



Scouts are in the doghouse

Jamboree builds up trade skills

By MATTHEW JONES

YOU'D have to be barking mad not to be impressed by the trade skills demonstrated by scouts at the 22nd Australian Jamboree yesterday.

As visitors at Appin's Cataract Park sweltered in heat-wave conditions, scouts of all ages rushed to put the finishing touches on 40 dog kennels donated to the RSPCA yesterday morning.

The result of more than eight days' work by hundreds of scouts, the kennels will be sent around the state to provide top-notch accommodation for very lucky puppies.

The chance to build a doggy-sized home was just one of the activities on offer at the jamboree's Skills Village, created as part of WorldSkills Australia's Try'aTrade program and sponsored by Illawarra and national businesses.

Camp chief Grant De Fries said Skills Village was a great example of the practical aspects of the jamboree.



"When we put together an Australian jamboree, we look to be productive," he said.

"Skills Village gives the scouts a chance to see that what they're doing is having a tangible change to the lives of some of our pets."

WorldSkills Australia operations manager Lincoln Costello said the village was an Australian Jamboree first.

"This is the first time a jamboree has had anything in terms of trades and skills. It's been very well received."

Taking advantage of the shade provided by tents dotted around the village, dozens of

scouts took the chance to get their hands dirty and try out trades including bricklaying, cooking and electrical installation.

From every tent, scouts emerged dusty and dirty but still smiling.

The only exception seemed to be the theatre make-up group, which looked as though they'd come off second best in a bit of rough and tumble.

Today will mark the second last day of the 11-day jamboree, which will conclude with a ceremony to be attended by thousands of scouts and a number of yet-to-be-announced special guests tomorrow night.

Jamboree organisers have promised the night will provide a show not to be missed, although many aspects of the ceremony remain strictly under wraps.

ONLINE

Check out more pictures from the 22nd Australian Jamboree at illawarramercury.com.au



Pooch palace: RSPCA animal attendants Carly Russell and Sian Archer and furry friends Snow and Taz inspect the handiwork of scouts Melinda Gray, 13, Thomas Liddlow, 12, and Jayme Wall, 12. Pictures: SYLVIA LIBER



Practical foundations: Troop 109 scouts Connor Giles, 12, Naomi Halls, 14, and Laura Gray, 13, lay a brick or two at Appin's Cataract Park.



TROOP SNAPSHOTS



Troop 223 - South Australia
Home areas: College Park, Glen Osmond, One Tree Hill.
Troop motto: "Get muddy." "If it's edible, eat it."
Jamboree highlights: The food, the variety of activities and the trip to Jamberoo Action Park.

Troop 427 - Western Australia
Home areas: Pinjarra.
Troop motto: "We blast the sky."
Jamboree highlights: The BMX bike activity, making new friends, the trip to Jamberoo Action Park and the mud.





Troop 226 - Victoria
Home areas: Belgrave South, Castlemaine, Monbulk, Sherbrooke Forest, Tally Ho, Viewbank.
Troop motto: "I found a doughnut."
Jamboree highlights: The trip to Jamberoo Action Park, the leaders falling off chairs and the endurance activity.