

Behind the scenes a mammoth task

While scouts around Woodhouse go around enjoying the Jamboree there are hundreds of people working behind the scenes to make this jamboree possible.

One of the services making the jamboree possible is Information technology and telecommunications (IT&T). For the last three years they have planned their massive computer and telephone network for the benefit of scouts and leaders.

This jamboree consists of 390 computers, 261 telephones and 30 faxes all networked together over the site. To do this it has taken a lot of time and effort, not to mention thousands of network cable – 45,000 metres to be precise.

Bill Hall and Michael Jenkin are monitoring the network and have been setting up for over seven months.

“We have been coming in on weekends and after work for the past seven months to set up the site and have been sleeping here for the past month and a half”, Michael told the JAM.

IT&T staff working at the Jamboree aren't involved in scouting but all of them are giving up their thousands of hours voluntarily.

“We aren't involved in Scouting but I volunteered to help after a Scout asked me while I was helping their Scout group with JOTA,” Michael said.

The computer network is being used by hundreds of leaders for things such as sharing documents between bases, bus timetables and internet usage.

Although most scouts won't notice this huge network, they are using it through the Internet Café, EFTPOS at the stores and Telstra phone booths around Woodhouse.

“We are also connected to Cybertrek and X-Site,” Michael said.

The services wouldn't be possible without many donations. Dell and Hewlett Packard have donated the servers that run the network, which add up to \$750,000 worth of equipment and Cisco donated machines to help deliver fast broadband access to all computers at Woodhouse.

“It's a very large test for leading edge technology,” he said.

Other uses for the network include the skirmish laser game used at the Earth Force base and to print the name tags for the lanyards worn by workers, Venturers and Leaders.

So what do people using the system think of the setup?

“It exceeds my expectations by 100 per cent. The network, Internet and e-mail facilities are fantastic,” Tony Wood, of Jamboree Central, said.

The system is also making history, being the largest ever information technology rollout at a Jamboree.

- **Ben Rossleigh**
Sub Camp 12 Venturers

