



KISC 2016

AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT

April 2016

We are reaching exciting times for our visit to the Kandersteg International Scout Centre. The new year of 2016 is well and truly underway, and we have under 80 days until our departure. All of this means only one thing – we are getting closer and closer to KISC2016!

It's been a busy time at KISC2016 HQ. Our Program Team have been working with KISC to finalise our bookings and places, and personalised Activity Itineraries are being built as we speak. There will be Troop Leaders and Patrol lists out nice and soon as well.

This bulletin contains lots of new information on Admin, Activities, Troops, Travel, Welfare, Medical and more – as well as an update on the Orientation Days. Please read it all carefully – and share it with your family as well.

As we announced on Facebook, Heather Browett has stepped up from Assistant to DCL Administration. Heather is taking over from Dylan Hunt, who has headed over to KISC early to take up a two-year contract as Guest Services Director on the KISC leadership team. Heather has been with us since this all kicked off in 2013, and she is stoked to be taking on this extra responsibility.

We also welcome our Welfare and Medical team on board too, and you will read more about them in this bulletin. Rod and Wendy Byrnes from Victoria will coordinate our Welfare Team, while our lead Medical Officer will be Matt Ferris from South Australia. This trio brings plenty of experience with Scouting Contingent and Major Events.

Read this carefully, check the website and Facebook, and stay in touch.

Yours in Scouting,

Gary Steinhardt
Contingent Leader – KISC2016



A Little More About... Kandersteg!

Kandersteg is a little village in the Swiss Alps, and its so cute it could almost be out of a movie set or a snow-dome. It is in the Canton (same as our 'states') of Bern – the same as the capital city. It sits at 1200m above sea level, has a population of 1200 people, and guarantees 1200 smiles per fortnight (which works perfectly for us).

The little Kandersteg economy is dominated by tourism – with renowned hiking trails, mountain climbs and ski-slopes. The buildings are typically Swiss and straight out of a postcard, and it is not unusual to see a herd of cows wandering down the main street. Shops shut for an hour during lunch, everyone knows everyone, and you can walk from one side to the other in about 20 minutes. There are a few souvenir stores, some cafes, and thousands of international visitors.

There are some local characters that you are sure to bump into. Hugo owns and runs the local (heated) water park – an amazing place to swim or water-slide whilst looking up at the glaciers above you. Hari the Milkman has the best tasting cheese going around, and one of the town doctors looks just like Doc Brown from Back to the Future.

The village gets its name from the River Kander that runs through past the KISC campsite and through the village. The population grew dramatically during the construction of the Lotschberg tunnel between 1906 and 1913. Ten years later, the Kandersteg International Scout Centre opened – and it the rest is history. 93 years later, we are going to visit!



All Things Admin!

Payments

We are at the pointy end of payments, and most of the Contingent is up to date and paid up. For the stragglers, all payments are now overdue.

For contingent travellers, you should have paid \$4,200.

For independent travellers, you should have paid \$1,850.

Any additional shirt purchases will be added on top.

Please log onto the system and check if your payments are completed. If you have outstanding payments, these are overdue and any further delay may jeopardise your place in the Contingent. Please don't make us chase you – the Contingent has bills to pay and deadlines to meet.

If finalising your payments is causing you financial stress, please contact admin@kisc2016.com and we will do our best to accommodate.

Travel

Contingent Travellers:

Contingent Travellers will be flying on Singapore Airlines from their nominated capital city to Singapore's Changi Airport. We will then all join the same Singapore Airlines flight from Changi to Zurich.

Changi Airport is has just been voted the 'World's Best Airport' for the fourth year in a row. It is an incredible place, and almost a holiday destination in its own right! You will not be leaving the Airport during our transit (even transfers between terminals is all on driverless internal rail). There is no need for any special health injections. If you are there for more than 5 hours, you will be provided with some spending money for food and activities if you wish. There will be more detailed and state-specific information at Orientation Days and personalised travel itineraries.

Travelling to Switzerland will be tiring for everyone – particularly when you are nervous, excited and perhaps travelling for the first time. The Contingent Team has been careful to provide sufficient rest and recovery time once we arrive at KISC to acclimatise and conquer the jet-lag. There are some tips and tricks for managing the effects of a long-haul flight, and we will share some of ours closer to our departure. It's a great time to bond with your new best friend in the seat next to you, and catch up on all the movies you haven't seen recently!

You will be broken into smaller travel groups of Youth with a Leader for the journey, to help look after one another – particularly in transfers. Listening to instructions and staying together when asked will be crucial to making sure we all arrive smoothly and safely.



Singapore Airlines caters for a range of dietary requirements. The details submitted to the **Online Registration System is the information we will be using, so you must make sure this up to date.** We will work directly with the airline to ensure you have your special meal provided. For more information, visit http://www.singaporeair.com/en_UK/flying-with-us/specialmeals/.

All Contingent Travellers are asked to wear Australian Scout Uniform to the airport (Shirt and Scarf, with neat shorts or pants). This will help identify us as we move through Security and Passport Control and make it easy to stay together. Once on the plane, you may change into your Contingent Shirt for comfort (light-weight, breathable and perfect to fly in). We will then wear Scout Uniform for our transit through Changi, before changing back into Contingent Shirts for the second flight if you wish.

Independent Travellers:

If you are travelling independently, now is the time to be working through and finalising your own travel arrangements. There are a few important details to remember as you do this.

First, remember that you must meet us at Zurich Airport at 8:00am on Sunday 26th of June.

Heather and Andre from the CMT will be there from 7:30am to meet you and register you. From this moment on, you are part of the Contingent – meaning your train fare to KISC is included in the price you have paid to us. This status will continue until 12pm Saturday July 9th – the end of our time together. Your fee includes a train fare to any city (and airport) within Switzerland or any border point – but you must leave KISC by midday and will no longer be attached to the Contingent in any way.

Second, every Independent Traveller must provide the Contingent with details of your travel arrangements. While Scouts Australia will not accept any responsibility for you and your trip while you are Independent of the Contingent, we still need to understand where you are and be comfortable that you have made the necessary arrangements. The details below are things you should be organising for your trip regardless.

An online form will be released shortly for the key pieces of information we need to know:

- Flight details of your **departure and arrival to AUSTRALIA**
- Travel details of your **arrival into Zurich**, and where you are coming from (so we know where to look if you are late, and how to help you!)
- Details of your **travel insurance** provider and policy number – you must have your own travel insurance for any travel outside of the contingent trip.
- Your Australian Government **SmartTraveller** registration receipt number – it is emailed to you when you lodge your travels on www.smarttraveller.gov.au. It is important to record your travel with the Australian Government as the embassies will be better able to support you if you require assistance overseas. We will register the Contingent with SmartTraveller, but you must log your own time.

Please do not send these details through until we instruct you to do so.



Independent Travellers should remember that the 90-day tourist visa given to Australian Passport holders in Switzerland applies to the Schengen Area as a whole. Any travel that exceeds this automatic 90-day visa requires an additional visa for those subsequent countries directly. See http://smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/TravelBulletins/Europe_Schengen for more details, and please inform the CMT of any issues as a matter of priority.

Passports Update

You should now have your valid Australian passport. If not, or if yours expires before December 10th 2016, **you must organise one immediately – like, NOW**. This process takes time, and flights must be finalised shortly. You can pickup a passport application form at any Australia Post outlet or find more information online at www.passports.gov.au. If you are travelling on a foreign passport, please notify us immediately.

All Contingent Members must continue to update any changes to your Passport details (or other personal details) on your online application. This can be accessed at www.registrations.international.scouts.com.au – the same portal used for your payment instalments. Passports can take some time to arrange, so we would recommend you follow this up immediately. Once you have your passport details, please ensure they are updated on your online application. If you are having problems updating it online, please email the details to admin@kisc2016.com.



Activities, Activities

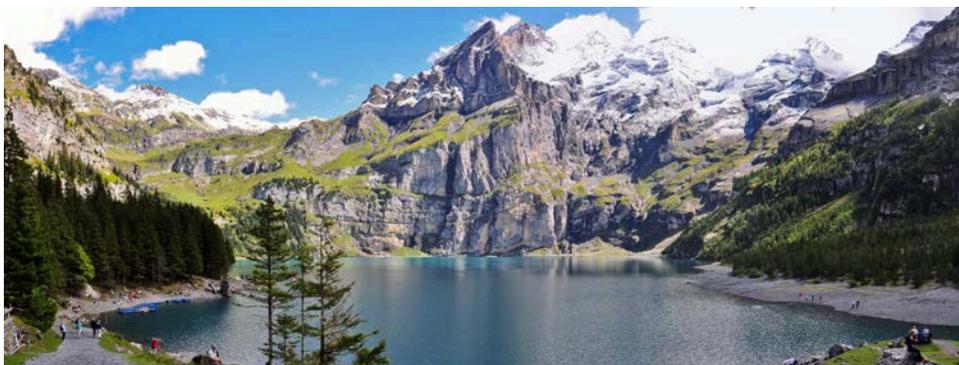
The activities team is working hard to allocate each person their Preference Activities. When this is complete, you will be able to see what you have been allocated when you login to the registration system. The team has tried hard to get each person at least one of their preferences first, but our ability to do so depended on availability from KISC and what we were provided. Where alterations were necessary, we have substituted a similar activity that we know you will enjoy.

Planning for the Core Activities continues. These activities will be completed with your patrol. These are now confirmed as:

- **Classic Kandersteg:** take the gondola from Kandersteg up to Lake Oeschinensee – a stunning lake filled with glacial melt-water. Swim if you're brave enough (or hire a boat if you prefer), and spend time speeding down the rodelbahn – a metal toboggan. Hike down when you're finished and enjoy the great views along the way.
- **Aare River and Bern:** take the train to Thun, get in an inflatable donut and cruise to the capital city of Bern. The water is crystal clear and the views along the river are spectacular. An afternoon exploring the capital – including a wide game – will finish this day off in style.
- **High Ropes and Thun:** take a bus to Interlaken – the tourist capital of Switzerland nestled at the bottom of Jungfrauoc - where you'll fly through the trees at one of the best high ropes parks you will ever see. 9 courses with ziplines and challenges to test and thrill. Spend the afternoon relaxing in the historic city of Thun.
- **Service Project:** a day to give a little something back to the World Scout Centre. Be part of the Australian Contingent legacy that will remain for when you return in future.

The activities team is also working on a list of suggested activities for your two Free Days. More information will be released as the countdown continues – but we expect they will include additional hikes and water activities as well as cultural activities such as a train journey to the Italian lakes. As the priority for free days is to rest and recover between the core program, you won't be able to schedule these days until you arrive in Kandersteg. Some of these activities may incur an additional cost – we'll give you more details before we leave, but you will only be able to book once we are over there.

Gear – check the equipment list on the website. Without all of the compulsory items, you won't be able to go on activities – the KISC guides won't take you! We'll have some gear samples at each of the orientation days for you to look at. Please ask us any questions if you have them – just drop us an email program@kisc2016.com



Welfare and Medical

The Contingent Management Team is proud to introduce your Welfare and Medical Team. They will work with the Leaders in your Troops to make everyone is healthy, happy and safe for our time at KISC2016.

The new faces are:

Rod Byrnes: “Once a Cub Leader in NSW before moving to Victoria, I am currently the State Commissioner for Venturers. I’ve been to major events across all the sections, and have held Welfare roles for Ventures in Australia and New Zealand. I have broad shoulders, a listening ear and an open door. I can’t wait to meet you all and share this unique Scouting experience with you.”

Wendy Byrnes: “The other half of your Welfare Team, I am currently a Cub Leader and had a development role in my district as well. I’ve been to Cuborees, Australian Jamborees, and looked after Venturer and Adult Welfare at Kangarees as well. I’m great at problem solving, so come see me with any issue and we will work through it. KISC2016 will be an amazing journey, and I look forward to enjoying it with you.”

Matt Ferris: “Hi everyone, I am your Contingent Medical Officer. I am a trained paramedic and have run first aid stations on major events in Australian and New Zealand. In my spare time I also enjoy teaching group fitness classes – perfect prep for KISC! I am from Flash Rover Crew in SA, have seen a few different national and international events, and am pumped to see what European Scouting is all about.”

You will hear more from our Welfare and Medical Team in the next month.

Dietary Requirements:

KISC2016 will be fully catered, meaning no cooking in troop lines and no need for a mess kit either. Kandersteg International Scout Centre has a commercial kitchen, staffed by Scouting volunteers, that caters for many hundreds of guests each day during the peak of summer. They are used to catering for guests and diets from all over the world.

Our Deputy Contingent Leader is a coeliac and the CMT understands the importance of dietary requirements. Meals at the huts and on the planes will also be taken care of. We have had a few enquiries about this, and you can rest assured that this will be carefully managed. See below for the next step.

Medical Conditions:

It is crucially important that the Contingent Team is aware of any conditions you may have that require assistance, management or treatment. This will ensure that the Leadership Team is in the best position to make sure you get the most enjoyment out of your Swiss adventure.

The Welfare and Medical have plenty of experience and will be able to accommodate



almost any need – but we need to know about it first. This will help us provide the best support. All information provided will be treated confidentially, professionally and discreetly. Even conditions that seem minor and manageable should be disclosed to us, so we are in the know from the start.

The Contingent Team will be screening the medical information you have provided to us online – so please make sure it is up to date.

- **For more serious conditions, you will need to submit a letter of explanation from your doctor, as well as a care plan.**
- **Anyone requiring a modified diet for medical or allergy reasons will need to submit a medical certificate from your doctor, accompanied by a short care plan.**

These should then be scanned and sent through to welfare@kisc2016.com.

Medication:

All participants under 18 years of age must provide the Welfare Team with any personal medication on their arrival at KISC. The Welfare Team will then help to administer these as needed to make sure that the excitement of the adventure does not prevent good health.

Rovers and Leaders may keep their medication, but please make sure the Welfare Team is aware of it as necessary. If your medication can be affected by temperature, consider leaving this with the Welfare Team so it is out of your tent during the day.

Medical Treatment:

Unfortunately on these trips and activities, injuries are sometimes inevitable. The Contingent Management Team will make every effort to minimise risk and keep everyone safe. All KISC staff are first-aid trained, and our Contingent Medical Officer Matt Ferris will work with the Pinkies and the CMT to ensure the right care is given. KISC has an onsite treatment room and the village of Kandersteg has two doctors that know the Centre and its processes well. There is also a major hospital in Frutigen – about 30 mins drive by ambulance.

The Contingent will be using these different resources and support as needed to make sure the best care is given to our Contingent Members.

Troop Life

KISC2016 will be the first trip to feature Scouts, Venturers and Rovers as youth members. It's an opportunity to meet Scouts of all ages from across the country.

You will be split up into Troops (and Patrols within these Troops) to look after camping and welfare. Activity groups will be mixed based on preferences, with the opportunity to meet new people every day. Meals will be together in a rolling dining room – with all the other KISC guests.



Troop Leaders:

The Contingent Management Team will be supported by five Troop Leaders, who will lead and coordinate the patrols in their Troop. You will meet your patrols members and leaders soon, and your Troop Leaders will be revealed to you next week!

Structure:

Each of our five Troops will be split into four patrols. These patrols will be a mix of ages and have a leader attached to each one. This is mainly for welfare and organisation purposes – to make sure everyone is happy and travelling ok, and to make sure everyone knows the “where and when” for the coming days. There will be a daily meeting amongst your patrol to check in and swap stories, but outside of that you are free to spend free time together, as well as mix and mingle with all the other guests on the campsite.

Camping:

Each Troop will have their own area. Tent sharing will be between the same age group and same gender, with age groups separated. Leaders will also be camping in Troop lines.

The campsite is grassy, shady and sits at the base of sheer mountain rockface. There is something special about poking your head out of a tent in the morning, looking up at the mountains around you, and then wandering over to say G'day to the Scottish, Spanish or Swedish neighbours next door. There is also a number of covered common areas and sports fields. Hot showers and toilets are onsite in permanent blocks spread around the campsite.



Odds and Ends

Orientation Days

Orientation Days begin in NSW and Victoria this weekend, and then move to QLD, SA, WA and the ACT in early May. Tasmania and the Northern Territory will receive a specific update soon.

We will also be hosting a number of short briefing sessions for each age section during our first two days of rest and acclimatisation once we arrive into KISC. This will refresh the key responsibilities and expectations to make sure we are all ready to roll.

Travel Bags

A quick confirmation on the bag policy for KISC. You will need to provide your own. You have two options:

- 1) Event bag from another scouting event (or small suitcase, if you must).
- 2) A full-size hike pack.

You are welcome to bring one of these, but please be aware that the train station is about 2km from the Centre in Kandersteg and you will have to carry/wheel your bag to the campsite. Event bags may pack easier and be better to 'live out of', but just make sure you can move yours as we travel to and from the Centre.

Everyone will then need a decent, supportive day-pack. 30L should be enough to carry your food, water and clothes whilst hiking. You will not need to carry a tent, sleeping bag, or mat.

Finally, remember the weight limit of 20kg each. Those bringing a tent will be allowed more to account for this weight, while those not bringing a tent will have the spare kilos bundled to use for Contingent Equipment.

Tents

As discussed in Newsletter Two, we require approx. 100 good quality hike tents to house the Contingent. All the Youth participants will be sharing, while Leaders may bring their own.

If you would like to guarantee yourself a good, dry night sleep in a decent quality tent for the ten days on site, we suggest volunteering to bring your own tent. We understand that some Independent Travellers are staying for longer trips in Europe, so we are calling on Contingent Travellers to provide tents where possible.

If you can bring one, or borrow one from your Troop, please fill in this [FORM](#) with the details. The next step will be allocating people to bring tents, get in early and get a good night's sleep by bringing yours.

Spending Money

All meals, travel and all included activities are covered by your Contingent Fees. Extra spending money will depend on how many snacks you plan to buy in the village, how many Swiss toberlones you want to try and bring home, and what you want to do on



your free days. The costings of these optional extras (plenty of which are free) will be released in coming weeks.

The KISC café takes EFTPOS travel money cards, as do all the food and souvenir shops in town. There is also an ATM in town that draws out Swiss Francs in cash (CHF). Just make sure your card is able to 'roam', and beware of charges.

Communication and Sim Cards

No news is good news – especially on this trip. We are a long way away and in an opposite time-zone, so there won't be much need or time to browse the net. The Contingent will be providing updates, photos and videos of our time on the road.

KISC does sell wifi by the hour, but it is patchy and sometimes unreliable. Contingent Members may wish to purchase a local sim card – reception is very good even in the mountains, but it is not cheap – especially for only 12 days on the ground.

The Contingent Team will make sure that Members can connect with home if they need to, and will help manage any issues requiring contact. Otherwise, the rule is simple. No news is good news. Just be ready for a tonne of stories once we return.

Withdrawal Fee Structure

As per the Withdrawal and Refund Policy, anyone withdrawing from the Contingent must notify the Contingent Leader in writing as soon as possible.

As we have passed March 20th 2016, the Policy states that no withdrawal refund is possible. This is due to the amount of pre-paid costs that the Contingent has now committed to. Alternative arrangements may be made in extenuating circumstances.



