

SCOOP



**NEWSLETTER FOR THE
1ST UPWEY
SCOUT GROUP**



Editorial

Unfortunately scouting has been impacted by current events, and like a lot of other organisations we are facing changes that may be the normal for some time to come. Despite this our Group has decided to continue with this newsletter to show that we are still in touch and to show that we have been able to achieve a number of undertakings prior to this disruption. Our group remains strong and we trust that all families can come back to Scouting as soon as possible. Its going to be a tough time for many in the coming weeks, and we wish that you all remain safe and well.

Joey Scouts



Kind (my tent buddies)

Awesome activities

No 1 camp

Good food

A lot of joeys (1,200)

Run a lot

Eat lots of food

Entertainment at night (disco)

By Will 1st Upwey Joeys

Our main mob shared activities with 1st Kallista Joey Scouts. We hosted a cooking night for them at our hall, and they later hosted a night where we learnt to tie knots - including reef knots, shoelaces and finger knitting. In term 1, 2020 our joeys have been working on our Mob Buddy Badge. This means participating in a range of activities with other mobs so we can make new friends and learn about how other groups do scouting too.

We had five Upwey joeys attend Kangaree in March along with two leaders, Sally and Echidna. It was an amazing adventure with over 1000 joeys to share the experience



with.

So many activities including 'try cubbing', rope bridges, mega giant slides and 'Mario' style billy cart racing to name a few.

It was the first time Kangaree has been for two nights, and where groups could choose to camp in tents or in the pavilions. Our district chose to sleep in tents, and we were led by Gembrook's fearless Joey leader, Dolphin.

Luckily in addition to this we were able to see them at a Kangaree preparation camp at Gilwell in February with other mobs from our district, enjoying the flying fox and sleeping in tents - some for the first time!



Our joey motto is 'Help Other People' and I know our joeys will do their best to help their families have a happy time together at home.

We are exploring ways to continue non-contact Joey Scouts next term and will be in contact with parents to brainstorm ideas and get our kids scouting soon.

We are having an early break from joeys now but what an exciting adventurous term we have had to remember!

Many thanks to Wombat and Ronen who drove to Warragul to put up tents on the Thursday before Kangaree and again to pick up the trailer of gear afterwards.

Champions!

Echidna



Cub Scouts

Billy Cart Day

Billy Cart Day was a success as usual. We had so many volunteers for Cub Drivers this year that the Cub Section has to seriously think about how we are going to build, borrow or acquire some more billy carts! The cart on the right that



Taylor is riding was a private contestant who willingly lent us their billy cart so that more Cubs got a go. Cubs and Joeys also got about 10 new enquiries which means our waiting lists are full to the brim. Of course if you know of anyone that wants to join you can encourage them to go to one of other fine groups in the District as we often do things with other groups. Well done to the committee and all the parent helpers that put in a stellar effort on the fundraising BBQ!

Ice Blocking

In February Cubs spent the evening with Belgrave South Cubs sliding up and down the hill on ice blocks. It was a most pleasant evening with temperature at the exact level so that we didn't get too cold or not too hot that our ice blocks melted too soon. For those of you that have never done it, it is a frozen water slab with a rope frozen into it so that you can hold on while you sit on it and slide down the hill. On the grassy slopes at Crystal Brook Park (recommended



for anyone looking for a great park to have some family fun) the Cubs slipped and slid down the hill, squealing in fun as their bottoms got wet and their knees got grass stained. This was first time ice blocking for many of the Cub Scouts and parents so they all looked with interest at the Belgrave man who had an ice block the size of a couch cushion and many questions were asked about where he froze it! He reported that he had been adding to it and using it for 3 years and kept it in his large deep freeze in the shed.

Nerf Gun War followed by PANCAKES!



No photos were taken of the Nerf Gun War as the photographer was too busy avoiding bullets shot by the Viper. No just kidding, we took shots as well! One of the hazards of being Cub Scout leader is that all the leaders want to join in the fun. Nerf Guns collected by the Scout leaders have ensured that we can now regularly offer this crazy fun night where the cubs get to shoot unlimited times.

A Grey Wolf In the Dandenongs.



*On the 15th of March, I lead a group of 8 cubs to Sherbrooke falls. A loop from Mcawbers tavern and back. Everyone seemed to like it. I think all the cubs enjoyed the lolly breaks and the fresh air. It was very muddy. It was up hill for the first half and down hill on the second half so that if they got tired it was an easy down hill on the way back.
Thank you all for coming.*

Scouts

Scouts – Term One Doings

This year started off in the same way as years normally do...planning for Stradbroke Cup at



Easter, thinking about Top Gear Scout,

beginning

to think about ScoutHike and what we might do for an activity there, thinking through the leadership of the troop as scouts move up to Venturers and cubs advance to scouts, and we had a big Group activity planned with 80 of us going to Cirque du Soleil in Term 1 holidays. It is such a weird thing, to think that this thinking, was really only a couple of months ago, and



how things have changed in the meantime!

We

have however had a busy and fun time together amidst all of this, and will continue to do so even though some of our methods might be a little different!



Ice blocking, as always was a blast! We met up with our friends from 1st Kallista Scout Troop at Silvan Dam thankfully finishing with hot sausages and the following week did our Water Safety Badge together at Knox Leisureworks Pool. One of their patrols joined us at our camp at Heany Park. It is great to be able to continue to do things with other troops and to meet up with scout friends and make some new ones.

This term Scouts have been caving and camping, ice blocking, swimming, billy cart racing and developing our survival skills. We have been dropped off in the middle of nowhere, played



games and renewed our Troop Code. We've celebrated our first Australian Scout Medallion and have a new board up on the wall to celebrate all those who achieve it - well done Erin Bedford for being the first name up there! Have a look next time you are in the hall! We welcomed new Scouts Hayden and Linking Cub Blake and we also say goodbye this term to Violet, Blake Armstrong and Patrick who have advanced to Venturers we wish them all the best.



For our caving night, a group of us went to Britannia Creek near Yarra Junction on a Thursday night. It was the first time that the caving team has done an evening session and it worked really well for us because we are close by. There were eight of us with Ross, Michaela and Nick and we all got muddy and had a great time. The rest of the Troop learnt about reading maps of our local area after which Scout Leader, Tim, took us to somewhere in the dark, and left us there with a map and a torch and drove off. Don't worry we found our way back to the hall - easy. We got back just in time to have closing parade with everyone else.

We practiced our standing camp skills(camping in the same spot for a number of nights) at Heany Park in Rowville, looking at how to set up our site safely and keep it safe and hygienic, the equipment that was going to be needed and developed our menus for Straddy. We had a visit from the cubs who are ready to link to scouts who gave us some hints on how to set up

things properly. We also enjoyed a campfire of tiny candles to melt our marshmallows and games with the cubs who are ready or almost ready to advance to our Troop.

We have a new activity assistant called Nick who has been helping with caving and other activities, He's been through the normal child safe checks as we all do and is very keen to get to know you all. A number of you will have met him at Ice Blocking and Troop Code night. Here is a bit of info about him for you to read through to start to get to know him a bit. He'll be helping out with hikes, canoeing and other outside adventures.

Nick Elith – Who am I?

I was always active, adventurous and a bit naughty - I am almost fearless. I have taken part in various extreme sports and love to take people out to experience outdoor adventures

I have been involved in youth group activities since teenage years and although I didn't feel any need for security or religion I came to realize that God's love had come among us and I wanted to encourage and share life's journey especially with younger people. I studied Mining Engineering at Uni to pursue my love for flames, fire, explosives and blowing stuff up. I still work part-time as an explosives engineer.

I am married to Jane, have 3 sons and three grandsons



Gradually my goals in life began to change from seeking to be personally happy and have fun ... to wanting to make a difference in the world.

My values – The path of greatness is to love and serve others.

Deep down I still feel like a big kid; I love it when people play with me, laugh with me, trust me. Although I say that I don't really care what other people think of me, secretly I really enjoy it when young people and children accept me and enjoy my company I have no problems blending my engineering science with my understanding of the wonderful God who is above all These days I spend a lot of time wondering what society and

community should look like in a world of cities, information and technology with so much selfishness, greed and so much fear.

Scouting in new ways!

We are responding to the challenge of meeting at home through the use of Zoom, which is an online meeting program, and a weekly email with some challenges for scouts to try at home and take photos to share with others. We will continue to meet each week and these meetings will have some short video clips of a variety of things, some photos/videos of some of the challenges and possibly some proficiency presentations that scouts have prepared. We will make use of Trello, our online noticeboard for sharing things to share photos of things we have cooked, built and whatever else in response to the challenges that we will be setting you. In all of these times please remember that we should be seeking to grow generosity and grace wherever we find ourselves, not grow fear. Let's find new creative ways of communicating that will mean that we are more connected at the end of this time, not less.

Scout Medallion Award

Thanks to the woodworking skills of Ken Stanford, we now have a new Scout Medallion board, just in time to add our first recipient - Erin Bedford. Congratulations to Erin on her achievement.



The Australian Scout Medallion is the highest award in the Scout Section. It is considered the pinnacle of Scouting at this stage. To earn the Australian Scout Medallion a Scout must:

- *Participate in a Scout Leadership Course at any time after completion of the Pioneer Badge;*
- *Demonstrate an active leadership role in Scouting;*
- *Achieve the Adventurer Cord*

Venturers

Founders Day



On the 16th of Feb some District Venturers from Foresters VU and Jets VU participated In the Founder's Day activity. The object was to create a raft, and have a race out to a way point and back. Although the Jets craft was constructed a lot better, the Foresters super skiff reigned superior and took out the award. bragging rights mostly. Haha.





AG was great. AG was held on the weekend of the 21st to 23rd. This time around we had a good number of linking scouts eager to see what Venturing was all about. Most took advantage of the numerous onsite activities as well as the offsite stuff. Linking scouts and Venturers alike enjoyed Helicopter rides, four-wheel driving, horse riding, Bounce just to name a few.



Canoeing

Feb 24 saw the Foresters at Aura Vale Lake, with the addition of a few District water activity Canoe's (Thanx Keith) and a great sense of adventure, the Venturers began to explore the vast lake, and of course did what Ventures do best. listen to music, socialise with each other, and have an awesome time. It was the first activity for at least 1 linking scout. The Venturers showed him how it was done in true Venturer style, which may have involved a little too much water in places where perhaps it wasn't needed. We also had a BBQ to top off the evening. All had fun and full bellies.

Rock climbing

March 16th. Rock climbing at the Nunawading Hard rock complex. Enough said. There was a great turnout and who knew, indoor rock climbing is a 'thing' for some of our new recruits. Michael too is an old hand, showing his prowess 50 feet above the floor.



Aly's Queen's Scout Presentation

After over 2 years of sustained effort including a plethora of courses, leadership positions and adventurous activities, Aly achieved the peak award of the Venturer section – the Queen's Scout Award. In recognition of this achievement,



organised her presentation at the District Scout Hall on 14th March. There was a veritable who's who on hand to celebrate with Aly including the Scouts Victoria Chief Commissioner – Rod Byrnes, Scouts Victoria Venturer Commissioner – Duncan McColl, many region and district commissioners, uniformed adult members and a great collection of Venturers that Aly has met during her journey. It was great to hear about Aly's scouting journey to this point from her Cub, Scout and Venturer leaders as well as a number of the friends she has made along the way. Congratulations Aly!



Linking Scouts and new members

*I'd also like to shout out to the many linking Scouts who have given us a try and the new members that have joined or are trialing with us. Sam N, Violet M, Tamika P, Blake B, Blake A, Lily N, Leonarda S, Oscar R and Xy D.
We look forward to meeting with you again!*

Rovers

Nothing to report from our Rovers this month.

Group Leader & Committee

Marquees

Through the determined efforts of Ken Stanford, we now have all of our group marquees branded with identification lettering. This will allow us to mate all corresponding components and will be of considerable help when the Marquees are in use on camps and at other events.

Back Ramp

In line with safety requirements, we now have a new ramp at the back of the hall. Much thanks goes to both Ken Stanford and Eric Yates. This ramp was constructed utilizing existing and donated materials, representing a huge saving to the group.



Our Committee

Our committee quietly works away in the background keeping things on track and undertaking tasks that are often not that obvious to group members and parents. Apart from our excellent leaders, operating a scout group requires many tasks and lots of effort outside of normal group functions. Our committee has the responsibility of ensuring our finances are sound, that our equipment is up to date and in good repair, that our committee meetings are properly documented within the charter of scouting, and that our building is safe and organised for its

intended use. A committee can make or break any organisation, and we can rest assured that we have a well functioning committee, committed to ensuring 1st Upwey Scout group continues to operate into the future.

