

sascout

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Kaurna minyurna yaitya yarta-maathanya Wama Tarntanyaku.

Kaurna people are the traditional landowners of the Adelaide Plains.

Scouts SA acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we do our Scouting.

We respect the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to culture, community, land, sea, and sky and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

Meet Our New Deputy Chief Commissioner



We had the honour to sit down with our newly appointed Deputy Chief Commissioner (DCC), Michael Pearce, to ask him some questions and learn more about his history with Scouts.

Michael brings an impressive wealth of experience to the DCC role. He began his Scouting journey at the early age of 8 in Victoria before travelling to the United Kingdom to continue his Scouting adventures. Fortunately for us, he later moved to South Australia and joined Scouts SA.

Michael is not only an experienced Scout but also a dedicated family man. He and his wife welcomed their first child this year, and as a family, they love exploring South Australia and discovering all the wonderful things our state has to offer.

We are very excited to see how Michael can support and empower both the youth and adult members of Scouts SA in the future. We want to thank Michael for taking time out of his busy Scouting and personal life to share his story with us.

What inspired you to take on the role of Deputy Chief Commissioner?

Since joining the SA Branch, I have worked closely with John regarding the shape and direction of Scouts SA, primarily through the GHAT. John's vision and his path to getting there resonated with me, so when this opportunity came around, it felt like the best way to further immerse myself in this process.

How did you first get involved in Scouting, and what has kept you connected over the years?

I joined Cubs when I was 8-years-old in Berwick, Victoria. My family moved to the UK when I was 11-years-old and I continued my Scouting journey there (Scouts and Explorers). I finished Venturers when we moved back to Australia and became a Cub Scout leader at 18 years old. After a few years I stepped into the Scout section and helped to rebuild this section in two groups. After we moved to SA, I stepped into a Group Leader position before stepping back in term 1 this year to welcome my first child, Theodore. During this time, I volunteered at a branch level developing the Group Health Assessment Tool as well as pitching an international trip, the Appalachian Adventure.

What part of Scouting are you most passionate about?

The part of Scouting that I am most passionate is the experience and opportunities that it offers young people. I have personally gained so much from Scouting, both as a youth member and an adult, and I want to be able to support young people to gain the same and greater experiences.

What are your key priorities for the next 12 months?

There is lots of change coming in the next 12 months! Supporting the rollout of our new digital platforms, building a People and Culture team, reviewing our Lones and Fellowship model are the key priorities. With John, I'll continue to support our Branch Leadership Team to deliver much needed change and innovation across each of the BLT portfolios.

What do you think are the biggest opportunities for Scouts in South Australia right now?

I feel Scouting is uniquely placed among youth organisations to answer many of the social problems that are emerging in society. From loneliness, over-exposure to the internet, lack of belonging and everything in between. An effective program and supportive group could go a long way to fostering a healthier society in South Australia.

Do you have a favourite Scouting memory or milestone that still stands out to you?

I have too many to have just one! Completing the Overland Track with a group of Scouts and Venturers and attending the KISC 100 year anniversary celebrations are at the top of my list.

What do you enjoy most about working with youth and volunteers?

Seeing our youth and adults empowered to achieve things that they never thought they had the ability to.

Outside of Scouting, what do you like to do in your spare time?

I love spending time with my wife Liv, and son Theodore. South Australia is new to our family, so we spend time exploring the state. Bushwalking is a popular choice when we have a free weekend.

What is one thing you want leaders, youth, and parents to know about you as you start this role?

That I am open to listening to people and their ideas about how we can improve Scouting!

If you could change or improve one thing about Scouting right now, what would it be and why?

I would like to see our Groups, Districts and teams better connected to one another and the communities that constitute them. Scouting is at its best when everyone feels a part of the collective Scouting family. In some parts of the state, this is strong and in other parts, we could foster this more strongly.



Scouts Shouts Youth Theatre

‘The Haunting of Shouts Manor’ and ‘Brought to you by the letter S’

Scouts Shouts Youth Theatre recently wrapped up its 2025 season!

This year's show was the 52nd season of Scouts Shouts. The first act, “The Haunting of Shouts Manor”, follows a group of treasure-seeking thieves who stumble into a house they believe is abandoned, only to meet its unusual paranormal residents.

The second act, “Brought to you by the letter S”, was a sensational show that showcased the stimulation, sadness, sweetness, and stories inspired by the letter S.

Each show was better than the last, with the Scouts Shouts Youth Theatre team delivering a passionate performance, with their dedication to their craft on full display.

The show's vision is to create opportunities for youth to lead and grow in all areas of performing arts. The cast comprises Scouts and Guides from across South Australia who spent 20 weeks rehearsing and perfecting the show.

The production consisted of two acts, with the second act written by members of the cast as part of Shouts' Young Director Program.

Everyone involved had a packed season full of fun, laughter, and unforgettable memories!

Want to be part of the 2026 cast and crew? Register your interest today! https://linktr.ee/scouts_shouts





Peak Awards 2025

The following youth members have achieved their Peak Awards during 2025, with those in **bold** achieveing theirs since our last publication.

Joey Scout Challenge Awards

Adeera S
Charlie T
CJ V
Claire M
Evie F
Jessie A
Kiyan N
Martin B
Summer H
Winston W
Myles C
Acacia G
Callie B
Chloe Q
Rasiah V
Beatrice G
Charlotte R
Ben M
Sam M
Tomas W
Noah S
Harper K
Evelyn L
Sophia L
Bradley L
Henry P
Ashton R
Rhys W
Sadie S
Hayley C
Conrad W
Max L
Rylee G
Violette H
Harvey T
Orson N
Lucy G

Grey Wolf Award

Alexis F
Benjamin T
Hayden D
Lucy B
Owen T
Ryoma E
Seb B
Ted D
Toby D
Elsa L
Kenzlie M
Toby N
Sebastian H
Aubree C
George D
Jake S
Zara S
Florence H
Victor Miguel J
Callen Z
Lincoln C
Lydia C
Marco J
Finnley P
Lilly E
Declan A
Patrick B
Stephanie L
Tabitha B
Atticus P
Owen C
Emily W
Adeline M
Aurora P
Elly C
Hayden G
Noah G
Jai P
Amelie L
Mathew T
Seb M
Alisha M
Nea M
Bentley B
Owen C
Harrison R
Thomas S

Australian Scout Award

Lily Z
Mary B
Ethan T
Nathan S
Billy R
Isaac C
Alice R
Hunter B
Dean H
Levi H
Charlie S
Steven H
Jasper B
Urja T
Madelin J
Alex R
Ryan N
Claire B
Emma M
Henry B
Martin D
Darcy N
Louis J
Laura S

King's Scout Award

Ben W
Emily W
Harry C
Henry K
Josh W
Michaela C
Mitchell M
Ryan H
Seb M
Tegan W
Tyson G
Hannah J
Alicia F
Amelia K
Niccola K

Baden Powell

Heidi v

Help us break a record at Flamboree 2026

Help us break the record for most people roasting marshmallows on an open fire at once. Keep your eyes peeled for more information on this record-breaking event next year!

Visit <https://qstore.sa.scouts.com.au/events/flamboree/> to join.



The AJ2028 journey has begun

The anticipation for AJ2028 is beginning to build, and you can be part of the groundwork for this incredible event. Head over to the link below to hear all the AJ2028 news as it happens!

Visit www.aj2028.com.au to join the journey to AJ2028.



Personal Development Course - February

Completing your Peak Award in Term 1? The Scouts SA Program Team is running a Personal Development Course on 27 February 2026 at Woodhouse.

To learn more, visit: sa.myscout.com.au



Cuboree 2025 - Journey to Adventure

During late October, almost 700 Cub Scouts from across South Australia flooded into the Woodhouse Adventure Park for Cuboree 2025. Known as 'The Journey to Adventure', Cuboree 2025 delivered three days of fun-filled adventures, unforgettable moments, and special visitors.

Cub Scouts, volunteers and group leaders arrived on Friday night to begin preparing for the weekend ahead. The entire event began in earnest with the flag-raising at the Opening Ceremony, setting the scene for what would be an incredible weekend.

Our Cubs showed resilience through rain, minor flooding, and cold weather to make the most of their experience and enjoy a variety of activities.



The Knights at the 'Knights of Old' activity took a battering, the Pinewood Derby hosted some incredible high-speed races, and our Cubs learned about global cultures at 'Journey to Timbuktu'.

They also had the opportunity to participate in many OAS activities, such as climbing walls, navigation challenges, target sports, caving adventures and much more.

During Cuboree, Rambler Unit 1 hosted a VIP Lunch, which included Federal and State politicians, the President of Scouts Australia, our Patron, Rear Admiral the Honourable Kevin Scarce AC CSC RAN (Rtd), and senior members of Scouts SA. It was a star-studded affair!

This gathering was much more than a simple meal; it was a celebration of Scouting spirit, as both Scouting and non-Scouting individuals came together to share impactful stories, voice their hopes for the future, and appreciate a profound mutual respect.

These Cubs will one day champion the Scouting movement, and knowing their Scouting values were embraced by all in attendance was a priceless gift for our future leaders.

Whether sharing stories about their favourite activities, how they earned their badges, or their recent experiences at Cuboree, the joy these Cubs shared was infectious to all in attendance. Each VIP was incredibly friendly, encouraging Cubs to engage with one another and participate in open discussions. Opportunities such as these don't come often, and their approachability helped break down barriers and foster meaningful conversations.

Following the VIP Lunch, many Cubs have shared that they loved learning about the special guests and hearing their experiences and stories. It was an incredible event that each Cub will never forget, and when they eventually lead Scouting into the future, we hope this event will stay with them forever.

Cuboree 2025 was the 'Journey to Adventure', and it lived up to its theme. The Cub Scouts in attendance demonstrated true Scouting spirit, showing resilience in the face of challenges. A massive thank you to all our volunteers, staff, and youth for helping make Cuboree 2025 a resounding success.

The Closing Ceremony reflected on the fantastic memories from the weekend. It reminded everyone that plenty of dirty dishes awaited them at home, but not before everyone enjoyed some fun dancing.

The Cubs in attendance were incredibly excited to have such admired guests join them for lunch. They were more than happy to share their love of Scouts and their enthusiasm for Cuboree, and they appreciated the opportunity to have their ideas heard.



Our adventure to Kangaree

CALLY BEASLEY GROUP LEADER & JOEY SCOUT LEADER - PORT NOARLUNGA SEA SCOUTS

After seeing the advertisements for Kangaree in Victoria, I was really keen to offer the experience to our youth. We had a lot of interest from our Scout Group, so the planning began. Working with Scouts Victoria, we managed to get everything arranged so we could have a base in Ballarat and join up with their District for Kangaree.



Our youth loved the event, with lots of activities on offer including Target Sports, Pioneering, Billy-Karts, Climbing, Inflatables, Coding, Team games, Environmental exploration and much more! Bonds were formed with our Victorian friends, and smiles and laughter were heard around camp and during activities. It was such an amazing camping experience for our youth.

Going to Kangaree was really fun. I liked meeting new friends there, which was a bit scary but ok. I really liked the arrow shooting (archery), climbing on the bridges, and the disco at night time.

I liked going to the old gold museum too (Sovereign Hill) and having a ride in the pony trailer and watching lollies being made.

Clara, Port Noarlunga Sea Scouts

Our youth found the long journey a bit tiring, so we extended our stay in Victoria by an extra two nights, allowing us to explore Sovereign Hill for the day, learning about the gold fields and mining history of Ballarat. Sadly, despite our best efforts, no fortune was found whilst gold-panning!

The road trip was full of kids' songs on repeat, snacks, spotting painted silos, toilet breaks, car games, trivia podcasts, more snacks, more toilet breaks, a couple of playground visits, discovering painted sheep, and even more snacks!

Overall, it was a great trip for our Joeys, who got to experience something completely different, and we are so proud of them for their resilience and fabulous behaviour whilst we were away representing not only our Group, but Scouts SA.





AJ2028

JANUARY '28

THE BIGGEST EVENT ON THE SCOUT CALENDAR! TEN DAYS FULL OF ADVENTURE, CHALLENGES AND NEW MATES. YOU COULD BE CLIMBING HIGH, HITTING THE WATER, GETTING CREATIVE, OR TAKING ON EPIC PATROL ACTIVITIES.



VICTORIA, AUS

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT AJ2028.COM.AU

Exploring the Naracoorte Caves

AMY BATTAMS (DISTRICT COMMISSIONER HILLS TO COAST) & LOGAN (VENTURER - BELAIR)

Scouts and Venturer Scouts from across the Hills to Coast District gathered for a caving weekend at Naracoorte Caves National Park from Friday, 19 September to Sunday, 21 September 2025.

After safely arriving at the Wirreanda Bunkhouse, the excitement kicked in straight away as everyone got ready for a jam-packed weekend of exploration and underground adventure.

The caves offered a unique and challenging environment where everyone had the chance to develop new skills, push personal limits and discover the power of teamwork. Along the way, Scouts formed new friendships as they encouraged one another.

Logan, a Venturer Scout from Belair Scout Group, summed it up nicely. I attended the caving camp, and it was super impressive. Going through the cave's complex parts was my favourite part. There's a lot to learn down in the caves, and the whole thing was a great experience.



A huge thank you to the Scouts SA Caving Team and all the Leaders for keeping everyone safe and supporting us throughout. Their guidance made the weekend even better.

Everyone headed home proud of what they had achieved. It was an adventure none of us will forget.



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Roonka Camp 2025 - Welcome to the Fun House

Over 100 Joeys and Cubs rolled up to the Roonka River Adventure Park from November 7 to 9 for the 2025 Joey Cub Roonka Camp. There was good food, good vibes, and gorgeous weather aplenty.

The camp was family-friendly, which meant Joeys and Cubs were accompanied by their parents, allowing families to come together and create some remarkably memorable experiences.

This moment was a perfect representation of why we do what we do. Helping those in need, persevering through challenges, and showcasing resiliency when things are tough, this is the Scouting way. It was truly a special moment.



This year's Roonka Camp was known as the Fun House, featuring a circus theme, with more fun than a big top, more activities than a carnival, and more fun than an actual circus.

Campers enjoyed an array of exciting activities on land and in the water. For those wanting to take aim, there were a variety of target sports to enjoy, including hatchet throwing and archery. A slippery water slide for those wanting to take a splash. Kayaking fun in the billabong, and an array of crafting activities and plate spinning over at the Clown School.

And last but not least, the flying fox was a BIG hit with Joeys and Cubs alike flocking to have their exhilarating turn flying over the water, in hopes of reaching the other side dry.

This environment created a fantastic energy in the air, as everyone found something to enjoy at the Fun House, no matter if you were young or old.

But there was one moment that truly captured the Scouting spirit. During the event, a youth member was struggling to find the confidence needed to tackle the water slide. It was at this moment that Scouting magic occurred. Their fellow Scouts, family members, volunteers, and group leaders all came together to muster up words of encouragement. It was at this point - it happened. The youth member took the exhilarating plunge into the water before rushing back to the embankment to embark on another water slide adventure.

Not even a minor power outage could dampen the Fun House adventure, with smiles, laughter and joy as far as the eye could see.

We are sending a massive thank you to everyone who contributed to making the Roonka Camp an unforgettable experience, and a special shout-out to the organisers who put their hearts and souls into a tremendous weekend.





Adventurous Journey - Rakali Reflection

SAM M. – BELAIR SCOUTS SA

Each year, there is a Rakali Paddle Journey in which Scouts and Venturers can plan their Adventurous Journey with support from leaders of the SA Branch Paddling Team. I planned a three-day paddle from Moorook along the Murray River to Loch Luna, finishing at Overland Corner. We paddled a total of 35km as part of my Adventurous Journey. The Journey also supported a Venturer's Adventurous Journey with four of us staying an additional day, returning upstream through Lock 3 to Kingston on the Murray and a further 12km.

I had five Scouts/Venturers attend from my Belair Scout Group, and it was good that we got seven more scouts/venturers/rovers from other scout groups involved in this paddling adventure. We had a range of people attend, including Scouts and Venturers from a Russian Scout group, which taught me a lot about how different Scout groups operate. We split into two patrols, with me leading one and the Venturer leading the other, undertaking her Adventurous Journey.

We paddled through some interesting places like Lock 3, and we learnt all about the Lock. Including that it is over 100 years old, and the importance of locks to keep the river level up for irrigation, the environment, water supply, and allow boats to pass through them. We gained a greater understanding of Rakali, a native water animal like a large rat or otter, and its significance to the River Murray's environment and Indigenous culture.

I am also pleased to have given Christian, who was the Paddling Leader in Charge, the opportunity to use this Journey to gain his Guide qualifications.

What went well

The main things that went well on this camp were the overall logistics: the route was a suitable length for each day, access to campsites that were available and suited everyone, and we were able to transport all the kayaks there on one trailer or the leader's cars.

We got everyone who registered for Rakali to show up, and all participants were keen. We had minimal problems getting everyone to listen to our briefings and follow instructions on the water. The skill level of everyone attending was at the standard required for this length of Journey. We only had a few participants getting tired on the last day of the Journey, when they were all a bit worn out. You could also see that participants improved their paddling skills over the 3 days.

Another thing that went well was going through Lock 3, since most participants had not done so before. We did this well, as everyone listened to instructions, stayed together as we approached the Lock, and held on appropriately inside the Lock during the transition of water levels. Traversing the Lock was one of my favourite parts of the Journey.





Participants packed their own kayaks each day. Throughout the Journey, the participants learnt to balance the weight of their equipment better and utilise the space in the Kayaks more efficiently.

Challenges that we faced

A challenge we faced was keeping the two patrols separate. My patrol was made up of slightly more advanced kayakers, so we caught up to the slower kayakers, which led us to merge into a single group several times. On day two, we were able to take different routes through Loch Luna, which could be done more on future expeditions.

Another challenge that we faced on the last day was that campers were occupying our finish point. This was not a big problem, as they were happy to share the site to finish and enjoyed watching us paddle our Kayaks to the riverbank, disembark, secure the kayaks on the bank, unpack and load the Kayaks onto the trailer, and say goodbye to our Kayakers.

We did need to find another campsite, however, for myself and three others who were going to do the extra day. Luckily, there were other campsites nearby.

On the first night, when we were setting up camp, we found out that one participant had forgotten the poles for their tent, and another had forgotten their fly. We had to improvise and were incredibly lucky that the leaders had two spare emergency shelters/flies to cover the tents as it was very dewy.

While the Murray River should be easy to navigate, it still can be challenging to keep track of how far you have travelled, where to go into designated stops, not go down a side creek or backwater, and get around the maze of Loch Luna backwater.

My overall experience

The expedition itself was fun and exciting. We paddled a total of 35km as part of my Adventurous Journey. Plus, three others and I got to enjoy a fourth day of kayaking over 12km to support one of the Venturers, who had organised it as part of their Adventurous Journey.

It was excellent that we got more than one scout group involved in this adventure. It helped that the Rakali was advertised for other Scouts, Venturers and Rovers to join in.

I really enjoyed being the main organiser for this Journey. It taught me a lot about the effort that goes into planning and leading these types of events, and how it's not as simple as giving someone an idea and asking them to do it. I learnt that planning is quite extensive, and that the time it takes to get something approved, book campsites, organise equipment, and arrange who will attend can be pretty long.

The Journey was great, and while the challenge was achievable, the Nifty kayak I used made me paddle straighter than the kayaks we use at Belair Scout Group. Leading the Journey was not as difficult as I initially thought it would be. I need to work on paddling at the same speed as everyone else and keeping the patrols slightly separate to work as patrols.

In the future, I would like to organise more paddling expeditions. It has also inspired me to try something new, something different from flatwater kayaking. I want to try sea kayaking and white-water kayaking. Eventually, I would like to get my trained participant qualifications when I become a Rover/Leader.

Overall, I really enjoyed this Adventurous Journey, and I would suggest it to other Scouts and Venturers. The Rakali Kayaking expeditions are an excellent opportunity to do something different to bushwalking and make it your Adventurous Journey, as there are limited opportunities to take part.

Thanks to the paddling leaders who supported my Adventurous Journey and to the participants who shared the experience with me from Belair, St George Pathfinders, Gawler, and Golden Grove Scout Groups. Big thanks to LTAF for funding that makes this Journey more affordable for participants.

Events and Opportunities

TERM ONE 2026

Indoor Climbing & Abseiling (OAS 1 or 2)

31 JANUARY 2026

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



Indoor Climbing & Abseiling (OAS 1 or 2)

1 FEBRUARY 2026

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



Rock Climbing @ Onkaparinga - Stages 1-3 Vertical

14 FEBRUARY 2026

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



Rock Climbing @ Morialta - Stages 3-5 Vertical

15 FEBRUARY 2026

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



ChangeMakers 2026 | Personal Development Course

20-22 FEBRUARY 2026

PROGRAM



Provide First Aid Course / Provide CPR

22 FEBRUARY 2026

PROGRAM



Personal Development Course

27 FEBRUARY 2026

PROGRAM



River Moot 2026

6-9 MARCH 2026

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



Rock Climbing @ Onkaparinga - Stages 1-3 Vertical

11 APRIL 2026

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



TRAINING DATES

Water Rescues Training

30 JANUARY 2026

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



Kayak or Canoe Flatwater Safe Participant Training

14-15 FEBRUARY 2026

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



Cycling On-Road Training (Safe and Trained Participant)

28 FEBRUARY 2026

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



Kayak or Canoe Flatwater Trained Participant Training

14 & 21-22 MARCH 2026

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



GILWELL TRAINING

Child Safe Environments (Youth Program Leader)

6 FEB 2026

Scouting Essentials

6 FEB - 8 FEB 2026

Scouting Adventure

6 FEB - 8 FEB 2026

Scouting Leadership

6 FEB - 8 FEB 2026

Child Safe Environments (Program Support Leader)

8 FEB 2026

Scouting Management

6 FEB - 8 FEB 2026

Event Spotlight

TERM ONE 2026

Water Rescues Training

Join this exciting course to learn how to spot distress and perform safe water rescues using rescue equipment. Essential for leading water activities, this training will prepare you to make a difference.

To learn more, visit: sa.myscout.com.au



Reach New Heights

Are you ready to reach new heights? There are several opportunities to enhance your rock climbing skills over Term 1. Take your chance to climb this term.

Visit sa.myscout.com.au to register and find your next challenge today!



Time to Learn First Aid

Take part in the Provide First Aid Course in February to learn valuable life skills, including CPR.

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