



Chicken Scratchings

Spring, 2015



UPWEY SCOUT GROUP NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to Spring, and ain't it grand!

by Michael Walker

Welcome to this third edition of the 1st Upwey Scout Group newsletter.

At the end of 3rd term it means there's now less than 100 days until Christmas, and by the time you read this there will be less than 100 days to go until AJ2016 – Jamboree!

Third term has been chock-a-block (just like Terms 1 & 2 before). It's great to see the hall buzzing with activity and the Q store equipment being used on high rotation.

As we go to print there are Scouts on a District 4-night camp at Gilwell Park,

Venturers camping at Mogg's Creek with Venturer friends they made at Snow Venture during the winter and some of our leaders have recently returned from spending the weekend running an activity at Labertouche for the annual Armstrong 500 Venturer hiking competition. Go go go!

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

Inside this issue:

Cub Scouts: Father's Day, Cooking, Rock climbing, ET at the Cameo, Laser Tag & more

Scouts: Fantastic Race, Rail trail hike, Jamboree troops announced, Supercamp & more

Venturers: Canoeing on the Macalister, District Big Burger Challenge, Rifle shooting, Foresters Film Festival & more

Committee: Monster raffle results & more

Next term and beyond: End of year BBQ, AJ2016, NZV2016 & more

CUB SCOUT NEWS

by Eric Staff

ET phone home!

Cub Scouts like to do BIG things. This term was no different with the Cubs of Sherbrooke Forest joining forces for a one night only event at Cameo Cinemas in Belgrave. Over 200 Cub Scouts, friends and families had a night out to watch the 80's classic ET.

Cooking night

This term's theme has been food related, introducing the Cubs to food handling, cutting techniques, safety in the kitchen as well as creating our own dishes. We also had a multicultural food night that involved dressing up and bringing along some food from another country.



Rock climbing

Hard Rock indoor climbing centre at Nunawading is a favourite among our scout group as an activity evening. This term the Cub Scouts visited, along with several of their friends and siblings.



Father's Day

The cubs had a special night with their Dads to celebrate Fathers day. A round of the ever popular minute to win it style games got everyone active and having fun. The Dads then had a cuppa and a snack while watching the making movies

creations done earlier in the term.



Laser Tag

As Hard Rock is to rock climbing, Dark Zone at Box Hill is to laser tag.

This term saw the Cub Scouts take their Wednesday night meeting to Box Hill for an evening of arcade games and laser tag.

Term 4

Term 4 promises to be just as action packed with the theme centred around Mudbash – Aliens. We will be doing some terraforming, super science, making martian food, moon biking, night hike and canoeing. As well as Mudbash the term would not be complete without our annual dress up for Fright Night!

SCOUT NEWS

by Vicki Morris

Troop Happenings

A lot of has gone on this term with visits to a Mosque and Knox Police station giving the Scouts an opportunity to ask plenty of questions.

On Radio night patrols constructed an antenna, used Morse code to play battleship and the phonetic alphabet to communicate (I know why you were laughing! We can spell using these techniques!)

Fantastic Race

Fantastic Race, or more like Fantastic feast, was on again. Three of our patrols raced ate their



way around to solve the

clues and completing the challenge activities.



The Turtle huggers patrol came 2nd in rowing challenge followed by XXXX in 3rd place (If you don't like the Activity Patrol names, suggest you put in your requests quickly to your Scout Leader, as I have no idea where he gets these names from)

Rail Trail Hike

Six 1st Upwey Scouts hiked 21km along the rail trail from Cheviot (just outside of Yea) to Cathkin.



Lunch and games were held in the old Cheviot 200m train tunnel,

followed by camping overnight in the town of Molesworth. The Scouts completed the final 5km the next day.



For some this was not only the first hike but also a first night camp out. Well done Scouts!



Jamboree preparations

The end of term saw Jamboree preparations fire up, with troop allocations completed and provided to participants. Scouts from 1st Upwey will be combined with

Wirringga (Oakleigh/Clayton) and Box Hill North Troops.

Jamboree Troop Leader Tim challenged the Wirringga and Box Hill North Troops to our end of Term Splatball event, with Wirringga answering the call.

It was a great night of Splatball and the Scouts from all troops got to meet each other and see who else they will be spending time with at Jamboree.

SuperCamp

A 4 night patrol camp was held at Gilwell Park over the first 4 nights of the spring school holidays.

This camp was a chance for Jamboree-bound Scouts to add to their 'nights under canvas' tally as well giving another opportunity to the rest of the troop to get outdoors.

We joined 1st Emerald, 1st Selby/Kallista, 1st Ferny Creek and 1st

Monbulk Scouts for this camp.

Saturday saw activities including boomerang throwing, archery and a night hike as well as the opportunity to chop as much firewood as they liked!



Sunday was a surprise opportunity to make use of the abseiling wall and high ropes course upon completion of the Adult Recognition awards ceremony at Gilwell Park. Sunday dinner was a sumptuous spit roast dinner which the Scouts all dressed up for. This was followed by a movie night.

Monday was a day hike to Egg Rock in Kurth Kiln National Park.

Tuesday saw us bid farewell to our camp buddies and head home for a shower, a sleep in our beds and some rest.



Term 4 for Scouts

Term 4 has following treats in store for your Scout:

- JOTA/JOTI
- Environment Patrol Activity Camp
- Sailing Day
- Jamboree Troop Camp
- And much more!

VENTURER NEWS

by Michael Walker

Canoeing on the Macalister

Our canoeing activities for the year culminated in a trip to the Macalister River in late August.

The snow melt hadn't yet started in earnest, and while the water was cold it wasn't as icy as it could have been.

We drove to our Friday night camp site at Cheynes Bridge (just south of Licola) on the Friday night and met up with the rest of the party en route at Traralgon Macca's for dinner.

After setting up camp we quickly turned in for the night ahead of our weekend on the water.

Saturday morning saw us all piling our belongings into 100L drums that had first

been triple-lined with heavy duty garbage bags to ensure our gear stayed dry.

Following that we packed the gear onto the trailers and did the car shuffle to Licola where we put the canoes in the water and headed down river.

Bruce and I were the first ones to end up in the water before we'd barely paddled any distance. Despite the time of year the water was a lovely temperature, possibly aided by the wetsuits we were wearing.

The weather for the entire weekend was glorious and while the river was a bit lower than expected, leaving it a bit bony in places, we had a great weekend. It was a fitting end to our canoeing adventures for the year.

Some highlights include seeing Bailey floating down some rapids sans canoe; seeing everybody working together to move canoes over drier

sections; hearing Lucy screaming for (what seemed like) no reason at all; and spending a great weekend in the wilderness with a great group of people.

Rifle Shooting

The unit has talked about rifle shooting for a couple of years but it never got on the program. This term we changed all that.

The Sporting Shooters Association range at Springvale was a great venue with very helpful staff that took the group through all of the range safety requirements and rifle operation before letting them shoot their targets.

It was a great night and very well attended.

District Big Burger Challenge

The first of what we hope will become an annual District Venturer event was held this term.

In similar fashion to the Big Burger Challenge run each year by the Dandenong Venturers at Harkaway, we decided on a smaller scale event between our district units. Two units participated on a Thursday evening in the Emerald Scout Hall.



Foresters opted for a traditional style burger while Jets opted for what could only be described as a dessert burger. Who would have thought?



Foresters Film Festival

In the tradition of TropFest we thought a short film festival might be a good idea.

Well, it worked in that all the teams entered a short film and we had some interesting entries.

Let's see if the Venturers would like to program it again next year.

First Aid course

3 Foresters undertook the Provide First Aid training course in September. This is the same course undertaken

by adults in the workplace.

Congratulations to Bailey, Hannah M and Sonja on their efforts and initiative in becoming first aiders.



What else did we do?

- Citizenship night
- Combined night with Selby/Kallista Scouts
- Movie night and sleepover

Term 4 for Venturers

Term 4 has following treats in store for your Venturer:

- Progressive dinner
- Farewell to Maddy and George
- Bubble wrap rolling
- Not VG camp
- And much more

GROUP & COMMITTEE NEWS

by Eric Staff & Vicki Morris

Armstrong 500

The revitalised Venturer activity – Armstrong 500 was held in September and a group of Upwey leaders and committee got together to support the activity by running two stunts for the Venturers. With a Jumanji theme the two stunts were Van Pelts Shooting gallery (shooting animal targets with nerf guns) and Parrish's Parlour (A memory game to physically recreate a room setting with furniture and contents from a single viewing). The Venturers hiked over the trails and stopped by to do the stunts, which proved to be a lot of fun. They then moved on for the day and returned to their own campsites. The Upwey leaders took

to opportunity to camp out by themselves to enjoy some home cooked food from Ken Stanford while being kept warm by the campfire adequately stoked by Akela, and sleep out under the stars!



P.S.: A big thanks to this group for pitching to run the second edition of the 'new' Armstrong. With your help and the help of many others it really went up a notch this year.

Try Sailing Day!

The Discover Sailing Day is on the Sunday 22nd November 2015 at Mordialloc Sailing Club. Details here:

<http://www.mordiallocs.com.au/2026-2/>

If you're interested, you are encouraged to register online.

Life jackets are supplied, so you just need clothes, generally shorts and a warm top if cool, or a wetsuit, and a hat. Shoes (not thongs) are required in the boat, can be runners or beach shoes, they will get wet though. And of course sunscreen, there is usually some around the club.

The sailors in the club will take you out for a sail, rescue craft will also be on the water. Of course it will be weather permitting. Even if it is not suitable for sailing the club is still a great place to be while watching the surf roll in.

Or if parents are supervising, your kids can bring their boogie boards to catch some waves. We have some extremely skilled sailors that will go out in these conditions and it can be fun to watch.

This is a great opportunity to try something new for many people! Have a go.