



# Chicken Scratchings



Winter, 2016

## UPWEY SCOUT GROUP NEWS

# Star Wars, Food and Climbing!

by Michael Walker

The Cubs had a Star Wars themed term, the Scouts got busy with food, food and more food – as well as hiking, and the Venturers rounded the term out with a bit of rock climbing in the Grampians.

In amongst all that we had the group reports and awards night where we also unveiled the newly procured marquees that have proven a real boon for the sections.

With 70+ youth members, 1<sup>st</sup> Upwey Cubs and Scouts and Foresters Venturer Unit are really thriving. The help provided by leaders of each section to one another has enabled the program for

each section to be delivered as well as possible. The Venturers have also been helping out with the Cubs on occasion and it's been of benefit to the Cubs and the Venturers.

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@upweyscouts.asn.au](mailto:venturer.leader@upweyscouts.asn.au) and I'll see what I can do.



Inside this issue:

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**RAFFLE TICKETS ARE NOW DUE. PLEASE RETURN RAFFLE TIX DURING FIRST TWO WEEKS OF TERM 3. Thx**



# CUB SCOUT NEWS

by Judi Liddell

## Star Wars

This term had a Star Wars theme. From pod racing to a Star Wars disco, it had it all.

We have had Storm Trooper training with a night of games and activities in the hall. R2D2 was fed, Storm troopers were bowled over and light sabres used to tag Storm troopers.

We have turned the hall into an Ewok village with tarps and crates.

Two new cubs were invested this term, Oliver Esse and Seamus Dwyer.

Mums were happy to learn I'm sure that Jedi Training the week before Mother's Day night was all about getting the Cubs to make things for their mums.

Every good Jedi needs to appreciate their mum. And to appreciate them wholly we wrapped



them up. Ok that was literally. We wrapped them in toilet paper to make them look like Storm troopers and oh my goodness what a crazy night.

The Cubs also managed to lay out beautiful supper tables and serve their

mums a nice cup of tea and some tasty snacks.





We saw the new Jungle Book movie with the district. The movie is amazing and highlights lots of the lessons that Lord Baden-Powell integrated into the Cub Pack training. Wolves working as a pack and following the rules of the jungle so that all have a good life and survive, with a lot of fun along the way.

We made PODS and raced them around an obstacle course made by some brilliant Venturers. And then to finish the term we had a Star Wars Disco with the help of Riley Sporle as DJ and Owen Liddell as food controller.

Last night of term was the District Swimming



event where 90% of our Cubs achieved their

swimming badge. The other 10% are to be commended for giving it a go proving that they are a brilliant Cub.

Next term will be action packed starting out with a night hike around Glenfern Valley!



# SCOUT NEWS

by Vicki Morris & Tim Allchin

## Cultural Cooking

This term has been a feast with a massive cultural cooking night and Trangia cooking.



We have also been to Scout Hike and Anzac Day and we have grown. We now have an additional 2 patrols, Platypus and Lyrebirds with Ian and Sam as the new PLs and Owen W. and Owen MM as APLs for the new Patrols. With Ian moving to Patrol leader, Molly has

become the new Kookaburra's APL.

The cultural cooking was our first test for the new arrangement of the 6 patrols. Each patrol prepared a two course meal for their patrol and the Leaders including our new Group Leader, Eric.

Tables were decorated by each patrol in a cultural theme. A great team effort by all. Leaders favourite dish would have to be the Chinese banana spring rolls (more please!).

## Trangia cooking

A big thank you to Becca Allchin who ran our Hike (Trangia) cooking night and to Risa for her assistance on the night. Scouts cooked three meals and taste tested six of the light weight fast cooking hike meals.



## Scout Hike

This year three patrols went on Scout Hike. In total there were 799 Scouts attending the Sci-fi themed event.

The Upwey Leaders Tim, Ben, Vicki and Ken along with the Forester Venturer's Ben, Angus, Ella, Molly and Tamika ran the Terminator Rebel Activity Base.



A big thanks to the Venturers for running the activity with us. Other activities including Rocky Horror show and A Sewage treatment plant-proved to be quite popular!

## What else did we do?

It was also a term for wide games including a Photo Scavenger night in Upwey, with the added feature of rain, (Scouts



were mostly dried off



prior to pick up) and Cluedo - Scout version, where Patrols asked leaders for the clues-only the leaders decided to add another dimension to the game by hiding from the Scouts. Scout Leader Karen, was last to be found.

To finish off the term we went to Gang Show, to see our 1st Upwey Scouts, Guy and Hannah, perform. A very enjoyable and funny show.

## Term 3 for Scouts

Term 3 has the following treats in store for your Scout:

- Fantastic Race
- Spectacular Ridge Walk
- Radio night
- Fireworks and more





# VENTURER NEWS

by Michael Walker



## Grampians

What better place could you get for a mid-winter getaway than the Grampians in mid-June!

Foresters, and a couple of welcome ring-ins, headed out the Grampians National Park



and found our way to Plantation Campground in the Grampians NP. Wide, open and well maintained campgrounds with plenty of space – just how we like it. After a

It was a bit wet overnight, but nobody complained and we all managed to stay dry in our tents. First order of Saturday morning was for some people to get breakfast underway while the remainder of us erected the 6m x 3m marquee for the first time. It must be said that this is a great addition to the group equipment (thanks to all involved in the procurement!).



on the Friday evening. After a brief dinner stop at McD's in Ballan we continued our journey

quick reccie we chose Area I and pitched our tents before turning in for the night.

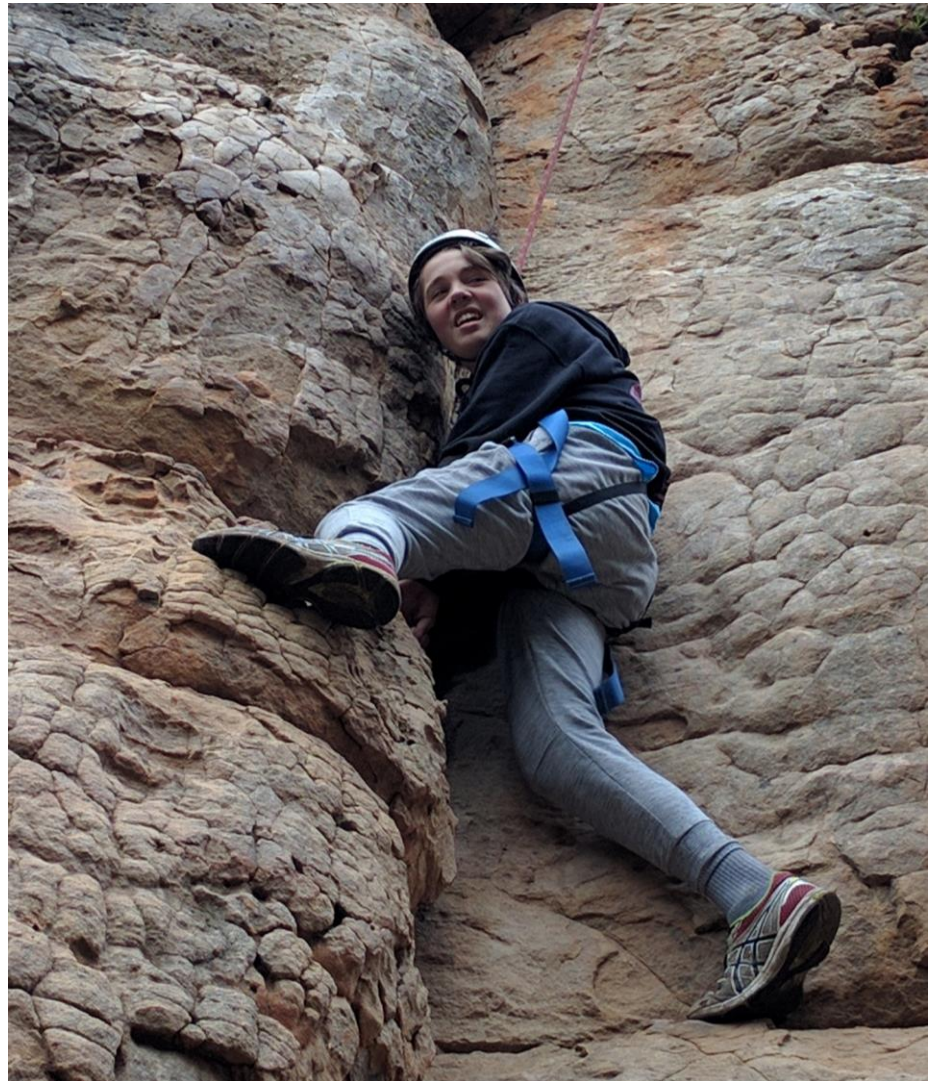
After a hearty bacon and egg breakfast we headed out to Hollow Mountain carpark to meet the climbing team and begin



our days' activities. A quick safety and equipment briefing was followed by a short walk to our first climbing wall where three climbs had already been rigged up by the team. Given we were a group of 9, this worked very well as we broke into three groups of three – 1x climber, 1x belayer and 1x prussicker.

We took turns in each role along each climb and then it was time for lunch. We retired back to the carpark and got stuck into making our wraps and tucking into fruit and juice boxes as well. The weather was a little cloudy, but it remained dry all day – much to everyone's delight!

After lunch we were confronted with three new challenges on a different rock face and again we took turns in each role on each climb.



The climbing team were thoroughly professional and very encouraging of all of us (even us older leaders) and provided a great experience.

We called it a day at 4.30pm and helped pack up and return the gear to the team trailer before heading back to the campground to get ready for dinner.

Fortunately, Bruce had cooked up a storm

during the week and all we needed to do was get the fire going and defrost and warm a beautiful lamb casserole. Just what the doctor ordered on a cool, clear winter's night after a full day of climbing. The camp oven was scraped bare! Thanks Bruce.

After dinner we sat around the campfire talking, eating dessert, roasting marshmallows





and generally keeping warm. It was a great way to end a very full day.

Sunday morning breakfast was a repeat of Saturday, and with nowhere to rush to we had a pretty relaxed morning. After breakfast and cleaning up, we began packing up our gear before heading off home, via a short stop in Ararat for lunch.

The climbing team run a great activity and it's also open to Scouts. I daresay Foresters will be going again in the future. Thanks to everybody for a great weekend.

## What else did we do?

- Snow Venture
- Night Hike
- Maddy's Queen's Scout presentation
- Pancake art & more

## Term 3 for Venturers

Term 3 has the following treats in store for your Venturer:

- Venturing Skills Hike
- Mt Burnett Observatory
- Cathedral Ranges camp
- Warburton Trail ride
- Armstrong 500
- Meet the Parents
- Much more
- (And we got hoodies)



# GROUP & COMMITTEE NEWS

by Michael Walker

## Advancing

There comes a time in every Cub, Scout and Venturer's life when they reach the upper age limit of their section and have to think "What next?"

From a group point of view, we'd love it if everybody progressed to the next section and enjoyed a fresh set of challenges, some new faces (and some familiar faces) and the levelling up of everything offered at that next stage. For whatever reason, this isn't always the case and we understand there are competing demands on your time and interests change.

What is disappointing from a leader point of view is when the older youth who enjoyed their previous section so much don't even give the next section a chance. When Cubs choose not to try

Scouts, everything you did as a Cub stays with you. If you link to Scouts, then you get a chance to build on that experience and also share it with others. The same for Scouts not choosing to move to Venturers and so on. There's so much else to explore and so many more challenges to be had.

Sometimes the youth member and/or the parent/s has a fear about the 'bigger' kids in the next section. It's true, there will be bigger kids – just like you when you hit the top at your last section, you were one of them. The bigger kids in the section are just other kids. Speaking from experience, and many of my Venturers are bigger than me, the mix of younger and older, bigger and smaller makes for an interesting group. Everybody brings something different to the party.

Progressing means the challenges presented to you are always next level. For instance, as a

Scout when you go caving you walk into the caves. As a Venturer, you abseil into them. As a Cub, you generally have your food cooked for you and have help putting up tents. As a Scout, you'll be preparing the menu, cooking it and setting up your own camp site. As a Scout you get to do top-rope rock climbing (where the rope has been secured and thrown down from the top). As a Venturer you have the opportunity to do lead rope climbing (where you take the rope up and secure it as you go). As a Venturer you get to visit Mud Bash on open day and (maybe) get a hot lap as a passenger. As a Rover you get the opportunity to drive around the Mud Bash circuit as a competitor. See what I mean? It's all next level at that next level!

When you (or your Cub, Scout, Venturer) reach that age where you can begin linking, think about it and actively try that next level. Programs for

each section are on the notice board so you can see what's going on and target the activities you'd like to try. There

are so many opportunities, you just never know what you'll find around the corner. And if you have any

doubt (youth member or Mum or Dad), please speak to the leaders of the current and next section to discuss them.