



Chicken Scratchings



Spring, 2016

UPWEY SCOUT GROUP NEWS

Action and Adventure!

by Michael Walker

The Cubs enjoyed deconstruction with Dads and the Pinewood Racer Derby, the Scouts got busy with food, hikes and activities, and the Venturers rounded the term out with a bit of white water rafting on the Mitchell River.

In amongst all that we had a group of leaders and committee members run a couple of stunts at the Armstrong 500 Hike competition again, the secondary storage room had a cracking tidy up and the Foresters Venturers received confirmation that Patrick Walker, Declan Cilia and Shannon Gee all

received confirmation of their Queen's Scout awards. Very busy indeed.

Remember, the newsletter is published once per term. 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 – as a leader OR a youth member – please email me at venturer.leader@upweyscouts.asn.au and I'll see what I can do.



Inside this issue:

Cub Scouts:

Deconstruction with Dads and Pinewood Racer Derby

Scouts: Food, Hiking & Camping

Venturers: Rafting, Hiking and Training

Group & Committee: Renovation surprise!



Patrick Walker - Queen's Scout

For the first time since 2010, 1st Upwey has a Queen's Scout.

On Sunday 2nd October, Patrick was joined by 40+ friends, family, dignitaries and scouting members that have been part of his journey over the past 3 years. Congratulations Patrick.

Many thanks to Eric Yates for capturing the day in photographs and the many others who helped with setting up the hall, serving food and tidying up.

As well as having Patrick's name added to the 1st Upwey honour board, it was also the occasion of the unveiling of a new honour board for the 145/37 Foresters Venturer Unit. While all previous Foresters Queen's Scouts have been added to the honour board of their home groups, we thought it was high time we had a unit board. All previous recipients were added to the board for the unveiling!



CUB SCOUT NEWS

by Judi Liddell

Chitty Chatty Bang Bang

Dads and brothers mixed with Cubs to have an awesome night at the hall.

Dads were quite competitive in the dodge ball game and then quite happy to chit chat until it was time to bang bang. Bang bang included taking apart all sorts of stuff including computers, a leaf blower and an iron. Fun was had by all! Look forward to next year when we plan something even bigger for the Dads to participate in.



1ST UPWEY CHICKEN SCRATCHINGS





1ST UPWEY CHICKEN SCRATCHINGS



Pinewood Derby

This event ran all week in September at the District hall, Belgrave. We had 18 entries and five made it through to the final. Some cars were designed with precision and others, like District Leader Deirdre's was designed with fun in mind. Deirdre's had a great big minion on hers that kept falling off. They say it is the crashes that we all look for but everyone was most excited about the Ghostbuster car because "who are you going to call?" "Ghostbusters!" My three favourites, Ollie and Matt produced the Delorian, Amelie and David produced a coffin car with a skeleton hanging out and Blake and Paul's Penguinie which was a sleek car that looked like a Penguin going for a fast slide!



Congratulations to Scarlett and Xander for having the most awesomest looking cars!

theme is "Runaway with the Circus".

Pack Council

One of the scouting ways is to promote leadership and what better way than building a circus out of lollies at pack council. Stay tuned for term 4 where Cub



Term 4 for Cubs

Term 4 "Runaway with the Circus" in store for your Cub. There be plenty of fun and adventure in store!

SCOUT NEWS

by Vicki Morris & Tim Allchin

Jam Packed

Wow what a term! Fantastic race, Spectacular Ridge Walk, Cohen Shield and finishing off with The District Supercamp, for which Super would be an understatement. This term also saw the Six Patrols operating with each Patrol Leader planning and running a night.

The term started with the reemergence of Theatre Sports run by Lyrebird PL, Sam. We have some very talented Scouts; I don't think I have heard a faster talker than Molly. Wedge Tail Eagles PL, Guy, ran a Survival Night with our Cub Scouts. The Scouts taught the Cubs the knots ready

for the knot relay. For some Scouts it was the first time they had seen the Grand Howl. The 'secret' hand signals by the Cubs was also impressive.

The following week Kookaburra's PL, Owen, had introduced us to Kendo, a Japanese Martial Art. Redback's PL, Thulani,

ran an Outdoor games night. Scorpions' PL, Riley, organized master chef cake cooking night. Platypus PL, Ian, organized a fireworks night. Many thanks to Geoff Bradbury for the Fireworks demonstration. We also had a Radio Night, run by the leaders from the Scouts Radio and Electronics Unit.

The last week of term finished with a night at Jump Deck where we were joined by friends, family and fellow Scouts around the district. We had over 70 jumpers – a good night to finish with!



We joined in a working bee with the Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands as part of our Community Service. We spread 4 large mounds of mulch by bucket at the New Rd end of the park and planted 70 new plants. As there were many of us the large task only took a couple of hours to complete.

During the term we welcomed new Scout Noah, advanced Scouts Zoe, Tamika, Will and Jack. We



also welcomed linking Cubs Emily and Levi. We are looking forward to



welcoming more Cub Scouts linking next term.

We have been busy with our overnight activities. At the start of the term we had three patrols join in Fantastic Race. The Spectacular ridge walk took us to the Cathedral Ranges. We hiked to Cathedral peak and Scampered over rocks along the ridge track to the Farmyard where set up

camp and enjoyed an evening around the camp fire. Next day was all



downhill. A couple of weeks later we entered two patrols into Cohen Shield.

District Supercamp

The highlight of the term would have to be the District Supercamp. Scouts from over the district came together joined by Scouts from Bendigo forming new friendships. We travelled by Train from Belgrave Station to Bendigo and then by bus to the Scout camp in Spring



Gully. We went down into the Deborah mines and saw gold. Took a tour on the talking Tram around Bendigo and to the tram workshops. Then there was the ultimate Masterchef challenge.

Six patrols had to plan a meal to budget, travel into Bendigo, buy the ingredients and return back to camp and have the meal cooked and ready by 6pm. All cooking had to be done over hot coals. No cooking with gas! The Scouts took

to the challenge preparing Stir fry noodles with honey soy chicken, Baba ghanoush with skewers of Kangaroo, baked potatoes perfectly cooked with cheese and bacon, vermicelli with egg and bacon, cottage pie, vegetable stew and pork dumplings. What a Feast.

A big thank you to Kallista Scout Leader Damian for organising the event for us.



Term 4 for Scouts

Term 4 has the following treats in store for your Scout:

- JOTA
- Construction
- Rockclimbing
- End of Year BBQ



14 year old Scouts ...

Check out the end of the Venturer news for a great opportunity!



VENTURER NEWS

by Michael Walker



Venturing Skills Hike

With a bunch of the newer Foresters members not having achieved the Venturing Skills Award, the leaders thought it was high time a Venturing Skills Hike was carried out and what better time to check out some new trails! We even had a special guest along for the walk – Raph, Bruce's dog.

Our plan was to hike from Big Pat's Creek (just outside of Warburton) to Powelltown using the Walk into History trail and camping at the Ada No.2 Mill camp site on the Saturday night. After arriving in Warburton easily enough, we then managed to get a wee bit lost and lose some time while attempting to find Big Pat's. Rather than try and push on anyway we decided

to drive a little further down the road to Starlings Gap, do the car shuffle and then make our way to Ada No.2 from there.

The walk from Starlings Gap to Ada No.2 is relatively well signed and a gentle descent along the route. Along the way we found a bit of a clearing to stop for lunch and enjoy a short break. The area we were hiking through was old logging country now filled with tall timbers and a multitude of tree ferns. Underfoot was quite damp, and occasionally boggy. Being the middle of July we couldn't have planned better weather. Conditions were perfect. Just prior to 4pm we came across the crossroads to the Ada Tree path and our camp site. At this point we chose to skip the extra 4km round trip to

the Ada Tree and set up camp.

Just after we'd set up our tents, a Caulfield Grammar year 8 school group lobbied at the camp site. They were equally as surprised to see us as we were to see them. After a brief chat with the teachers we decided to consolidate our tents to a smaller area to give them a separate area and cohabitate in harmony!

Next on the agenda was dinner. Everybody had catered in pairs and it was interesting to see dinner choices for a hike. Everything from pizza that just required a bit of reheating, pocket bread being used to make pizza pockets from scratch to home cooked meals that were frozen and required reheating and freeze-dried hike meals. There was quite



a wide variety and it was all relatively nutritious.

Getting a fire going in such a damp environment surely tested the group, but we succeeded. The fire proved to be a great place to sit about and chat in the (wonderful) absence of mobile phone coverage. With some very recent Unit members and some that have been around a bit longer, it was a great chance to get to know each other better.

Darkness descended on the camp before 6pm. Periodic time checks always surprised the group with how early it was, so much so that everybody was in bed before 10pm after feeling like they'd already had a full night.

The group started rising after 7am and took a

leisurely approach to breakfast and packing down camp. While overnight was dry, it was very damp which led to all tents being packed away wet. Luckily we were dry and remained that way. After breakfast and a final check of the site we headed off towards Powelltown at about 9.30am. Very leisurely indeed.

The beginning of the outbound leg was via a boardwalk followed by a brief ascent. Once that ascent was over we were met with the mother of all descents – almost a 400m descent over the course of 1.5km in a straight line. With pinches of 25% gradient, this made for a challenging start to the journey on day 2. We made it to the bottom without too much trouble, but it did

take quite a bit of time as it was damp and a bit slippery under foot.

The remainder of the journey was mainly flat with a bit of undulation. A lunch stop on the trail raised the spirits of the group and provided some sustenance in the early afternoon. The final leg was straightforward enough and brought us out at Yarra Junction – Noojee Rd at Powelltown. Once we reached Powelltown we did the reverse car shuffle before heading home.

The hike provided a great experience for all involved and gave the leaders some food for thought about future hikes that could be conducted in the region. Well done to everybody involved (including Raph) for a great weekend.

Having a dog along for the hike was certainly appreciated and he made a bunch of new friends. As long as our future hikes are in dog-friendly locations it would be great to see Raph along again.



White Water Rafting

What do you do when you receive a surprise email about a possible white water rafting trip? You contact the Venturers to gauge their interest, because whether they want to go or not, I know I do!

That's what happened in July. I received a surprise email from the District Venturer Leader in Knox District about a white water rafting trip that needed willing participants in the rafts. Count me in – now how many Venturers were going to join me? It turns out that 1 leader, 2 Rovers and 7 Venturers were up for the challenge.

The trip even included transport to Angusvale and back! What a bargain.



We met at Brandon Park shopping centre on the Friday night to join the bus. After a meal stop at the McDonalds service centre on the freeway just outside of Berwick (where a mercy dash with a forgotten tent was made) we continued on our way to the Mitchell River National Park. Once at the campsite it was time to put up our tents – in the

rain.

A soggy start to Saturday morning saw our group meet the rest of the party – the canoe and kayak participants on this trip. The trip was initially to have been an overnight journey on the river where we would take all of our gear in drums on the raft and camp on the river bank on Saturday night. Due to conditions this was changed and we camped in the same spot each night thanks to the ability to car/bus shuffle everybody out and back on Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

We had a safety briefing, helped inflate the rafts, tidied the campsite and moved the rafts to the launching spot. The rafts were the first craft to take to the water. As a first order of business we were given



some instruction on paddling, the various calls we would hear and a few pointers. Then it was on!

From Angusvale we made our way to Den of Nargun on Saturday. The first rapid was Slalom, which as the name suggests was originally used for some kayak slalom competitions. The next couple of hours saw us paddling and surfing smaller rapids and taking a break for lunch – as well as to repair a puncture in one of the rafts.

The feature of Saturday, and possibly the weekend, was the rapid known as Amphitheatre. The first raft headed down the rapid and picked an awesome line through the obstacles. We were lining up to take the left hand turn and looked around to see the second raft was upturned and were going to need some help. The first raft paddled into an eddy and took position on the bank to throw safety lines and drag people from the river. Some of the more experienced kayakers headed directly through the rapid and into the next straight stretch to rescue those members that had floated beyond our lines. With everybody pulled from the river and rafts reassembled, we waited on

a bank further down the river for the canoers and kayakers. If a raft gets tossed about like that, we can only imagine what the canoers and kayakers felt like!

After a break and once everybody had navigated past Amphitheatre we headed for our end point for Saturday, Den of Nargun. From there we headed back to our campsite at



Angusvale for the evening. Once we got out of our wetsuits and wet gear, we warmed up and made dinner. Everybody had a big day so it wasn't a late night – which for Venturers, made a nice change for the leader!

Sunday morning saw us pack up camp and head back to Den of Nargun after a car shuttle to the end

point. As well as being a location on the river, Den of Nargun was our next rapid. A pretty early call to arms on Sunday, but we all managed to navigate this rapid successfully and forge onwards towards the Old Weir Site. Once at the old weir, everybody was free to take a turn at jumping off the wall before we re-boarded our watercraft and made for Final Fling.

Final Fling was the last rapid of the weekend which we all surfed like absolute professionals! Shortly after this we reached our extraction point at Glenladale. Once here we pulled the rafts out, deflated them and repacked the trailer before getting changed and having a quick debrief with the whole party.

It was a great weekend and one which almost no other Venturers have yet had the opportunity to do. Many thanks to the Branch Canoeing team, Shaun Smith in Particular.

Leader Training



Most, if not all, of you will have met Matt Absolom by now. Matt joined Foresters as a Leader in Term 4 last year. Since then Matt has jumped in with both feet and is enjoying everything Venturer leading has to offer. This has included attending Anything Goes, a caving weekend in Byaduk, rock climbing in the Grampians, a 4hr mountain bike team enduro event in Officer, waterslide nights, a Queen's Scout presentation and much more.

In the background, Matt has been beavering away completing his online leader training and in July undertook his first weekend of face-to-face training with

other leaders at the Treetops camp (Riddells Creek). Matt is now the proud owner of a Certificate of Adult Leadership (CAL) and a Gilwell woggle which he made with his own hands. Well done Matt.

Stay tuned in Term 4 to hear about Ben's training!

What else did we do?

- Mt Burnett Observatory
- Armstrong 500
- Master Chef
- Nights with Selby/Kallista and Belgrave South Scouts
- Meet the Parents
- Much more

Term 4 for Venturers

Term 4 has the following treats in store for your Venturer:

- Canoeing the Macalister
- Mountain Biking at Mt Baw Baw
- Meeting Birubi Rover Crew
- Meeting with Olinda/Ferny Creek Scouts
- Vic Gathering
- Farewelling more Venturers turning 18 :'(

Scouts...

Are you 14 before December?

Are you curious what Venturers get up to?

Do you like camping?

Do you like making new friends?

Do you like having an awesome time?

If you answered **YES** to at least one of these questions, it sounds like Vic Gathering is for you. Contact Michael Walker (Venturer Leader) about attending as a linking Scout.

GROUP & COMMITTEE NEWS

by Eric Yates

Renovation surprise!

I have been approached by UMS which is a building and maintenance group working for the Shire.

The council is cleaning up buildings in the shire and we have been added to the list.

In the best interests of our group, I asked for a lot of things to be undertaken

and blow me down they agreed.

This is to be no ordinary undertaking but of major proportions.

The council is going to:

- Replace the missing boards and cladding on the North side
- Replace all of the eaves around the building with new material
- Add eaves over the carport area
- Replace all windows on the west side of the building
- Replace all of the missing metal forms in the gaps in the Hardie plank

- Replace all windows on the North side and cover them in mesh inside and outside to prevent further damage
- Replace the back door
- Paint all surfaces as follows:
- Fascia, gutters, eaves, walls, doors, frames, windows, down and service pipes, handrails, beams and posts. As per colour scheme shown below.

Works start on the 5th of November on the windows.

