

LOOK WIDE

Scouts Australia

New South Wales Venturer Publication

Edition 2 September 2009 Issue



SCOUT AWARDS ~ 2009



QUEEN'S SCOUTS

Queen's Scouts September 2009

with NSW State Commissioner Venturers, Mr Charles Watson OAM; NSW Chief Commissioner, Mr Grant De Fries; and Her Excellency, Governor of NSW and Chief Scout, Professor Marie Bashir AO CVO.

See Page 2 for a full list of Queen's Scouts.

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Congratulations to Queen's Scouts

Rhiannon Hughes..... 1st Balgownie Venturers
Angus Barbero 1st Belmont North Venturers
Mitchell Woolfenden 1st Blaxland Venturers
Mark Critcher 1st Bulli Venturers
Ella Torstensson 1st Collaroy Plateau Venturers
Jessica Noldus..... Collaroy Plateau/Narrabeen Venturers
Alison Dance 2nd Griffith Venturers
Riley Barrington..... Kingsford Venturers
Josephine Bhim..... Kingsford Venturers
Louis Bhim Kingsford Venturers
Liam Painter..... 1st Mosman Venturers
April Jewell 1st Mudgee Venturers
Kristy McAndrew..... Murwillumbah Venturers
Carla Gates North St Ives Venturers
Carl Gillmore North St Ives Venturers
Alexandra Gerdson 1st Rathmines Venturers
Dylan Rogers..... 1st Seaforth Venturers
Nathan Gardner..... 1st Teralba Venturers
Andrew Parker 1st Warners Bay Venturers
Alastair Anderson..... 1st Wearne Bay Venturers
Sean Emery 1st Westmead Venturers

The Future of Venturing



In the modern world where money, achievement and how you look are given prominence it's easy to overlook the more important things in life, such as loving families, great friends, caring for others and developing self esteem both in ourselves and others. Self esteem is how we feel about ourselves and if we have high self esteem then we more readily accept change and quickly bounce back after small setbacks and disappointments. People with high self esteem are usually more prepared to help others as they have confidence in their ability and capacity to do so.

Scouting and in particular, Venturing, is about developing personal skills and building confidence and self esteem. In our Founder's day this personal development was focused more on the skills required to gain employment, today it is critical element in preparing young people for the long and stressful pathway through secondary and tertiary education and to the distant and unknown job market

beyond. Many of today's Venturers face up to ten years of study and part time work, much of that time as young adults seeking independence but having to be supported by their parents. This long period of adolescence and young dependant adulthood introduces many more stress points and frustrations than we the leaders and parents ever had to experience. It is little wonder that 40% of today's young people aged 16-24 have experienced a mental disorder at sometime in their lives. Unbelievable isn't it !

So, what does this mean to Scouting and the leaders of Scouting? Our focus therefore, has to be on building the resilience of Venturers and Rovers. Resilience influences how we deal with life. It is the process of adapting well to adversity without damaging health or well being. It involves change in a person where they build abilities to recover from or overcome negative or adverse experiences. It's not surprising, at least not to Scouts, that resilience is based on physical, mental and spiritual growth – three of the pillars of the Scout method for delivering the Scout program.

That is, a well planned and executed Venturer Scout activity program will do much to create the environment for building resilience and self esteem. As leaders we need to be much more aware of the need to build strong and cohesive Venturer Units, where everyone feels that they belong and where they can contribute to the team. Effective teaming and strong leadership are critical to the future of both the individual and the Unit. Sometimes we over emphasise the importance of physical activities at the expense of the "softer skills". Planning and managing an activity such as a progressive dinner helps develop mental and interpersonal skills and can be just valuable as a demanding physical activity. We need to deliver a balanced program. Fortunately most of our Venturers (Generation Y) are very conscious of the need for personal development, particularly of the requirement to build resilience and self esteem and hence welcome the opportunity to develop these skills. The attendance of the 800 or so Venturers who went to the Great Escape in WA in January and the record contingent of over 300 going to the New Zealand Venture in December are positive indicators that the "Scout" method is working. However, we still have much to do to rebuild our Venturer numbers and to fulfil our mission of developing this very important group of young men and women.

Reg Williams
Chief Commissioner
Scouts Australia

Cook's Hill City Extension Scouts and Venturers

Cook's Hill recently celebrated 25 years in their scout hall at Albert Street, Wickham NSW. It sounds a little strange to some – that Cook's Hill meet at Wickham – but the story that goes with it takes too long to be told!



There were several guests of honour to help celebrate the day, plus sixty-five guests including past leaders, youth members, past committee members, district commissioners and region commissioners.

The Newcastle Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Mr & Mrs John Tate, renamed the Scout hall as Cook's Hill City namely because they are not only going to keep their special needs group, they also hope to start an able bodied group from throughout the surrounding areas. It seems there is a need within the community, and the youth numbers look to be adequate for such a move.

Also at the event Mrs Fay Victor, from the BP Guild, officially opened the refurbishment completed by "Work for the Dole" youth. She unveiled a plaque of appreciation for the work done.

The surprise of the night, as promised on the invitations, was an unnamed "special chief". A great roar was given up by the youth members and guests when the region commissioner for disabilities introduced Paul Harrigan, known as the CHIEF with the Knights Rugby League football club.

Paul gave an informative talk, was presented with a Centenary scarf and mixed with the youth members throughout the evening.

The night was also the group's annual Job Week Dinner, and it too was a financial success.



Cook's Hill City Extension Scouts and Venturers

Cook's Hill has been very fortunate to have been guests of HMAS Newcastle when it was recently in Newcastle. They were given a full tour of the ship, met the captain and most of the crew, and had morning tea with them.

On behalf of the group the captain was presented with a Region scarf, which he was delighted with. In return he presented the group with a plaque depicting HMAS Newcastle, which now hangs proudly in the Scout hall. The group have been assured of another invitation when the ship returns to Newcastle.

Alan Richardson
Region Commissioner
Disabilities and Special Needs



Regional Commissioners' Venturers

<i>NAME</i>	<i>HOME PHONE</i>	<i>MOBILE</i>	<i>APPOINTMENT</i>	<i>FORMATION</i>
Charles Watson	02 4992 3688	0418 238 507	State Comm (Venturer Scouts)	NSW State Headquarters
Richard Gomez	02 4973 2287	0407 277 436	Assistant BC (Venturer Scouts)	NSW State Headquarters
Warren Batty	02 6760 7430	0427 607 430	State Comm (Lone Scouts)	NSW State Headquarters
Aaron Wardle		0421 076 497	Regional Comm (Venturer Scouts)	Greater Western Sydney Region
Andrew Millen	02 4655 7643	0418 65 0735	Regional Comm (Venturer Scouts)	Hume Region
Phillip Murphy	02 4328 3247	0418 675 406	Regional Comm (Venturer Scouts)	Hunter And Coastal Region
Michael Bearryman	02 6566 7632	0417 703 837	Regional Comm (Venturer Scouts)	North Coast Region
Cameron Baxter	02 6722 1222	0428 329 622	Regional Comm (Venturer Scouts)	North West Region
Alan Blake	02 4295 1184	0411 755 571	Regional Comm (Venturer Scouts)	South Coast & Tablelands Region
Peter Turner	02 9541 1325	0414 738 378	Regional Comm (Venturer Scouts)	South Metropolitan Region
Kerry Griffin	02 9875 1303	0438 239 001	Regional Comm (Venturer Scouts)	Sydney North Region
James Buchan	02 6337 4161	0407 114 568	Regional Comm (Venturer Scouts)	The Golden West Region

Have the Summer of your Life at AJ2010!

as Junior Service Leaders at
The 22nd Australian Jamboree, Cataract Park
January 2009

AJ2010 is so popular we have had over 12% more Scouts than expected apply to apply for AJ2010 – so it will be the biggest Australian Jamboree for a long time. So now we need even more Venturers, Rovers and Leaders to help run the best Jamboree in Australia yet !

As a JSL you will...

- Have a fantastic time and be able to participate in a lot of the activities
- Use the experience as part of your award scheme for areas like:
 - Service
 - Pursuits
 - Log of hours towards “Proficiency/Charge Certificates” in Outdoor activities eg: water activities, abseiling, etc
 - Expression (Australian Gang Show or participate in the Jamboree Idol)
- Have the chance to assist in running lots of different fun and challenging Activities, or be a reporter, photographer or video operator on the media team, help run the internet cafes, or help in one of many other teams running the Jamboree
- Live in your own JSL (Venturer) Sub-camp
- Have your own internet café
- Have the best fun with heaps of other Venturers, Rovers and Scouts.



Check it out now – take a look at the Promo Video on the Jamboree Website
www.ScoutsAJ2010.com ...and apply online while you're there!

We'll see YOU at AJ2010!

Cataract Scout Park, near Sydney
2 to 14 January 2010

SNOW TRIP

1st Byron Bay Venturer Unit

On the 28th of June 2008 the 1st Byron Bay Venturer Unit reopened. Just over a year later most members travelled from Byron Bay to the ski slopes of Mt Buller. At 4:30 am our trip began, we had to travel from the cosy comforts of our beds and meet up; we would then catch a bus for 40 minutes to Coolangatta Airport to depart on the 6:00am flight to Melbourne.

The excitement fuelled our energy and everyone was keen for the afternoon where we would get our glimpse at snow (many for the first time!). Arriving at Melbourne Airport and even then we were beginning to feel the temperature difference. From the Airport we caught a bus that after three hours would finally bring us to our destination.

And what a sight it was, there was a stampede from the bus to see who could throw the first snowball. Once we had had a taste of the icy powder we realised that our bags still had to be unloaded from the bus. From the bus we caught a taxi to the BMW Lodge, where we were lucky enough to be staying. The Hoinville family had strong connections with the lodge and were able to organise the accommodation. So once we were in and unpacked and the fights over top bunk were settled it was time to get our snow gear! Once all of the gear was organised we could not wait to hit the slopes, but unfortunately our passes were not valid until the next day. So hours were spent outside the lodge with snowball fights and tobogganing until we could no longer see the person we were aiming for.

That night we were talked to about our responsibilities around the lodge, some people were starting to wish they invited Mum! So once we were settled down with our stomachs full, we went straight off to sleep (considering the start of the day it was not surprising!), and our dreams were filled with carving up the powder the next day. It was amazing at how fast our "never seen snow before" advanced to "Masters of the Mountain".



For the next four days we were given the whole range of weather, going from White-Outs to not having a cloud in the sky. But no matter what, we were out there flying down the slopes, playing in the snow and participating in some really stupid dares!

But on the Thursday night reality was setting in. Through our budget we were able to afford a night out of pizza and pasta, but were forced to return to the lodge to begin the packing.

Friday was a day that we all spent together, people showing all the new tricks they had mastered or not quite got there yet with. But at lunch we returned our gear and began our return journey.

At 11:00 pm the bus arrived at Byron Bay dropping its passengers home to their families and familiar beds.

Thankyous must got to firstly the Hoinville family (especially Karen) without whom this trip would have been unthinkably harder, to our Unit Leader, Darrel Lamb, the 1st Byron Bay Venturer Unit Snow Trip Committee and to all of the staff and friends at Mt Buller who we met along the way.

To all those Units out there that think that such a trip is too hard or too soon for the beginning Units, any trip is possible as long as you have enough commitment, organisation and enthusiasm to do it!

Brendan Irwin
1st Byron Bay Venturer Unit



ZONEWISE

Adventure Safety Equipment

Using my forty years experience in Scouting I invented and patented some useful safety items for participants in outdoor adventurous activities.

The safety inventions are in two parts, and aimed at groups.

1. Hiking Tags

Five lightweight trail markers with fluoro colours and reflective arrows.
(also glow in the dark version)

Travel flat and can be set at right angles.

Laid out by Leader every 200 metres, collected by the last person in the Group and returned to the leader who is waiting after each kilometre.



2. RAM Signal Sheets

Hi-vis and Reflective (like safety vests)
2 x 100mm wide strips 2.5 metres long in an attached pouch.

Placed in a 3 metre square clearing they are used to signal **Search and Rescue** teams using International codes:

“V”

Require Assistance;

“X”

Require Medical Assistance.



Both these items are not subject to failure because they are non-electrical, non-mechanical, and critically important for any group on outdoor adventures. (More useful than a first aid kit)

If you agree with the concept and value your safety, you can get full details on my website www.zonewise.com.au

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0418 675 406

Oberon-Tarana Railway Revival Project

Venturers, Rovers, Leaders and friends are invited to help out on the historic Oberon-Tarana Railway Revival Project – on the first weekend of December. Five kilometres of this old branch line will soon be reopened with historic trains, and the whole 24 km to the junction at Tarana (a tiny junction village with a historic country pub) will be completed in the longer term.



Participants 16 and over will be invited to complete a work shift on the railway on one, or ideally two days of the weekend – there will be opportunities to take in the historic town of Oberon and the local area including the old railway itself. Good food will be provided for rail workers by local volunteers who are very keen to welcome the Scouting movement.

A campsite will be provided at the caravan park. Two Oberon motels offer special accommodation deals to railway volunteers – which may be of interest to any parent volunteers or leaders who won't be camping. We also plan to screen a film locally on the Saturday night.

For more information on the Oberon Historic Railway volunteering and camping weekend, or to register interest in attending, contact Julie Mott or Toby Prentice of First Cabarita Mortlake Scout Group on 9743 1128 or email bighouse@bigpond.net.au

For details about the Oberon Railway project, including lots of photos, go to:
www.ozsite.com.au/oberonrailway



Message from the Editor

Venturers and Venturer Leaders: this publication relies on **YOU!** Yes, your contribution is **VITAL**.

I would like to ask you that in your planning of exciting things to do, you appoint a “scribe” – a pen pusher with a camera – to record your activity.

It is not possible for the **LOOK WIDE** staff (one person – me!) to travel to your fun location with reporter’s hat and pen and paper. That’s a job for you!

Guess what? It can be fun and educational, and may even lead to professional reporting as a career.

Think about it... but not for too long – just do it!

Mike Barryman, Editor



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