

2026

Scouts Australia

ANNUAL REPORT 2026

Scouts
AUSTRALIA



At Scouts of Australia, we acknowledge Australia's First Nations Peoples, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We pay our respects to Elders past and present. We're grateful to do our Scouting in this country; we commit to use its resources wisely and develop our understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. We also acknowledge any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scouts who are part of our movement today.





This Report covers the period 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026.



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POKÉMON



SCOUTS

THE SCOUT PROMISE

On my honour, I promise to do my best,
To be true to my spiritual beliefs,
To contribute to my community
And to our world,
To help other people,
And to live by the Scout Law.

OR

On my honour,
I promise that I will do my best,
To do my duty to my God,
And to the King of Australia,
To help other people,
And to live by the Scout Law.

THE SCOUT LAW

BE RESPECTFUL
Be friendly and considerate
Care for others and the environment

DO WHAT IS RIGHT
Be trustworthy, honest and fair
Use resources wisely

BELIEVE IN MYSELF
Learn from my experiences
Face challenges with courage

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Chief Commissioner of Australia

Brendan J Watson OAM

As I reflect on the past year, I do so with enormous optimism for the future of Scouting in Australia.

Membership Growth
For the first time in many years, we have seen growth in the number of young people choosing Scouting. While growth is certainly encouraging, I believe we need to think differently about what those numbers really represent.

These are not simply membership statistics.

Each additional young person represents another life being changed for the better.

Independent longitudinal research undertaken in Australia has confirmed something that generations of volunteers have always instinctively known. Young people who participate in Scouting are more connected to their families, friends and communities. They feel protected because they know there are trusted adults around them when life becomes difficult. They feel respected because they have a genuine voice, are listened to and are empowered to lead. Together these form what researchers describe as the CPR of resilience - being Connected, Protected and Respected.

These are not abstract concepts. They are the foundations upon which resilient, capable and compassionate adults are built.

So, the next time we discuss membership figures, whether around a Group Committee table or at a Branch meeting, I encourage you not to think simply about census numbers. Instead, ask a different question:

How many more young people in our local community deserve the opportunity to experience everything Scouting has to offer?

That is the measure that truly matters.

This year we also introduced another important measure of our impact by collecting national participation data.

Participation recognises every non-member who actively engages in a meaningful Scouting experience throughout the year - whether through school campsite programs, Come and Try activities, community programs or other educational experiences delivered by our volunteers.

Importantly, participation is not simply contact with Scouting. It does not include someone buying a sausage at a Bunnings barbecue, purchasing a raffle ticket or following us on social media. It measures genuine involvement in our educational program.

Why is this important? Because it tells a much bigger story. It demonstrates that Scouting's contribution to Australian communities extends well beyond our registered membership. Every participant represents another young person whose confidence has grown, whose friendships have expanded or whose understanding of service, leadership or the outdoors has been strengthened through Scouting. That is social impact.

None of this would be possible without our volunteers. Across Australia, tens of thousands of volunteers generously contribute millions of hours every year. The economic value of that contribution is estimated to exceed half a billion dollars annually, but the true value cannot be measured in financial terms.

The confidence built around a campfire. The encouragement offered after a difficult day. The patient mentor helping a young person discover talents they never knew they possessed. Those moments cannot be costed.

To every Leader, Committee Member, Rover Scout, Fellowship member and supporter - thank you. You are changing lives every single week, often without ever fully appreciating the difference you make.

This Annual Report is also my final report as Chief Commissioner of Australia, having decided not to seek a second term.

When I commenced in this role, we began asking a fundamental question: **How do we ensure Scouting continues to thrive in a world where volunteering is changing?**

Rather than relying on assumptions, we sought evidence.

We commissioned McCrindle Research to undertake one of the most significant volunteer studies ever conducted within Scouts Australia. Thousands of voices contributed, helping us understand the realities facing volunteers today. Interestingly, the findings closely mirrored similar research undertaken by The Scout Association in the United Kingdom.

The message was unmistakable. People still want to volunteer. People still believe in Scouting. But modern life is busier, expectations are higher and time has become our scarcest resource.

Many also told us that our onboarding processes and initial training expectations unintentionally discouraged people before they even had the opportunity to contribute.

We listened. More importantly, we acted.

Flexible Volunteering
Since the end of 2025, Scouts Victoria, Scouts Queensland and Scouts South Australia have been trialling a new Flexible Volunteer Model across selected Districts. The results have been extremely encouraging.

The National Operations Committee reviewed the interim findings in July, which demonstrated significant growth in adult volunteers working directly with young people in program delivery roles.

This is precisely the outcome we hoped to achieve. More adults sharing responsibility. Smaller individual workloads. Greater support for existing Leaders. Better experiences for our young people.

As a result, we agreed to expand the trial nationally, with every Branch now participating through selected Groups.

The Flexible Volunteer Model recognises that volunteering should fit around people's lives rather than asking people to fit their lives around volunteering. It embraces team -based leadership, shared responsibility and progressive learning.

Alongside this work, we have completely redesigned our adult learning curriculum.







Training in the trial is now structured as a genuine learning journey, with each module building logically on the previous one. New volunteers are able to contribute meaningfully from the beginning while progressively developing their knowledge, confidence and leadership. We are making it easier to join our team without compromising quality or safety.

If the expanded trial continues to demonstrate the same success, Scouts Australia intends to adopt the model nationally during the second half of 2027 through a carefully managed staged implementation.

Supporting this transformation will be an entirely new digital ecosystem for Scouts Australia. Beginning with a new Learning Management System, members will progressively benefit from improved online learning, event management and modern digital tools that will ultimately replace Terrain.

These investments are not about technology for its own sake. They are about making volunteering simpler, more connected and better supported so that our volunteers can spend less time managing systems and more time doing what matters most - working with young people.

Our Program

Over the past year we have surveyed, listened and redesigned a number of the elements of our program to make it easier to deliver and understand. The new program initiatives including guidance for Special Interest Areas, removal of the 'Assists' in Lead, Participate and Assist together with a range of other improvements. These have recently been launched Nationally with the intent that all Groups will implement for the start of the new year.

Internationally we have had Contingents fly out to events across the globe including in New Zealand, Iceland and Japan. Next year will be even bigger with the largest Contingent thus far from Australia attending the World Jamboree in Poland. The team has been working hard to ensure this Contingent is a well oiled machine and that started with the pre-Jamboree camps held across Australia this year. A new initiative but one that is likely to stay for world events, the pre-Jamboree camps will ensure that our young people are known prior to departing and that in turn they know the leaders who will be looking after them on their adventure of a lifetime.

SAIT

Scouts Australia Institute of Training (RTO 5443) has also been restructured to ensure we can be more agile, responsive and meet the requirements of new regulations for RTOs. SAIT continues to provide our members with recognition of their achievements issuing qualifications and statements of attainment that are being used to apply for and gain employment. The skills developed through Scouting translate into today's workforce which more and more recognises the value our members can bring to an organisation because of their development in Scouting.

Sausages

There is little doubt about the support that Scouting receives from many local businesses across the country. Nationally though I wish to recognise and thank Bunnings. During the past year Scouts have raised $2,320,000 at approximately 2110 sausage sizzles. That is a whopping 662,857 sausages sold by our members across the country at Bunnings stores. Thank you Bunnings!

Thank you and all good things.....

As my term draws to a close, it would be remiss of me not to mention the team I have worked with. Thank you to the National Team - the dedicated individuals who have taken on roles at a National level (National Commissioners, Deputy National Commissioners, NEC Chair, National General Manager and the staff in our office) to help lead this amazing organisation. I have been blessed to work with and for them. It has been an honour to do so.

Many people have asked me what comes next. The answer is very simple.

I will continue to be a Scout and to give back to Scouting. I will do so at a local



Group level to start with. That is where Scouting begins. That is where lives are changed.

Leadership in Scouting has never been about titles. It has always been about service.

Every appointment we hold is temporary. We are merely caretakers, entrusted for a time to leave the Movement stronger than we found it before handing it to the next generation.

I sincerely hope that my contribution will be judged not by the positions I have held, but by whether Scouts Australia is a little stronger, a little more welcoming and a little better prepared for the future because I was fortunate enough to serve.

I joined Scouting as a ten-year-old boy at Heathmont Scout Group. Like every ten-year-old, I had absolutely no idea where the journey would lead. What I found was a community that believed in me before I fully believed in myself.

Adults gave their time freely. They challenged me. Encouraged me. Trusted me with responsibility. Taught me resilience. Showed me what service looked like. They opened doors I never knew existed. Without ever intending to, they changed the direction of my life.

Today, somewhere in Australia, another ten-year-old is walking into a Scout Hall for the very first time. They have no idea what adventures lie ahead.

They have no idea what friendships they will build, what confidence they will discover or what leader they may one day become.

One day, they may become a doctor, a teacher, an engineer, a parent, a community Leader - or perhaps even the Chief Commissioner of Scouts Australia.

But none of that begins with a title. It begins with a local Scout Group.

A volunteer who says, “Welcome.”
A patrol. A campfire. A Promise.

And a community that chooses to believe in the limitless potential of a young person.

That is the gift Scouting has given me.

It is the gift our volunteers continue to give to tens of thousands of young Australians. May we never underestimate the extraordinary difference that simple act of service continues to make.

Thank you for the honour and privilege of allowing me to serve as your Chief Commissioner. I will always remain, first and foremost, a Scout.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Chair, National Executive Committee

Toby Phillips



It has been a year of fun and adventure for Scouts Australia across 2025-26. One of the top highlights on the calendar was OneCamp held in Perth in April. This was the first "tier 2" national youth event – a new event standard designed to encourage more major national-scale events with significant interstate participation. OneCamp brought together 1,600 youth members spanning Joeys to Rovers, with a genuinely innovative program that spanned all sections.

At the other end of the emotional spectrum, it was a difficult fire season over the summer, affecting many Scout groups and families, and included significant destruction of the Mafeking Rover Park in Victoria. The 130 hectare site is managed by the Victorian Rovers. Work is underway to rebuild the site, and it is times like this that demonstrate the true impact and reach of Scouting.

Scouts Australia has passed the half-way point in our 2024-2027 strategic plan. Our five strategic "key moves" are starting to gain traction as their initiatives develop. This year, we launched the pilot of a contemporary flexible volunteering model, with early reports suggesting an impressive impact on leadership recruitment. We also finalised a major update to achievement pathways – the most significant change since the current youth program was launched in 2019 – to make delivering the youth program easier and more impactful. And we have moved into the implementation phase of a once-in-a-generation refresh of key digital architecture.

In terms of organisational health, Scouts Australia is in a strong position at the end of 2025-26. Our membership census recorded modest growth of 0.24%, but growth nonetheless. Over the last five years we have recorded membership growth and decline in a roughly alternating pattern; it is encouraging to have had a growth year, but we must work to keep the momentum.

Our financial position is sound. Scouts Australia's core activities ran to budget, funded roughly half through branch contributions and half through the income from our investment portfolio. Several favourable developments – including capital gains in our investment portfolio and the event surplus from the 26th Australian Jamboree – enabled us to allocate significant resources to additional unbudgeted organisation initiatives and digital systems. All told, we reported a $3.5m surplus for 2025-26.

In 2025-26 we also distributed a further $281,450 through the Leadership Through Adventure Fund, supporting 323 youth members to go on youth-led adventures from Everest Base Camp to Uluru. This fantastic result also means the fund has now dispersed over $1 million since its inception in 2022, surpassing the initial $1 million donation from Dick and Pip Smith to promote leadership, outdoor adventure and positive risk management. The fund was initially set up to run until 2027, and we are actively looking at how to extend our support for youth-led adventure in the years beyond.

At the last National Council meeting, the Council agreed to put in place the necessary organisational groundwork to enable existing branches to merge, should they be interested, into a new **Scouts Australia – Operations Branch**. In the time since the National Council meeting, this program of work has progressed further, with several branches being part of active discussions to develop this new operating model.

I am looking ahead with optimism about the evolution of our movement, and our ability to craft the right organisational model for our current needs. Our current organisational structures – the ones we all inherited, and which none of us designed – are not our destiny, and I draw hope from the goodwill and care that is going in to thinking about the future.

Lastly, over 2025-26 we prepared for the end of Brendan Watson's term as Chief Commissioner. I want to congratulate Brendan on his leadership and thank him for his friendship during his term. I have discussed many of the highlights from Brendan and his team already – such as the new volunteering model or achievement pathway updates – but there are many others, such as Scouts





Australia's leadership on childhood safeguarding in world scouting, that are too innumerable to mention here. Only to say, congratulations Brendan and well done!

Everyone at Scouts Australia is in the business of helping young people do things that are adventurous, fun, challenging and inclusive. That's what we offer our members and that's how we contribute to more resilient young people and communities. Every year there are new things to report; new initiatives and organisational updates. But the fundamentals haven't changed for a century, and whether it's the National Executive Committee or a local Scout Group, we are all using the same method to play the game of Scouting.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

National General Manager

Chris Allen

National Support Team - Evolving to Meet the Needs of Scouting
The past year has been another period of significant development for the National Support Team (NST), building on the organisational changes commenced during 2025 and continuing our focus on improving the support we provide to the National volunteer leadership and Branches across Australia.

Throughout this period, my approach to the evolution of the NST has remained incremental. My objective has been to continually assess how the construct of our professional staff resourcing can best support the delivery of Scouting nationally while ensuring that our systems, processes and resources remain responsive, efficient and sustainable.

Building on the 2025 Transformation
In mid-2025, we introduced a revised NST structure designed to provide greater clarity around our core responsibilities and strengthen support to our National Commissioners, National Committees and Scouts Australia Institute of Training (SAIT).

Central to this model was the establishment of dedicated Program Delivery Support alongside Corporate Support functions encompassing finance, investments, legal, human resources and technology. The intention was to provide clearer points of support for our volunteer leadership while creating a more coordinated approach to managing and prioritising the work undertaken by the NST.

From the outset, we recognised that organisational improvement is an ongoing process. Accordingly, the new structure was never intended to represent an end point. Rather, it provided a stronger foundation from which we could continue to develop our capability in response to the changing needs of Scouts Australia. By September 2025, our focus was already increasingly outward-facing, supporting our National Commissioners in delivering Youth Program, International, Training and Uniform responsibilities while enhancing support to National Committees and Sub-Committees.



An Expanding National Support Role
Over the subsequent 12 months, the breadth of work undertaken by the NST has continued to evolve.

Alongside our established responsibilities, the team has supported a growing range of organisational priorities including financial management and reporting, governance, risk and compliance, technology and systems, National digital projects, the Scouts Australia Operations Branch (SAOB), the Flexible Volunteer Model, implementation of recommendations arising from the Capitation Fees Review, and a range of associated strategic projects.

Digital transformation has become a National priority and, therefore, a particularly important area of focus for the NST. During 2026, this work expanded substantially as we progressed consideration and planning for the replacement and improvement of key national platforms supporting Learning, Events and delivery of the Youth Program. Objectively, this is the most significant undertaking of its kind by Scouts Australia in the past twenty years. Most importantly, this work represents vital long-term investment in the infrastructure that supports our youth members and volunteers and, ultimately, the delivery of Scouting across Australia. Therefore, we absolutely have to get it right! That translates directly to detailed investigation and planning, project development, effort and time. In short, it would be folly to race to solutions.

Similarly, our support to two other National priorities - SAOB and the Flexible Volunteer Model trial - has also continued to evolve as these initiatives have progressed from planning towards implementation and broader participation.



The nature of our corporate support responsibilities has also expanded. Work across finance, insurance and governance, risk & compliance has increasingly required additional attention and focus. This is not simply about administering existing arrangements. We need to work on strengthening the underlying systems, policies and processes that support the organisation. Going forward, this work will include attention on risk frameworks, compliance processes, policy development, organisational systems, improved financial reporting and the establishment of an independent whistleblower reporting mechanism.

These activities form part of a broader objective: ensuring that Scouts Australia has contemporary and effective organisational foundations that enable our volunteers to concentrate as much as possible on the delivery of Scouting.

Working More Closely with Branches
One of the most encouraging developments over the past year has been the continuing evolution of the relationship between the NST and our Branch colleagues.

Through the National Executive Officers Network (NEON) and regular engagement with Branch leadership, we have continued to identify opportunities for greater collaboration, shared learning and, where appropriate, shared services. During 2026, this moved increasingly into practical service delivery. The NST commenced working directly with a number of Branches across areas including financial management, insurance, administration and systems support. By June, this developed into a deliberate shift towards a more outward-facing service-delivery model supporting not only the National Team and Committees, but also Contingents and Branches.

This work has continued to evolve and expand. By September, direct National support had developed from an initial engagement with Scouts Tas into active partnership with Scouts Tas, Scouts NT and Scouts WA, together with discussions regarding potential collaboration with Scouts ACT. This is an incredibly exciting new phase for the NST and we will continue to partner with Branches to identify areas where collaboration, specialist expertise or additional support from National can help achieve better outcomes for everyone.

It also reflects an important principle underpinning our Strategic Plan: that greater collaboration across Scouts Australia can enable us to use our collective capability more effectively.

Responding to Increasing Demand
The expansion of these activities has naturally resulted in an increase in the range and complexity of work being undertaken by the NST.

This has occurred progressively rather than through any single change. New priorities have emerged alongside existing responsibilities, while expectations around the level and nature of support provided by the National Office have also continued to develop.

During the first half of 2026, we responded by reprioritising work, temporarily adjusting responsibilities within the team and allocating particular staff to supporting major National priorities including Digital, SAOB, Flexible Volunteering and Strategic Projects. This enabled us to maintain momentum across these important initiatives while continuing to support our established business-as-usual responsibilities.

As these initiatives have developed, however, it has become increasingly important to consider what the next evolution of the NST should look like. The objective is to ensure that we have the right structure, the right capability and the right allocation of resources to support the responsibilities that Scouts Australia requires of the NST.

This distinction is important. A relatively small National Office team will always need to prioritise carefully, make effective use of specialist and external expertise where appropriate, and ensure that professional resources are directed towards areas where they can provide the greatest benefit to our volunteer leadership and Branches.



Looking Ahead - Sustainable National Support
As we move towards 2027, I will therefore continue the review of the NST's configuration and responsibilities.

During the latter part of 2026 we are introducing a more functional alignment of responsibilities across areas including Digital & Systems, SAOB/Flexible Volunteering, Finance & Shared Services, National Support Services, SAIT, and Brand, Marketing & Communications. This will provide an opportunity to assess how effectively our current capability aligns with the work now being undertaken and the emerging requirements of the organisation. The September 2026 framework was expressly designed as an interim arrangement to be assessed through to February 2027 before determining whether further changes are appropriate.

Where additional capability is required, we will continue to explore proportionate approaches, including targeted specialist and fixed-term support, while remaining conscious of our financial responsibilities.

More broadly, the experience of the past year reinforces the importance of maintaining an adaptable National Support Team.

The role of the NST today is significantly broader than it was 12 or even 18 months ago. That evolution reflects the changing needs of the organisation: increasing collaboration with Branches, greater investment in digital capability, stronger governance and organisational systems, new approaches to volunteering, and an increasing focus on practical service delivery.

These are positive developments. They also require us to periodically reconsider how our professional capability is organised so that the services we provide remain effective and sustainable.

Our focus therefore remains straightforward: **to continue improving the way we support our volunteers, National leadership and Branches, while ensuring that the NST remains appropriately configured for the responsibilities entrusted to it.**

As always, none of this work happens in isolation. I remain enormously grateful to our National volunteer leadership, Committee Chairs, Branch colleagues and every member of the National Support Team for their flexibility, professionalism and commitment throughout another demanding and productive year.

The progress we have made reflects a genuine collective effort - and provides a strong foundation from which we can continue to improve the support we provide to Scouting across Australia.



YOUTH PROGRAM

National Commissioner

Michael Thomas

Key Move 1
The last twelve months have seen significant progress in Key Move 1 of Scouts Australia's strategic plan. This year's focus has been action and implementation – turning the groundwork we laid in 2025 into purposeful improvements that enhance the program experience for young people and increase support for adult volunteers.

In late 2025, consultation on the Achievement Pathways captured the experiences of approximately 4,484 young people and adult volunteers from across Australia. In the early months of 2026, a robust analysis of this consultation data enabled the National Youth Program Team to design improvements that address the identified pain points.

Youth Town Halls were used to test and gather further feedback on specific elements of the Achievement Pathways with a cohort of young people from all sections. The improvements, which launch in September 2026, build on what works and simplify what doesn't. They will make our program even more adventurous, fun, challenging, and inclusive.

As part of our efforts to streamline how Units deliver adventurous programs, a revised National Adventurous Activity Framework (V12.1) was approved in March 2026. Volunteers with a Certificate of Proficiency can now verify Stages 1-5 of all core Outdoor Adventure Skills and other stages they previously couldn't. Other enhancements simplified the process to appoint Guides and Assistant Guides and introduced a new mapping table to guide how we recognise relevant qualifications from external organisations.

Following a year of design and testing, Program Pulse was launched in February. The 10-minute review is designed to be completed by Unit Councils and is structured around the 8 elements of the Scout Method. Units rate their program



against a series of statements, and upon submitting the form, receive an email directing them to resources relevant to their areas for improvement.

Key Move 1's program resources working group is undertaking a thorough review of our resources to ensure they are current, fit-for-purpose and accessible. A new home for program resources – resources.scouts.com.au – has been developed, launching in September with the announcement of the Achievement Pathways improvements.

The new site features a clean design, is significantly easier to navigate, and includes links to Program Pulse and Program Made Easy – making it a one-stop shop for Units and volunteers as they Plan>Do>Review> their programs.

Our professionally delivered models team completed their review of the current income-generating and member-acquisition programs run across Branches and Scouts Aotearoa. This review provides insights and findings which Branches can utilise to evaluate and enhance their commercial programs moving forward.

Program Made Easy
Program Made Easy is a collection of ready-to-use Scout programs designed to support Units and volunteers that need a kick-start with their activity planning. Each program provides a complete, balanced term of activity frameworks across the four Challenge Areas – taking the guesswork out of program planning so leaders can focus on delivering great Scouting experiences from day one.

It is deliberately a starting point rather than a script. Youth-led planning remains the goal; the tool gives a Unit Council with no ideas on the night somewhere to begin, and shows a Leader new to the section what a well-rounded term could look like. Every activity comes with its equipment list, timing and the Achievement Pathways elements it draws on, so it can go straight into Scouts | Terrain, or a record book as a planned activity.

Digital
Development of Scouts | Terrain v1.25 commenced in July 2026. It moves Terrain's data from its original database onto a modern relational platform and adapts the system behind the scenes to use it. Members will not see a change on screen. What it gives Scouts Australia is the foundation on which the future state of Scouts | Terrain will be built if funded and approved.

Terrain 1.25 also carries the changes needed for the Achievement Pathways improvements: The removal of assists from Milestones, shared statements across Outdoor Adventure Skills streams with updated wording, greater value for later stages and clearer stage labels, bulk Special Interest Area projects with project suggestions, and simpler Introduction to Scouting and Introduction to Section steps. Throughout, monthly support and maintenance releases have continued, with published release notes for each, fixing peak award calculations, baselining and Outdoor Adventure Skills recording along the way.

Performing Arts
Performing Arts continues to be a strong part of the program for many youth and adults across Australia. Shows continue to thrive nationally, with youth and adults performing on stage or working behind the scenes, and many productions feature original storylines and music written by the young people performing in them. Several shows reached key milestones this year, including Brisbane Gang Show celebrating 75 consecutive years in 2026.

Major Events
Work is under way to review and strengthen the Event standards so they better reflect how Jamborees and Moots run now and will run in the future. Major events are a vital part of the program: they give life-changing experiences to our youth and lead to much higher rates of retention for participants. The return of Venturer-specific major events is also being reviewed.

International
Strong ties with our neighbours and friends in New Zealand continue, especially in program. Program representatives were guests at their 2025 Leadership Weekend and have attended again in 2026, and their Program Delivery Manager visited the National Youth Program Team's conference in both 2025 and 2026. This has led to a valuable exchange of ideas and resources that benefits both countries, particularly as we run the same concept of One Program.

Personnel movements
2025/26 saw some movements in the National Youth Program Team. Emma Watson and Jenna Denley left the team after many years of distinguished service, and the current strong state of the program is in no small way due to their excellent work over a long period. A huge thank you to both Emma and Jenna.

The National Youth Program Team welcomed Caitlin Arcus and Lily Canalese, both as Assistant National Commissioners – Youth Program. Caitlin was previously WA's representative on the NYPT, and Lily comes from an Adventure and Rover events background. Caitlin will concentrate on continuous improvement of the program and Lily on major events. Welcome to both.

Also joining the team in staff roles are Jackson Pawelski and Bob Edwards. Jackson is concentrating on program support, resources, Scouts | Terrain and support tools such as Program Pulse and Program Made Easy. Bob is concentrating on the important adventure portfolio. Both have made significant contributions already in their relatively short time in the roles. Welcome also to both.

Louis Todd, after six years on the NYPT, will continue with the team as an adviser in the important area of Digital Support. His knowledge is invaluable as we navigate digital reform.

Thank you to the NYPT
Key Move 1 strategy for program has been incredibly well led by Deputy National Commissioner Youth Program, Nick Molnar. Nick has overseen the important program improvements that will be rolled out in September 2026 and continues to ensure the success of this part of the overall Scouts Australia strategy. Under his stewardship the program team is well on track to meet the goals set out in Key Move 1.

There have also been a number of movements among the the Branch program commissioners. Thank you to the following NYPT Branch representatives who have moved on from their Branch roles over the last 12 months:

Nick Warwick (QLD)
Ros Beswick (TAS)
Lachie Page (NSW)
Caitlin Arcus (WA)
Morris Orchard (VIC)

Welcome to the following Branch NYPT representatives:

Ryan Sodziak (QLD)
Ruth Henderson (TAS)
Dave Bannon (NSW)
Sharni Jagger (WA)
Rosemary Redgrave (VIC)
Samantha Loh (NT)

The National Youth Program Team is working really well together to deliver great program support and continuous improvement to the youth and Leaders across Australia.



YOUTH RECO



Joey Scout Challenge Award

780



Grey Wolf Award

1,084



Australian Scout Award

603







Milestones

24,600



ADVENTURE AND SPORT

6,590



ARTS AND LITERATURE

8,040



CREATING A BETTER WORLD

4,390



ENVIRONMENT

5,020



Bushcraft

23,990



Bushwalking

24,140



Camping

24,850



Alpine

4,500

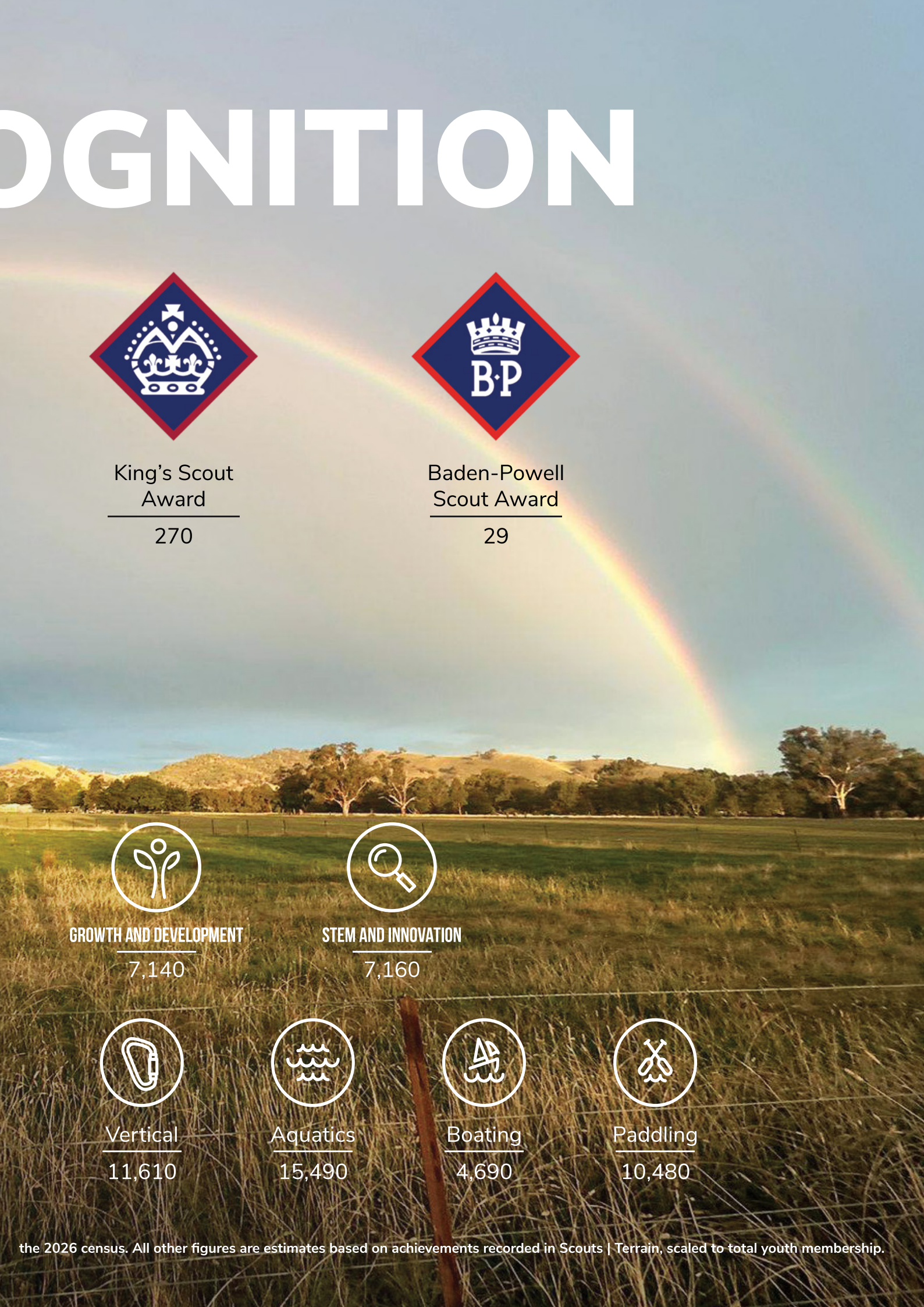


Cycling

13,190

Figures are for 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026. Peak Award figures are as provided by Branches, except NT and VIC, which are from

OGNITION



King's Scout Award

270

Baden-Powell Scout Award

29

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

7,140

STEM AND INNOVATION

7,160

Vertical

11,610

Aquatics

15,490

Boating

4,690

Paddling

10,480

the 2026 census. All other figures are estimates based on achievements recorded in Scouts | Terrain, scaled to total youth membership.

INTERNATIONAL CONTINGENTS

International Commissioner

Lisa Picking

2026 has been another significant year for our members in the international space! Four Contingents of varying sizes left our shores, and we supported numerous young people through Branch Friendship Tours to all corners of the world. Additionally, we continue to prepare for the 24th Aotearoa - New Zealand Jamboree in January 2027 and our global flagship event, the World Scout Jamboree in Poland in July 2027. You can read more about their preparations below. The International team has also welcomed an additional 6 Contingent Leaders to lead the preparations for Contingents in 2028 and beyond!



Contingents

While the Contingent teams will share more about their experiences below, we would like to extend our thanks to them for their hard work, dedication, compassion, and enthusiasm in delivering their respective events:

Tom Dowsley, Contingent Leader, Kellee Randall and Adam Strong, Deputy Contingent Leaders, and the whole Contingent Management Team who delivered a hugely successful and engaging Australian Contingent to the 24th Aotearoa-New Zealand Venture in January 2026.

Sherie Ball, Contingent Leader, and Lachlan Whiltshire, Deputy Contingent Leader, supported by Nicholas Carroll, Deputy International Commissioner, for the delivery of a fun but challenging 83rd Aotearoa-New Zealand Moot in April 2026.

Luke Saunders, Contingent Leader, Pete Favalle, Contingent Adviser and Kerry Duncan, Health and Wellbeing Lead for their efforts in delivering the small but important Australian Contingent to the Iceland National Jamboree in July 2026. This Contingent sets the foundations for our attendance at future Icelandic events.

Jin Takamura, Contingent Leader, Lloyd Nurthen, Contingent Adviser and Kelly Martin, Health and Wellbeing Lead and the extended Contingent Management Team for the challenging but extremely successful Australian Contingent to the 19th Nippon (Japan) Jamboree in August 2026. Jin and his team worked sensitively and diligently to ensure our Contingent could enjoy all Japan had to offer and helped reengage with Japan after a long period of time, mainly due to covid restrictions.

Additionally, we welcome the following people to the role of Contingent Leader for the following events and look forward to working with them to deliver successful Contingents.



Flynn Hawkey (SA)
- 84th Aotearoa/New Zealand Moot 2027, Auckland
Georgia Griffiths (QLD)
- 3rd Australian Contingent to KISC 2028, Switzerland
Adam Strong (QLD)
- Essex Jamboree 2028, United Kingdom
Peter Favelle (NSW)
- 9th Finnish Jamboree (FinnJamboree) 2028, Finland
Harrison Winchester (NSW)
- 8th Roverway 2028, Switzerland
Nicholas Kammin (QLD)
- 17th World Scout Moot 2029, Taiwan

2nd Baden-Powell Scout Peak Expedition 2026
Unfortunately, the 2nd Baden-Powell Scout Peak Expedition scheduled for later in 2026 has been cancelled due to lack of interest. However, we will attempt this trip again in the future, in hopefully more favourable conditions as we believe this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity allowing Rover Scouts to challenge themselves, venture beyond the horizon, and strengthen connections within the global Scouting community.

A huge thank you to Nick Carroll, Contingent Leader and Dave Langron, Contingent Adviser, for the BP Peak Expedition for their work in establishing the Contingent and getting it to the point of release.

CONTINGENT REPORTS

11th Asia-Pacific Scout Youth Forum and 28th Asia-Pacific Scout Conference 2025, Taiwan
The international team also lead the Australian Delegation to the 11th Asia -Pacific Scout Youth Forum and 28th Asia-Pacific Scout Conference 2025, Taiwan in October 2025.

From 11 – 17 October, the 28th Asia Pacific Region Scout Conference took place in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, gathering representatives from 33 National Scout Organizations (NSOs) across the region. This important event runs every three years, where key decisions shaping the future of Scouting in the region are made.

The Australian Delegation was led by Nicholas Carroll, Deputy International Commissioner and Rover Scout, who also led the delegation to the Asia Pacific Region Youth Forum in prior to the Regional Conference. He was joined by Nikketah Cuneo, Australia's candidate for the Asia Pacific Region Committee and Deputy Chief Commissioner – Scouts Queensland, Brendan Watson OAM, Chief Commissioner of Australia, Shaylah McClymont, Deputy Chief Commissioner of Australia, Dougal Mayor, Deputy Chief Commissioner of Australia and Lisa Picking, International Commissioner of Australia. Together, they represented Australia's interests and contributed to the critical discussions that will guide the Scouting movement in the region for years to come.

Scouts Australia had a very successful conference with our candidate for the regional Committee, Nikketah Cuneo being voted on to the Committee, Ross Tutin, Assistant International Commissioner, Clare Hanley, Immediate past National Advisor – Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Commissioner of Australia Brendan Watson OAM, being appointed to Regional Sub-Committees for Governance, Diversity and Inclusion and Safe From Harm/Safeguarding respectively with Brendan also being appointed Chair of the Safe From Harm/ Safeguarding Sub-Committee.

In addition, Neville Tomkins AM JP was appointed Chair of the APR Task Force for Potential Countries. Kirsty Brown AM was appointed Vice Chair of the APR Awards Committee following the completion of her 3-year term on the Awards Committee and continues in her role as Consultant to the APR Scout



Committee. Paul Parkinson OAM also continues in the advisory role of Consultant to the APR Scout Committee.

Additionally, Scouts Australia proposed an amendment to the APR Constitution regarding National Scouting Organizations responsibilities regarding Safe from Harm/Safeguarding initiatives, which was seconded by Persekutuan Pengakap Malaysia and the Kiribati Scout Association. The amendment passed and now Member Organisations not compliant with the WOSM Safeguarding Policies and measures, are not permitted to nominate or have their members renominated for Regional committees, taskforces or other roles nor bid or host Regional events. The amendment was carried with two thirds majority support, making the APR the first and only region with measures such as this in place. This speaks further to Scouts Australia's commitment to safeguarding for all our members but particularly young people and vulnerable people.

Throughout the conference, the delegation voted for new Regional Scout Committee members for the 2025 -2028 term and the locations for future regional events as well as reviewing and voting for the new regional triennial plan and other conference resolutions. We also heard updates from World Event Organising teams such as World Scout Jamboree, World Scout Conference and World Scout Moot and other organisations such as Kandersteg International Scout Centre, the World Organisation of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

The Australian Delegation also had the great pleasure of watching members of Scouts Australia be awarded with APR Awards, acknowledging their service and dedication to Scouting.

Congratulations to: Emma Watson - APR Certificate of Good Service, Chris Bates - APR Medal for Good Service, Phil Harrison AM - APR Medal for Good Service, Neville Tomkins AM JP - APR Award for Distinguished Service.

Scouts Australia and the APR also acknowledged and congratulated Elston Hynd AM for his contribution to the APR Committee from 2017 to 2025, serving an additional year due to the COVID pandemic. His service and dedication has benefited the 37 million Scouts in the region, including those 70,000+ across Australia. Elston concluded his term on the Region Committee having achieved a great deal, including, most recently, supporting the 28th APR Conference as Facilitator and as Conference Vice Chair. He continues to support multiple teams and projects in Australia, the Region and the World and we are so grateful and so proud of his achievements and service.

The Australian delegation, supported by Scouts Australia's Observers recommitted to Scouts Australia's active role in regional and global Scouting and the importance of collaboration and forward-thinking in ensuring the continued success and relevance of the Scouting movement. We thank the Scouts of China (Taiwan), hosts of the conference and the staff and volunteers from APR Support Centre for putting on such a wonderful conference.

16th Aotearoa/New Zealand Venture 2026, Wellington

Attending an international event of the scale of the Aotearoa-New Zealand Venture is a significant milestone for any young person. Over the course of the Venture, our 595 participants embraced cultural exchange, challenged themselves through new experiences, and strengthened the bonds between Scouts Australia and Scouts Aotearoa. Every youth member and leader returned home safely and the feedback from participants and leaders alike has been overwhelmingly positive. The growth in confidence, capability, and global awareness among the youth has been remarkable.

This success was only possible because of the dedication of many. I extend my sincere thanks to our Contingent Management Team, whose professionalism and commitment ensured a smooth and safe experience from planning through to delivery. Our Unit Leaders provided exceptional care and leadership on the ground, guiding their youth through every challenge and opportunity. The International Service Team represented Australia with pride and contributed meaningfully to the Venture's operations. And to the parents, carers, and home unit leaders who supported each youth members journey and made their journey possible.

Across the event, several themes stood out. We achieved safe event delivery with minimal impact to our program. Our Contingent demonstrated strong international cohesion, building lasting relationships both interstate and with the Aotearoa-New Zealand Venture Organising Committee. The Rover Scouts who served on the Contingent Management Team developed significant leadership skills, proving the value of youth-led involvement in major event planning. These achievements reflect the strength of our preparation, the resilience of our participants, and the collaborative spirit shared between our two nations.

On a personal note, leading this Contingent has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my time in Scouting. Watching our youth members grow, support one another, and represent Australia with maturity and enthusiasm has been a privilege. I am grateful to every member of this Contingent for the trust they placed in our team and for the spirit they brought to this adventure.

Tom Dowsley
Australian Contingent Leader









83rd Aotearoa/New Zealand National Rover Moot 2026, Wellington
Over Easter of 2026, Scouts Aotearoa hosted their 83rd National Rover Moot in Wellington. Rover Scouts from Canada, Sweden and the UK joined the 83 Australians to make up the international participants at this year's Mythology themed Moot. This year was a big one, with the Australian participation almost double last years, and close to triple historic numbers.

We kicked off the Moot festivities with an early morning cross country race through the Brookfield Outdoor Education Centre before spending the remainder of the day completing service across the campsite, to local Scout Groups and to the broader community. Saturday was the highlight for many of us with off-site tours! These ranged from learning about the cinematic or cultural history of Aotearoa New Zealand, competing around Wellington in an amazing race, seeking adventure at high ropes and paintball to tasting some great local food and drinks. The Moot finished up with some friendly competition across various novelty games and tug-o-war, with our Aussie girls proving their strength and taking out 1st place!

Upon the completion of the Moot, 20 Australian Rovers began a 4-day post tour through Wellington. We explored the culture and enjoyed the sights of Wellington, with one of the group favourites being a day trip to Matiu/Somes Island in the middle of the Wellington Harbour.

Aotearoa New Zealand Moot is definitely a favourite for many Rovers and if you're thinking of attending in the future, definitely go, it'll be one of your favourite experiences!

It was incredible to be a part of and lead such a great Contingent to this year's Aotearoa New Zealand Moot, and I am exceptionally grateful to Lachlan for all his support as Deputy Contingent Leader.

Sherie Ball
Australian Contingent Leader

31st Icelandic National Jamboree 2026, Akureyri, Iceland
In July 2026, 35 Australian Scouts, Venturer Scouts, Rover Scouts and Leaders from seven Branches travelled to Iceland for the 31st Icelandic National Jamboree, held at Hamrar Scout Centre on the outskirts of Akureyri, just 100 km south of the Arctic Circle. Under near - constant daylight, our Contingent camped, cooked and traded badges alongside Scouts and Guides from Iceland and around the world.

The adventure began with a pre-tour based at Úlfljótsvatn Scout Centre, taking in the Golden Circle (Þingvellir, Gullfoss, Geysir and the Kerið crater), a 16km hike to soak in the Reykjadalur hot springs, and a glacier walk on Sólheimajökull, where many members strapped on crampons for the first time and were among the last groups on the ice before accelerated melting closed access for the season. A specialist 4WD coach then carried us through Iceland's interior Highlands to the Jamboree in the north.

The Jamboree program was organised into four compass-point areas. Our Patrols took on Viking games, climbing and mud-and-water challenges in Due East, baked Kleina, foraged edible plants, and built a treehouse for Iceland's youngest Sections in Due South, explored Akureyri's geothermally heated pools and famous Icelandic hot dogs in Due North and in Due West, 12 of our youth members took on the challenge to summit Súlur, a hike graded "Demanding", with 1,244m of elevation gain over 9km (for a total 18 km round trip) and every one of them reached the top!

A dinner swap with a local Icelandic Unit and an Australian stall on Market Day serving Vegemite toast, fairy bread, musk sticks and Tim Tams, with regular appearances from our mascot Karamel the Koala, made for a true celebration of international friendship. Some of the closest bonds crossed borders; the Scottish Scouts camped beside us drew our members into a cèilidh of folk music and dancing, and forged friendships over shared meals, badge swaps and a taste of haggis.

After the Closing Ceremony we explored the island of Hrísey in Eyjafjörður and the Diamond Circle's waterfalls, geothermal fields and canyons, even crossing the 66-degree North line of the Arctic Circle, before returning to Reykjavik for a walking tour, the National Museum of Iceland and our Farewell Dinner.



An adventure like this to the dipole of Australia asks a great deal of young people, 34-hour travel days, unfamiliar food, and weather that swung from fog to midnight sun, and ours rose to every challenge. My sincere thanks to Peter, Kerry, and all of our Line Leaders and IST members, whose energy and care made this experience so memorable for our youth members.

Luke Saunders
Australian Contingent Leader

19th Nippon Scout Jamboree, Jinseki Kogen, Hiroshima, Japan
1 Aug 2026 marked the World Scout Day, and Australian Contingent of 27 youths and 13 adults were set on their journey to the land of Far East. Through arriving Kyoto and spending two nights as Pre-tour, then a 6 hours bus ride stopping over Himeji castle, the Contingent landed the 19th Nippon Scout Jamboree (19NSJ) site at Jinseki Kogen, Hiroshima.



The Australian Contingent at 19NSJ was a crowd-magnet, as a crowd of local scouts gathered around as we moved in any direction. Each night, there were group exchange and mingle arrangements, with a highlight at one night, there were 250 local scouts (ie 7 Jamboree units of 40 scouts) assembled just to meet us!

The Australian youths have had an invaluable experience imbibing new culture, language, food, and friendship. There was a wide variety of programs, some competitive, some applying Scouting knowledge and skillsets, some learning new values such as faith, religion, and human rights, and even disaster prevention.

For sure, the Australian Scouts and Venturer Scouts had a blast during the long but short five-days' Jamboree experience in hot and humid Hiroshima. Thanks to the support by


Australia
Australia

the Contingent Management Team and the Line Leaders, there were no major injuries or dehydration, or health and wellbeing issues. Everyone was in full swing enjoying their once in a lifetime Jamboree in Japan.

After the Jamboree closed, the Contingent swung by the Hiroshima CBD to learn about Peace, through the Memorial Museum situated at the atomic bombing site of 1945 during the WWII. At this memorable historic site, one of our scouts - Kyra Lim - who made 1000 origami cranes, as known as the sembazuru - had presented to the memorial, with wish for eternal peace. Furthermore, we had held an investiture ceremony to welcome Kyra and Damien Mar to move up from Scouts to Venturer section, behind the Hiroshima Peace Memorial.

We were scheduled to visit the World Heritage Miyajima. However, given the tropical cyclone had made its way to Tokyo and cancelled our domestic flight connection, we had to cancel this visit; we flew into Tokyo safely, before the typhoon arrived. With a longer wait time in Tokyo, the Contingent arrived in Australia safely, and youths were returned to each of their families.

I'm certain that the Australian youths' participation to the 19NSJ has grown them to become more resilient and opened their eyes to broader Scouting experience in the international space.

I look forward in their making future legends bringing their Contingents to the world!

Jin Takamura
Australian Contingent Leader





Asia-Pacific Workshop on Scouts for SDGs

Caitlin Arcus, Assistant National Commissioner, Youth Program, attended the Asia-Pacific Workshop on Scouts for SDGs: Empowering NSOs through Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in early September. This four-day in-person workshop was designed to support NSOs in strengthening their Youth Programme through the intentional integration of learning opportunities offered by WOSM initiatives - particularly Scouts for SDGs. The workshop focused on enabling both young people and adults to advance peace, environmental sustainability, skills for life, and health and wellbeing, while developing the competencies required to act as responsible and engaged global citizens.

Scouts Aotearoa Leadership Weekend 2026

A small delegation from the International and Program Teams joined our friends at Scouts Aotearoa's Leadership Weekend in Wellington this September. Opportunities like these allow Scouts Australia to learn from different approaches and perspectives, strengthening both our Youth Program and our longstanding relationship with our Scouting friends across the Tasman. Thanks to Scouts Aotearoa.

24th Aotearoa New Zealand Jamboree 2026, Hamilton

Preparations to attend the 24th Aotearoa-New Zealand Jamboree 2026-27 are well progressed.

386 youth members and leaders will depart Australia on 26 December 2026 and after a short pre-tour in Auckland will arrive onsite at Mystery Creek near Hamilton on 28 December 2026.

The Scouts have been formed into 46 Patrols; each supported by an adult Leader and will be hosted by a New Zealand Troop for the 10-day Jamboree. 138 Contingent members will stay in New Zealand for a 7-day post Jamboree tour centred around the central north island.

The Jamboree will celebrate 100 years since the first New Zealand Jamboree in 1926.

The Australian Contingent is made up of members from all over Australia and includes members from remote areas such as Far North QLD, Humpty Doo and Alice Springs in the NT, Newman in WA and Broken Hill in NSW.

The Contingent Management Team have been organising health and wellbeing oversight, ground transport and flights, accommodation and making sure everyone has a passport.

We are looking forward to supporting our youth members at this fantastic New Zealand event.

Alan Murray
Contingent Leader

26th World Scout Jamboree 2027, Gdańsk, Poland

Preparations for the Australian Contingent to the 26th World Scout Jamboree in Poland are well advanced, and the Contingent is in a strong position as we move into the final year before departure. The Contingent will comprise 16 units totalling 576 youth members and 64 adult leaders, supported by 210 International Service Team (IST) members and a Contingent Management Team (CMT) of 30, a total of 880 Australians travelling to Poland. Members are drawn from every state and territory, and the Contingent reflects the breadth of Scouting across the country.

A distinguishing feature to date of this Contingent has been our programme of five meet camps held around Australia, attended by every member travelling to the Jamboree. These camps gave Contingent members the chance to meet one another well ahead of departure, form into their units, and begin planning their own Jamboree journey together. Just as importantly, they gave a small number of members the opportunity to recognise that a Jamboree of this scale was not the right fit for them at this point in their Scouting - a realisation far better reached in Australia, among friends, than after arriving overseas. The camps have also allowed our unit leaders to build relationships with their young people and with each other long before they board a plane, and we expect the benefits of that investment to be felt throughout the event.

The Contingent Management Team has continued to build its capability across the specialist functions required for an event of this size, including health and wellbeing, logistics, communications, programme and youth safety. Members of the CMT attended the Heads of Contingent meeting in Poland, which provided valuable direct insight into the site, programme and operational planning. We came away very satisfied with the state of the Jamboree Organisation's preparations to date and confident in the arrangements being made for participating Contingents.

Considerable additional planning has also been undertaken on our pre and post Jamboree tours, which are being designed so that every member of the Australian Contingent can make the most of their time overseas. For most of our young people this will be their first experience of international Scouting, and the tours are an important part of turning a Jamboree into a genuinely formative journey. Our focus over the coming year will be on finalising travel arrangements, completing member preparation and training, and ensuring that every Australian who travels is ready to represent Scouts Australia well.

Phil Britt
Contingent Leader



ADULT TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

National Commissioner

Julia Miller

National Training Team Impact
In 2026, the National Training Team remained strong with 225 dedicated members across Australia, reaffirming our commitment to excellence in Adult Training and Development. This skilled and passionate team has been instrumental in providing high - quality learning experiences that equip adult members to support young people to deliver the Youth Program across Australia.

Over the past year, their efforts supported the successful completion of key training programs for adult members, including:

797 Scouting Essentials courses
674 Scouting Adventure courses
143 Scouting Management courses
380 Scouting Leadership courses

In recognition of these achievements, the following Scouting qualifications were awarded:

827 Certificates of Proficiency – Youth Program Leader

181 Certificates of Proficiency – Program Support Leader

270 Wood Badges

6 Certificates of Higher Adult Leadership (Axe & Log)

After its introduction last year, we continued implementing the Adult Code of Conduct module, which has been instrumental in empowering adult members to embody the strong values and standards expected by the Australian and global communities. In 2026, this important module recorded 6,467 completions.

We have continued strengthening our compliance with the **Child Safety** and **Work Health and Safety (WHS)** learning expectations, highlighting our ongoing dedication to maintaining a safe and supportive environment for all members. This is reflected in:

13,807 completions of the Child Safe Scouting module
3,817 completions of the WHS for Scouting module

These figures include both new completions and renewals.

This year, we launched an updated version of the National Adventurous Activities Framework. This update marked a significant step forward in strengthening how Adventurous Activities are delivered to Scouts across the nation and reflects a deliberate shift in approach, prioritising practical improvements that will immediately support volunteers to deliver high-quality, engaging programs with confidence.

In 2026, the National Training Team also supported the development and trialling of a new, flexible volunteering model for adult members across Australia. This included developing a suite of new training experiences that support new volunteers to learn and understand their role in Scouting in a more efficient and impactful way.

We have learned so much about what our volunteers need to be effectively supported in achieving the learning outcomes that enable them to contribute to Scouting with excellence. We are excited to continue working across the Scouting community in 2027 to realise further improvements to your training experience.





SCOUTS AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE OF TRAINING RTO 5443

Deputy Principal

Ann Southall

Throughout 2026, SAIT has focused on strengthening compliance across all areas of its operations, leading to a significant organisational transformation. Recognising the need for a more effective and sustainable approach to meeting regulatory requirements, SAIT undertook a transition to a truly national operating model, with core functions now managed centrally.

A key milestone in this journey was the introduction of the online enrolment system in August 2025. This initiative streamlined enrolment processes, improved accessibility for members nationwide, and contributed to a notable increase in enrolments, particularly among youth members. While the surge in demand initially created challenges due to a shortage of assessors, SAIT responded proactively by appointing fifteen new assessors during 2026, significantly enhancing assessment capacity and service delivery.

The establishment of the dedicated sait.enrolment@scouts.com.au mailbox has further strengthened support for candidates. Members are now able to seek guidance, ask questions, and submit evidence through a central point of contact. This provides greater oversight for SAIT while ensuring candidates receive timely assistance and a consistent experience throughout their learning journey.

The move to a centralised structure has also enabled a clearer distinction of responsibilities, with Branches no longer responsible for the management of SAIT activities. To support quality and consistency, all qualifications are now subject to quality assurance review prior to issuance.

These reviews are conducted by a team of **National Advisers SAIT – Quality Assurance (NAQA)**, whose work not only ensures compliance and consistency but also identifies opportunities for continuous improvement. Pleasingly, several former Branch Commissioners VET have transitioned into NAQA roles, allowing SAIT to retain valuable expertise and experience.

SAIT continues to offer a wide range of nationally recognised qualifications, from Certificate II through to Diploma level (Advanced Diplomas are on hold until futher notice). During the year, work commenced on updating assessment tools. In line with the 2025 Standards for RTOs, all revised assessment tools must undergo pre-validation before implementation. Assessors have been invited to participate in dedicated working groups, fostering collaboration and ensuring industry and organisational expertise informs the development process. Given the scope of this project, it is anticipated that the full suite of assessment tools will be progressively updated over the next 18 months.

Professional development remains a priority for SAIT. Regular in-house professional development sessions continue to be delivered for assessors, with topics informed by feedback from the NAQA team and emerging compliance requirements. These sessions are conducted virtually, recorded, and made available to ensure flexibility and broad participation across the country.

Collaboration with other national portfolios, particularly Youth Program



and Adult Training and Development, has been a defining feature of the year. Through these partnerships, SAIT continues to provide pathways for adult members to gain the qualifications required to perform and excel in their roles. This includes qualifications such as Outdoor Leadership for those delivering outdoor experiences, Working in a Child Safe Environment (CHCSS00146) to support Scouts Australia's commitment to safeguarding young people and vulnerable individuals, and the Volunteer Trainer Delivery Skill Set (TAESS00029) for members responsible for facilitating training and learning activities.

These achievements reflect SAIT's commitment to continuous improvement, national consistency, quality outcomes, and supporting members with accessible, relevant, and nationally recognised training opportunities.

CHC24015	Certificate II in Active Volunteering	**77**
CHC34015	Certificate III in Active Volunteering	**62**
CHC44015	Certificate IV in Coordination of Volunteer Programs	**7**
BSB20120	Certificate II in Workplace Skills	**9**
BSB30120	Certificate III in Business	**11**
BSB40520	Certificate IV in Leadership and Management	**8**
BSB50420	Diploma of Leadership and Management	**15**
BSB60420	Advanced Diploma of Leadership and Management (on hold)	**1**
BSB40920	Certificate IV in Project Management Practice	**6**
BSB50820	Diploma of Project Management	**2**
BSB60720	Advanced Diploma of Program Management (on hold)	**1**
CUA20220	Certificate II in Creative Industries	**16**
CUA30220	Certificate III in Community Dance, Theatre and Events	**2**
SIS20419	Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation	**91**
SIS30619	Certificate III in Outdoor Leadership	**35**
SIS40621	Certificate IV in Outdoor Leadership	**8**
SIS50421	Diploma of Outdoor Leadership	**2**
TAESS00029	Volunteer Trainer Delivery Skill Set	**38**
SISSS00126	Wilderness First Aid	**48**
SISSS00140	Wilderness First Aid	**14**
CHCSS00146	Working in a Child Safe Environment	**40**

SCOUTS AUSTRALIA OPERATIONS BRANCH

Program Manager

Paul Dickson APM

The National Executive Committee (NEC) of Scouts Australia has been considering a structure which would allow for existing Scouting Branches to merge into a new entity. This entity would be very similar to the existing Branch structures however it will allow for a single or multiple Branches to merge.

In November 2025, the National Council of Scouts Australia approved the creation of this new entity which is now known as: Scouts Australia Operations Branch (SAOB). This followed an intensive consultation period in the preceding three months with the NEC, NOC, and National Councilors.

Following the National Council approval, work has occurred to draft and confirm the Constitution and initiate implementation planning. This has been supported by external specialist advice, where required.

To support and guide the implementation process a small Working Group known as the SAOB Working Group has been initiated by the NEC.

Engagement with a number of Branches has been occurring as we explore the potential transitions and merger opportunities. There are ongoing discussions and contributions between Branches, the NEC and the SAOB Working Group, with documentation being collated and the drafting of principles that will guide further policy development occurring in preparation for more concentrated work.

There last twelve months has seen the concept of Scouts Australia Operations Branch transition from an idea to a possibility as we collective target sustainability and reduction in duplication of effort to provide better support for all members.



FLEXIBLE VOLUNTEERING TRIAL 2026

Key Move Manager

Rosie Connor

Volunteers are at the heart of Scouting. Every week, thousands of Australians give their time, skills and energy to create adventurous, safe and life-changing experiences for young people. Their contribution enables our program to happen and strengthens local Scout communities. Ensuring that volunteering remains rewarding, sustainable and accessible is therefore critical to the future of our Movement.

Every year volunteers dedicate over 4 million hours to Scouting in Australia. But the way Australians live, work and volunteer is changing. Traditional volunteering roles can involve significant and ongoing commitments, while prospective volunteers are increasingly looking for opportunities that can fit around work, family and other responsibilities. We know that Scout Leaders on the ground are feeling the pressure and would like more volunteers to share the load.

This is why Scouts Australia's Strategic Plan Key Move 3 is focused on responding to these realities by exploring how Scouting can offer more flexible ways for people to contribute.

During 2025, Scouts Australia partnered with McCrindle to undertake extensive research into volunteering. This included surveys of almost 3,000 current volunteers, nearly 1,000 Scout parents and more than 1,000 Australians, complemented by parent interviews and 17 focus groups. The research reinforced that many people are strongly motivated by the opportunity to make a positive difference for young people, but that time, competing family and work commitments, unclear expectations and fear of long-term commitment can prevent them from stepping forward. Importantly, when presented with a more flexible volunteering model, **85% of Scout parents and 69% of the general public said they would be more likely to volunteer.** The research also found that 71% of current volunteers in Scouting would also be more likely to volunteer under the new model.

These insights have informed the development of **a new, team-based model for flexible volunteering.** Rather than assuming every volunteer can make the same commitment as Scout Leaders, the model provides clearer and more flexible opportunities based on an individual's time, interests and skills. Responsibilities can be shared across a Section team, with people able to start with a smaller support role, contribute specific skills, or take on a leadership role. Training for flexible volunteers will be streamlined and modular - aligned with the responsibilities of each role, recognising existing skills and experience and supported by mentoring. The aim is not to reduce standards, but to remove unnecessary barriers while keeping young people's safety and program quality front and centre.

The next step is to put the model into practice. During 2026, Scouts Australia worked with selected Scout Groups in participating Branches across Australia to trial the flexible volunteering approach, learn what works in a local setting and identify what needs to be refined before considering broader implementation. Our goal is simple: **to make it easier for more people to say yes to volunteering, while making volunteering more sustainable for those who already give so much to Scouting.**



OUR GOAL IS SIMPLE

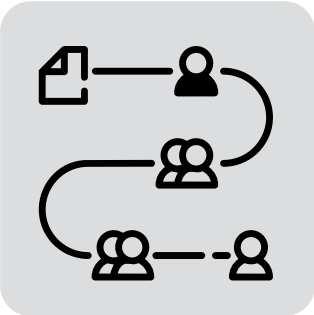
To make it easier for more people to say yes to volunteering, while making volunteering more sustainable for those who already give so much to Scouting.

A system under pressure: rethinking volunteering in Scouts

Volunteers in Scouts are stretched



64%
say there is a lack of others to share the load



59%
say there is excessive bureaucracy



62%
of parents say a lack of time prevents them from volunteering

Pipelines of new volunteers are shrinking



1 in 2 volunteers (52%) were past youth members



1 in 5 volunteers (24%) have been involved for 20 years or more



The shifting Australian volunteering landscape

Volunteering is shifting towards short-term or flexible involvement

Time is the top barrier for **62%** of parents and **38%** of Australians

Community volunteering is declining, especially for long-term or weekly roles

23% of Australians say family or work commitments limit their availability to volunteer

If Scouts introduced a more flexible model:

at least **81%** of Gen Z and **76% of** Gen Y would be more likely to volunteer
(incluing slightly, somewhat, much more)



Gen Z
81%



Gen Y
76%

Parents want volunteer roles that match their lives

64%
of parents have considered volunteering for Scouts



Making a positive impact on young people is the biggest draw for new volunteers

Most appealing roles:

Activity Support (48%)

Committee Support (44%)

85%
of parents are more likely to engage under a new flexible volunteering model, and **7 in 10** (71%) volunteers say the same

39%
of volunteers became involved after being personally invited

2026 MAJOR EVENTS

ONECAMP - DISCOVER

OneCamp - Discover Director

Tom Dowsley

More than 2,000 Scouts from across Western Australia and beyond came together for a week of adventure, challenge, and connection at OneCamp 2026 – Discover, the largest Scouting event in the state. Bringing together members from Joey Scouts through to Rover Scouts, the event showcased the full breadth of the Scouting program in action, scaled up to an unforgettable state-wide experience.

Throughout the week, participants engaged in a wide range of outdoor and skills-based activities, including kayaking, sailing, mountain biking, abseiling, rock climbing, snorkelling, and archery. Alongside these adventures, Scouts also explored creative and future-focused skill areas such as videography, photography, drone operation, stagecraft, and sustainability, reflecting the evolving and diverse nature of the program.

As an official Tier 2 event, Western Australia welcomed more than 300 interstate participants, highlighting the strong connections within the Scouting movement across Australia and the appeal of large-scale, shared experiences like this.



"I love OneCamp because I got to go camping in the outdoors with my friends," said Andy, 9, a Cub Scout from Byford, capturing the simple but powerful impact of Scouting at its core.

For older sections, the program extended even further, with opportunities such as snorkelling on Ningaloo Reef, a five-day tall ship voyage, and trekking in Tasmania, offering experiences that challenged participants and supported personal growth through adventure.

Evenings at OneCamp brought the entire site together, with live bands, DJs, dance competitions, and an outdoor cinema creating a vibrant and social atmosphere that strengthened friendships and built a strong sense of community across all sections.

Behind the scenes, the scale of the event was supported by extensive infrastructure, including a wellbeing centre, retail store, multiple stages, a coordinated transport system, and a



food distribution warehouse. All demonstrating the level of planning and organisation required to deliver a safe and successful event of this size.

While OneCamp represents the culmination of years of planning and coordination, it is ultimately a reflection of what happens every week in Scout Groups across the state. The activities may be larger in scale, but the outcomes remain the same, developing young people through the Scout Method in a way that is adventurous, inclusive, and youth-focused.

"It's not just activities. It's not just uniforms. It's a carefully designed way of developing young people, helping them grow physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually so they can become capable, confident, and community - minded adults," said former Scouts WA Chief Commissioner, Ayden Mackenzie.

Through experiences like OneCamp, Scouts continue to build resilience, confidence, leadership, and teamwork, skills that extend far beyond the campsite.

"Scouting is shaping the kind of citizens we want in our communities: young people who contribute, who care, and who take others with them. When you develop young people, you don't just change their lives, you strengthen the fabric of society itself."

OneCamp is scheduled to run next in April 2029.





ROVER SCOUT REPORT

Chair (Acting), National Rover Council

Isabella Mairou

It's been another huge year for Rover Scouts across the country!

Over the Easter long weekend, 82 Rovers crossed the ditch to attend the 83rd New Zealand Moot, 'Mythology Moot'. The Moot was held in Wellington and boasted the biggest Australian contingent to ever attend a New Zealand Moot, with representation from every Branch! Rovers hiked, swam and yoga-d their way all around Wellington across various offsite activities. Following the Moot, post-tour kicked off and took in the rest that Wellington had to offer.

Closer to home, Rovers across Australia have continued to get involved in their Branches. From Western Australia's One Camp, to South Australia's RiverMoot, to Tasmania's Regatta, and everything in between, there hasn't been a dull moment for Rovers anywhere.

Preparations also are well underway for our own National Moot, with the Way Out West team busy as ever preparing to welcome hundreds of Australian Rovers down in Woodman Point in just a few months' time. The National Rover Council are very fortunate to be able to support even more Rovers to attend this exciting event via our Moot Buddies initiative.





Further in the support space, this year also saw last year's trialled increase in funding to our Rover Challenge initiative become permanent, allowing us to support even more Rovers across the country.

There is still plenty more to come as we begin to close out the year. It's time again for our annual Rovers Australia Blood Drive, which will see Rovers around the country compete in friendly competition by donating to Lifeblood within their units.

Following this, we also have our National Rover Council elections coming up. This year's elections also include the election of our new NRC Chairperson, which occurs every two years. Elections will occur in early November, and we are very excited to welcome a new Executive for 2027.



LORD BADEN-POWELL SOCIETY

Chair, Lord Baden-Powell Society

David W Jones AM. FCA. AFAIM

The Lord Baden-Powell Society (LBPS) was established in 1984, to raise funds which in turn are used to assist Scouts to attend major events. In 2024 we entered its 40th year milestone since its inception, and with the support of many more Donors, we would love to continue for another 40!

This year, we have distributed a total of $64,810 for 2026 events:

Once again, we have supported WA's OneCamp event by distributing $42,670.

A further $21,780 was requested by International in support of Aotearoa-NZ Jamboree taking place later this year,

Scouts Queensland Branch requested $360 to support a young Cub attend the Cuboree 2026 earlier in the year.

We will also be supporting all Branches as always with the next Australian Jamboree by distributing a new target of $150,000 to all those Youth Members who need it most across Australia.



Combined with less running expenses, the society now has investments totalling $3,094,109 and these income producing assets, will in turn earn the income that supports Scouts, and also run the Lord Baden-Powell Society.

The Lord Baden-Powell Society would like to announce that two new Committee Members, Mr Elston Hynd AM and Mr Phil Harrison AM, will be joining the Society at its next Committee meeting which is scheduled for end of November 2026.

Without the support from our regular donors, we would not be able to continue the good work that we do.

You can help us to further reach our goals by deciding to become a financial donor and contribute at whichever level you choose to join. Contact us via the Lord Baden-Powell Society email: lbps@scouts.com.au.

The Society has four levels of membership – Members, Leaders, Ambassadors and Patrons who contribute from $195 to $1,200 annually. Alongside these membership donations, we also receive donations to our Jamboree Fund Appeal which we run twice yearly.

The Society's Honours Recognition Program was first launched in 2011, and we are proud to announce that it is still ongoing and updated regularly whenever donor donations reach the financial contributions targets.

A new electronic version of the Honours Board is located on our website under the Honours Recognition Program page for everyone to see. Once a donor member name is added onto our Honours Board, the name will never be removed.

All contributions are of course tax deductible, and I encourage you to consider joining the LBPS as a member or a donor to the Jamboree fund, knowing that you are contributing to the future of Scouting in Australia.





DICK AND PIP SMITH LEADERSHIP THROUGH ADVENTURE FUND

Chair, Leadership Through Adventure Fund

Peter Blatch AM

The Dick and Pip Smith 'Leadership Through Adventure Fund' (LTAF) has been in operation for four years.

The donation of $1 million provided generously by the Dick and Pip Smith Foundation in 2022 has been committed fully and funds accrued from investments during that time will continue to be utilised for the next period.

In 2025-26, four rounds were held and funds totalling $281,450 were transferred to Scout Groups across Australia to assist in supporting 47 adventurous journeys and related specialised outdoor adventure training. These funds supported 323 youth members across all Branches.

Since its inception in 2022, 1108 young people have been supported with training or undertaking adventurous journeys; 163 youth leaders have planned these adventures; with 119 having completed their adventures, and 111 fulfilling all reporting requirements.



Full details for each are available on the website.

We are most grateful to Dick and Pip Smith for their foresight in establishing this initiative which has been highly effective in promoting leadership, outdoor adventure skill attainment, and risk management by our youth members.



NATIONAL DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM

Chair, Business and Commercial Management Sub-Committee

Greg Barnier

During the year under review, the Business and Commercial Management Sub-Committee has been focused on laying the foundations required for the development of a strategic direction/ roadmap for digital transformation to meet the future needs of Scouts Australia. This has required very broad consultation across key stakeholders at a National Level and all Branches.



This work is being undertaken to deliver two key priorities in our Strategic Plan 2024-2027:

> Make delivering our Youth Program easier and more impactful. Set an improvement and investment roadmap, and agreed funding pathways, for the digital tools that Units use to manage the Youth Program. Develop the business case for digital systems improvements to support the program, in line with the agreed roadmap.
>
> Transform the organisational support of our movement. Establish a digital roadmap for enabling systems (e.g. membership) to support increasing integration and efficiency based on agreed requirements

The Scouts Australia Digital System Design Principles and the Scouts Australia Digital Member Experience Principles have been adopted to lay the foundations as to how we develop and deliver new digital tools. The digital principles will be used to evaluate, assess, and score any digital / technology proposals to be considered for approval by the National Executive Committee.

Additionally, we have agreed on a RACI Matrix to provide role clarity in accountability, responsibility consultation and decision rights, and to improve governance in relation to our digital transformation.

The Digital Principles and Digital RACI Matrix are published on our website.

We have also gained stakeholder agreement on a set of high level business requirements for the future so that we have a common understanding of what we mean by a National Digital System.

At the time of writing this report, a Branch and National stocktake of all current digital systems in use (including an anticipated end of system service life) is underway together with a prioritisation exercise to determine priorities for the National Digital Roadmap.

Concurrently, the National Support Team has been focussed on providing tactical solutions for the potential replacement of three critical operational systems that have reached or are near their end of system service life: Scouts Terrain (Youth Program System), the Learning Management System and our Event Management System.

It is anticipated that recommendations regarding the National Digital Roadmap and the three critical operational systems will be presented to the NEC for approval by first quarter of the 2027 calendar year.

OFFICE BEARERS

NATIONAL COUNCIL

Chief Scout of Australia	Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Samantha Mostyn AC
National President	Rear Admiral the Honourable Kevin Scarce AC CSC RAN (Rtd) (until 22 November 2025) General David Hurley AC CVO DSC (Retd) (from 22 November 2025)
Vice President	Dr Catherine Foley AO PSM FAA FTSE#

NATIONAL CHIEF SCOUTS

Australian Capital Territory	Mr Andrew Lock OAM
New South Wales	Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC, KC
Northern Territory	His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie PSM (until 30 January 2026)
Queensland	Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM
South Australia	Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC
Tasmania	Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC (until 15 June 2026) Her Excellency the Honourable Caroline Wells (from 25 August 2026)
Victoria	Mr Shane Jacobson (until 18 November 2025) The Honourable David Baden-Powell (from 23 December 2025)
Western Australia	His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM

LIFE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL COUNCIL

Mr Clifford Farmer OAM	Mr David Jones AM. FCA. AFAIM	Major General John Pearn AO RFD
Mrs Kirsty Brown AM	Mr Peter Blatch AM	Mr Reginald Williams AM RFD
Dr Bruce Munro AM	Mr Paul Parkinson OAM	Mr Neville Tomkins AM JP
Mr Leon Tannahill AM	Mr John Leece AM	Mr Elston Hynd AM
Mr John Ravenhall AM		



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair, National Executive Committee	Mr Toby Phillips*
Chief Commissioner of Australia	Mr Brendan Watson OAM*
ACT Branch	Mr Andrew Coward
NSW Branch	Ms Katherine Peters
NT Branch	Mr Lachlan Casburn*
QLD Branch	Mr Nathan Swaffer*
SA Branch	Mr Brenton Scroop*
TAS Branch	Mr Mike Hovington (until 23 August 2026) Mr Harvey Lennon (from 23 August 2026)
VIC Branch	Mr Jon Willis OAM
WA Branch	Mr Stephen Davies
Member	Ms Elyse Versace# (until 22 November 2025) Mr Max Manson (from 14 February 2026)
Member	Ms Eliza Murray#
Member	Mr Henry Austin-Stone

NATIONAL COMMISSIONERS AND DEPUTIES

Chief Commissioner of Australia	Mr Brendan Watson OAM*
Deputy Chief Commissioner of Australia	Mr Dougal Mayor*
Deputy Chief Commissioner of Australia	Ms Shaylah McClymont* (until 18 May 2026) Mr Bradley Thompson* (acting from 18 May 2026)
National Commissioner for Adult Training & Development	Ms Julia Miller*
Deputy National Commissioner for Adult Training & Development	Mr Liam Brown
National Commissioner Youth Program	Mr Michael Thomas*
Deputy National Commissioner Youth Program	Mr Nick Molnar
National Commissioner International	Ms Lisa Picking*
Deputy National Commissioner International	Mr Nick Carroll
Chair, National Rover Council	Mr Bradley Thompson* (until 18 May 2026) Ms Isabella Mairou* (acting from 18 May 2026)



BRANCH MEMBERS OF NATIONAL COUNCIL

Miss Kathryn Affleck	Ms Ruth Henderson	Mr Shane Pascoe-Bell
Miss Annie Asquith	Ms Jessica Hernandez	Mr Jackson Pawelski
Miss Sherie Ball	Miss Niamh Hitchman	Ms Mackenzie Pearce
Mr Dave Bannon	Ms Katrina Hoare	The Honourable Jane Prentice
Mr Nick Barker	Ms Belinda Howell+ (from 7 April 2026)	Mr Matthew Ray
Mr Toby Blyth	Mrs Kaylene Hubbard	Mr Craig Ray
Mr Lucas Bryan	Ms Leigh Jonassen	Miss Danielle Reed
Mr Rodney Byrne+ (until 31 January 2026)	Mr Tobias Kennett	Mr Craig Robilliard
Mr John Clarke OAM+	Miss Sarah Kleine	Mr Gavin Satie JP+ (from 1 July 2026)
Mr David Cossart OAM	Ms Sharon Koster	Mr Geoffrey Sheehan+ (from 1 June 2026)
Mr David Crundall	Mr Richard Lynch	Mr Richard Simpson
Ms Anthea Cudworth JP	Ms Alison Maynard	Mrs Jacqueline Stenhouse
Mr Geoff Doo+	Mr Lloyd Nurthen+ (until 6 April 2026)	Ms Jacinta Swift
Miss Amy Dospisil	Mr Ayden Mackenzie+ (until 30 June 2026)	Ms Daniella Taglieri OAM+ (from 1 February 2026)
Mr Thomas Dowsley	Mr Luke McIvor	Ms Jacinta Tarlinton
Miss Emily Ezzy	Mrs Natasha Morgan	Mr Maximus Vinning
Mr Zac Geddes	Mr Stuart Morse	Mr Greg Warnes
Mrs Jane Hamilton	Ms Rebecca Morse	The Honourable Kim Wells MP
Mr Phil Harper+	Mr Kevin Moss	Mr Adrian Williams+
Ms Alyssa Harris		

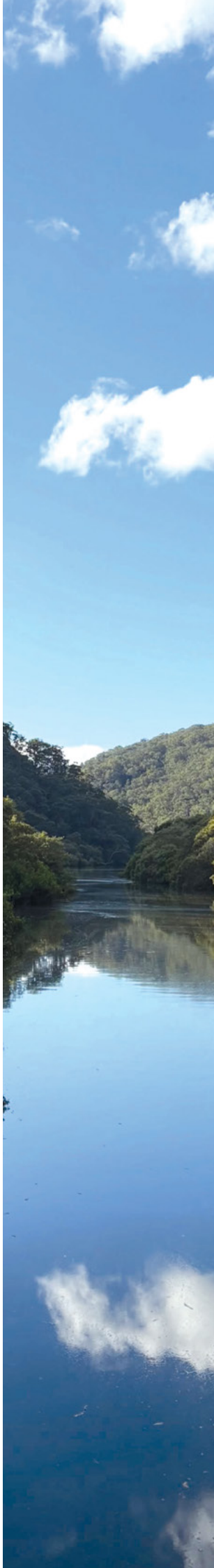
NEC NOMINATED MEMBERS OF NATIONAL COUNCIL

Dr Gareth Andrews	Mr Phil Harrison AM
Ms Ezgi Bridger	Mr Geoff Morgan AM
Mr John de Wijn AM KC	Ms Emma Watson

OTHER NATIONAL POSITIONS

National General Manager	Mr Chris Allen
Principal, Scouts Australia Institute of Training	Mr Stewart Bullivant (until 9 December 2025) Mrs Ann Southhall (acting from 9 December 2025 - 29 July 2026) Mr Stewart Bullivant (from 29 July 2026)
National Coordinator Redress	Mr Greg Landgren*
National Project Commissioner	Mr Paul Parkinson OAM*
National Child Safety Commissioner	Mrs Jean Clifford OAM

* Also member of National Council
+ Chief Commissioner of Branch
# NEC nominated member of National Council





RECOGNITION

KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS 2026

MEMBER (AM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Mr Robert Kucera | Scouts Western Australia | Former Scout Leader

MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Mrs Ethel Batten | Scouts South Australia | Former Scout Leader

Mr Kevin Camm | Scouts New South Wales | Former District Commissioner

Mr Brett Cole | Scouts Victoria | Region Section Commissioner

Mr Mark Connell | Scouts New South Wales | Former Group President

Miss Deslee Daley | Scouts Queensland | Scout Leader

Mr Robert Glass | Scouts New South Wales | Former District Commissioner

Mrs Suzane Hamilton | Scouts New South Wales | Former Group Treasurer

The late Peter Kearsey | Scouts New South Wales | Former Committee Member

Mr Kenneth Kinloch | Scouts Victoria | Region Chair

Mrs Prudence Molnar | Scouts Victoria | Former Cub Leader

Mr David Morgan | Scouts South Australia | Branch Commissioner

Mr Keith Pettigrew | Scouts Victoria | Former Scout Leader

Mr Clinton Stanley | Scouts Queensland | Former Leader

Mr David Torevell | Scouts New South Wales | Former Scout Leader

Mr Darren Wallace | Scouts Victoria | Former Scout Leader

The late Mark Weragoda | Scouts Victoria | Honorary Member

AUSTRALIAN DAY HONOURS 2026

MEMBER (AM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Mr Robert McCotter (dec.) | Scouts New South Wales | Former Cub Leader

Mr Christopher Robison | Scouts New South Wales | Former Cub Leader

MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Mr Antonio Cipriano | Scouts Victoria | Scout Leader

Mrs Carol Cope | Scouts New South Wales | Training Commissioner

Mr Vernon Cracknell | Scouts South Australia | Fellowship

Mrs Beverley Edwards | Scouts Victoria | Former Cub Leader

Mr Paul Hennessy | Scouts New South Wales | Honorary Commissioner

Mr Graham Hill | Scouts South Australia | Former Deputy Chief Commissioner

Mrs Jennifer King | Scouts New South Wales | Group Leader

Mr Donald Lockley | Scouts Northern Territory | Life Member

Mr Harry Long | Scouts South Australia | Former Chief Commissioner

Mrs Marie McPadden | Scouts Victoria | Group Leader

Mr Brian Roberts | Scouts New South Wales | District Advisor

Mr Geoffrey Thompson | Scouts Victoria | Group Chairman

Mrs Jennifer Tyrrell | Scouts Australian Capital Territory | Group Committee Co-President

ADULT RECOGNITION AWARDS 2026

Congratulations to all recipients who received an Adult Recognition Award this year. A total of **1,770** Awards were issued, comprising **1,571 Lower Awards** (including the Rover Service Award) and **199 Higher Awards**.

The following Scouts Australia members received the Silver Kangaroo and National President's Awards for eminent achievement and meritorious services to the Association in the 2026 Adult Recognition Awards.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S AWARD

NAME	APPOINTMENT	FORMATION	BRANCH
Patricia Dale	Adult Supporter	Brisbane Gang Show	Queensland
John Lowe	Adult Supporter (Committee)	Eprapah Campsite, Activity, and Environmental Centre	Queensland
Lesley Balfe Shipley	Fellowship	Geelong Region	Victoria
David Crundall	Branch Council Member (4e) - Elected Lay Member	Victoria Branch	Victoria
Jillian Horn	Adult Support	1st Rutherglen	Victoria
Cath Maclean	Contributor	Djerriwarrh District	Victoria
William 'MAC' McCormack	Chairman	Scouts WA Heritage Centre	Western Australia

SILVER KANGAROO AWARD

NAME	APPOINTMENT	FORMATION	BRANCH
Judith Ascione	Joey Scout Leader	Diamantina Scout Group	Australian Capital Territory
Philip Domaschenz	Branch Commissioner, Vertical Activities	Branch	Australian Capital Territory
Michael Apthorpe	Group Leader	1st Greystanes Scout Group	New South Wales
Deborah Durrant	District Leader	1st Gunnedah Scout Group (TBR)	New South Wales
Helen Dwyer	Cub Scout Leader & Bambara District Commissioner	1st Hurstville Scout Group	New South Wales
Gaven Hall	District Adviser	Blue Mountains District	New South Wales
Marion Leach	Honorary Commissioner	Hume Region	New South Wales
Wesley Leverton	Regional Commissioner (Activities)	Sydney North	New South Wales
Lyn Mann	Joey Scout Leader	1st East Ryde Scout Group	New South Wales
Elizabeth Reibelt	Cub Scout Leader/ District Cub Scout Leader	1st Erskine Park Scout Group	New South Wales
Gary Rudd	Adult Helper	Cumberland Gang Show Scout Group	New South Wales
Joanne Tola	Honorary Commissioner	Hume Region	New South Wales
Steve Tufts	District Commissioner	Lower North Shore District	New South Wales
Samuel Wood	Cub Scout Leader	1st East Ryde Scout Group	New South Wales

SILVER KANGAROO AWARD (CONTINUED)

NAME	APPOINTMENT	FORMATION	BRANCH
Peita Griffiths	Joey Scout Leader	Aspley Scout Group	Queensland
Phyllis Hobbs	Assistant Cub Scout Leader	Labrador Scout Group	Queensland
Warren Hope	District Commissioner	Toohey Forest District	Queensland
Norman Hunter	District Leader (Cub Scouts)	Redlands District	Queensland
Albert Ray	Chair	Branch Executive Committee	Queensland
Cherryl Brady (Posthumous)	Program Mentor	Youth Program Team	South Australia
Christina Bishop	Assistant Group Leader	Port Cygnet Scout Group	Tasmania
Helen Chick	Assistant Scout Leader	Clarence Sea Scout Group	Tasmania
Suzanne Hill	District Joey Scout Leader	Clarence District	Tasmania
Janice Black	Group Leader	1st City of Camberwell	Victoria
Graeme Enbom	Adventurous Activity Leader	Bushwalking Team	Victoria
Bruce Every	Scout Leader	Benalla	Victoria
William Henley JP	District Leader - Adult Training Support	Whitehorse District	Victoria
Paul Hyman	Group Leader	2nd Newport	Victoria
Duncan McColl	State Commissioner - Venturers	Victoria Branch	Victoria
Michael Thomas	Assistant Scout Leader	Holloway Bend	Victoria
Barbara de la Hunty	Branch Leader Boating	Western Australian Branch	Western Australia
Ayden Mackenzie JP	Branch Chief Commissioner	Western Australian Branch	Western Australia

Scouts AUSTRALIA

Scouts Australia acknowledges with thanks the photographers from each Branch of Scouts Australia.

Special thanks, to the team of Leaders, Committee and Commissioners who contributed in preparation and production of this Annual Report. Their continued commitment is appreciated by all at Scouts Australia.

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