

# Better Together

By **DAVID LYONS**

Melbourne recently hosted Better Together 2020, the 3rd national LGBTIQ+ conference. Scouts Victoria representatives also met up with members and friends of Scouting attending in other capacities.

There was a huge program for the two-day event and we shared highlights from the sessions we attended on the Scouts Victoria Diversity and Inclusion Facebook page.

Many topics included information that can also be applied to working with members of our communities such as disability or faith inclusion.

### **Some comments from people at the event:**

“We need to consciously move away from thinking in binaries.” - Matt Cengia, District Leader - Scouts, Moonee Valley.

“Simple actions, like using the right pronouns for gender-diverse Scouts, can be crucial for mental health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ Scouts and Leaders alike. I don't think these sorts of inclusive actions are hard for Scout people to understand, as Scouts is all about learning and community.” - Tadc Lee, Venturer, 7th Ballarat.

“When we first sent our son to Cubs we were concerned whether our family would be accepted. My partner and I had been in a same sex relationship for 20 years and we did not want our son to experience discrimination. Happily, Cubs and Scouts has been a great experience. Archie has learnt so much and made friends with the most wonderful group of people. He's become a stronger and more resilient young man.” - Marina, Carlton.

**David 'Wombat' Lyons is State Commissioner for Diversity and Inclusion.**



## Scouts Victoria welcomes its newest Group

The Buddha's Light International Association (BLIA) Melbourne Scout Group, with Kariwara DC John Wightwick, invested a number of new Leaders including ACSL Elliott Cao, AJSL Aeson Yee Lau, ACSL Edward Ang, GL Maggie Lee, and LiC Ian Spencer.

