

# Newsletter **Scouts @ Float Fest 2017 April 7,8,9**

Issue 1

March 2017

## Scouts at Float Fest 2017



### Welcome

All the applications are in and we are very excited about delivering Float Fest 2017. This newsletter hopefully will give you an update of how the campsite and activities are going to be delivered.

### Background

**Floatfest** is an Initiative of The Murraylands Regional Tourist Association, supported heavily by National & Local Government & Corporate Sponsors.

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## Adventurous Activities at Float Fest

*How your program is being delivered.*

### Your Activity Preferences

Program schedule

Everyone has put in their preferences and your schedule has been added to this newsletter.

### Activities

After reviewing how activities will work and what offers the best fun we have made some synergies.

**Rowing** is core to learning how to use a boat and seamanship skills. It is a great patrol activity developing cooperation, communication and motor skills.

Novelty Rowing will give you the opportunity to first work together and row in a straight line. Once you have your basic skills down you then proceed into an obstacle course which will really test your skills and add some serious fun to the activity.

Some of you wish to row competitively and on Sunday you will get your chance. Good luck.

**Canoeing** is the most popular chosen activity at Float Fest. Novelty canoeing will take you for a paddle. Each patrol will have their own canoe leader who will look after your program. Some patrols may have varied skills and your leader will work with you to refine them. Once underway your leader will introduce novelty activities that will be fun and introduce some challenges.

Again some of you are wishing to race. We have decided to only run the relay race with canoeing. You only have one kayak which you run to, board, race around a buoy and back, get out and the next member gets in and races around the buoy until the whole patrol has had a turn.

Many of you will also get the chance to paddle in the Float Fest world record attempt.

For some years Kelly Johnston and Floatfest organiser Jen Whitehorn discussed the possibility of Scouts becoming involved in Floatfest. In 2016 Greg Walker pictured on the cover page took a group of scouts and participated in Float Fest. With the appointment of ABC Boating for Youth Programs my first instruction by then BC Jeff Playfair was to do something about waning interest in Regatta. Kelly and I had spoken before about Synergising Floatfest with Regatta and so it was presented to the Boating team for approval. The team didn't want to lose the regatta as an individual event but also felt a water activities camp would stimulate fresh interest in boating and so Scouts @ Floatfest was born.

### **Main Headquarters**

There will be a main HQ, which will serve as a central office for the camp.

If you are unsure of where you are supposed to be you can check in there to get help.

If you got split up from your group you can report there to be reconnected with your group.

### **First Aid**

The Main HQ will be next door to the Scout First Aid tent. All Y4's will be held at the Main Marquee and all health plans will be initially managed from there.

### **Scout Radio Communications**

The scout Radio team will set up next to HQ also.

### **Environment Badge work**

There will be an Activity Environment Base. The activity is not programed and when you find gaps in your timetable you can report to the Environment Base. There you will be given a Carbon Credit Book. Carbon credits are earned for completion of Environment activities.

Bonus: Carbon credits can also earn you a ticket to an activity that you wish to repeat or didn't put in your originals preferences. Earn those points.

### **Help with bringing equipment**

Leaders and Parents we need your help.

We will be bringing a lot of boats and equipment to Floatfest to make this event a fun spectacular. We need help towing:

Patrol Boats, Kayaks, Canoes, Trailers.

If you have a towbar and are bringing scouts please register your willingness to help by sending me an email at:

[abc.boating-youth@sa.scouts.com.au](mailto:abc.boating-youth@sa.scouts.com.au)

Additionally, if your troop owns Patrol Boats, and especially Kayaks please let me know you can bring them.

### **Help from Endorsed Leaders**

We need:

- 7 Endorsed Canoeing Leaders on Saturday and Sunday.
- 4 Endorsed Sailing Leaders on Saturday and Sunday.
- 8 Endorsed Rowing Leaders on Saturday and Sunday
- 2 Leaders to run swimming on Saturday and Sunday.
- Kitchen and First Aid Officers.

Some of you have already indicated you can help but please send an email to Ian Vayne to confirm so the leadership schedule can be quickly compiled.

[abc.boating-youth@sa.scouts.com.au](mailto:abc.boating-youth@sa.scouts.com.au)

### **Contacts for Floatfest**

**Ian Vayne**

Event Organiser - Mbl: 0448000433

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**Kelly Johnston**

Marketing & Environment – Tel: 8130 6000

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**Margaret McCallum**

Campsite Manager – Mbl: 0407 711 479

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## ON THE WATER



**Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders all must wear life jackets when on the water.**

Your safety is very important so when you get to your activity area get your life jackets fitted promptly so as not to delay your activity.

### Personal clothing – (Important)

Everyone on the water will need to bring:

- Wet shoes
- Hat
- Sun block
- Clothing they can swim in.
  - No jeans or similar.
- Towel

Please note that there is a moderate likelihood of capsizing when in boats and canoes. If this occurs the life jackets will keep your child's head above the water but heavy unsuitable clothes are difficult to swim in and add unnecessary stress.



Our planned T-Shirts will be Royal Blue with the Adventurous Activities Logo printed on it.

## Sailing

Scouts have 3 types of boat on offer at Float Fest.



Optimist



Mirror Sailing



Patrol Boat Sailing

## Rafting

Rafting requires you to first lash your raft together and then paddle it out onto the river. Hope it floats.

## Land Based Activities

### Sponge Tag

Catapults and wet sponges. Can't imagine anyone is going to walk away dry from this.

### Geocache and Munzee

We have decided to merge these activities. We will be supplying GPS units for the event.

### Climbing Wall

We are very fortunate to have the Climbing Wall at Float Fest. This activity is very popular so check your schedule and don't miss out.

### Heritage Hike

Murray Bridge is in the traditional lands of the Ngarrindjeri people, who refer to Murray Bridge as *Pomberuk*. We are camped at Sturt reserve and Charles Sturt first camped there in 1830. Don't forget to bring some comfortable walking shoes.

## SECURITY

### CAMPSITE

Thanks to the generosity of the "Police Scouters," our camp site will be under their supervision.

### ACTIVITY AREAS

The roads leading into the activity areas will be closed but the land areas themselves will be open to the public. As a result we will be "on show," and on our best behaviour. All boats and canoes will be supervised by leaders during Floatfest and returned to the campsite area overnight.

### PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

We are all vulnerable to theft during a camp especially where the public is nearby. The T-Shirts were introduced in order to homogenise the camp. A leader or a police scouter will interview anyone not wearing a Camp T-shirt. Scouts, please leave your electronics at home.

### Other people

The campsite is a lock down area but the general public will visit the activity areas as spectators. Move directly to your activities. Leaders please watch out. If you see a scout talking to a civilian go over and join the conversation and excuse the scout and move them to where they need to be.

If you want to chat with your friends move back to the campsite.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### Q: Arriving at Float Fest.

A: Register at the Main Marquee with Margaret who will give you your camp allocation.

#### Q: 5 x 3m is too little for a base camp.

A: You are right. It will be bigger.

#### Q: Once unloaded where can I park?

A: Just to the side of our camping area is a car and trailer parking allotment.

#### Q: My troop needs to share equipment.

A: This has proven to be a common problem so troops will be kept together.

#### Q: My patrols are not 6 members. Is that a problem?

A: Many groups have mixed size patrols, some even 7 scouts. We will make it work for them.

## Leaders, Venturers and Rovers

### *Leaders who come with a patrol.*

If you come with a patrol you help them set up camp, and eat meals with them. There is a designated sleeping area for leaders. Once you patrol heads off to their activities you are free to assist with activities that give you the most pleasure. Each activity will have a team leader you report to. If you hold endorsements in certain activities you can help lead the activity. If you haven't already indicated where you would like to help then please email: [abc.boating-youth@sa.scouts.com.au](mailto:abc.boating-youth@sa.scouts.com.au) Your activity team leader will advise you of the program. If you don't you can participate as a trainee.

### **Leaders, Venturers and Rovers who come to support Floatfest activities.**

Leaders, Venturers and Rovers are for the purposes of Floatfest all leaders. You pick your preferred area/activity and assist in running the activity. Each activity will have a team leader you report to. If you hold endorsements in certain activities you can help lead the activity. Your activity team leader will advise you of the program. If you don't you can participate as a trainee.

#### **Q: Do we have to participate in the Floatfest record attempt?**

A: We probably will not have enough canoes and kayaks for everyone to participate this year. There will still be plenty of activities running during the record attempt both on and off the water.

#### **Q: When do I need to get my Y4's in?**

A: If you haven't already. Immediately please.

#### **Q: Use of fires and cooking.**

A: Absolutely no fires. Cooking only with Gas appliances under shelter. Not in the open. This is a strict rule of the Murray Bridge Council.

#### **Q: How many scouts will be at Floatfest?**

A: We expect just over 300 Scouts, Venturers and Leaders at Floatfest.

Q: Who should I contact if I have more questions?

A: [abc.boating-youth@sa.scouts.com.au](mailto:abc.boating-youth@sa.scouts.com.au)



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