

VENTURE'26

AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT

16TH NEW ZEALAND VENTURE WELLINGTON, AOTEAROA



Newsletter Edition 1
March 2025

For your immediate action!

Encourage your two referees to complete their online referee report.

Order and make payment for optional merchandise by Friday 28 March 2025.

Add payment date reminders to your phone/diary.

Add Virtual Town & Orientation Day dates to your phone/diary.

Check that you have a valid passport. Apply for one if needed.

Check your shirt size is correct by Friday 28 March 2025. View sizing chart [here](#).

Stay up to date and connected via our Socials, Website and Newsletters.

Contingent Leader's Welcome

Welcome to our journey to the 16th Aotearoa / New Zealand Venture! In just 300 days, the Australian Contingent will depart for 13 days of adventure with new mates from across the Pacific region.

The Contingent Management Team (meet them on page 3) has been working hard to finalise plans for flights, merchandise, health and wellbeing support, and our post tour program. In the coming months our priorities are to finalise travel arrangements, complete application approvals, and help you to connect with other Contingent members who will share this journey with you.

Attending an international Scouting event is an opportunity like no other. To make the most of the experience, it is important that all Contingent members are suitably prepared. If you are yet to achieve eligibility criteria for the Venture – 10 nights camping in a tent within Scouting (three of which must be consecutive) plus Outdoor Adventure Skills Camping Stage 4 – then it is time to plan how you will achieve the criteria in the next six months. Connect with your Unit Council or adult Leader if you need support.

Please take the time to carefully read this and all future newsletters. Each Contingent member is responsible for ensuring they are suitably prepared for our trip, and part of that responsibility includes keeping up with all communications you receive from our team.

If you have any questions at any time, please reach out to nzv2026@scouts.com.au.

I'm thrilled to be sharing this journey to the 16th Aotearoa / New Zealand Venture with you! Let's make it an adventure we'll remember forever.

Tom Dowsley
Contingent Leader

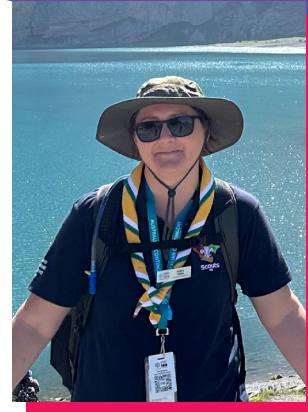
Meet the Team



Tom Dowsley - WA
Contingent Leader



Adam Strong - QLD
Deputy Contingent Leader



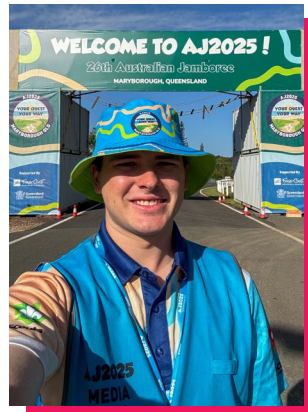
Kellee Gibby - WA
Deputy Contingent Leader



Shane Troyahn - QLD
Operations Lead



Nick Molnar - VIC
Program Lead



Dylan Shaw - QLD
Marketing & Communications Lead



Wyatt Bicknell - VIC
Operations Lead



Lily Canalese - QLD
Program Lead



Charlie Fairbairn - QLD
Administration & Finance Lead

Application Process

The steps below outlines the application review and approval process. At the time of publishing this newsletter, all applications are at Stage 2 with state/territory Branches conducting membership checks.

Our team will move applications through the process as quickly as possible. You should expect the process to take at least six-eight weeks. In the meantime, you should continue to make payments as per the payment schedule (the next payment is due on 1 April 2025).

You can check the status of your application at any time on the 'Status' tab of your [online application](#).

Stage 1

Application submitted and deposit paid.

Stage 2

Your Branch reviews your application and conducts membership checks. If Approved, your status will be listed as 'SHQ Approved'.

Stage 3

When approved by your Branch, the Contingent Team will review your application, including eligibility, up to date payments and referee reports completed.

Stage 4

Once application is checked by the Contingent Team and approved by the Contingent Leader, it will be listed as 'NHQ Accepted'.

Referee Reports

Have you checked your referee reports are completed?

To ensure your application is on track for Venture 26, log back into your application and confirm that your referees have completed their reference. If the status says "reference completed" on the Referee Page, you're all set!

If you see "reference outstanding," please follow up with your referee and ask them to complete it as soon as possible. Need help? Contact us at nzv2026@scouts.com.au.

Payment Schedule

Your next payment of \$750 is due on 1 April 2025.

Please put a reminder in your phone/calendar for the remaining payments that are due across 2025. All payments must be made by 1 October 2025. Please be aware that payments more than 14 days late may result in withdrawal from the Contingent.

Payment	Venturer Scouts	Adults	Venturer Scouts with Post Tour	Adults with Post Tour	Due Date
Deposit	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750	23 February 2025
2nd Payment	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750	1 April 2025
3rd Payment	\$750	\$750	\$1,450	\$1,300	1 June 2025
4th Payment	\$750	\$750	\$1,450	\$1,300	1 August 2025
5th Payment	\$860 + Exped fee	\$150 + Exped fee	\$1,410 + Exped fee	\$1,000 + Exped fee	1 October 2025
TOTAL	\$3,860	\$3,150	\$5,810	\$5,100	

What's included in the base fee?

- Venture'26 fee
- Meals
- Accommodation
- Activities
- Flights between New Zealand and the departure point nominated in your online application
- Ground transport in New Zealand
- Health and Wellbeing expenses
- Travel insurance
- A merchandise pack including two shirts, 90L wheeled travel bag, luggage tags, Australian Contingent badges, two Australian scarves, and a name badge.

What's not included in the base fee?

- Your Expedition – members of the Australian Contingent will choose from a selection of Expeditions that range in price. Based on previous Ventures, Expeditions range in price from \$100 up to \$1,000.
- Obtaining a passport if you do not already have one
- Any visa costs that might be applicable based on your passport's country of issue (Australian passport holders do not need a visa)
- any spending money for souvenirs or incidental items (you will not need much)
- Clothing and gear requirements outlined by the Contingent Management Team and/or the organisers.
- Any additional optional activities during Phase 2 of the Venture or on the Post-Tour.

Withdrawals and Cancellation Policy

Withdrawals

Members withdrawing from the Contingent must notify the Contingent Leader in writing as soon as possible. Since many expenses must be paid well before our departure, it is not possible to provide full refunds upon withdrawal.

The following table highlights the amount of any refund payable.

Notification Received	Refund Amount
On or before 31 March 2025	Full Refund
1 April 2025 – 31 May 2025	Amount paid less \$500
On or after 1 June 2025	No Refund

Cancellation Policy

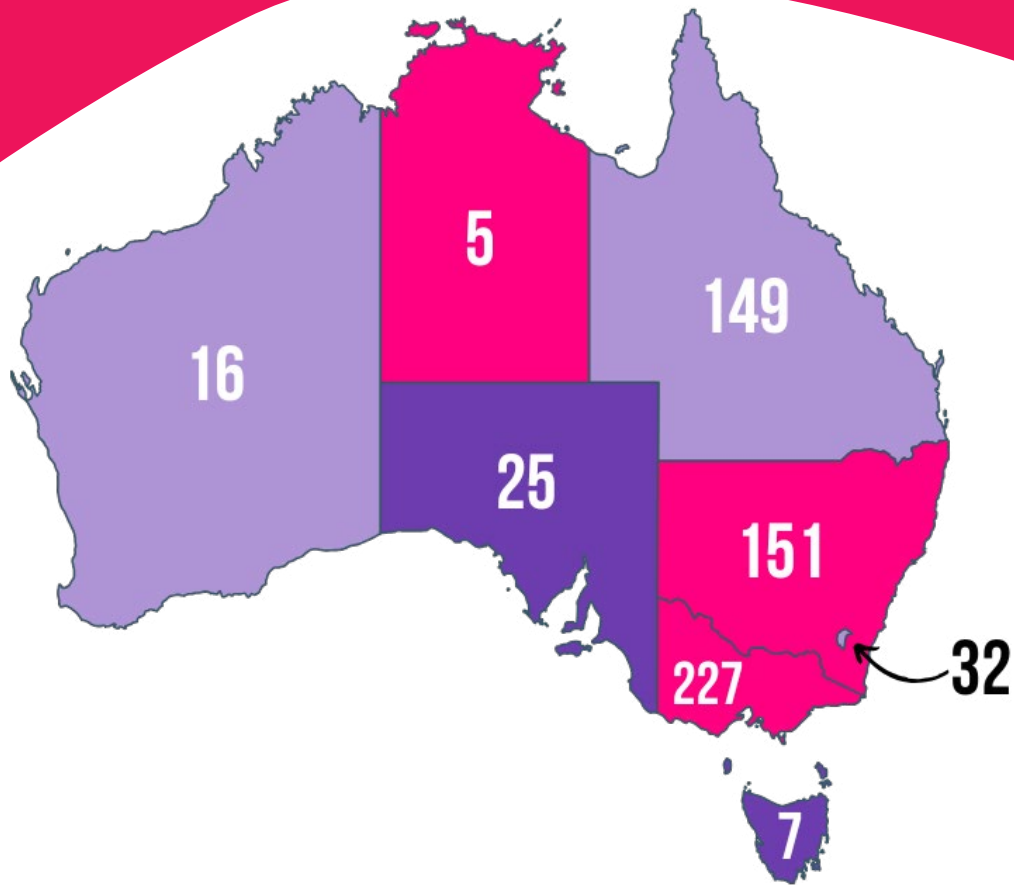
If the Contingent is cancelled by Scouts Australia or by Scouts Aotearoa the decision will be promptly communicated to all registered Contingent members.

The following table highlights the amount of any refund payable.

Date of Cancellation	Refunds
On or before 31 March 2025	Full Refund
After 1 April 2025	Scouts Australia will refund all recovered funds. Non-recoverable expenses may include travel insurance, bank charges, international exchange fees, accounting license fees and expended Contingent planning costs.



The Australian Contingent



Virtual Town Halls

The Contingent Management Team is hosting a series of Virtual Town Hall meetings in March. Join us to hear the latest about our Contingent preparations for the Venture!

Each session will be recorded and made available online so you can get the latest even if you can't make one of the sessions.

Venturer Scouts

Wednesday 26 March 2025

8:00pm AEDT (VIC/NSW/ACT/TAS)
7:00pm AEST (QLD)
7:30pm ACDT (SA)
5:00pm (WA)

[CLICK HERE FOR MEETING LINK](#)

Adults

Monday 31 March 2025

8:00pm AEDT (VIC/NSW/ACT/TAS)
7:00pm AEST (QLD)
7:30pm ACDT (SA)
5:00pm (WA)

[CLICK HERE FOR MEETING LINK](#)

Compulsory Orientation Days

Orientation Days are an important aspect of being prepared for your Venture experience. We will cover important information for our trip, plus you'll meet other Contingent members and collect your merch.

It is compulsory for all Contingent members to attend a face to face Orientation Day. Regional and remote Contingent members will be invited to attend a virtual Orientation Day. If you are in regional NSW and live closer to Canberra, you are welcome to attend the Canberra Orientation Day. We will call for registrations later in the year.

Venturer Scouts should plan to attend with one parent/guardian.

Please put the date for your Orientation Day into your calendar now! We will communicate times and venues once confirmed.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
Canberra | Saturday 18 October 2025

NEW SOUTH WALES
Sydney | Sunday 9 November 2025

NORTHERN TERRITORY
Virtual | Sunday 2 November 2025

QUEENSLAND
Brisbane | Sunday 19 October 2025

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Adelaide | Saturday 8 November 2025

TASMANIA
Virtual | Sunday 2 November 2025

VICTORIA
Melbourne | Saturday 15 November 2025

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Perth | Saturday 1 November 2025

Itinerary

28 Dec

- Contingent leaves Australia
- Accommodation in Wellington Hotels

29 Dec

- Wellington Explorer Day
- Accommodation in Wellington Hotels

30 Dec

- Transfer to the Venture'26 Site
- Depart for your Expedition



31 Dec - 4 Jan

- Phase 1 of Venture'26 on your Expedition with your Unit

5 Jan - 8 Jan

- Phase 2 of Venture'26 at the Main Site at Brookfield in Wellington

9 Jan

- Main Contingent returns home
- Post tour flies to Queenstown



Post Tour

10 Jan - 13 Jan

- Post tour exploring Queenstown, the Adventure Capital of the World

14 Jan

- Post tour participants return home to Australia





Expeditions

There are 31 awesome Expeditions to choose from to craft your Phase 1 experience at the Venture. Check out the full list of Expeditions on offer [here](#).

When selecting your preferred Expeditions, take careful note of the physical requirements of the activities you are selecting. Some Expeditions require a high level of personal fitness, and it is imperative that Contingent members are prepared accordingly. If you are selecting some of the high adventure Expeditions, be prepared to maintain your personal fitness across 2025 in the lead up to the Venture so you can fully engage in your Expedition.

It may not be possible for you to withdraw part-way through an Expedition if you are unable to handle the physical demands of the activity. For example, if you are on a multi-day bushwalk/tramp in a remote area, we won't be able to come and collect you on day two! Take the lead and prepare yourself for the Expeditions that you have selected.

If you'd like to update your Expedition preferences, you can do so in the online application system on the 'Expeditions' tab. Preferences will be locked by the end of March.

Expect to be notified around June what Expedition you have and if there's any specific PPE (snow jackets, ski boots etc) you will be notified what is included and what you will need to bring.

Reach out by emailing nzv2026@scouts.com.au if you need any assistance!

OPTIONAL MERCH

Grab your exclusive Australian Contingent to Venture'26 Merch! Merch designs and logo will be announced soon!

Check out the Merchandise tab on your OLMES application to secure additional merch and equipment for the ultimate adventure!

All descriptions and pricing [available on OLEMS](#).

Merch orders close on Friday 28 March 2025. Orders must be paid for by this date.

A Softshell Jacket will also be able to be purchased for \$90. More details soon.



Gear (including Tents)

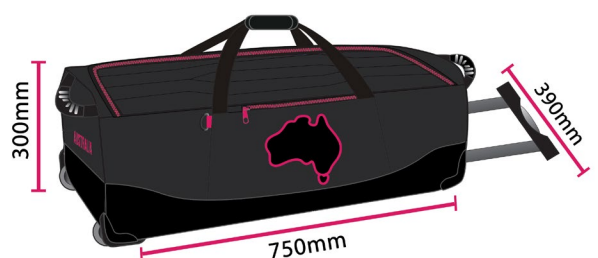
A detailed gear list will be released later in 2025. Here are some key points in the meantime:

All Contingent members will need their own tent for the Venture. You will need to pack your tent in your travel bag for the trip to New Zealand and back to Australia. The Contingent is offering a tent as an optional merchandise item that can be ordered on the 'Merchandise' tab of the online application system. If you already have a tent that will fit into the supplied travel bag (see dimensions below), you can bring that – just make sure it is thoroughly cleaned before we depart for New Zealand

All your gear, including your tent, will need to be packed into the provided 90 litre Contingent travel bag.

All Contingent members will receive the following gear:

- Two (2) Australian Contingent polo shirts
- Three (3) Australian Contingent badges
- Two (2) Australian scarves
- One (1) name badge
- One (1) 90 litre wheeled travel bag
- Two (2) luggage tags.



Travel Update

Our team has started the process to lock in flights for our Contingent. Please ensure your departure/return point is correctly listed in your [online application](#).

The following departure points will be offered for Australian Contingent members:

Adelaide, Alice Springs, Brisbane, Cairns, Canberra, Darwin, Esperance, Hobart, Karratha, Melbourne, Newman, Perth, Rockhampton, Sydney or Townsville.

Travel to and from these departure points is included in the Contingent fee. Contingent members must make their own way to one of the departure points listed. Note that travel from some departure points may be via coach to a major international airport for onward travel to New Zealand (for example, Contingent members departing Canberra may travel via coach to Sydney Airport for onward travel to New Zealand).



Independent Travel

There is no independent travel option for youth members. All youth members must travel with the Contingent between Australia and New Zealand on flights arranged by the Australian Contingent.

Adult applicants may submit a request to travel independently. Requests will be reviewed in line with operational requirements of the Australian Contingent. To request independent travel, adult applicants should email nzv2026@scouts.com.au and an independent travel request form will be made available. Please be aware that independent travel will not be approved until after applications close, when the operational requirements of the full Australian Contingent are known. Your request for independent travel must be approved by the Contingent Management Team; we recommend waiting for this approval prior to making any travel bookings. If approved, independent travel will be both ways – there is no option for one-way independent travel and one-way Contingent.

Passports and Visas

You will need a valid passport with an expiry date of no earlier than 15 February 2026 as New Zealand requires entrants to have a passport with at least a month's validity after the intended period of travel.

If you do not have a passport, you will need to apply for one [here](#) by completing the details and then presenting to your local Australia Post with the required identification and a print out of your forms.

We need all Contingent members to have their passport as soon as possible and we recommend starting your application early because passports can take some time to issue, especially for youth in a split family or foster care situation. If you are planning to travel to NZV2026 on a passport other than an Australian passport, or if you are not an Australian citizen, please contact us immediately with the details at nzv2026@scouts.com.au.

Post Tour

Our team is currently finalising the composition of the Post Tour to ensure we have the correct split of young people and adults.

Once finalised, all Post Tour participants will receive an email confirming their place on the Post Tour.

Frequently Asked Questions

Have a question? Check out the FAQs on our website [here](#).

Contact Us & Socials

Reach out at any time with any question by emailing nzv2026@scouts.com.au.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to stay up to date with the latest updates and news.



nzv_auscontingent



NZVentureAu

scouts.com.au/event/nzv2026