



Chicken Scratchings

Winter, 2015



UPWEY SCOUT GROUP NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE

The newsletter has a name!

by Michael Walker

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

Since I didn't receive any entries in the 'Name the newsletter' competition I've made an executive decision and named it in honour of the bird on group badge – the Chook! I'm sure the artist behind our group badge would be honoured.

Remember I'm always looking for newsletter content. What can you expect from this newsletter and when? What content am I after?

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

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:

Heritage comes to life: One family's historic link to our group

Cub Scouts: Mother's Day; Lantern Festival; District Camp

Scouts: Troop happenings; Scout Hike; MasterChef

Venturers: Catching up with the Rovers; Scout Hike; Canoeing at Big River; Big Burger Challenge

Committee: How we've been spending your fees; Fundraising update; What's next for the hall?

Next term and beyond

Heritage comes to life

by Tim Allchin and the Hickingbotham family

There have been many comments from scouts from other troops when they visit 1st Upwey Scout Hall about it being a 'real' scout hall. One of the main reasons for this is the history that we have pinned up around the walls. 1st Upwey Scout Group has a long and proud tradition which is partly shown by the pennants and banners, partly by the names and years on the honour boards, but what brings it to life are people and their stories. We have a number of incredibly faithful Committee members in Doug Leggett and Eric Yates who have been involved in the group for many years and Ken Stanford our Group Leader had been leading cubs for a long time before becoming group leader, but just recently in the investiture of Rohan Hickingbotham we gained a father, Glenn, who is an ex scout and Patrol Leader at Upwey and a grandfather, Gary, who was involved in scouts

before him moving up from cubs in 1963. On the night of the investiture Gary had certificates of Glenn's scout investiture and Gary's own Wolf Cub involvement from over 50 year ago!

Rohan was invested on the occasion of our night hike in Term 2 and his father Glenn was an Upwey scout in the 1980s. Glenn remembers a lot of camping trips and abseiling as well as learning boating in small yachts at 1st Upwey. He feels that scouts has given him many great learning experiences about how to do things for himself as well as having a sense to help others as a core value that has helped him and he now leads people in both his work and CFA life. Many of you will have met Glenn when he talked to us on our visit to Monbulk CFA where he volunteers.

Rohan's grandfather, Gary, was a wolf cub at 4th Glenroy cub pack and a scout at 2nd Glenroy scout troop in the 1960s and remembers the fun times and the learning he gained particularly about serving others as well as learning campcraft and bush skills. He clearly remembers

working towards his Service badge which meant visiting the homes of the elderly, helping out in their gardens and doing chores inside their homes. He became a Patrol Leader in Scouts and loved working with his Patrol in assisting them in their growth and development.

Rohan has been with us for a couple of months and has enjoyed making new friends and starting to learn the Scout ways as he and his family have joined our community once again. Make sure you make the Hickingbotham family feel very welcome!

It's a great thing to have an idea of what has made us into what we are today.

Challenge for you: Have a look on the Green Cord honour board up on the wall near the meeting rooms and see if you can locate Robin Swebbs who was Glenn's Patrol leader before he took over at that time.



CUB SCOUT NEWS

by Eric Staff

“I’m a Cub Scout - Get me out of here” camp

We joined up with Ferny Creek cubs and leaders for a weekend camp in April. Despite some wet weather everyone had fun with the activities including archery, water rockets, Challenge valley and a campfire sing-along.

The cubs had fun camping in tents with great support from parents cooking in the bush kitchen. The Saturday night highlight was the rhythmic counting and clapping game – Beryl to Shmeryl (you had to be there) which could have gone on all night if it weren’t for the Clifford Park ranger!



ANZAC Day march

The Cubs, Scouts and Venturers joined in the Anzac centenary march on Anzac day, each taking pride in their place in the march. The cubs preceded the march with a visit to the RSL Running Rabbits museum earning the ‘Their Service Our Heritage’ badge.

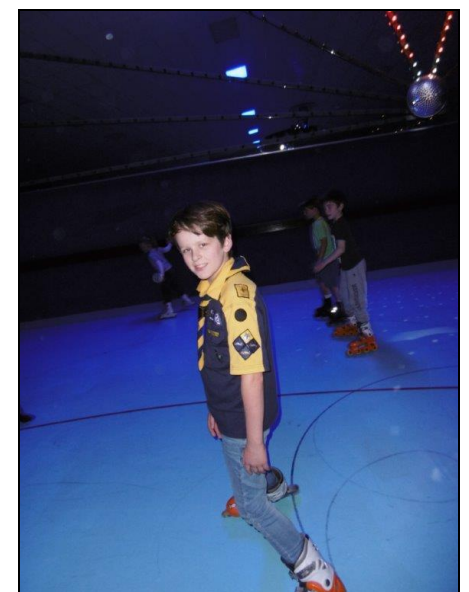


Cubs Descend on Rollerama Rink

On a cool night in June, the Upwey Cubs joined

the crowd at Caribbean Gardens Rollerama for an evening session of roller skating and roller blading. This has turned into an annual district event and continues to grow each year.

It was reported that over 200 people from the Sherbrooke district attended the night, leading to some thrills and spills on the rink.



Return of the Earth Serpent

The Belgrave Lantern Parade was the perfect opportunity to bring back an old favourite.



The cubs decorated the Earth Serpent and after some assembly, gathered to mark the winter solstice. Lit up superbly with LED strip lighting, the serpent was a crowd favourite weaving through the crowd in Belgrave.



Other Term 2 highlights

Other highlights for the term included super skits, 10 year old camp, Mother's day pamper, cork yacht racing, gang



show and Jungle Book sleepover to end the term.

Grey Wolf Award

Congratulations must go to Lachlan Grant-Roy who achieved the Grey Wolf award this term. Well done Lachlan!

Term 3 for Cub Scouts

We look forward to an action packed term 3 with Cameo Movie night, Fast Games, makin' movies, creative cooking, indoor rockclimbing and laser tag.



SCOUT NEWS

by Vicki Morris

Troop Happenings

This term we welcome new Scouts to our Troop, Georgia, Max, Rubén, Rohan and Thalani and advancing from Cub Scouts, Owen W.

We also farewelled Ben and Cody as they advanced to Venturers during Term 2.

Congratulations to Riley and Guy taking on their new roles as Patrol Leaders and Owen L assistant Patrol Leader.

Stradbroke Cup

Two patrols went to Stradbroke Cup this year over the Easter break.

Here the Scouts enjoyed car smashing and, for some, Tuna Mornay with golden syrup. Interesting to say the least!

Abseiling, the high ropes course and the wide game on the Saturday night were among the highlights for our Scouts.

Congratulations to both Patrols on winning a Bronze and a Silver award over the course of the camp.

It was also great experience for some of our younger Scouts.

Scout Hike

This year's Scout Hike, first time at the event for many, saw two Patrols putting into practice their navigational skills, enjoying the activities along the way, mini golf, building huts and cleaning up the Orcs mess.

Held in Tallarook State Forest, just North of Melbourne, this is one of the biggest Scouting events in the State and is currently enjoying an increase in popularity.

Similar to Stradbroke Cup, congratulations to both Patrols on winning

a Bronze and a Silver award over the course of the camp.

Masterchef

Unfortunately the Fork was just lost once again to the Guides in our Annual Masterchef Challenge, with the Scorpions and Redbacks almost succeeding.

It was a very close competition this year.

Term 3 for Scouts

Term 3 has following treats in store for your Scout:

- Mosque visit
- Fantastic Race
- Macalister canoeing
- Short wave radio night
- And much more!

VENTURER NEWS

by Michael Walker

Catching up with Rovers

In the past we haven't had a great deal to do with the two Rover Crews in our District, but that's all changing.

As some of Venturers edge nearer to 18, we want them to have the opportunity to try Rovering, but before

that we want to build lasting relationships with our District Crews.

The night before ANZAC Day saw EJ Marshall Rover Crew invite Venturers from the 3 units in our District to a bonfire night at Hancock's Daffodils in Selby. This just happens to be the home and workplace of Will Ashburner, the Rover Advisor for this crew!

There was a great turnout of Venturers and they got to mix with

the Rovers, cook pizza in camp ovens on the bonfire and socialise among themselves as well. It was a great night.

Later in the term it was the turn of Ogilvy Rover Crew (ORC) to host our Monday night in the hall.

The crew came armed with a bunch of games and activities to ensure a full night of action and getting to know the Rovers a bit better.

Both were great nights and the Venturers have now had an introduction to Rovering and made some local contacts.

Following on from the night hosted by ORC, some of the Venturers (and Bruce) took a day trip to Mafeking to visit Mud Bash Open Day. They saw the ORC car being raced and got to check out Mafeking as well as seeing what Rovers get up to. It was a very worthwhile trip.



Big Burger Challenge

Another annual Venturer event that is well attended is the Big Burger Challenge. This year the date was changed and clashed with our Big River trip, so in true Sherbrooke Forest District Venturer style, Foresters teamed up with the Jets Venturer Unit to enter a team.

This year included the category of Tastiest Burger for the first time and Heaviest Burger for the last time.

We avoided a clean sweep of the wooden spoons this year, but did

manage one – Tastiest Burger. While a little disappointing this was somewhat tempered by our first prize for Best Presentation.

A big thanks goes to the Dandenong Venturer Unit and their supporters for continuing to run this event. We'll be back next year to try our hand again.

Canoeing at Big River

Furthering our canoeing experience, we headed to Big River (near Eildon) with the District Water Activities leaders, some Summit Venturer ring-

ins and some 1st Belgrave South Scouts.

Big River presented some new challenges, beyond those we experienced on the Yarra when undertaking our Level 1 course at Clifford Park earlier in the year.

One of these challenges was the water temperature. It was almost Arctic! But with the right gear (a wetsuit and/or thermals) everybody was OK.

Scout Hike

This year's Scout Hike at Tallarook State Forest was attended by 6 Venturers in a Service capacity. They assisted the 1st Upwey Scout leaders in running their activity base for the weekend.

The days were filled with dressing up as Orcs, running Scouts through the activity and keeping the fire stoked.

It was a great way to spend the weekend with a group of friends,



provide Service to Scouting and even earn a badge towards the Venturer Award Scheme on the way! Well done.

Snow Venture

9 Foresters joined the week 1 Snow Venture party at Bogong Rover Chalet during the first week of the winter holidays.

While it was initially coined “No-Snow Venture” due to the lack of snow, the group had an amazing time both with and without snow.



Skiing, snowmen, hiking – this had it all!

What else did we do?

- Venturing Skills Hike

- Loft/Den clean out
- Yoga
- Matchbox trading
- Knot lesson from 1st Upwey Scouts
- Rogaining
- ANZAC Day service



Term 3 for Venturers

Term 3 has following treats in store for your Venturer:

- Canoeing on the Macalister River in August
- Armstrong 500 competition hike
- And much more

GROUP COMMITTEE NEWS

by Ken Stanford

The Group Committee has been busy keeping the lights on, the BBQ sizzling, the heater cranking and the Q-store full of great, serviceable equipment for our group to use on their many adventures.

Keeping the lights on

Every financial year sees the Group Leader contacting the section leaders to confirm which youth members will be continuing in Scouting and which members are choosing to pursue other interests.

This then determines the number of youth members that are registered by Census Date and how much the group must pay Scouts Victoria for registration costs, insurance, etc.

It is around this time that you all receive your invoice for the coming year. You will notice various payment types available as well details about contacting the Treasurer to organise a payment plan.

Please ensure that you pay your fees as soon as possible or arrange a payment plan for your fees. Your help in this matter means that the committee can spend their time on more practical endeavours rather than chasing up late fees. More time spent in planning and organising means happier Scouts!

Keeping the BBQ sizzling

The Group Committee, along with several committed parent helpers, have been turning sausages and serving up sausage sandwiches at Bunnings. This fundraising activity added a much needed \$1,400 to the groups'

coffers. Thank you one and all.



Another recent group fundraising activity was the Monster Scout Raffle.

Now, while none of the tickets we sold featured in the winner's circle, this activity netted another cool \$1,100 for the group. Thanks to those families that sold books of tickets as the funds from every ticket sold comes back to our group.

With the proceeds of these activities, along with our fees, the committee is now looking at funding the following renovations:

- Re-stumping the southern end of the hall
- Extending the Q-store to allow for more storage space and better storage facilities

- Replacing the doors to the main entrance (on completion of the re-stumping of that half of the hall)

As you can see, it's another busy year ahead and there'll be more opportunities for you to lend a hand.

Thanks for your support.

Keeping the heater cranking

To ensure our hall was ready for winter, and that your Cub Scouts, Scouts and Venturers wouldn't freeze, the Group Committee committed to purchasing a new ducted heater & cage.

This was installed at a cost of \$2,800 and replaces the aging unit that had seen much better days.

It really makes a difference during these

winter nights and it's another example of your fees at work.

Keeping the Q-store full

With a youth member population of over 70 across the three sections, you can imagine that the camping and outdoor equipment gets quite some use.



And with numerous sections having weekend activities often on the same weekend, it has become a real challenge at times when trying to secure enough good equipment for all to use.



During term 2 the committee purchased 2x 2 burner stoves, 1x 3 burner stove and 2x "Pop up" pantry cupboards.



These will make a world of difference to the sections. The stoves in particular will be a welcome addition to our equipment arsenal.