

400 STATE SCOUTS IN WORLD RADIO LINK-UP

A RECORD number of amateur radio stations took part in the fourth scout world jamboree of the air at the weekend.

Among them were 400 Tasmanian scouts — the largest contingent ever to participate—operating from 10 stations.

In addition there were 112 stations operating in Victoria, and about 200 in New South Wales, as well as many others in the remaining Australian States.

Because of atmospheric conditions, however, Tasmanian scouts had been unable to make as many world contacts as previously, but, by means of two-way radio stations, they talked to Mexico, the Solomon Islands, Fiji,

Hawaii, New Zealand, and all the Australian States.

The public relations officer for the Tasmanian Boy Scouts' Association (Mr. R. E. Jeffrey) said last night that they had also been able to hear a number of stations in other countries, including some in South America and Japan, but had been unable to reach them.

No one in Tasmania, however, had been able to "work" Canada — the base for the whole operation was at Ottawa—but it was known that stations in Victoria had been able to converse with Canada as well as some stations in Ireland.

One of the luckiest and happiest groups in Tasmania was the small 13th Hobart Group.

Their headquarters at Strickland Ave., South Hobart, was visited by three outstanding scouting personalities on Saturday morning — the Governor (Lord Rowallan), Chief Scout for Tasmania and former World Chief Scout, the Chief Commissioner for Australia (Major M. G. Butcher), and the Chief Commissioner for Tasmania (Mr. G. Hall).

Lord Rowallan sent his greetings to other scout groups in Tasmania from the headquarters of the Hobart group — the only scout group in the State with its own transmitting station, and believed to be only the second in Australia.

He also made a tape recorded speech which was relayed by the station, operated by New Norfolk amateur radio enthusiast Michael Jenner, to other stations.

Scouts in George Town spoke to 14 girl guides at Bright (V.) 300 miles away.

They also talked with brother scouts at Stanley,

Ulverstone, Benalla (V.), Dunkeld (V.), Canberra, Bendigo, Heidelberg, Geraldton (W.A.), Meredin (W.A.) and Fiji, and Shepparton, Sunshine and Sydney, in some cases initiating pen friendships.

Mr. George Cranby, the George Town operator (station VK GC), worked patiently during Saturday and much of yesterday inviting scouts from George Town, Rocherlea, Invermay and Newnham scout troops into his private radio shack in relays.

Others camped in a tent on his front lawn listening in on an ordinary domestic receiver.

Two American scouts, recently transferred to George Town, brothers Rick and Greig Cummings, of the 87th New Orleans troop, joined in the jamboree, speaking to Mainland scouts, but could not contact an uncle in America.

George Town scouts plan to build their own short wave radio station, and have been granted a block of land as the site.