

Central and Coastal Region Newsletter

SPECIAL EDITION 2016

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Conrad at Hobbit Town



Rianne on Bilbo's Quest



Venturers at Movie World

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VENTURER SCOUTS BOUND FOR NZ VENTURE "INFERNO"



SCOUTS BOUND FOR AJ2016 IN SYDNEY



I hope you enjoy the Special Edition of the Central and Coastal Region Newsletter made up of contributions from participants of both activities.

AJ2016 Participants Bowen Group & Banksia Group



NZ Venture—Rover Scout Alex Cinelli

New Zealand Venture 2016 woe where do I start... Before I left for this amazing trip all my friends tried to convince me that I was crazy because nobody in their right mind would give up a perfectly good holiday to go run a camp and look after a bunch of kids that they have not even met yet for 3 weeks even if it was in New Zealand. What they don't see however is what I get out of the experience. It is hands down the most incredibly rewarding and humbling feeling to see the youth learn, grow, experience new things, make new friends and have fun.

In order to control and look after over 900 venturers (600 from Australia and 350 from New Zealand), the youth are divided into small groups (units) of about 10 venturers. Each unit was then allocated a unit leader (an adult mentor responsible for guiding, leading and looking after the youth) This was my role at the venture.

The Venture consisted of 4 different phases, Pre-tour, Expedition, On and Off site Activities, and Post Tour.

The pre-tour lasted 7 days with 5 days being spent in the South Island in beautiful Queenstown and the remaining 3 days in the North Island in Auckland. This phase was organised by the Australian contingent and consisted of only Australian Venturers, just as well though as there was still over 400 of us. Pre-tour was set up as a choose our own adventure and we were able to personalise our itinerary with selection from an extensive range of activities from ski diving to bushwalking and everything in between.

While in Queenstown I chose to jam pack as much as I could into my program and decide on trying luging, jet boating, canyoning, Mt biking, white water rafting and bushwalking.

Luging

Luging seemed to have a huge following in New Zealand so I thought it was worth a try, especially because a 5 ride pass was included in the pre-tour activity fee. It was awesome fun and much faster than I had expected, I even got air over a few of the jumps.

Jet boating

Jet boating is something I have always wanted to try. It was first thing in the morning on our second day in Queenstown and was absolutely freezing in the wind but totally worth it. I certainly wasn't prepared to get as wet as we did though. It was a quick sprint back to my accommodation afterwards to get changed into dry clothes.

Canyoning

I have done quite a bit of canyoning in Australia so I thought I had a good idea what it would be like but as soon as we got started I was blown away by how different it was. The section of the 12-mile creek canyon we traversed, was not very long but we certainly made the most of it and had a ball. We did various zip lines back and forth across the canyon before we even got the near the water, which were absolutely awesome. Once in the water we jumped, slid, abseiled, climbing and swam our way back out of the canyon. This was definitely my favourite activity on pretour.

Mt Biking

Mt biking was fun at first and was beautifully scenic but got very tiring very quickly. Our guide told us that with down riding the downhill trill always makes up for the pain of the uphill but I'm not sure I agreed. Lets just say my legs hurt for 3 days afterwards.

White water Rafting

White water rafting was also something I have always wanted to do. Even getting to the Shot Over River to begin our trip was an adventure. Hurtling down a crazily narrow road precariously placed on the edge of a very steep Mountain is enough to get anyone's heart pumping. The Shot Over River was so picturesque, with the water the most gorgeous of blues. It was only a short half day trip but there was still enough time to learn all the strokes and techniques in the easy grade 2 sections before we hit the big grade 3 and 4 rapids which really got the adrenalin going. Finally, to top it off we completed our trip with a paddle through an old mining tunnel which was really cool.

Hiking Ben Lomond

Waking up at the crack of dawn to get started on a 10hr return hike up the Mt Ben Lomond Trail was definitely tough on my last day in Queenstown but It surely paid off. Although the weather had been amazing kind to us for the first 4 days of our trip it suddenly decided to take a turn against us. Throughout the beginning of our steep climb up

NZ Venture cont by Alex Cinelli

the mountain thick rain clouds began to roll in and the temperature dropped dramatically. With one hour left to go to the summit we decided to not go any further as the track was quite exposed, we had all our warm gear on and were still cold and the fog was so heavy we couldn't see the track at times let alone any views. Even though we didn't make it to the top it was still a great hike and if I ever go back to the South Island I will definitely try it again.

The Auckland stage of our pre-tour was a touch more laid back mainly because I was beginning to feel the pain of going out so hard in Queenstown. It was here I realised that I would have to pace myself to make it through the rest of the trip

Our arrival in Auckland kicked off with New Year's Eve Celebrations. The contingent hired a DJ and turned the dining hall of our university campus accommodation into dance floor where all venturers and leaders partied hard into 2016.



With most only getting to bed in the late hours of the morning we all had a rest day, where we could have a late brunch, do a much need clothes wash and explore Auckland.

Unfortunately, due to extreme bad weather and torrential wind and rain our planned trip to the Coromandel coast had to be cancelled but the contingent activities team did an amazing job at organising a bunch of indoor activities to keep us occupied including indoor paint ball, A Lord of the Rings Movie Marathon, Lazer Tag and Games Zone and Ice

Skating.

The following day bought our Auckland visit to an end as we were all bussed to Waitomo for a quick tour of a Glow Worm Cave before continuing to Rotorua and our Accommodation at Lakes Ranch. It was here that we met up with the 300 New Zealand Scouts and the 200 Australian Scouts who did not join us on Pre-tour. The opening Ceremony for New Zealand Venture Inferno 2016 went off with a bang but due to some having very early departures for their expeditions the next day it was an early night for most.

Luckily my expedition 'The Underground' (caving) was one of the last ones to leave the site with us departing at 12:00pm. This meant my unit and I could sleep in and slowly pack down our campsite over the course of the morning which was a real blessing.

For the following 6 Days on Caving Expedition in Waitomo I believe we spent more time underground then we did above. We went through a total of 3 caves Ruakuri, Gardners Gut and Urenui visiting Ruakuri twice.

Ruakuri is a very popular tourist cave renowned for its glow worms. On our first trip through this cave we did an ordinary walk through tour, looking at the beautiful features and amazing glow worms. Our Second tour through it was totally different (it didn't feel like the same cave) as we got to explore it from its roof on a zip line tour, it was really fun. Urenui was quite a challenging cave which involved abseiling in through a small hole, lots of tight squeezes (even for me) as well as lots of tricky climbs and jumps. Last but not least Gardners Gut, this was my favourite one by far. We followed a creek pretty much all the way through the cave so it made for a very fun, wet and muddy experience. What I loved the most though was the diversity of the environment, one minute we were walking on sand through the clearest of water, the next we were up to our knees in thick mud. Our expedition Leader put together a well-balanced program and ensured we got more than we bargained for. In addition to the caving we got a chance to abseil off the edge of a walking track over a natural bridge, visit the Waitomo museum and explore the history of the region and its caves, visit the kiwi house sanctuary to

NZ Venture cont by Alex Cinelli

see a real life kiwi (they are so much bigger than I expected), and to compete a service project to give back to the Waitomo community. This expedition was truly the highlight of my trip. I don't think any of us really wanted to go back to Rotorua when our bus rolled in.

Once in Rotorua everyone was welcomed back to the venture site with a huge beach party by one of the on site lakes it was a great way to catch up with everyone. For the following 4 days we were given the opportunity to take part in a massive selection of onsite and offsite activities, it was again choose your own adventure. My favourite activities that I did onsite was the aerial sock wrestling (sock wrestling a sock off your opponent while you are both hanging by a rope about 1m off the ground) and Human Foozeball (an inflatable supersized version of foozeball). As for the offsite activities I did go carting, 4wd driving, high ropes, an amazing race, lusing and mt biking.

Go Carting

I have been go carting before but these carts were on steroids or something, with a top speed of 98km/hr. It was definitely adrenalin pumping. I faired ok coming 5th and only spinning out once.

4wd Driving

Our 4wd Driving adventure was a quick trip in a hotted up Jeep monster truck.

Amazing Race

I helped run the amazing race activity for the youth and ran a base for a few hours. It was quite funny watching them compete my challenge which was 'how far can you throw a gum boot with your not so good hand'.

Lusing

Lusing in Rotorua was just as great as it was in Queenstown and I was getting quite good at it by the end.

Mt Biking

I enjoyed Mt Biking the second time around a whole lot more than the first. The Rotorua Mt bike park was made up of mostly cross country tracks which meant it was still loads of fun with challenging tracks and jumps but with nowhere near the amount of uphill stretches as Queenstown.

The Closing Ceremony for the venture was a 'formal night' themed party followed by very

moving motivational speech by a New Zealand Amputee, it was a lovely way to end the venture.

The following day we began the post tour. All of us Australians again piled into the 14 buses and travelled to Agro Adventures Adventure Park where we spent a few hours cramming in as many thrill seeking activities as we possibly could. I chose the giant 40m bungy swing, wind tunnel surfing (like sky diving but in a vertical tunnel) and the shweeb (a tandem peddle powered capsule that you raced along a track). Afterwards we travelled to the Tamaki Maori Village for a lovely hangi cooked dinner and a cultural tour and show, it was a really great experience. Then it was off to Hamilton to settle into our accommodation.

The next day I went for a tour of the Hobbiton Movie Set. At first I just went on this as it was something to do as I haven't seen any of the hobbit movies, but when we arrived there I was instantly amazed by the amount of detail and loved it. Now I really want to see the movies

Our final night as an Australian contingent was celebrated with a formal dinner. It was long but a good night full of thankyou's, speeches and a massive slide show of videos and photos from the trip. It was a great way to wrap up the camp.

With our last day in New Zealand It was time to say good bye to all our new friends and get ready for the journey home.

Once back in Australia, us from Mackay topped our trip off by stopping over in Brisbane for an extra day and visiting Movie World. Even though we were all very tired and looking forward to our own beds it was definitely worth it.

New Zealand Venture 2016 was an incredible experience which I will never forget and if I am given the opportunity again I would do it in a heart beat.

Alex Cinelli, Rover Scout

NZ Venture—Inferno—by Riley Simpson

The day had finally was here. We left Mackay on the 25th of December pumped for a mind blowing adventure. To start off our trip in New Zealand we took part in a Pre – Tour spanning between South Island; Queenstown and North Island; Auckland. This Pre Tour was specifically for the 430 Venturers and Leaders making up the Australian Contingent. During our stay in both cities many Newspaper articles were made informing the locals of our invasion. The Pre – Tour spanned across eight fun filled days with activities including a Milford Sound (actually a Fiord) Cruise where we took an underwater Observatory tour and a kayaking activity, we enjoyed a great meal, got soaked to the bone under a waterfall and had the opportunity to observe a group of New Zealand Fur Seals. Another activity was an amazing adrenaline free fall swing called the Nevis Swing which had a 70 metre free fall and a 300 metre arc. It was definitely a hit for the Pre – Tour. Many other activities included Lugging, Hiking, Mountain Biking, Jet Boating and much more. During our time at Pre – Tour we celebrated New Year's with a great Olympics Themed party. We then moved onto the long awaited event; Inferno.

We kick started Phase 1 of our Venture with Expeditions ranging from surface, aerial and underground activities. I myself took part in a caving expedition which entailed 5 days of climbing, crawling, swimming and squeezing through amazing caves including Uranui, Rakuri and Gardeners Gut. Uranui was a difficult cave testing many Venturers' mettle. Many stalagmites and stalactites adorned the cave walls forming curtains, elephant ears and candle sticks. In this cave, there was a squeeze that was called the Key hole. This was quite difficult and left I caver in crutches. Rakuri is a tourist Glow worm cave which we had the opportunity to explore with Black Water Rafting Co. I myself took part in Black Water Odyssey which is a cave with zip lines, abseiling and edge climbing on metal footholds 8 metres above the river churning below us. It is a very interesting cave and I recommend it to any International explorer for caving in New Zealand. Gardeners Gut was the last cave that we explored. In this cave we followed the river line and at times the water line was up to my chest. My favourite area in Gardeners Gut was the Water Crawl where we crawled in a passage that was 30 cm high in places and spanning across the length of a football field. The expedition was an amazing experience and would not have been the same if we did not have the great guides and cooks who looked after the 80 Venturers in The Underground Expedition. After all the goodbyes, we loaded up the buses and shipped

out to Phase Two of Inferno.

Throughout the day, people flowed through the gates and recounted their amazing stories. All the injured were whisked off to the First Aid building and everyone else put up their tents. In the afternoon everyone walked to the Campsite's very own beach where there was live entertainment and lakeside relaxation. And that was just the first day back! The whole five days we were there, activities were available on and offsite. We could play dodgeball with new and old mates, ride a greasy pig or a crazy bull, play a game of playful Zorb Soccer, watch movies at the theatre, swim in the pool, play tennis and mega Chess. That was just onsite. Off site you could dare the heights and climb high in Adrenalin Forest High Ropes, explore Rotorua, trek the mountainous landscape on bike, luge like never before or go karting. All these activities filled up our long days, but our nights were catered for as well. Every night, the DJ was standing on the stage pumping out tunes new and old pleasing all age groups. Venture ended with many long goodbyes, hugs and tears as we left our newly made New Zealand friends behind. Their adventure had ended, but the Australian Contingent's hadn't. We enjoyed a day at Agroventure where we partook in death defying activities such as the Giant Swing and Jet Boating. To end our day, we learned the ways of the Maori People. We also lived in the footsteps of Hobbits in Hobbiton. However all good things must eventually come to an end. Many tears and farewells were exchanged, friendships were forged and will be remembered for years to come. This Inferno was an outstanding experience and I recommend to any youth member to take part in the next Inferno.

**By Riley Simpson
Mackay Venturer
Scouts**



NZ Venture—Inferno—by Conrad Lamb

New Zealand Venture Inferno an awesome trip I went for 3 weeks. We left Mackay on Christmas Day and did not return to Mackay until 18 January. There were seven Venturers and one Rover leader who participated on the trip from Mackay. We first went to Brisbane and stayed at Wonargo scout den on Christmas night which was great place to stay for one night. We had a secret Santa which we did that night which was great. The next day we had to go to the international terminal which was interesting. The first time going overseas and going through customs was a different experience for me. We flew Qantas to Auckland.

When we arrived in New Zealand the weather was slightly cooler for me. First night in New Zealand was the Ibis Hotel right near the airport. The next day 27th December we went back to the airport to catch a domestic flight to Queenstown where the pre-tour commenced. When we got to Queenstown the weather was 19 degrees. We headed to Queenstown memorial hall for a brief of what was going to happen on the Inferno tour. I stayed at Reavers Lodge that overlooked Queenstown itself. While I was in Queenstown I participated in Ziptrek which was gliding through pine forests attached to a zip line. There were six lines to complete. I did a 5 hour white water rafting adventure at Shotover River going through rapid grades 3, 4 and 5. A tourist must is Fergburger it is usually an hour to wait in line for a burger, I choose the Little Lamby Burger I must say it was the best burger I have ever eaten. I also went bike riding around Lake Wakatipu and through Queenstown Botanic Gardens which was a great extra option to do. I went up on the Queenstown gondola and did 5 luge rides. First you have to start at the beginner track then you can decide if you want to go to the advanced track which has tighter corners and harder to do. I enjoyed the advanced track which was more fun to do. I loved doing the luge ride. While I was at Queenstown I did the haunted house called Fear Factory. It had all creepy and scary things inside like zombies, vampires and mummies that were fun to scary. There was a chicken out option if it became too scary for you. I would certainly do it again. Dark ride also in Queenstown was really good to do. It was basically a 3D simulator game we played Zombie. It took us fifteen minutes to do but really worth the money of fifteen dollars. While I was still in Queenstown I enjoyed Odyssey Maze which was all about mazes and illusions of mirrors everywhere in one room. The mirror room

confused a friend and I on our perceptions. On 30th December we flew to Auckland for more of the pre-tour. When we got to Auckland we went to our accommodation which was one of the universities in the CBD of Auckland. I was on the seventh floor which was fun walking up the steps when one of the lifts was broken and there was only one other lift working. On 31st December I went to Snow Planet for a day which was a load of fun even though I kept on falling over at the start learning to ski. I got better as the day went on. We got taught how to ski by one of the instructors on how to ski down the different types of slope it was a half hour session. There were tubes to ride down on the snow. We had races which was fun. That night we had a big New Years Party celebration which started at 6:30 pm and finished at 1:00am the next morning. The music was great. The next day we explored Auckland but the weather was very rainy. I went to the Waitomo Glow caves the cave was called Rukari Cave which was a tourist caves. On the 4th January I did my Expedition of Caving or Underground which was really good. The caves that the caving school took us through were Urenui and Gardner Gut. We were able to experience the miracle of nature seeing stalactites and stalagmites. We also went to do the black water rafting at Waitomo the tour was called Black Odyssey which was a dry tour. I enjoy the flying foxes. I did my expedition for 5 days and went back to Rotorua of the 6th day. On Sunday 10th January I did the Wai o Taupo which was geothermal pools which was amazing looking at them and then we went to a public place that had hot pools to swim in which were 30 degrees at the max. The next day I did the Squeeze which was a jet boat ride down one of the rivers and to this place called the Squeeze which was having to negotiate your body through two very close rock faces. There was also a hot waterfall. On the 13th January I did a day trip to Lake Taupo the biggest lake in the southern hemisphere where I learnt how to sail. The next day we went to Agoventures Adventure park which was all fun activities to do like the freefall, bungy and Shwebb a peddle mono rail which was great to do. We went to a Maori Village for a taste of what Maori peoples culture was like. We then had traditional food that Maori people used to eat hungi. The next day I went to the Hobbiton movie set tour where they filmed the Hobbiton movie and some of the Lord of the Rings movie. There were more than 30 hobbit holes and we got a glass of ginger beer when we went to the pub. Hobbiton was great for

NZ Venture—Inferno—by Conrad Lamb

anyone who liked the hobbit movie being able to see where they filmed and associating parts within the movie. It was great to go to Hobbiton to see the amazing world of hobbit holes, it is near Hamilton. The Inferno New Zealand Venture has been amazing from making new friends, to having fun theme nights like James Bond 007, Hawaiian beach party to pirates night. Not to mention all the great activities I was able to do and places that I visited. Sadly my journey had to come to an end, we boarded a bus from Hamilton to Auckland so we could fly home to Mackay.

I had an amazing trip to New Zealand and would recommend it to anyone. New Zealand is a beautiful picturesque country. The 13th New Zealand Venture Inferno was a fulfilling experience for me and I shall hold many memorable memories from it.

By Conrad Lamb.



AJ2016— Leap Into Adventure -by Eliza Langton

On Saturday the second of January 2016 I woke up in the morning full of excitement, for today was the day I finally headed to Sydney for Australia's biggest scout camp, Australian Jamboree 2016 (AJ2016).

When we arrived at the Mackay airport my nerves were starting to get to me but when we met up with my friends from the Mackay City Central scout group my nerves seem to go away and I was full of excitement for what was to come. At one o'clock we boarded our flight heading to Brisbane where we had a stopover before heading to Sydney. After an hour and a half we landed in Brisbane. When we got off the flight all you could see were scouts in every direction, there must have been at least a hundred, but that was only a small amount compared to the 8,000 scout that would be at Jamboree.

After arriving at Sydney we had to get on a bus for the trip out to Cataract Scout Park. When we arrived at camp I was really excited to meet all the new people I would be camping with for the next 12 days. On the first day of camp we were told that we should look around the massive camp site so we wouldn't get lost trying to find our activities in the days to come. That day I met my patrol, who I would be doing all of my activities with, there was my patrol leader Alice, she was in charge of making sure we got to our activities on time, then there was Kyran, Jayden, Austin and Brianna, the people I would be spending most of my time with at Jamboree.

When we finished looking around we went back to camp where I meet the other people from our troop. After dinner we walked to the main arena for the massive opening ceremony and got our first look at just how many people there were at Jamboree. We listened to some speeches and then it was announced that the 2016 Jamboree was officially open. Following that, there was a countdown to an amazing fireworks show that lit up the sky around us, it was awesome to watch. Lastly we enjoyed a live performance from Justice Crew and then headed back to camp looking forward to what was to come.

On the first day of activities we went to Jamberoo, a water theme park, with the world largest water slide. The day we went there it started to rain and we saw our first glimpse of what the weather would be like for the Jamboree but we did not let the rain and the cold stop us from having fun as we raced from ride to ride trying them all. When we had enough of riding the rides we went on the chair lift so we could see the

water park from afar. When we got back to camp everyone was happily talking and playing cards and so I spent the rest of night just having fun with all the cool new people I met.

Endurance was on the agenda for day four activities and we spent the day navigating a bush course and doing exciting challenges at the activity bases, such as giant board games, bubble soccer, crate stacking and many more. As it had been raining for the last couple of days it was cold and the tracks were full of water and mud but that did not stop us from having fun at the activity bases.

The seventh day was Market day at which each troop set up a stall to try and make the most jambucks. Jambucks were paper money made just for market day with scouts receiving ten each to spend at the stalls. Market day was also Visitor day where your friends and family could come and visit you. Our troop spent half the day selling popcorn and pancakes along with a little game where you could try, to ride bike five metres but the steering was backwards so it was really hard to do, we called it the impossible bike. After lunch my friend Britany and I went and had a look at all the stalls, we ended up spending all of our jambucks on the stalls selling food.

The next day my patrol and I went to Challenge Valley which was a really long mud course, it had an obstacle course where you had to monkey bar over a mud pit and swing over a pit of muddy water on a rope. I was glad the rain had finally stopped otherwise the water would have been freezing.

The next day I was really excited because we were visiting Sydney and I had never been there before. We saw the Sydney Opera House, Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Rocks and street performers. On the second last day we went to Cirque Du Scout where we learnt juggling, tightrope walking, trampolining, stilt walking, staff spinning and face painting.

When the last day finally arrived none of us wanted to go home. I wanted to stay there with the friends I had made and keep having fun. After packing up our camp site, which took all day, we moved our bags to just outside a small building where a tarp was strung up between some trees this being would that were we slept That night, after we ate dinner, we went down to the Closing Ceremony where we listened to speeches about how great the camp was and I watched the entertainment with my friends. After that we went back to the place we were to sleep, and deciding

AJ2016-Leap Into Adventure—by Isabel Langton

just to stay awake we talked and had fun until the first bus left at two in the morning.

The scouts from Mackay City Central and I were some of the last to leave and by the time it was our turn to climb on to a bus it was seven in the morning. By the time we arrived at the Sydney airport everyone was very tired from all the activities we had done in the last twelve days and the lack of sleep from staying up all night that most of us fell asleep including me. When I finally arrived home, although very tired, I was happy to be home and was looking forward to telling my family all about Jamboree.

By Eliza Langton, Mackay City Central Scout

AJ2016—By Isabel Langton

At 1:30pm on the second of January 2016 I, as part of the Mackay City Central Scout group, boarded a plane to attend the 24th Australian Jamboree at Cataract Scout Park Sydney. We brought a lot of crazy scouts with us on this adventure. It was already 9:00pm when we arrived at the camp, it was cold, dark and new, and everyone else was asleep. We ate dinner and went to bed excited about tomorrow.

Day one and it's raining already! I'm up at 6:00am to have breakfast and meet my patrol. There was Harrison, Rohnan and Mikaila, who was our Patrol Leader (PL), and Faith, our Assistant Patrol Leader (APL), who arrived at lunch time. My patrol and I went exploring and found the hospital, mall, circus and even the dentist. It was hard to walk because there was so much mud and the rain was pouring down. By the time we had finished exploring we were drenched and it was dinner time. After dinner we headed down to the Opening Ceremony where we cheered and danced with the fireworks, entertainment and music from Justice Crew.

Day two brought more rain. My patrol and I were on duty patrol, where two patrols had to cook and clean for half the day. After we cooked and ate breakfast we went to the Shed where we learnt how to cook scones, cut wood and build a shelf. It was bucketing down rain and freezing cold when we left the Shed so we sprinted back to camp. Days three and four were enjoyed climbing over tall wooden walls, crawling through flooded tunnels, crate stacking, giant board games and getting very muddy at Challenge Valley and Endurance.

Day five sees the sun finally shining! After many days of grey skies the sun finally came out and seeing the sun some people cried because it was so magical. My patrol had water activities that day and it was so nice to feel the sun on your skin after such

a long time under dark clouds that we laid on the beach all day, except when we buried someone up to their neck in sand. Brownsea was on the agenda for day six and I enjoyed learning how to use a compass and doing the Knights Challenge.

Day seven, Super Saturday, was awesome with every troop setting up a stall and selling goods or having an activity you could pay to do. Jambucks were the currency of the day and each scout received 10 Jambucks to spend. My troop sold popcorn and pancakes and we also had a bike people could try to ride five meters to win 50 Jam Bucks. The trick was the bike had been changed so if you turn the handle left it turns right making it harder to ride 5 meters. Only one person did it.

On day eight we went on the City Sights trip to Sydney where we saw the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House, enjoyed a ferry ride to Manly and watched some cool street performers. We also lost the same kid twice but always found him in the end. Cirque Du Scout on day nine had us learning how to use stilts, face paint and tightrope walk. Day ten arrived and finally it was time to go to Jamberoo, a water park with the world's biggest water slide. It was so much fun going on all the slides and I really liked the tobogganing. Day eleven, sadly the last day at Jamboree, had everyone packing up camp. After we packed up the tents, dining fly and kitchen supplies we went down to the Closing Ceremony where there were more fireworks and entrainment. When the Closing Ceremony was over my troop and I stayed up all night talking and hanging out. In the morning we said our last goodbyes and climbed on our buses which would take us to the airport and start our journey back home.

By Isabel Langton, Mackay City Central Scout



Pioneer Valley Scouts at Jamboree

AJ2016— Leap Into Adventure -by Jessica Tilbrook

Jamboree

January 2nd to January 14th. These I would say are probably the best 12 days of my life so far! During these 12 days I was lucky enough to attend the 24th Australian Scouting Jamboree at Cataract Park with 11000 other scouts and leaders. Jamboree is a large event that occurs every 3 years where scouts from all corners of Australia and the world come together to celebrate and unite in scouting and have an experience of a life time.

The 2016 Australian Jamboree was definitely an experience that I will never forget. There were so many activities and opportunities open to us of which I enjoyed immensely.

There were off site activities such as Jamberoo (a water theme park), or sight seeing around Sydney Harbour and the Opera House. While these and other off site activities were amazing, the on site were just as good. Ranging from challenge valley to cirque de scout (circus activities). Combine these with all the night events, (AJs got talent, carnival, comedy night, concerts, movies and medieval fair) there was never a time you were bored. Jamberoo was definitely one of my very favourites.

Although it rained for the first couple of days, that didn't stop any of the 11000 of us from going to all the activities and having an unreal and unforgettable time.

The friendships I have made during this time and the many experiences will stay with me forever. I definitely 'Leapt into Adventure' with attending the 24th Jamboree and the memories I made during my time there will stay with me forever.

Scouts has been an extremely awarding venture for me and I would recommend it to anyone who wants to take a 'Leap into Adventure'.

Jessica Tilbrook, Banksia Scout Group

Jamboree

Jamboree was a great experience for me and the rest of my friends that came with me and the ones I made at jamboree. In our camp we were split into 6 groups that we did all of the day time activities with. At night they had activities at two arenas. One often had movies and the other often had performances from cover bands to Australian comedians to a Eurovision rock band. One night all of the international scouts made little performances.

The most memorable times of Jamboree were the offsite activities like the city sights. This was when we were allowed to roam around Sydney and explore all of its sights. We saw the Sydney opera house and the Sydney Harbor Bridge. Some people got to walk on the Sydney Harbor Bridge and even got some amazing photos. Jamberoo was also great. It was a giant waterpark with a taipan and funnel web themed waterslides. There was a ski lift that lifts you up into the air to do a toboggan ride down a hill and around the park.

The badges were a very big highlight of the camp because they were something everyone wanted. Market day was a day when outsiders could buy a ticket to enter. A lot of the outsiders had badges to trade with us for some of the brand new Jamboree badges. There were badges from all around the world. There was even someone who was trading and selling old scout badges from England.

By Lachlan McKendry, Banksia Scout Group



AJ2016-by Matthew Vella & D & H Tuckerman

Jamboree

I had the privilege of being one of the 11,000 people who got to attend the 24th Australian Jamboree down at Cataract Scout Park in Sydney. There were people who travelled from all over

Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, United Kingdom, New Caledonia, Japan and Indonesia just to name a few. It was an amazing experience and one of the best things I have ever done while I have been in scouts.

I was away from home for 13 nights and I had the privilege of been one of the Patrol Leaders in the Queensland Contingent at the Jamboree and got to working with a great group of people in my Patrol.

On opening night everyone was so excited to be there as we got to see Justice crew preform and watch amazing fireworks. Every night there was a different night performer that we could watch such as comedian, Gang Show and FMX. With the closing ceremony with performers Samantha Jade and Cyrus and again another amazing lot of fire works.

My favourite thing that I done while at the Jamboree was the Endurance which was a series of activities throughout a bush trial. We also done a number of other activities as well such as water activities , top ropes, Australian village, City Sites, Jamberoo and leap of faith are just some of the great activities at the Jamboree. Our parents could go onto the Jamboree website onto live stream to see what was happening each day while we were away from home.

I made some great friends while at Jamboree. But at the end of all of it, it was nice to come home.

Matthew Vella, Banksia Scout Group

AJ2016 at Cataract Scout Park in Sydney was the 16th Jamboree that Dennis Tuckerman (Monawee) has attended, the first being in 1963 and his wife Heather (Hathi) has attended 8 Jamborees. They were amongst an overall total of around 10,000



scouting members and supporters at AJ2016.

This year Dennis and Heather went to the Jamboree not knowing what area that they would be working in.

Eventually it was agreed that they work at the Brownsea Island Base which is run by the Rover Section. They were responsible for registering scouts as they arrived at the base and stamping their passport when they finished the activity. At the Brownsea Island base there were displays about the history of Brownsea Island. Some of the activities at the base were, signalling, morse code, semaphore, jousting of the Knight, craftsmanship, navigation, lashings and knotting.

Three days of continuous rain didn't stop the activities from going ahead. Dennis became a casualty of the wet conditions when he stepped over the water on the roadway and due to the instability of the ground he ended up breaking two toes. Due to a prior medical condition, Heather encouraged Dennis to pack his walking stick and it came to good use during the duration of the Jamboree.

Dennis was a scout leader in Papua New Guinea from 1965 to 1971 and whilst he was there he was presented with a carved walking stick as it came in handy to negotiate the rugged conditions of the landscape there. At AJ2016 Dennis's walking stick was the subject of many questions from scouting members.

Dennis and Heather spoke fondly of their memories of AJ2016 despite the wet weather.

Written by M Wallace from information supplied by Dennis and Heather Tuckerman

Photos of Jamboree from RC Dougal McWhinney



At Jamboree it rained for three days so there were wet clothes, wet shoes and there certainly wasn't any chance of drying clothes normally.

Scouts Leaders weren't going to have the natural elements beat them, so they came up with a plan. A good plan.



Jet Turbo Power.

Look MUM ! some washing was done at camp even though it was wet weather.

