



Chicken Scratchings



Summer, 2015-16

UPWEY SCOUT GROUP NEWS

That was 2015! Here's to 2016.

by Michael Walker

By the time you read this, 2015 will have ended, Scouts and leaders will have returned from Jamboree and planning for 2016 will be well underway!

The end of year BBQ and presentation function was once again a highlight of Term 4. It's always a blast as a leader to see youth from across our three sections mixing together and becoming more familiar with each other.

It was also great to see loads of parents and siblings joining us on the night for dinner and to celebrate some great achievements.

That evening marked the end of the Scouting year for most people, while for others it marked the 3 week countdown until Jamboree. Make sure you read the special report on Jamboree inside by Tim Allchin.

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, please email me at venturer.leader@upweyscots.asn.au and I'll see what I can do.



Inside this issue:

Cub Scouts: Fright Night, Mudbash & more

Scouts: JOTA/JOTI, Sailing, AJ2016 & more

Venturers: Summer fun at Caringal, bubble wrap and more

Group & Committee: Succession plan in action, new leaders and farewells, money, stumps & more

Next term: Anything Goes & much more





CUB SCOUT NEWS

by Eric Staff

Fright Night

We were joined by dozens of Cub Scouts from throughout the District for the annual Fright Night activity.



Well over 130 Cubs plus leaders dressed up in spooky costumes and enjoyed outside games, spooky craft, inside games including the



feely box with squishy substances. Everyone snacked down on spooky food and spiders (the kind with ice cream and lemonade) and got down and funky in the monster mash disco to end the night. Special effects including a smoke machine made the night very memorable.

Cub Mudbash

This year Mudbash was moved to later in the year, yet we still managed to get enough mud!

This event also clashed with the sailing day, however we still managed to get a good sized contingent on the



ground at Gilwell Park.

Continuing with our Alien theme, the cubs (and leaders) dressed up as Alien robots and joined in the fun and muddy activities on the day.

What else did we do?

- Canoeing
- Sailing information night

Term 1 for Cub Scouts

Term 1 has the following treats in store for your Cub Scout:

- A spicy Mexican theme throughout the term
- Upwey Billy Cart Derby
- Sleepover at the hall
- And much more



SCOUT NEWS

by Vicki Morris, Tim Allchin & Karen Walker

JOTA/JOTI



This term we returned to the annual Jamboree of the Air (JOTA)/Jamboree of the



amateur radio and the internet.

We had three patrols attend JOTA this year,

At JOTA we built on our skills we learnt on radio night and combined it with our compass skills for some radio orienteering. Scouts also had an opportunity for fox hunting and signalling as well as running excellent games for the night fair.



Internet (JOTI) camp at Gilwell Park.

JOTA/JOTI is an annual event in which around 500,000 Scouts and Guides from all over the world make contact with each other by means of

and combined our Troop camp with our Scout friends at Kallista. The Scouts have dramatically improved their skills and timing for putting up their tents without assistance from the parents or leaders. Well done troop!

Water night with Belgrave South

Moving about in their patrols, Scouts from both 1st Upwey and 1st Belgrave South enjoyed a night of water games.

Activities included water balloon volleyball, water balloon fights,

waterslide, wet t-shirt relay and water pistol fights.

Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the night and achieved the ultimate aim – getting soaked!

Sailing Day

Mordialloc Sailing Club invited the 1st Upwey Scout group, Cubs, Scouts, Venturer's and families to Discover Sailing day. With lots of Cubs, Scouts and families taking part and the weather absolutely perfect - those of you who sail know how hard it is for the weather to play its part for perfect sailing conditions, especially when you are introducing people to sailing.

The volunteers at Mordialloc SC came out to take the group for a sail, including our Scout, Felicity who is also a sailor at MSC. Unfortunately for fellow Scout Molly, Felicity thought it would be funny to capsize on purpose, apparently to

get the water out of the boat. Disappointed in Akela, taking the easy option and going in a boat that will not capsize and where he would barely get wet, Akela you missed all the fun, next time bring a wetsuit!

The Cubs and Scouts had a great time, noted by the difficulty some parents had in getting them out of the boats and off the water. Hopefully we will have more opportunities to sail in the future. For those who missed out, many sailing clubs run Discover sailing days, which should be free! I'll let you know when MSC runs there next one.

What else did we do?

- Laser Tag
- Pre-Jamboree camp
- Bike night
- Geocaching
- Campfire night

Term 1 for Scouts

Term 1 has the following treats in store for your Scout:

- Ice blocking
- Water safety
- Gross out night
- Bubble soccer!

Jamboree Special Reports

A Scout's eye view: Leap into Adventure

Felicity Morris

The 24th Jamboree was and amazing I had the time of my life. I made so many friends and met heaps of people from across Australia.

The JNN (Jamboree News Network) crew were the best with all their photos and videos. Every day you could see them driving around trying to get great footage at the right time and place.

The Crate was great! They were run by the JNN team. The Crate included a Jamboree TV show where Scouts were given a topic to talk about on the show. At the end Scouts were given a reward. On the last day they sold all their crates that were around the tent.

The opening ceremony was fantastic. It started off with a countdown

and a video of Scout leaders. After that the two leaders came in a helicopter and entertained the Scouts for a while then they played a video of all the troops at Jamboree followed by speeches. With a massive bang the fireworks started they went on for an unbelievably long time. After the fireworks display Justice Crew came and played some songs. All of this, except Justice Crew, was recorded and put on the Jamboree website.

Water activities was fun with the inflatable slide, canoeing and seeing heaps of jelly fish. At Jamboree, the Funnel Web was the best ride and the favourite for many followed by the 5 metre jump and the Taipan. Sydney city sights started off with a big shower then trying to keep balance on the ferry as we crossed the

heads towards Manly. The Rover run Endurance activity included bubble soccer and water skirmish with some of us returning home still green from the coloured water.

Closing Ceremony had a boring start to it talking about sleep. Like the opening ceremony, we had speeches followed by fireworks, then Syris and Samantha J. Afterwards we had a long wait till our bus arrived at 1 am to take us back to Melbourne.

A Leader's eye view: Leaping into Adventure in Sydney, with Melbourne weather!

Tim Allchin

Over 15,000 scouts and numerous leaders and assistants converged on Cataract Park, about 90 minutes south west of Sydney, between January 2nd and 14th for a solid 11 days and nights of activities and

meeting people. Our Victorian Contingent over well over 3,500 people was only narrowly less in number to the home NSW Contingent.

10 scouts & 3 leaders from 1st Upwey kindly brought our incurably variable Melbourne weather with them, providing 4 days of heavy rain and then some significantly hot days to follow. Everyone was in good spirits throughout, despite the tiring nature of the initial wetter weather, and the first few days meant scouts got an

extra shower on the way back from Challenge Valley and the green dye from the water gun fight at Endurance mostly washed off on the return walk.

The activity roster meant that 3 of the 6 patrols were off site each day & could choose to move as a group or separately. Our patrol leaders were excellent & encouraged people to have a go at as many activities as they could and keep going even though at times it was wet and cold (who would have thought that in Summer....). The

offsite activities included a day at a water fun park called Jamberoo (scouts made up about ½ the attendees at the park over these days), a day in Sydney and a day at the beach doing a variety of water activities. There were a range of other onsite activities including the joys of duty patrol needing to go to the sub-camp Q-store to get the food supplies for the day and plan the cooking of the main evening meal as well as other required hygiene activities such as bin emptying and camp



cleaning.

The Cataract Park site was divided into several sub-camps, each with its own administration & welfare teams. These became critically important during the first few days of managing the aesthetically pleasing water features through all of the campsite and along the main thoroughfares throughout the site. One of the key activities was assisting in the drying out sleeping bags, clothes and shoes as well as rehousing a number of troops who had been completely washed out. The troop that 1st Gembrook was a part of were washed out, relocated, washed out, relocated to the sub-camp eating hall and then relocated to another site! We fared very well really with very little getting wet inside the tents though we had water through our dining area. For all of that, scouts were amazing in getting on

with things and having a great time!



I had the opportunity to present a 1st Upwey scarf to the Papua New Guinea Contingent and the Fiji Contingent which was a great thing. I would like to explore the options over the next few years of sponsoring or being more engaged with an overseas group given that our area is so white and Anglo-Saxon in nature. This may well be a district thing, but there is a lot of thinking to do to make that a reality

Over 10,000 visitors on Super Saturday meant that Cataract Park became the 39th largest city in Australia for the day with market stalls all through the camping

areas and other activities for visiting families, cubs and joeys.

Our banner will soon be up on the wall in the hall for you to have a look at, you may remember it from the end of year BBQ.

I can only thank all of the scouts and Vicki Morris & Michael Walker in particular for making my first experience as JTL (Jamboree Troop Leader) a successful and enjoyable one despite the rigors of the unexpected 4 days of rain.



The next Jamboree will be in Adelaide in 2019 and will be certain to be as incredible as this one was. I look forward to attending it with a good number of 1st Upwey scouts & leaders again.

VENTURER NEWS

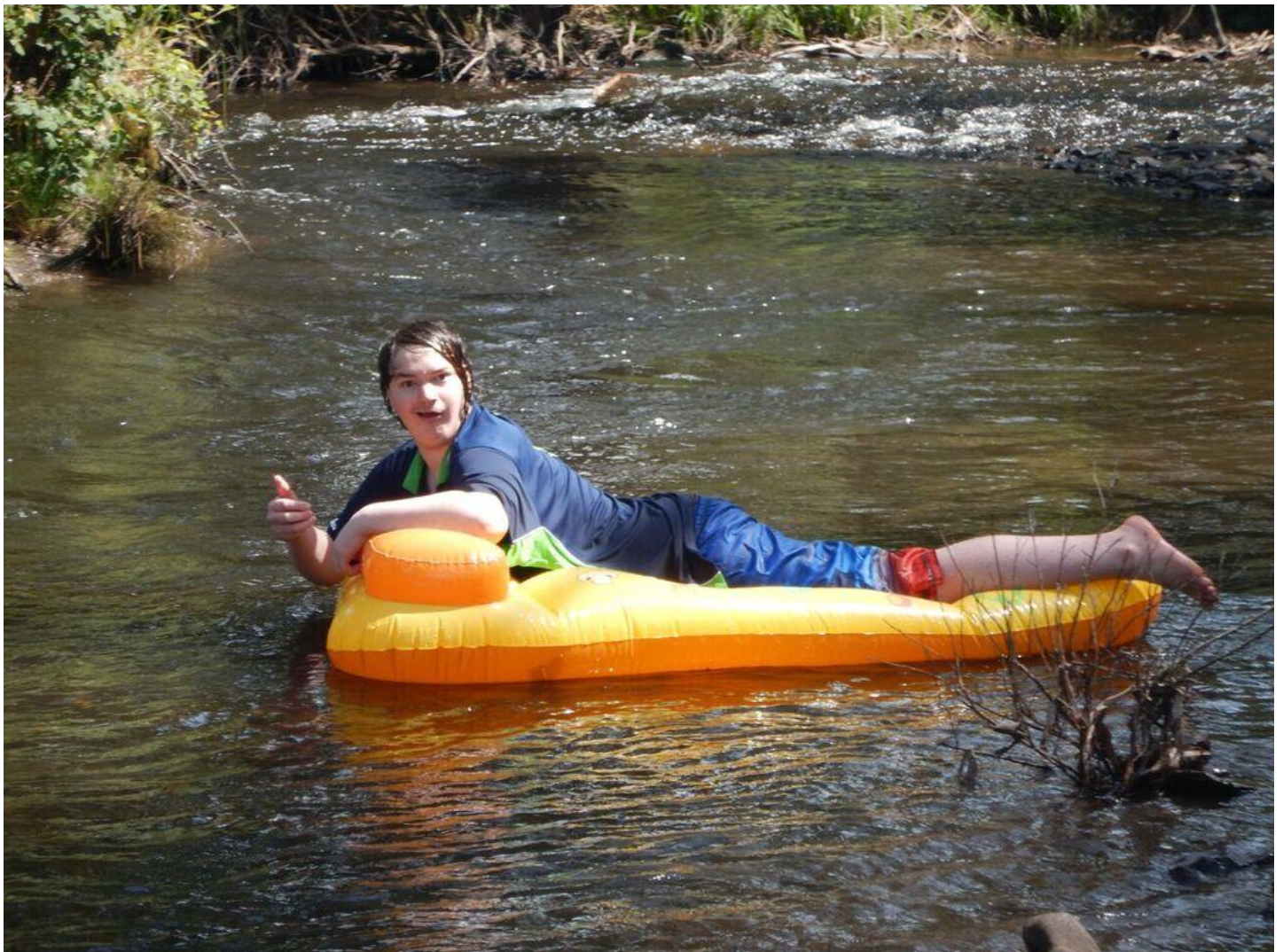
by Michael Walker

Summer fun at Caringal

For the previous three years the unit has attended the annual Vic Gathering camp. After last year at Elmore, the district Venturers decided they wanted a change. So in



conjunction with the a camp at Caringal Scout
Cardinia District Camp (Erica).
Venturers, we organised





A lot of the weekend was spent on the river, just floating along and relaxing. When they weren't in the river the Venturers were generally enjoying each other's company and exploring Caringal.

Next year Vic Gathering will move to a new location for the next two years and depending upon the organisation of the camp, we may decide to return to VG (or not)!



Bubble wrap adventures

When you purchase a 100 metre roll of 1,500mm wide bubble wrap, the guy selling it to you asks a few questions.

Anyway, one evening in December we rolled the Venturers in bubble wrap from head to toe, strapped on a safety helmet and rolled them down a hill at Cardinia Reservoir Park.

It sounded like a good idea, and those that took part enjoyed it, but it wasn't as easy as we'd hoped. Another great idea brought to life by Foresters. I think we

need to find a straighter/smoothen hill.

Progressive dinner

Starting with bruschetta for an entrée at Michael and Patrick's house, the Venturers then hit the road and enjoyed hot dogs and video games at Bailey's house. Once we'd had our fill of hot dogs we hot-footed it to Sonja's house for ice cream cones with loads of toppings and treats.

What else did we do?

- Killer Klowns Leadership course
- Waterslide night
- And much more

Term 1 for Venturers

Term 1 has the following treats in store for your Venturer:

- Anything Goes camp
- Visit Olinda pool
- And much more

GROUP & COMMITTEE NEWS

by Ken Stanford

Succession plan in action

Group: Our Group Leader, Ken Stanford has decided it's time to hang up his woggle. After several years as Baloo in the Cub Scout section and having spent the last few years as Group Leader, Ken will be handing over the reins to current Cup Pack Akela, Eric Staff.



As a group we are fortunate to have Ken working with Eric during the transition period as well as having an enthusiastic new Group Leader in Eric. Big thanks to both Ken and Eric.

And don't despair, Ken promises we're not getting rid of him that easily. He'll be sticking around on the committee to help with the running of the group. Great work!

Cub Scouts: With Eric moving in to the Group Leader position this means we are now one leader less in that section. The remaining leaders Ross, Colin and Nanette are now joined by previous group chair and committee member, Judi Liddell. With other commitments making it difficult this year for some leaders, Eric has agreed to help out where possible and we'll be looking to have a Venturer or two mix it with the Cub Scouts as well. It's great to see such team work.

Scouts: Eric Senior is stepping back from his role as parent helper, and we thank him for his efforts over the past few years in both the Scout section and helping out with Venturers when

Michael was laid low a couple of years ago.

We are fortunate to have recently invested Ben Harris (Ezekiel's dad) as a leader. Ben has been helping out with the troop during the past few months and we're looking forward to him joining our ranks.

Venturers: Matt Absolom was recently invested as an adult member of 1st Belgrave South. With Foresters being a District Unit, having leaders from the other groups that have Venturers attending the unit is a great thing. This now brings the number of leaders in the Venturer Section to 4. Awesome.

Matt was Rover himself (a little while ago) and has been joining us for the past three months. He has slotted in well with the unit and we look forward to many future adventures. Matt's first outings will be to Anything Goes in February followed by a caving trip in March.

Advanced Training Completed

If you attended the end of year BBQ you would have seen Ross Beggs (Cub Scout leader), Tim Allchin (Scout leader) and Michael Walker (Venturer leader) presented with their wood badge (beads). This marks the successful completion of their advanced leader training and related project and courses. Well done to those three leaders, and good luck to the other leaders currently working on their training requirements.

Christmas Tree sales

Christmas trees were once again great

success. We sold 150 trees over the 2 weekends and a big thank you goes out to parents & youth members who helped sell them. Also many thanks to Ben Harris, Doug Leggett, Bruce Gaulke, Rob Westlake & Ken Stanford for collecting the trees from the farm each weekend.

Through the efforts of the families and members of the group, we made in excess of \$3,000. This is always the single biggest fundraising event of the year and it was great to see it successful again.

Money

After a concerted effort of seeking funding for capital works for our hall (namely the re-stumping) we were advised shortly before

Xmas that we had been successful in obtaining a grant for \$9,000 + GST.

Following some further negotiations, this amount will now cover the re-stumping of the southern half of the hall.

A great BIG thanks goes to committee member and long-time group stalwart, Eric Yates. This is a great result for the group and a testament to Eric's efforts over a long period.

With this funding covering the re-stumping, this frees up some others funds the group has raised to undertake some more visible works – renovations to the Q store and new front doors are both very high on the list.