

The 16th World Scout Jamboree was held at the Cataract Scout Park, a specially constructed Scout tent city situated on a 160-hectare site at Appin, near Sydney, New South Wales, Australia from 30 December 1987 to 7 January 1988. This was the first World Scout Jamboree held in the Southern Hemisphere and the first to change the date from the traditional August to January to coincide with summer. There were 14,434 participants from 84 countries present with around 13,000 more in attendance on "Visiting Days".



The Jamboree Theme was: *"Bringing the World Together"*. The course of New Year's Day passed during the Jamboree, and the opening ceremony of the Jamboree, at midnight on 31 December 1987, was the first official event of Australia's Bicentenary.

Highlights of the Jamboree included the Challenge Valley obstacle course, the most gruelling and the most popular activity at the Jamboree and the Great Aussie Surf Carnival, for which all Scouts were shuttled in over 50 buses to Thirroul Beach.

An excellent 'Join In Jamboree' booklet was produced by the Scout Association of Australia in conjunction with the World Scout Bureau.



850 Scouts, including 18 Ranger Guides attended from the UK— the first time that Guides had attended a World Scout Jamboree. Among the UK contingent was Betty Clay, daughter of the founder of Scouting, and eleven members of the Baden-Powell family, nine of whom were direct descendants of Robert Baden-Powell, 1st Baron Baden-Powell.

Hertfordshire teamed up with Buckinghamshire to form a Troop of 36 (24 from Herts and 12 from Bucks including just one female Venture Scout). The 4 leaders were Nigel Clark & Carol Leach (Herts) and David Clarke & David Spragg (Bucks). 5 additional Scouts from Hertfordshire joined the Cheshire Unit. The combined Unit raised sufficient extra funds to support two Scouts from St Kitts and Nevis to attend the Jamboree.



The Unit left London Heathrow on Christmas Eve, were in the air for Christmas Day and landed in Melbourne on Boxing Day. Pre-jamboree home hospitality was offered in both Melbourne and Sydney. Post-jamboree hoho was enjoyed in Tasmania and the return flight took 25 hours as the final destination, London, was fogbound.



**The Herts & Bucks Unit ready to leave from the 1st Chalfont St Peter HQ
24th December 1987**