Cook, who is Education Co-ordinator for the Bird Observers Club of Australia, at dc.monash@vicscouts.asn.au

INTERNATIONAL JOTA SPUTNIK OCTOBER 2007

– 50 years since the original Sputnik, we can "talk" to Sputnik 2. This project is full ahead go. A special commemorative certificate and camp shirt badge is being organised. Details of how JOTA Units can access the satellite will be discussed with JOTA national co-ordinator Bob Bristow for action before JOTA in October.

MISSION PATCHES

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Human kind's first steps into space, Apogee Venturer Scouts are inviting everyone to make an electronic patch design of your or your dreams for the future of humans in space. Patches must be submitted by 1 September 2007 and open to all Sections. Notable Australians will be invited to write commemorative letters to be included in the launch to the edge of space. Three rockets will be launched from Woomera!

John Ravenhall

2

Venturer Basic course – at Clive Disher Park – March 2007

*Eastern Region QS board for
QS presentations and field days*

How do you promote Venturing locally?



Gear for Fiji Scouts

I am involved with Rotary and was part of a team to visit Fiji mid last year, to complete a community hall as a Rotary Volunteer Project.

Whilst there, we helped to distribute donated clothing and cooking gear to the families in Namuamua, as well as shoes and boots for the men of village.

There is also a Scout Group in the village, with a group of about 25-30 kids that covers our Cub and Scout age group. Along with their village generally, they have very little in the way of material possessions, and virtually nothing in the way of Scouting gear, no tents, no sleeping bags, definitely no tranguias, and no decent boots, let alone hiking boots.

So, it would be great to be able to send more items to this village, especially boots for the men, (which we had too few of last trip), and also the kids, especially the Scouts.

I am planning a return visit June 2007 for another project in a nearby village, Burotu, and their will be at least one container of donated goods heading over just prior to that, so if you can assist us to collect more gear in any way, that would be appreciated.

I am also planning that our Venturer Unit will collect gear locally, specifically for the Scout Group over there, but it would be great if we could collect gear

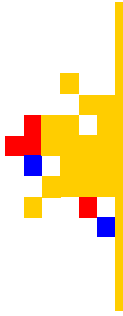
from Units further field, who had spare gear that they no longer had a use for, that would be gratefully accepted too, (keeping in mind it must be serviceable).

Items such as dome tents, foam mats, sleeping bags, cooking gear, compasses, hiking or day packs, etc., (preferably light wt. gear), even ropes, would be great. Books on scouting, knots, games, etc. would also be helpful. I believe that DIK, (Donation In Kind), in Geelong have already collected old uniforms for the Scouts in Namuamua also, there only uniform presently, is a scarf.

If you have questions about the above, or just want to discuss more details, please reply or give me a call, (W: 5231 4787), I am happy to give more info. as necessary. I have plenty of photos from our last trip, if that would be helpful. I think it could fit in well the spirit of Scouting, as well as the spirit of the Rotary, (to "build GOODWILL and BETTER RELATIONSHIPS"), and would be a win win situation.

Geoff De La Rue – Otway Venturers

PS there are some awesome hiking and other outdoor pursuits over there.



**Wed. 13th June 2007
from 8:00pm**

**(Great
Deals)**

**EMC
68 Whitehorse Rd
Deepdene
Melway Ref 46 A7**

**Plenty of parking is
available in Barnsbury
Rd**

Ski Expo will be held again this year at EMC.

Ski Expo is a great chance to buy all sorts of quality outdoors gear, not just ski's, and get expert advice.

Its also a chance to catch up with friends before winter over supper, and listen to an interesting guest speaker, and checkout all the latest ski gear.

This years speaker will be Doug from EMC giving a practical demonstration on waxing, tuning and maintaining your skis and snowboards.

See you all there on the 13th.

Bogong Chalet Management Group
PO Box 5253
Pinewood, Mt Waverly, 3149

0407 242 538
bogongchalet@vicscouts.asn.au
www.bogongroverchalet.org.au



New Scout Headquarters for the West

A new Scout Headquarters for the west was formally opened on 16th March by the Scout Chief Commissioner Mr Alston Park OAM and Chairman of Scouts Victoria Mr David Jones OAM.

This facility will house the Hoadley Scout Region, covering 14 metropolitan Municipalities and also the Western Scout Service Centre which caters for Scouts in Western Victoria. Altogether approximately one third of Victoria's Scouts will be 'looked after' by this headquarters.

The capacity of the facility was well tested with 100 guests attending the opening including several past Commissioners of the Hoadley Region, current volunteers and representatives of all levels of Government.

The social evening allowed Scouting to display its new facility to the community and representatives of the 14 municipalities of Hoadley region.

Alston Park OAM and David Jones OAM unveiled a plaque commemorating the facilities opening and a volunteer service award was presented to former Region Commissioner, Mr Peter Geary OAM.

The Region is named after the late Mr Arch Hoadley a former Principal at Footscray Technical College, a member of Mawson's team of explorers to the Antarctic, Scout Leader at the 1st Footscray Scout Group and later becoming Scout's Chief Commissioner of Victoria. Arch Hoadley was instrumental in setting up Gilwell Park at Gembrook as Victorian Scouting's principal Leader Training Centre.

All Scouting members follow the principles of service to youth and the community set by the movements founder Lord Robert Baden Powell. Arch Hoadley was pre-eminent example of these principles.

The new headquarters located in Ashley Street Braybrook includes adult leader training facilities equipped with the latest audio visual equipment donated by the Rotary Club of Footscray.

The Scout Western Service Centre is a new facility for the community suitable for a range of functions such as seminars and training. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the Western Scout Centre by telephoning 8379 6222. This number can also provide information on Scouting.

*Plaque unveiling, L to R
Alston Park (Chief Commissioner Victoria)
David Jones (Chairman of Scouts Victoria)*

*Group pictured in front of new identification plaque
presented by Scouts Victoria, L to R
Peter Rutley (Hoadley Region Commissioner)
Peter Hoadley (One of Arch Hoadley's sons)
David Lyon (District Leader PR/Development
Kariwara District)
Alston Park (Chief Commissioner Victoria)*

National Scouting News

Rover Projects - Ripples Across Pond

Over the last few years, Australian Rovers have been involved in some very exciting projects, allowing us to engage with people across Australia. These projects have included:

- National Rover Ad campaign: to heighten the profile of Rovering in the wider community and potentially increase Rover recruitment.
- Centenary of Scouting Peace Boomerang: a project to encourage discussion amongst Australian youth about world friendship and peace, as we approached Scouting's second century.
- Rover Fun Guide: a full-colour compilation of great program ideas from across Australia and New Zealand.

These projects produced some great resources and activities for Rovering, with the benefits to linger for many years to come. Now, the ripples have reached around the globe and back for many of these projects. An article about the Peace Boomerang was placed on the world scout website (www.scout.org) in July 2006, and it still receives over 100 hits a month. The idea has been discussed by Scouts around the world, with many other associations considering similar projects. The Asia-Pacific's own *Rover Peace Baton* project, marking 50 years of the Asia-Pacific Region, has recently ended after a tour through all member nations.

The National Ad Campaign has been going for almost two years now, with the Rover image thrust into the public eye in a professional way. This year we will be reviewing the campaign thus far, looking at ways that we can take it to the next level. The *Rover Fun Guide* has been another valuable resource for Crews, with one provided to every Crew in Australia and New Zealand. It has also made its way to many countries across the world, with Scouts from places like Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland passing on their positive comments about the Guide. **Have you seen the Guide?**

This year, we will be reviewing these projects, reporting back on what went well and what we could improve upon; this will assist us with projects commencing this year. These will include "I Want To Be A Rover" (for the younger Scouting Sections), planning for the 90th Anniversary of Rovering, Crew development plans to improve Crew quality, and the 'Fly the Flag' challenge for all Scout members. The usual activities are also being supported, such as *Rovering's Greatest Adventure*.

To assist us with these projects, we are looking for Rovers to apply for Project Officer positions; information and contact details are available on the AusRovers website. To find out more on these projects or other happenings in Australian Rovering, check out www.rovers.com.au. It is your support that makes Scouting great!

Patrick, Alyssa & Rhian,
Exec Team, National Rover Council

Troop Leader Bud and Rod Abson

Sharing Founders Day with International Scouts in Bangkok

Rod Abson, National Adviser for Environment, Scouts Australia.

On the 22 of February each year Scouts around the world take time to celebrate the birthday of our founder, Baden-Powell under the celebration of 'Founder's Day' or 'Thinking Day'. This was a very special year given that it was the 150th anniversary of BP's birth and it was also a very special opportunity for me to share this day with Scouts from the Modern International School of Bangkok (MISB) in Thailand.

Since October 2006 I have been based in Bangkok under an Australian Government program called *Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development*. I have been working with an organisation called WildAid which focuses on preventing the illegal trade in wildlife across South-East Asia. Part of my visit was to share this special day with the Scouts and also to teach them some more about wildlife in Thailand and Australia, and also about Scouting around the world.

Scouts is run through schools in Thailand, with students turning up in Scout uniform and undertaking Scouting activities once a week. Being greeted by the Scouts at the front gate of the school and taken to the formal parade, there was a familiar feeling to the gathering although I'd only just met them. Having been given the floor by the Scout Leaders, I proceeded to talk to the Scouts about Founder's Day, why I was in Thailand and the work of WildAid. I then expanded onto some of the things that Scouts are doing for the environment around the world.

As Scouts like to be active and move around, it was a good opportunity to teach them about some Australian animals with a relay game involving the Scouts as Kangaroos, Emus, Crabs and Koalas. They enthusiastically joined in the game and were happily shuffling, jumping, piggybacking or running backwards up and down the floor.

Talking to the Scouts about threats to animals that are illegally taken from their natural habitats and sold as pets or food, they were keen to know what they could do to help. Using their eyes and ears around the world, Scouts can observe if they see something suspicious with wildlife in cages or being sold, collect the information and then inform their leaders who can call a hotline set up in Thailand for such matters.

In concluding the day I asked if there were any questions, with an initial hesitation, followed by a constant stream of hands wanting to know everything from how high a kangaroo can jump, what's the biggest animal in Australia, what does the Australian Scout uniform look like (I was in my WildAid shirt), asking me to draw some Australian animals, asking me if I've ever come face to face with wild animals... and on and on... Their enthusiasm for the subject was great to see.

At the end of the meeting I was given a 'wood badge' sculpture and hand made thank you card. They also gave me a thank you card to pass onto Eduardo Missoni, Secretary General of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement, as I was off to Switzerland that evening for an Environment Education Task Team meeting. He had visited the school on the 1 of January 2006 and made quite an impression. It was a very special and memorable Founders Day experience. Thank you to the Scouts at MISB, Troop Leader Bud and Professor Yongyudh, National Scouts of Thailand Environment Commissioner for arranging the meeting.

National Youth E-News Rocks!

The National Youth Council has recently launched the first edition of the National Youth E-newsletter- packed full of cool camp ideas, program nights, Scouting award stories, information about major activities and international events, and anything else that is of interest to the young people in Scouting. It is of a similar format to the current national e-newsletter. However, it is published by young people for young people.

We would like to spread the word about this exciting new initiative, so we ask that you pass this information on to as many youth members as possible. We also encourage young people to send in stories and ideas for article.

Do you have a great idea for a camp, have you recently been awarded your Scout Medallion/Queen Scout/BP Award, we want to hear from you about all the exciting things you have done to earn this achievement! Do you have a question about something in scouting that you would like answered????

Send all stories/ideas/questions to nyc.chair@scouts.com.au

To sign up for the Youth E-newsletter::

1. Go to www.scouts.com.au
2. Click on *I'm a Youth Member*
3. Click on the *Register* menu at top of screen
4. Fill in your details.

Also, the NYC is looking for a great name for our youth e-newsletter. If you have a good idea, send it to nyc.chair@scouts.com.au

Nikketah McGrath, Chair, National Youth Council.

International Scouting

The 100 years of Scouting has opened some amazing international opportunities for members of Scouts Australia. Through the International Funds Committee the following scholarships are available.

Event KanderJam – Staff
Country Switzerland
Date 24 July to 10 August 2007
 Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) will hold KanderJam from the 27 July to 8 August 2007. The Jamboree will have 1,800 participants and more than 100 staff. Scouts Australia are offering 3 scholarships to two youth members aged between 15 and 17 years old and one adult leader.

Event Centenary Jamboree
Country Kenya
Date 26 July to 4 August 2007
 Kenya Scouts Association will be celebrating 100 years of Scouting since it was founded in 1907 by Lord Baden-Powell. Kenya is privileged to be the country where Baden-Powell came to live upon his retirement and was later buried. Over 30,000 international and local Scouts, Scouters friends will converge in Nyeri the place where the spirit of Scouting lives to pay homage to the founder during the Centenary Jamboree.

Activities Participants will have the opportunity to participate in a number of events including:

- "Trees for Peace" – planting of 10 million trees
- Scouting Sunrise on Mt Kenya
- Eastern Africa Zone peace caravan
- Visit major sites including PAXTU – BP's house, Outspan and Treetops Hotel, BP grave and the memorial centre

Scouts Australia are offering 3 scholarships to two youth members aged between 15 and 17 years old and one adult leader.

To apply for the scholarships please submit, to the International Commissioner of Australia, a letter of expression outlining what the 100 years of Scouting means to you and why you should be selected to represent Scouts Australia together with your scouting resume outlining your scouting history and achievements. Your application must be supported by your Branch. Applications must be received by the International Office no later than 30 April 2007.

MICHAEL EARNS QUEEN'S SCOUT AWARD

Michael Lister of 1st Lake Boga's Catalina Venturer Unit is the second Lake Boga Venturer to earn his Queen Scout Award for 20 years. Previous recipients were Graham McMahon and Mark Smith who gained their Queens' Scout Awards in 1985 and Lara Truelove and Jay Abbott in 1987 and Jayne Earle in 2006. Michael is to be presented his award by the Governor at Government House in October. Michael now joins his sister, Kerry, who gained her Queen Scout Award with 2nd Mildura Venturer Unit in 2001.

Michael was the inaugural treasurer of the Venturer Unit at 1st Lake Boga, which has now been a Venturer Unit for four years. The Unit decided on the name "Catalina" Venturer Unit in honour of the Catalina Seaplanes that were on Lake Boga during the Second World War.

Michael found the badge work rewarding and challenging. After completion of his Venturing Skills badge, Michael has spent the next three years completing the remaining 16 badges within the set time period before reaching 18 years of age. Each of the 16 badges went towards a four-part diamond called "development awards". These four parts are ***Adventurous Activities, Community Involvement, Leadership Activities and Personal Growth.***

The ***Adventurous Activities Development Award*** included completing an *Initiative Course* at Coinda Burrong near Horsham run by the Buandik Rover Crew. *Outdoor 1* was a trip down the Murray River on a rafting expedition with Alan Ireson's rafting team. *Expeditions 1* saw Michael on a three day hike through the scenic Cathedral Ranges State Park with Jayne Earle, Jack Harris and Tegan Murray from the Unit. *Outdoor 2* saw Michael learning Lawn Bowls at the Swan Hill Bowls Club by local 2002 singles champion, Helen Hall and Marie Shannon.

The ***Community Involvement Development Award*** saw Michael doing a number of things for *Citizenship*. Michael had to find out how the Swan Hill Fire Station worked, a morning visit and report on the local Courthouse proceedings, a Unit talk on "drugs and alcohol" and a report on the "Salvation Army" and "Lead-On". Michael also completed 30 hours community *Service*. The first part was ten hours helping Cub Scouts as well as a week as a Venturer volunteer at the 2005 Cuboree. Michael also completed a Youth Leadership Course at Koolamurt Park. The second part was 20 hours helping the plant trees at the new Slater

Park and the Lake Boga Community in their Tidy Towns Quest over six months. The Unit has been the winner for the Sunraysia area for the Young Legends Award for 2005 and the Young Leaders Award for 2006. Michael completed his Level 11 *First Aid* certificate and the *Environment* Badge helping to look after Slater Park, tree planting at Lake Boga and Tower Hill with Swan Hill Rural City Council Environment Officer, Sue Mahon, as examiner. Environment also looks at finding out soil types and what plant species are being planted in the different areas.

The ***Leadership Activities Development Award*** included *Vocations*, which was researching three job positions, preparing a resume, and completing two job interviews with a small and large business. Michael completed a *Unit Management Course* and had to see and write a report on how the Swan Hill Rural City Council ran its meetings. Michael also completed a *Leadership Course* which covered types of leaders, what made a good leader and working as a team member.

For the ***Personal Growth Development Award***, Michael gained his *Expression 1*, where he attended three live performances. *Lifestyles 1* included swimming training and Unit information on the effects of drugs and alcohol. *Ideals 1* saw Michael attend a course at Healesville with Paul Matthews. *Pursuits 1* saw a team of Venturers and Rover Scout, Kerry Lister, make fluorescent puppets, write a script and perform a puppet play for the Cub Scouts end of year celebration. *Expression 2*, kept Michael busy with performing in the Eisteddfod and George Fairfax play competition.

Michael has been Treasurer and Chairman of the Unit. He has participated in Australia Day, District Water Activities, Sailing, Billy Cart Derby, Hoadley Hide, Canoeing, marched in the ANZAC parade, a scout trip to the snow in 2004, face painting at the Lake Boga "Splash In", Air Activity day, attended the annual Mallee Rover Camp at Tapio Station, (fondly known as the 'mud bash'), and finished off the year with 700 other Venturers at the annual 'Vic Gathering'. The Unit has enjoyed a close association with 1st Strathfieldsaye Venturer Unit and Venturer Leaders, Meredith and Andrew Gallagher, Greg Weiner and Greg Ralton. Both Units were involved in the "Try Venturing" day (The Catalina's were on the popular Jelly wrestling base), Ice-skating, ten pin bowling, canoeing and sailing and we thank 1st Strath for their support. Kerang now has the Ibis Venturer Unit and our Unit did the "Try venturing" badge with them. We wish the Ibis Venturers all the best for the future.

The Unit met former Lake Boga Queen's Scout, Mark Smith, in 2004. Mark was back in Australia on a visit

from Japan. The Unit had a Japanese food night in Mark's honour. Mark learned karate as part of his badge work, which led him working and living in Japan. Michael has performed in the local theatre group, school productions, Swan Hill Eisteddfod and George Fairfax Play Competitions. Michael has been a former member of 'Lead-On'. Michael wants to thank his family and friends for their support and encouragement. And to his Scout and Venturer Leaders and to the many 'examiners', who were willing to participate in the various areas of badge work and help Michael achieve his goal.

Venturer Leader, Meg Irvin

Rodger O'Hara, North West Regional Commissioner, Michael Lister, 1st Lake Boga Catalina Venturer Unit Queens' Scout, and Meg Irvin, Catalina Venturer Leader, congratulate Michael on his achievement.

The AJ2007 Jamboree Pack

The Jamboree Pack includes the following items:

- 1 Jamboree badge
- 4 Jamboree Sub Camp badges
- 1 aj2007 Scarf
- 1 aj2007 woggle
- 1 A3 size Arial Photo of the aj2007 site

Cost \$20.00 - includes postage anywhere in Australia.

Order forms can be obtained at www.aj2007.org.au

Canoeing

Invitation to all leaders - An opportunity to learn more about canoeing under the guidance of experts at no cost to yourself, except for food.

When: Sat 28th and Sun 29th April 2007

Where: Clifford Park Activity Centre

What to bring: Details on application

Also need a smile and willingness to learn

Who: All Yarra Valley leaders

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to socialize and learn together and gain your flat water C2 participants certificate

How to register:

Email Claire with name and group details- arc.training.yarravalley@vicscouts.asn.au or phone 9763 9085

Closing date: Sunday 15th April

This is the second of a series of courses to be run at Clifford Park and you will hear more later in 2007



Hoadley Hide 2007 Apply Now!

**SNOWGUM - Major Sponsor of
Hoadley Hide 2001/2007**

Does everyone in your CRUNIT have an opportunity to See/Read INTERCHANGE each month? Why not suggest they check this list off as they pass it on.	INTERCHANGE <small>If undeliverable, return to INTERCHANGE, P.O. Box 774, MT WAVERLEY, VIC, 3149</small> PRINT POST APPROVED PP 326852/00002	SURFACE MAIL	POSTAGE PAID
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