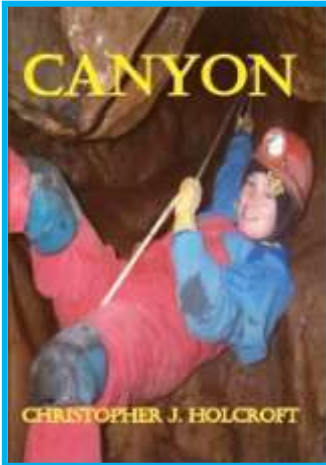


CANYON

Book Background

CHALLENGING YOUTH TO TRAIN TO HELP OTHERS



Former Australian Prime Minister John Howard designated 2008 as Australia's Year of the Scout in recognition of the country celebrating 100 years since Scouting began here.

CANYON helps build on the celebrations by taking young readers on a journey of discovery, fulfilment and daring do. The book's main character Scott Morrow, helps set up a national emergency rescue scheme for the older age group in Scouting, the Rover section. His Venturer Unit plan to go on a canyoning trip and so enlist the aid of Army Commandos to refine their abseiling skills. However, during the canyoning trip tragedy befalls the Unit leaving it to face a life and death situation no one foresaw.

Scott Morrow was modelled on a Venturer who was the unlikely one voted to be his Unit's Chairman after a group of the older Venturers left because they had reached the age of 18. The Venturer was always around to help other people when they needed him and took his Unit to new heights in adventure because he was keen not to fail anyone. **CANYON** encapsulates the spirit of this wonderful young man and those within Venturing, who give their time tirelessly to help the community with the skills gained from Scouting. **Author Christopher J. Holcroft** was a Leader of Venturers, Scouts aged 14 to 18, for more than 34 years and draws from his experiences with youth to write this must read for teenagers who think they are indomitable and made of steel. Christopher melds a number of themes in this book to prompt teenagers and young adults they too face very real risks with their adventures and to plan and train for the disaster they never want to happen.

Do you believe young adults can do more to assist others in need? Ever been hoarse and can hardly speak because of trauma and tried to ring Australia's '000' or '112' emergency telephone number on your mobile phone? Have you tried to text authorities from your mobile phone for help because you can't speak or there is bad weather? These are major real issues Christopher explores in this compelling read.

CANYON is a tribute to the real Scott Morrow and all the other Venturers who seek to better themselves and then place their training at the disposal of the community they serve.