

# SCOOP



**QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
1<sup>ST</sup> UPWEY  
SCOUT GROUP**

## 2017 was another big year. Watch out for 2018

Each section was again busy in Term 4 running engaging programs, getting out, trying new things and looking wide. You never know what's around the corner! This edition of the newsletter features many articles written by our youth members on their experiences this term. The plan is to have the majority of articles written by our youth members, so please encourage them to jot down their thoughts on their many experiences and send them to me using the details below.

2018 promises to be massive on many fronts. Remember to book for Melbourne Cable Park.

A Joey Mob will start operating in 2018 as another section of the group for the first time many years. Joey Scouts is the section for 5-7 year olds, and from Term 1 they'll be meeting at the Upwey Scout Hall between 5.30-6.30pm on Thursday evenings. The first order of business for the Joey leaders will be getting the Joeys ready for Kangaree in March (the Joey equivalent of Jamboree).

Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers will be organising and participating in many activities and adventures throughout the year and you'll be able to read all about it right here!

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](mailto:michael@walkerfamily.id.au) and I'll see what I can do.

# Cub Scouts

## Cycling Badge Day

One lovely Sunday morning in October at Belgrave Lake Park, the Cubs were treated to a morning of learning about bicycles, the road rules, safety equipment and all things related to the Cyclist badge – for Level 1 and 2!

Four Foresters Venturers, and their leader Michael, took us through the requirements for these badges and then joined us for a ride around the shared track at the park.

Akela made sure we didn't go hungry with a morning tea snack on hand for everybody!

Thanks to the Venturer Unit for running this activity and hopefully we'll do it again



## Archery

The cubs recently participated in a really fun and challenging activity – archery. We all met at the Sherbrooke Archery Club on New Road where we were given some expert instruction on the safe use of a bow and arrow. The cubs were then let loose on the targets with varying degrees of success.

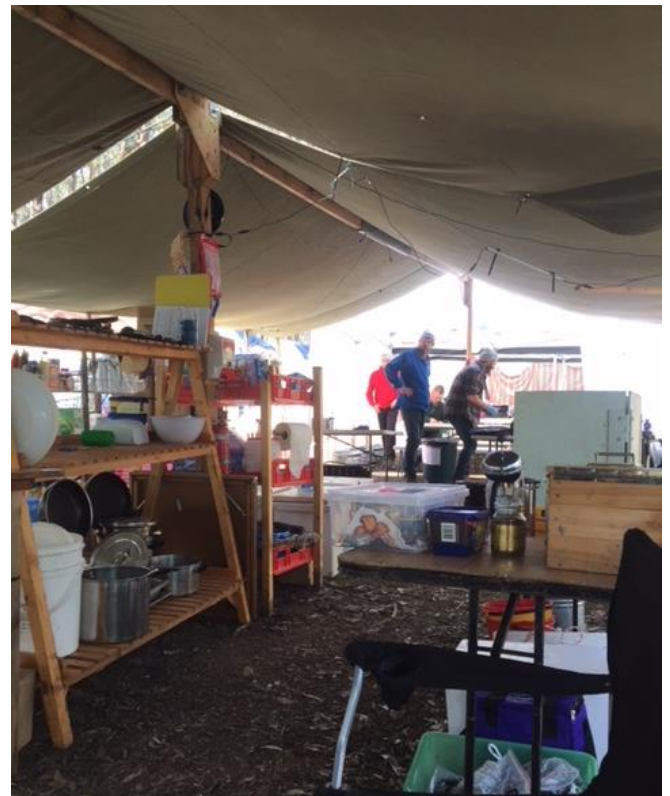
A great night was had by all cubs and some parents who stayed behind to join in the fun. Thank you to the Sherbrooke Archers for once again providing our cubs with entertaining evening.

## Cuboree 9

1,001 Nights

Here's a couple more photos from Cuboree as supplied by 'Cookie' (Assistant GL Ken Stanford).

Kitchen



Dinner Time



# Scouts

## Term 4 highlights

### Search and Quiz night

Wow what an exciting 4th term. Our final term of this exciting year began with a search and quiz night where scouts faced a series of challenges and quizzes that had them search for hidden clues around Upwey testing their levels of observation and teamwork resulting (I think Lyrebirds took the prize) with the winning patrol receiving a prize, can anyone guess what that was.... mmmm, chocolate.

### It's a Dance-off!

The next week was like a scene from Saturday Night Fever with Tim and the guys dancing up a storm with a competitive dancing display that had everyone clamouring for the chance to strut their stuff to the sounds of Gangnam style, YMCA and many more popular tunes... Halloween first aid, zombie repair night that saw ghouls, ghosts and zombies bandaging themselves and each other to get more sign offs in their green ghoulish books.

### Construction with Venturers

We had a construction night, with Foresters Venturers Angus and Kalina coming back to assist us, where we managed to avoid death from the lava (or whatever else was flowing beneath us) by building some tripods and linking them



together to get the patrols off the ground! Nobody was killed so yet another reason why scouts is good for children to be involved in!

### Running Rabbit Museum visit

At the start of November, we visited Upwey/Belgrave RSL Running Rabbits Museum as Remembrance Day approached. It was great to get a sense of life in the time of the Wars and the reality of life in the trenches.





### Caving & Exploring trip

The biggest event on our term calendar was the caving camp (see following story). We went to Mount Eccles (near Hamilton) with the Scout Caving Team and members of Baden Powell and Williamstown Scout Troops for an exciting adventure under and

geographical location. As part of the caving trip 1st Upwey hosted Saturday night dinner that involved some of us cooking up a storm serving roast beef, spuds, salad and choc pudding, this was a big task feeding 50+ people, our cooks, Violet, Blake and Felicity took on the duty with enthusiasm



above ground. You will read in another article about Rylan Armstrong's amazing discovery on this trip.

Some of us preferred the fresh air and vibrant views Mt Eccles offered, as we circumnavigated the crater taking in the vibrant eco wonderland of this ancient

and had everyone fed and satisfied like true professionals.

### Night Hike with Kallista

The activities didn't stop there, we joined the guys from 1st Kallista for a jaunt through the forest, followed by a game of Capture the Drink Bottle and then sausages at their scout hall which was the first time for many long years (about 20 years or more!) that the scout hall had been full of scouts! It was really great to help them celebrate as they begin to rebuild their hall.

### Environment Night at Birds Land

We then had an environment night at Birds Land where we learnt more about our local history and environment including the





effect of bushfire and regeneration on an area of bushland.

### Clip'n'Climb

Finally, we went to Clip'n'Climb for our end of term bash where we had friends and family as well as linking cubs celebrating together. It was a great night and worth doing again according to those who went.

### EOY BBQ

Our final celebration for the year was the group BBQ with our new Joeys, our Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and even a collection of Rovers who were 1st Upwey scouts when we first moved back to Upwey after having been combined with 1st Belgrave South for some years. It was great to have everyone there and celebrate Vicki completing her scout leader training as well as all the other good things we had to be thankful for this year!



## Caving & Exploring

A new piece of Upwey (by Tim, Blake & Rylan)

Deep dark holes in the ground do have a



fascination for people, either a sense of excitement at new paths/caverns and the beauty of shapes, textures and colours not seen every day or a sense of enclosure.

The first of these we saw in the face of Rylan our constantly exploring, enquiring and exuberant scout absolutely wrapped to be given licence to explore as he listened to the caving team say that the cave was new to them. We also saw it in the faces of the caving team over dinner as they pondered the delights of a new cave, almost quivering with excitement. Needless to say, after dinner they all went back and explored it!

The caving team, encouraging explorers as they do, are used to cries of 'eureka' (or modern scout equivalent) but were happy

to explore all the options presented and more than happy as the designated explorer relayed his subterranean efforts and declared it 'a really decent cave'. The explorer, aptly named Ulysses, found no Trojan enemies to defeat (as did his ancient Greek namesake using a rather memorable wooden horse) but rather a curving and, in spots, challenging and quite extensive route.

We had some scouts who were less keen but who came on our parallel Exploring Camp, looking at the amazing rock formations above ground, and indeed, having a peek inside the larger inside some of the larger fronted caves. Blake Armstrong was there and said *"What I liked about the exploring camp was plenty of things like learning about Mt. Eccles. Other things I liked were hiking and going to the Natural Bridge. The hiking was a chance to learn about the volcano and a fun thing to do. Going to the Natural Bridge was an awesome experience and very cool compared to the hot sun. It was absolutely beautiful and amazing. There was also **Cooking with Ben** the new reality show :), it was nice being able to cook quietly and have fun at the same time. It was a great and interesting camp and I'm happy I went on it."*

As yet there has been no absolute confirmation of the cave being an undiscovered one from the mysterious Recorder, a state official charged with

keeping records of all subterranean play spaces, but the scout caving team are confident. With their many combined years of visits to this area, the pristine nature of the surfaces inside the cave and the lack of an identifying numbered marker near the entrance of the cave, the odds are good that it is a new one. Well done Rylan!

And what of a name for the possibly unnamed cave? Rylan decided to name it 'Upwey' in honour of our troop and our little slice of heaven in the foothills of Mt Dandenong.

What did Rylan think? *"On caving camp, well, we did lots of caving and there were caves called Smokoe, Underfoot 1 'n' 2. etc. When we were at Smokoe I hopefully found a new cave and if it is I'm calling it Upwey for our scout group. The other troops (Williamstown and Baden Powell Explorers) there were amazing because everyone got along and there was plenty of games played with all troops in them. The trip on the mini bus was amazing as well overall caving camp was one of the best camps this year and past years as well"*

So, a testament to the great work of scouts, the scouts caving activity team and the notion that exploration is a life skill to be encouraged not squashed into a screen or kept utterly orderly. Well done Rylan, keep exploring enquiring and being exuberant!

# Venturers

## Go back to where you came from

Being one of two Venturer Units in the Sherbrooke Forest District, our members come from multiple Scout Groups. In reality, there are not enough Venturers or leaders to make up a Unit at each group, so Venturers band together to form fewer, bigger units.

Our Venturers currently hail from the 1<sup>st</sup> Belgrave South, 1<sup>st</sup> Kallista, 1<sup>st</sup> Rowville, 1<sup>st</sup> Selby and 1<sup>st</sup> Upwey groups. In the past we have also had members from 1<sup>st</sup> Monbulk, 1<sup>st</sup> Olinda/1<sup>st</sup> Ferny Creek and even Pakenham!



When Cubs move to Scouts, it is generally within the same group. When Scouts move to Venturers, it is often to a district unit or even further afield. This makes the moving

up process a little more challenging for some Scouts.

### How do we deal with this?

Well, for the last 5 years, we've been having joint nights with each Scout troop (maybe) once a year. This is great, but when you're trying to reach out and build on your relationships with 7 Scout troops, that's a big chunk out of your Venturer program.

This term we changed it up. We tried to send all of the Venturers, during the one week, back to their home Scout troop to meet with their old leaders and some old and new Scout faces. Where we didn't have any Venturers registered to a local group (such as Monbulk and Olinda/Ferny Creek) we sent along some friendly Venturers to join in, meet the locals and show them that Foresters is one place they might like to check out (and that we're not so scary!)

From a parent perspective, it's great if your Scout can organise with a similarly aged Scout (or 3) to visit the Unit together. Safety in numbers! They feel more comfortable with a few people they know than with a room full of (not quite) strangers. Once Scouts turn 14, I thoroughly encourage them (in consultation with their parents and Scout leader) to begin thinking about and planning the next step in Scouting. If you'd



like to have a word, feel free to contact the Venturer leaders.

### How did it go?

Only time will tell. When we broached the idea with the leaders of each troop, they were all very positive about the concept. The engagement between the Scouts and Venturers on the nights was good to see, now we just need to follow up and encourage the 14+ Scouts to at least try us out.

If they find Foresters is not for them, then hopefully we can help them find a Unit to their liking (or even assist them with spinning up another one in the District!).

Many thanks to the Venturers, parents and Venturer leaders that travelled throughout the District during week 4 to make this work.

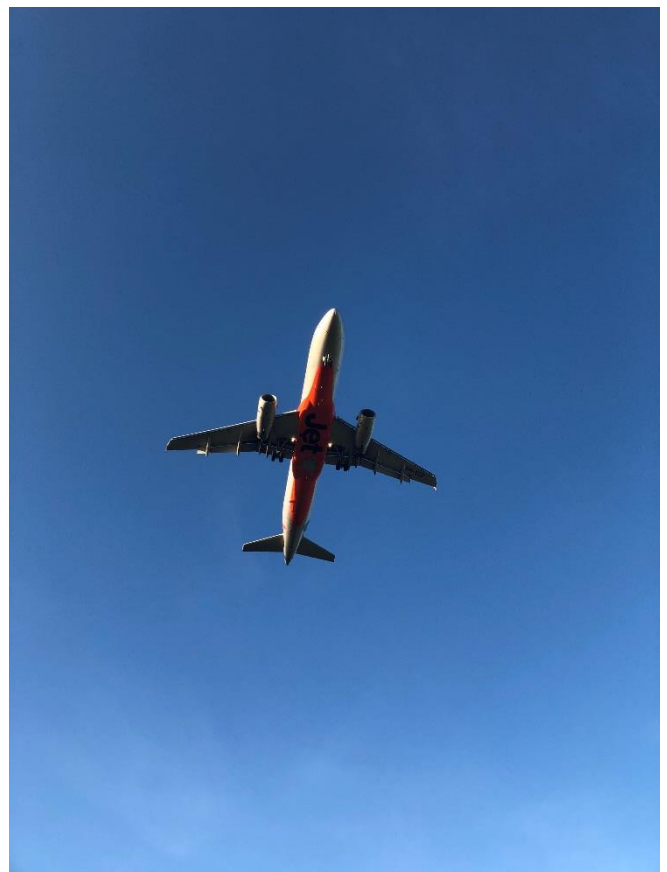
## City by Night

(how to stay awake all night as a Venturer!)

by Paris

The all-nighter started at 6:00pm from the hall where we all got driven to some place near the airport to watch the planes fly over. The night began with a greasy look from someone because (they thought) we almost hit their Commodore while parking. We then got out of the car and watched the planes fly over, which was really cool.

From there we drove into the city and spent 40 minutes just looking for a car park. When we finally found a park near the Shrine we jumped on a tram and headed to the Myer Christmas windows, but the line was way too long and we couldn't we bothered to wait so we left and went to get some dinner at Hungry Jacks.



After we ate some food we headed to Crown Casino where we went inside to watch the Christmas display which was awesome and very colourful (Crown clearly have a lot of money). By this point it was 11





o'clock and we already wanted to go to bed.



We then headed back to Federation Square and sat (and played) at the playground by the river for about an hour, we got to the park on Saturday and we left on Sunday.

Next, we went to the Shrine of Remembrance which looked really nice at night time, this was about 1am and we sat by the eternal flame, chilling out for a while which was nice.

We headed back to the car for a 20-minute drive to Williamstown and there we sat at the bay and looked out at the water and the pretty city lights. After 10 minutes we all had to go to the toilet, so we drove all over Williamstown trying to find a toilet that wasn't closed, when we finally found one our adventure began again.

This time we headed off to the Westgate Bridge and had a look around and walked down the pier next to the bridge (Stony Creek Backwash – what a name!). The pier led to a good look out of the Westgate Bridge which looks really pretty at night.

Our last stop was to the flying fox colony on Yarra Bend where we watched all the flying foxes come back to their trees and we witnessed the sunrise. After all that adventure packed into one night we ate egg and bacon rolls for breakfast and then headed home. Everyone in our car fell asleep but luckily the driver didn't. We arrived back at the hall around 7.30am. The night was tiring but really fun and a good experience and we are glad that we went and definitely recommend it for anyone interested for the next time it is run.

## Progressive Dinner

by Ella

After meeting at the hall at 7pm, we walked to Ben's house in Tecoma for entree, where we had bread and dips, chips and the cherry on top was the garlic bread. We all had a good time playing with Ben's dogs and having a chat to everyone.

When we were all full of bread and chips, we made our way to Ella's house for main course. We had a lovely, filling meal of pulled pork & coleslaw in wraps and went through about 7 jugs of cordial in 15 minutes! After exploring the backyard and chatting to everyone we headed off to Bruce's house for dessert.

Bruce had provided ice-cream in a cone with crazy amounts of sprinkles, chocolate sauce and cream! It was a great way to end a really good night. And one again we all had fun playing with Bruce's beautiful dogs.

We said thank you to Bruce for hosting us all, and headed up to the collection point and we ended an awesome night.

# Intermediate MTB weekend

by Oliver C

In October, I participated in the intermediate mountain bike course. It was held at the You Yangs and it was put together by the state MTB team to try and help us develop our skills.

The day started with the group of people participating all meeting in the car park, then we went to the first trail, about half way through we learnt how to stop quickly on really loose terrain and also what not to do when slowing down. Later we did a long and tiresome pedal which took us to the top of the trail network where we had a break to then take us down a trail called Lactic Acid. On this trail the guides explained how to pick and choose lines through rock gardens. They also explained how to ride over them with the most momentum.

We then went to the bottom where we rode a trail that challenged the whole group. It had a couple of features that really spooked the group. The one that stood out was a series of 2 drops and then a sharp turn that followed into a steep descent. This one was a challenge for even the guide who went over the handle bars on the first time. Of course, he cleaned his line but it had left a feeling of doubt in everyone's stomach. Luckily, we all survived and managed to do the rest of the trail with ease.

The last trail we did was called Boulder. The climb to the trail was difficult at the least but was well worth it at the end. The trail

has a ton of boulders and big rocks which made it great fun. We had a plethora of rock gardens, lines and different directions we could go. It was a great trail to finish off on and was a really fun way to challenge ourselves at the end of the day.

The day was well worth the 2 hour trip there and everyone who participated was able to take something valuable away from the day.

## Venturing Skills Hike

by Riley S

The camping skills hike helped prepare everyone to be more confident in basic first aid skills and camping independently.

Everyone planned their own meals and cooked them without help from leaders, they organised what to bring and if and who they wanted to share a tent with.







I thought the hike was a great way to transition us previous scouts into venturers and prepare us for what will be to come.

When we got to our campsite there was a dog there to greet us, we spent the whole evening playing with her until she went to bed. We also made a small bonfire which we cooked and had conversations around.



# Rovers

## Halloween

It's an American tradition to many, but pumpkin carving is an artistic pursuit as any other.

The night before Halloween saw the Birubi Rover Crew have a pumpkin carving night.



As artistic as some Rovers are, others were not quite as prepared. With the supermarket fresh out of pumpkins some had to make do with watermelon, and even a pineapple! Ingenius!



Hopefully in future editions we can get some more stories from our Rovers to let us know what they've been up to.



# Group Leader & Committee



## Christmas BBQ

It was great to see a sea of youth members in uniform at our recent Christmas/EOY BBQ at Belgrave Lake Park. We hope you all enjoyed your Scouting year and the BBQ, and we look forward to seeing you all in 2018 after a safe, relaxing festive season!

## Bunnings BBQ

A great fundraising opportunity for the group, a Bunnings BBQ was held at the Scoresby Bunnings on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October with help from many group families and youth members.

Anybody who has ever been to Bunnings knows that the smell of sausages out the front on the weekend is almost impossible to refuse, thus making for a great fundraiser.

Thanks to everybody that assisted on the day. These much-needed funds will assist the group in many endeavours.

## Christmas Tree Sales

The annual sale of Christmas Trees from the Upwey Community Hall car park was another of our fundraisers.

This year the committee/group sold 221 trees. The Scouts in the 3rd weekend, for AJ2019 fundraising, sold another 38. This was a grand total of 259!

Best ever result before this year was 180. Last year saw our first offer of pre-ordering taken up by 28 with an increase this year to 40. A big thanks to all those who delivered our letterbox flyers and manned the stall.



# Group Awards Night

Each year the group recognises the achievements of each section with an annual awards night. Youth members from each section are presented with awards for achievements in areas such as leadership, Scoutcraft, initiative and having a go.

One of our long-term supporters of these awards is the local Bendigo Bank. We thank them for their continued support.

Below are some photos of this year's awards night recipients.



2017 Venturer Award recipients



2017 Cub Scout Award recipients



2017 All recipients

## Bendigo Bank Club Rewards

The Upwey Scout Group is rewarded financially when new business is brought into the Upwey Branch so mention the Club Rewards program at your appointment and when you settle a Bendigo Home or Investment Loan (including refinanced loans) the Upwey Scout Group will receive \$500!\* (\*Terms and Conditions apply. Full details are available on application). Use the attached flyer and take to the branch when opening a new account.



2017 Scout Award recipients

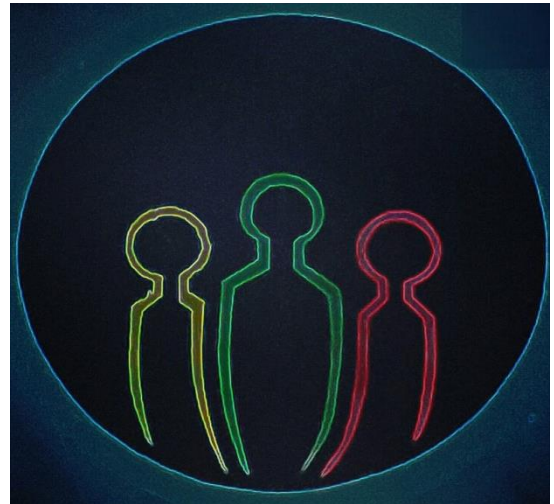


# Camping gear & the environment

If you are thinking of buying eating utensils? Are you interested in sustainability?

I would encourage you to think about what you buy for Scouts – how it is made and whether it will harm the environment when you throw it out (or lose it on camp...)

A new shop (called **Of Three Minds**) has opened in Upwey just near the Hosford Health Clinic and the Fixit man up the top end of Upwey which sells camping plates and cutlery made from **bamboo**. This breaks down when you lose it in the bush rather than annoying the wildlife by remaining there virtually forever. It is also decently strong and made with a minimum of by-products and wasteful practices. Worth a look!



# Club Rewards

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At Upwey Community Bank® Branch we're committed to supporting the community in whatever ways we can.

In fact, we are offering you the chance to contribute to your clubs success – simply by doing your banking with us.

It's that simple - the more banking members have with us, the more your club earns.

When you settle a new...	Your club will receive...
<b>Bendigo Home or Investment Loan (inc refinanced loans)</b>	<b>\$500</b>
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<b>Bendigo Term Deposit (\$2,000 - \$100,000)</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>Bendigo Term Deposit (\$100,000 plus)</b>	<b>by negotiation</b>
<b>Bendigo Savings or Cheque Account</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>Bendigo Piggy or Christmas Club Account</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>Bendigo Student Account</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>Insurance Product</b>	<b>\$10</b>

For more information, contact us:

Upwey Community Bank® Branch, 30 Main St, Upwey, phone 9754 1200.

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Please present this, completed, to Upwey Community Bank® Branch when you take out one of the above products so that your club receives their revenue.

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# Beginning of 2018 bash!!

Family picnic and water park afternoon – book in before 2<sup>nd</sup> January!!



**Date: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018**

Last week of hols!  
Start 2018 with a bang!!  
Must be able to swim



**Location: Melbourne Cable Park** 5 River End Road Bangholme (30mins from Upwey)

**Times: 1pm BYO Picnic on the lawn & 2pm On the water!!**

Either: Aqua Park (over 5 years), Ninja Park (over 10 years) or Cable Wakeboarding (over 10).  
Book in for the sessions you like using link below. Book before 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2018!! Not long!!

## What is the Aqua Park and Ninja Park?

Bounce, slide and splash your way over the bridges, down the slides, onto the trampoline and through the hamster wheels. Aqua Park need to be over 5 years old and the Ninja Park is harder so need to be over 10. Come and join us for the most fun you can have on water!



## What is Cable Wakeboarding?

Cable wakeboarding allows you to wakeboard, kneeboard or ski without a boat. The overhead cable system pulls riders around the lake. Riders grab a handle, take off from the start dock and complete laps of the lake. There are strategically placed obstacles around the lake if you pay \$20 more for an obstacle board. You don't have to go over though.

**Cost:** choose your sessions and pay online when booking in

Age	Aqua Park (over 5)		Ninja Park (over 10)		Cable Wakeboarding	
Session length	50min 2x50min		50min 2x50min		1hr	2hr
Adult	\$20	\$35	\$20	\$35	\$45	\$54
Child(under 16yrs)	\$20	\$35	\$20	\$35	\$39	\$49

*Bring a picnic, drink bottle, sunscreen, rash top!*

**To book in:** Go to <https://www.trybooking.com/341056>



**Book in with lots of friends & family – but we have to book by 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan**

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1ST UPWEY SCOUTS