



Chicken Scratchings



Winter, 2017

UPWEY SCOUT GROUP NEWS

Year of the Group continues

by Michael Walker

2017 is the Year of the Group. Cubs advancing to Scouts, Scouts advancing to Venturers and activities crossing sectional boundaries. Having three very active youth sections at Upwey makes this all worthwhile. In Term 3 we'll be having an all-sections night – Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers coming together for a Science Night. Stay tuned!

With 70+ youth members, 1st 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.

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 michael@walkerfamily.id.au and I'll see what I can do.



CUB SCOUT NEWS

by Lily (Cub Scout)

Lantern Parade

We arrived at the Lantern Festival on the Saturday afternoon and formed our group that would take part in the parade. There were hundreds of people lining the streets as we started to march with all of the other groups.

With our PandaCorn horns on, we walked down the main road of Belgrave among the dozens of other lanterns – BIG and small.

Many of the lanterns were pretty. They were all clever and lots of work went into making them. There were loads of different colours.



There was a rainbow lantern, a bird, a sun and some Minions!

As we kept on walking, the parade was full of life. There was somebody playing drums, the crowd were playing and cheering. As it was the shortest day of the year, it was very cold. WE had to keep moving to stay warm – and not FREEZE!

It was a wonderful night and I would love to do it again.

THE END!

Cubs Term 2 - Tales from around the World

Along with the rest of the group, we attended the Upwey ANZAC Day march. As always, the parade and march were well attended and we were proud to participate.

For Mother's Day we treated our mum's to a Bollywood themed night. henna, saris and all things Indian!



As a pack, we visited the local 3MDR radio station and went live to air! We saw how the station worked, met the local radio volunteers and generally had a ball visiting somewhere we wouldn't normally get the opportunity to visit.

We took our friends, family and fellow Cubs to Rush HQ to finish the term off.



SCOUT NEWS

by Vicki Morris

Second Term: Scout Hike, ANZAC Day and much more

This term we welcomed new scouts Blake and



Noah and linking cub Fern to our Scout Troop and said good bye to Owen and Riley as they advanced to Venturers.

A special thank you from the Troop to Parents Glenn and Sarah and Venturer Leader Michael for assisting us while Tim was away for 3 weeks. We are a big troop so I hope your ears have recovered from the noise level!

The Term began with Anzac Day so we watched an Anzac

themed movie, attended the dawn service and marched through Upwey to the morning service at the RSL. Thulani and Owen M. along with Venturers Ben and Lucy led the march and stood at the front of the service.

We had a Sports Night run by Lyrebird Patrol and a Wide Games night run by Platypus Patrol, both of which were great fun. At our Indigenous Night, we learnt to play the didgeridoo and throw a boomerang with a lot of help from our guest Glenn Bardwell for the demonstration.



During our Emergency night run by Scorpions we used and developed our First Aid skills in responding to mock emergencies.

A Mystery Night was organised by Redbacks and Kookaburras. We had the ghost of Molly haunt the Troop as the Patrols raced around to solve the clues as to who committed her murder. It turned out that Tim was to blame!

For Cultural Cooking organised by Wedge Tailed Eagles we planned



our meal on one night then feasted on another night. Tables were decorated and meals of tacos, apple enchiladas, fried rice, banana spring rolls, carbonara, teriyaki chicken and German pulled pancakes were served. The Judges



Group Leader Eric, Cub Leader Karen, Parent Sarah, Ben and myself found the meals were delicious and it was a difficult decision. Votes on table decorations and meals were very close but the fried rice served up by Lyrebirds won the night as well as the Mexican themed table decorations by Kookaburras. A note to the committee - the two smoke alarms at the back of the hall worked well thank you alerting us to overcooked taco shells in the oven.

Three Patrols participated in Scout Hike this year. We had two Competitor patrols led by Thulani and Felicity and a Learner Patrol led by Ezekiel. There were about 1000 scouts and 200 patrols attending the event. The Scouts hiked between sleep points stopping at

activities along the way to gain points. At the sleep point, they cooked dinner over long trench fires that you can see in the picture.



The Theme this year was Horrible Histories. The Upwey Leaders Tim, Judi and Vicki and Fellowship Leader Roger along with Foresters Venturer unit ran the Groovy Greeks activity.

of Troy though the Trojan horse (or dragon in this case), escaping the Trojan army with our javelin throwing athleticism. A very

special thank you to the 10 Forester Venturers for running the activity with us. We had over 120 patrols go through our activity peaking at about 30 patrols in over an



Scouts became Greeks invading the Ancient City

hour on the Saturday

afternoon. That's a lot of patrols and with the venturers help it all ran very smoothly.

Our Term was finished off by going to Gang Show to watch our Scouts Ezekiel and Hayden and Venturer Guy perform in the show and Rover Lachlan on props. The show was great to watch and some great harmonies in the Jungle Book songs. For an insight into the Gang Show experience we have a special article in this Newsletter edition.



Term 3 for Scouts

Term 3 has the following treats in store for your

Scout:

- Fantastic Race
- Leadership weekend
- Cohen Shield
- District Camp
- Radio Night,
- Theatre sports and more



The Gang Show Experience

Our Thespians Guy, Hayden and Ezekiel describe the Gang Show as a great experience and opportunity, exciting and loads of fun. In this seasons Gang show five of the 1st Upwey Scout Group took part; Scouts, Hayden and Ezekiel, Venturer, Guy, Rover, Lachlan and Parent, Sharon. In this article, we go behind the seasons to find out more about Gang Show.

For many of us that went to Gang Show it was very difficult to workout which one was Guy and not much easier finding Hayden and Ezekiel. Without knowing it you may have even got a glimpse of Lachlan as one of the Prop crew changing the scenes. Finding them was just as difficult for the parents, who like some of us were thinking 'that might be him'. Hayden played the parts of Wolf Cub and Wild Dog in Act 1 and The

Eggplant and boy in Act 2. Ezekiel was a Wolf Cub and Cheetah in Act 1 and a Carrot and Boy in Act 2. Guy was extremely difficult to spot, I think I saw him as a Wolf in Act 1, but had no chance of working out which Bandar-Log (Monkey) he was. I couldn't find Guy in the second act, with so many of them wearing a black wig very much like Guy's natural hair, I wondered if he needed the wig. As it turns out our black-haired actor was wearing a Sparkling hair wig and lightning bolt as he played the musician with the Tambourine in the 2nd Act.

For Guy, this was his fourth Gang show and possibly his favourite. For Ezekiel and Hayden this was their first. To get into Gang show the three of them auditioned at the Mount Waverley Scout Hall in January. They had a short time practicing outside before they sang, danced and acted for the audition. For our first timers, there

was also an interview. At the audition, they took your measurements for the costumes, which was probably a bit too early for those who had a growth spurt prior to the show. After the audition, there is sometimes a call back to see a bit more of what you can do.

The next part of Gang Show is you get placed in your Gang Show Patrol of up to 14 other scouts. You stay in this Patrol every year you do Gang Show. The patrols are named after male Shakespeare characters for the boys' patrols and female Shakespeare characters for the girls. Guy and Hayden are in the Toby Belch Patrol and Ezekiel is in the Othello Patrol. There is also a special ceremony for the new Gang Show scouts to present them with their Red Scarf. These scarves are internationally recognised and just like your Troop Scarf you only ever get one.

To be in Gang Show requires a great

commitment. Gang Show comes first, so if you have a school percussion recital on a Gang show rehearsal or show night, like Ezekiel you will have to miss your recital. Leading up to the Show there are rehearsals in North Melbourne nearly every Monday from mid-February to June when the show starts. Our parents found having the three families made it a lot easier in sharing the carpooling. The 2 ½ hour Monday rehearsals were for the singing parts. There are three all day dress rehearsals of 7 to 12 hours closer to the start of the show performances. Including two weekend rehearsals with sleepovers at the homes of some of their Gang Show Patrol. All three of our Thespians said these sleepovers in their Gang Show patrols were great fun. The next part of the commitment is the 9 shows over the two weeks at the end of June and the school term. Fitting in the shows and school work

can be a bit tricky, but according to our actors and parents well worth it.

The Highlights of the show for Hayden was the sleepovers, Ezekiel's performing in front of everyone and Guy's the excitement and atmosphere of performing in front of people. The Parent's highlight, Hayden's Mum Kylie the Jungle Book song In My Heart. Ezekiel's Dad Ben and Guy's Mum Amanda's favourite was watching them perform. Hayden's favourite scenes was the Kitchen. His favourite costume the wild dog, Ezekiel's favourite costume the cheetah.

Performing on the nights became a bit tricky for Guy and Ezekiel as both had grown since their measurements were taken. This made costume changes in the 5-10 minutes between the scenes a bit more difficult as the velcro came apart and the gloves no longer fitted. On stage Ezekiel tried to

keep his costume together using his Wolf Cub moves so it wouldn't be so obvious. For Guy, the first few shows keeping the beat for the tambourine was hard work and then keeping the instrument quite behind the stage was difficult, in the end the prop tambourine was used, not as realistic but didn't make a sound. Behind the stage you had to be very quiet, you couldn't talk or make a sound as the audience could hear you.

Would our actors do Gang Show again? yes definitely. Advice from our actors for those thinking about doing Gang Show; some moments you must pull yourself through, stick with it as it is well worth it and a rewarding experience. From the Parents, it is big undertaking the whole family needs to be involved. There is some money outlay and fundraising to cover the costs which include catering to feed them. A

lot of driving which is so much easier if you carpool. Gang Show is well worth it for the experience and development it offers them. It gets them out of their comfort zone, it is hard work, confidence building, an achievement in completing a journey, loved it and looking forward to next year.

If you are interested in being a part of Gang Show then checkout the website

www.gangshow.org in Term 4 and get your application before cut off, usually early January. You need to be between 11 and 25 to be part of the cast.

If you don't want to act and your over 16, there are other ways to be involved and help out. Venturer and Rover Scouts over 16 are involved in all aspects, script and song writing, lighting, production assistant and much more, including making the props as our Rover Lachlan did. Parents can also volunteer to help out. This year we had Parent Sharon Harris help out in catering.



VENTURER NEWS

by Michael Walker



Service

One of the things we do as a Venturer Unit is provide service to others – both to the Scouting movement and the wider community.

Term 2 saw us assisting the wider community at the Puffing Billy Great Train Race. For many years we have had a role on race day moving the baggage for the runners. They drop off their gear at the start line and we re-distribute it at Emerald Lake Park based on the runner number. It's a great day to help the community and seeing the runners pushing themselves is very inspiring.

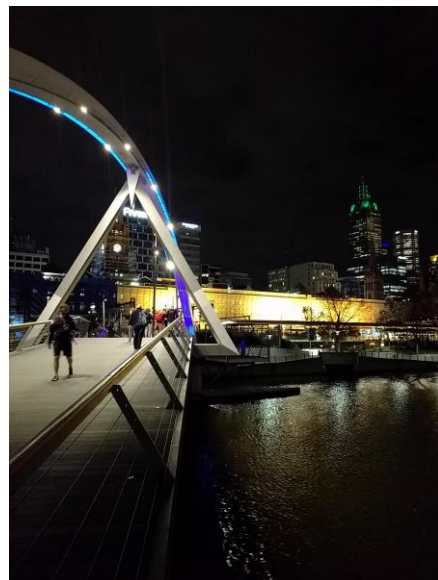
Within the Scouting movement we have built a bit of a tradition in recent years of helping the leaders from 1st Upwey to prepare and run an activity base at Scout Hike.

This year saw 10 of the Unit camping at Tallarook for the weekend and putting the Scouts through their paces. After hours, we had our own campfire and on Saturday night we cooked a roast pork dinner on the coals.

Giving of our time in a service capacity has many benefits and is a very worthwhile part of our program.

Photography

Thanks to a local leader from Emerald (Paul Pav), we spent two weeks learning a bit about photography.



Paul has quite a bit of experience with both photography and Scouting, so it was a





great opportunity for the Unit.

This activity concluded with a trip to the City on a Monday night to take photos in various locations and wash Paul do some fire twirling of which we also took some photos.

Trash Construction

We were contacted by the Ogilvy Rover Crew earlier in the year about having a combined evening. We invited them to join us in an evening of trash construction.

We used the opportunity to link up with 1st Belgrave south Scout

troop and advance two Scouts (Aly and Tahlia) to the Unit.

Suspended Platforms

One of the unit's favourite activities involving ropes and spars is the suspended platform activity.

It involves breaking the unit into teams, add ropes and spars and they need to build a platform that can be suspended from the rafters to suspend their entire team.

There's normally a few nervous moments when they wonder if their knots will hold up!





What else did we do?

- Warburton trail bike ride
- Matchbox trading night
- Speed switch games night
- District Venturer Council



Term 3 for Venturers

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

- Macalister canoe trip
 - Armstrong 500
 - Science Night
 - Biscuit decorating
 - Yoga
 - and much more
-
- Unit overnight hike

GROUP & COMMITTEE NEWS

by Eric Staff & Ken Stanford

A word from the Group Leader

It was great to see so many of youth members and parents at the Annual Awards Night in May this year. This evening was all about celebrating achievements of the past year, and recognising a few from each section in particular.

We were fortunate once again to have support, in the form of cash prizes, from Bendigo Bank Upwey and thank them again for their ongoing commitment to our group. Ken Stanford instigated donations from local Upwey traders for door prizes. Check out our supporters page on the website for those businesses that gave in this capacity, and think about giving them your business next time you are out. I would also like to urge all parents to sign up at IGA Upwey and get a rewards card. This is a free way to support the group, with a small percentage from each time you shop there accruing as a donation to our group. So if you are a regular or even a sometime shopper at IGA, the group will benefit each time you scan your card at the checkout.

The AGM for the group was held on July 11 and I would like to thank the retiring and returning office bearers for their commitment.

Retiring – Donna Rumley, Geoff and Leanne Bradbury

New committee

Secretary – Amanda Howard

Treasurer – George Eldon

Maintenance Supervisor – Eric Yates

Committee members – Doug Leggett, David Sporle

Special mention goes to Doug Leggett who has served on committee for 20 years – Well done Doug!

There are **vacancies** on the committee – so if you would like to come on board and support the group this way, please contact me. Discounts for youth membership apply to committee members.

Eric Staff – Group Leader

Raffle Tickets

Raffle Tickets are due back this month (July), preferably sold.

Please return ALL raffle tickets and money during week 1 of Term 3.

ALL raffle tickets, SOLD or UNSOLD must be returned to your section leaders.