



1st Upwey Quarterly News

Autumn, 2015



UPWEY SCOUT GROUP NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the Newsletter

by Michael Walker

Welcome to this first edition of the new and improved 1st Upwey newsletter.

First things first. This newsletter needs a name. So let's get to it! Email your suggestions to venturer.leader@upweyscouts.asn.au and we'll go from there.

If you have any stories or photos you'd like included please email me at venturer.leader@upweyscouts.asn.au and I'll see what I can do.

What can you expect from this newsletter and when?

What:

- Stories from each section and an update from the Group Committee
- Photos!
- Some info on the upcoming programs

When:

- Quarterly. It is anticipated that the newsletter will (hopefully) be published during each term break

Cub Scouts: Bike Hike on the Warburton Rail Trail

Scouts: Canoeing on the Yarra

Venturers: Anything Goes

Committee: Annual Reports and Awards Night

Plus for each section we set out a little of what to expect for next term and beyond.



Bike Hike Success

by Eric Staff

The annual Warburton Trail Bike Hike took place on Saturday February 28 and was well attended by Cub Scouts from around the district as well as our own Upwey contingent.

We were joined by Cubs, siblings, parents and leaders from Belgrave South, Cockatoo, Emerald, Ferny Creek, Kallista and Selby in a group about 60 strong.

Starting off at Mount Evelyn the group cycled the 22kms along the trail, pausing at Woori Yallock and Launching Place for snack and lunch breaks respectively.

The group ended up at Yarra Junction and after parking the bikes at the local Scout Hall, proceeded to the Aquatic Centre for a refreshing swim. Upwey and Selby Cubs continued on with

some outside games and a Pizza dinner followed by a Clean Up Australia stroll around the surrounding area.

After a stop at the playground until dark, we headed back to the Yarra Junction Scout Hall for a sleepover, preceded by skits, jokes and stories before bed. The storm that night largely passed us by and we had breakfast, packed up and had time for more inside games before going home.

New friends were made with the Selby Cubs and we look forward to catching up with them

and others at the Survivor style camp early in term 2.

Term 2 for Cub Scouts

Term 2 has following treats in store for your Cub Scout:

- 17-19 April: "I'm a Cub, get me out of here" camp at Clifford Park
- Trees Adventure in Belgrave
- Cork Yacht Racing
- Gang Show
- And much, much more!



The Bike Hike crew!

Canoeing on the Yarra

by Vicki Morris & Michael Walker

The weekend of 14-15 March saw 8 Scouts, 1 parent helper and 1 leader join forces with 8 Venturers and 2 Venturer leaders at Clifford Park Scout Activity Centre for a weekend of learning how to canoe.

The course was conducted by fantastic District Water Activities leaders: Keith Atkin and Mark Goodchild (Davy Crockett-style skunk hat included!)

Saturday morning started with bacon and eggs before a basic skills lesson in the shallows not far from our camp site. We got to know the canoes and the activity leaders got to know us. Some of the crews got to know each other as they weren't necessarily teamed up with their friends.

Once we had shown the activity leaders that we weren't going to hurt ourselves on the water, we took to the river and some minor rapids.

The first capsizing was a pairing of a

Venturer and Venturer leader. That was quite funny!

After paddling back to the landing at Clifford Park we loaded the canoes back onto the trailers before heading to Challenge Valley to get dirty. Just in time to have a shower before dinner.

Sunday morning saw a pancake breakfast followed by more time on the river. This time we headed further up river

before putting the canoes in the water.

We successfully navigated a few small rapids before learning yet more techniques for handling some sticky situations. From here



it was on to tackle Bob's Rock before pulling the canoes up to the bank and enjoying our lunch while taking some time to swim, paddle or explore the river banks.

After lunch we continued our trip down the river where more than a few of us were capsized and required rescuing to varying degrees. It was a great introduction to

canoeing for these intrepid adventurers.

We continued down the Yarra and disembarked at the same launching we had yesterday. Once the canoes were emptied (of gear and water) they were loaded back onto the trailer for the final time this weekend.

It was back to camp and packing down before the brief trip home with more scouting memories made.

All Scouts, Venturers and Leaders that successfully took part in both days of the course achieved their Level 1 Canoe Charge qualification which will be awarded by the activity leaders during Term 2. Well done everybody.

More Term 1 Highlights

- Ice blocking at Silvan Dam Reserve
- Upwey Billy cart races



Getting ready on Day 2

- Pioneer Journey from Ferny Creek to Olinda

- Gang Show at the Besen Centre
- And much. Much more as we gear up for AJ2016!

Term 2 for Scouts

Term 2 has following treats in store for your Scout:

- The Statewide Scout Hike at Tallarook State Forest
- Joint night with the Venturers (to teach them how to tie knots!)

And while on the topic of AJ2016, remember that there will be plenty of fundraising opportunities to help with the cost of sending your Scout to Jamboree. It will be massive!



Anything Goes (yes it does!)

by Michael Walker

One of the highlights on the Venturer calendar is the statewide activity camp every February at Lardner Park, Warragul. That camp is known as Anything Goes (or AG for those in the know).

One of the highlights of the camp each year is the dance party on Saturday night. This year the dance party had a twist – paint!

All Venturers that wanted to attend the dance party donned a pair of white disposable overalls and safety goggles.

During the music and light show, fluorescent paint was squirted into the dance arena to the delight of the many hundreds of Venturers. The idea was taken from



Paint Party wash down!

the last NZ Venture and has been in planning for AG for the past couple of years. By all accounts it was a big hit!

During the day, Venturers can participate in both on and off site activities such as horse riding, mountain bike riding, laser tag, helicopter joy flights, try SCUBA, ride a Segway and much more. It's no

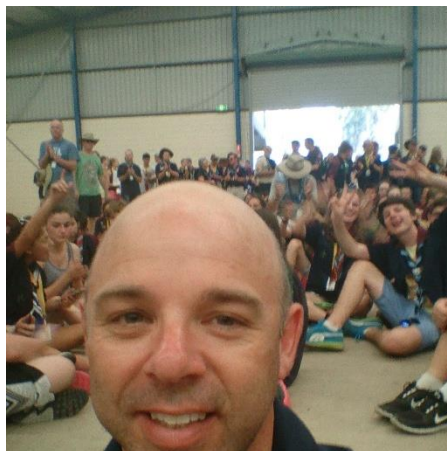
wonder this camp is so popular.

AG is a great way to start the year, meet old friends and make new ones as well as have a go at loads of great activities.

Term 2 for Venturers

Term 2 has following treats in store for your Venturer:

- Canoeing on Big River in May
- Annual Big Burger Challenge in May



Closing parade

- Helping out at Scout Hike (in May also)
- And much more

(Don't forget Snow Venture in June school holidays!)

Group Committee

The group committee works tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure each section has trained leaders, the group has serviceable equipment and that your fees are being put to good use.

The culmination of the committee year is the Annual Reports and Awards Night. This year it will be held at the hall on Wednesday 20th May from 7pm. All youth members and their families are invited. You'll hear about what each section has been up to, see awards presented to various youth members and hear about the



The Leader's Billy Cart race podium!

coming year. Totes excitement!

I look forward to seeing you there.

Stop press: The new heater, along with a new protective cage has been installed at a cost of \$3000. There goes the Christmas Tree profit and some!! Next on the agenda is the re stumping of the left hand side of the hall. (The other half was re stumped several years ago.) If anyone has a contact for re-stumping please contact Ken Stanford (Group Leader) on 0438 147 608.

The End

So, that's it for issue 1 of this newsletter. Don't forget, if you have a story or some photos you'd like to share, get in contact with Michael Walker using the details on the front page.

The newsletter will be made available both in hard copy (limited numbers) and online to make sure that as many people as possible can get to it.

I'll be back with another edition at next term break.