

Forging friendships

Koroit Scouts open the door to a world of adventure

By **ANTHONY BRADY**

AS leisure options for young people grow rapidly, one traditional group continues to retain its relevance.

The Scout movement has long guided, taught and entertained younger generations and it continues to do so today.

The Koroit Scouts and Cubs meet every Monday from 6pm to 7.30pm at the Scout Hall in High Street, Koroit.

The group has about 30 members across three sections which include Joeys (6-7-year olds), Cubs (8 -11) and Scouts (11-15).

South West District Scouts Association leader Sheryl Thomas oversees the activities in Koroit each week. With more than 28 years' experience in the movement, Ms Thomas is well qualified to outline the benefits that Scouts provides.

"Being involved in scouts provides fun, fellowship and friendship and it helps the children develop a lot of new skills," she said.

"Children learn so quickly and it is wonderful to see their progress through the joeys, cubs and scouts."

Ms Thomas has been coming out to the Koroit Scouts to help for the past 15 years. Recently she spoke to children at the town's two primary schools about the benefits of becoming a Scout.

She said there were plenty of selling points about Scouts, which offered a wide range of activities, including cooking, games and camping. In April the Koroit Scouts will join other groups in the South West Association at a three-day camp in Brucknell.

"The camp will be about having some great fun and also teaching the children how to set up their own camp and fend for themselves to some degree," she said. "It will be a really good chance for the

older Scouts to assume leadership roles and help the younger members out."

Koroit's Sam Hibbert has been part of Scouts for the past two-and-a-half years and said he had enjoyed his time. "It has been really good. Scouts teaches you a lot of different life skills that I can use," the 12-year-old said.

The Koroit Scout group will holding a barbecue and information night on Monday, March 21 at the Scout Hall in High Street from 6pm with interested members of the public invited to attend.



Sam Hibbert, 12, enjoys his time with Scouts. 110306AB01



Sheryl Thomas shows the Cubs and Joeys how to tie a knot. 110306AB01