



The Scout Association of Australia

New South Wales Branch

**1st Winston Hills Scout
Group**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, 9th May 2008

**SCOUTS
AUSTRALIA**



Celebrating 100 years of Scouting in Australia (1908 - 2008)

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Office Bearers for 2007-8

LEADERS

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Group Leader | John Hardiman |
| Venturers | Kym Partridge Julie McEwan Warwick O'Keefe |
| Scouts | Ian Shield Lyn Barratt Denis Welton Lindsay McEwan Robert Oldfield |
| Cubs | Lorna Hardiman Scott Leacey Greg Boxall Grant Sollom |
| Joey's | Helen Sara Bligh Gibbs Jodie Richards |

COMMITTEE

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| President | Richard Sperinck |
| Vice President | Chris McClure |
| Treasurer | Vicki Welton |
| Secretary | Genna Sperinck |
| Trustees | Ian Hodson Hugh Fraser |
| Job Week Coordinator | Chris McClure |
| Fund Raising Coordinator | Peter Rose |
| Hall Booking | Jenny Scott |
| Public Relations | Michelle Sollom |

Agenda for 2008 Annual General Meeting

This is the thirty-eighth Annual General Meeting of the 1st Winston Hills Scout Group, founded June 1970.

- 
- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. OPENING FLAG PARADE | Youth Members |
| 2. WELCOME | John Hardiman |
| 3. SCOUT'S PRAYER | John Hardiman |
| 4. APOLOGIES | John Hardiman |
| 5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING | |
| 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT | Richard Sperinck |
| 7. TREASURER'S REPORT | Vicki Welton |
| 8. GROUP LEADER'S REPORT | John Hardiman |
| 9. JOEY REPORT | Helen Sara |
| 10. CUB REPORT | Lorna Hardiman |
| 11. SCOUT REPORT | Ian Shield |
| 12. VENTURER REPORT | Kym Partridge |
| 13. WORLD JAMBOREE 2007 | Luke Saunders & Chris McEwan |
| 14. RE-ELECTION / ELECTION OF GROUP COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS | |
| 15. VOTE OF THANKS | Richard Sperinck |
| CLOSE | |
- SCOUTS AUSTRALIA

Scout's Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God,
By whose grace thy servants are enabled to fight
The good fight of faith and ever prove victorious;
We humbly beseech thee so to inspire us
That we may yield our hearts to thine obedience
And exercise our wills on thy behalf.

Help us to think wisely,

To speak rightly,

To resolve bravely,

To act kindly,

To live purely.

Bless us in body and soul

And make us a blessing to our comrades.

Whether at home or abroad

May we ever seek the extension of thy kingdom.

Let the assurance of thy presence

Save us from sinning,

Strengthen us in life and comfort us in death.

O Lord our God, accept this prayer

AMEN

Minutes of 1st Winston Hills Group - AGM 2007

Date: Friday, 11th May 2007

Attendees: - as per the Visitor's Book

At 7.10pm John Hardiman (Group Leader) declared the meeting open and welcomed everyone especially our guests Hon Julie Owen MP, Denzil Campbell (Winston Hills Lions, Robyn Vella (Winston Hills Guides) and Andy & Val Walker.

Apologies were received from:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Hon Alan Cadman (MP) | Genna Sperinck |
| Tony Merceica | Rhonda Glacken |
| Jenny Oldfield | |

John then led the Scout prayer.

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted by John Hardiman and seconded by Andy Walker.

Group Presidents Report was presented by Richard Sperinck

Treasurer's Report was presented by Vicki Welton

Group Leader's Report was presented by John Hardiman

Joey Leader's Report was presented by Helen Sara

Cub Leader's Report was presented by Scott Leacey

Scout Leader's Report was presented by Ian Shield

Venturer Scout Report was presented by Ben Scott & Andrew Marsden

New Office Bearers – Andy Walker then gave a brief history of Winston Hills Scouts. Andy was the founding "Scout Master" and had quite a few anecdotes to tell, e.g. in the early days the Scouts met in the park (3rd Settlement Reserve) come rain or shine, as they had no hall.

He then declared that nominations had been received for the following positions:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Group Committee | AUSTRALIA |
| President | Richard Sperinck (cheque signatory) |
| Vice President | Chris McClure |
| Treasurer | Vicki Welton (cheque signatory) |
| Secretary | Genna Sperinck |
| Trustees | Ian Hudson & Hugh Fraser |
| Job Week Coordinator | Chris McClure |

Hall bookings Jenny Scott
Recruitment Officer Jenny Scott

There being no other nominations, the above positions were declared filled.

The uniform leaders were confirmed as:

Leaders

Group Leader John Hardiman (cheque signatory)

Venturers Kym Partridge
Julie McEwan

Scouts Ian Shield
Lyn Barratt
Denis Welton
Lindsay McEwan
Robert Oldfield (in training)

Cubs Lorna Hardiman
Scott Leacey
Grant Sollom (Associate)
Greg Boxall (Associate)

Joeys Helen Sara
Bligh Gibbs
Jodie Richards

Special Presentation - Neville Henderson presented Lorna with her 5year Scout membership pin

Richard Sperinck then proposed a vote of thanks to

- *Our special guests*
- *The parents and youth for also joining us this afternoon.*
- *Jenny Scott & Genna Sperinck for preparing the Hall and providing Supper*

The meeting was closed at 8.35pm



Group President's Report

To our distinguished guests, youth members, leaders, committee members, parents and children, hello and welcome to our Annual General Meeting for 2008.

Following on from last year's important celebrations of 100 years of Scouting, this year we celebrate 100 years of Scouting in Australia! Various activities and event have been planned throughout the year some of which have already taken place like the Founders day Celebration here at Winston Hill in February, thank you Peter for organising the BBQ and refreshments.



Our founding Scout Master, Andy "Jock" Walker and his wife, Val, cut the 100 year Birthday Cake.

The past year also saw the group assist at the Caber Park Committee children's Christmas Party, running the obligatory BBQ. Unfortunately the weather was not the best, it drizzled all day, however a hardened band of local residents braved the weather and enjoyed a magic show, a display of Australian reptiles, etc. as well as savored some hot tasty sausages!

On the subject of sausages and BBQs, Bunnings Warehouse continues to provide us the opportunity to seriously raise some funds for the group. We run three BBQ's each year and earn close to \$1,000 each time, a very worthwhile event. Whilst Penny & David do a fantastic job in organising each BBQ, they are only supported by a relatively small band of dedicated parents. Please, we would love to see more parent participation; we only ask an hour of your time. It's not hard everything is provided, there are four parents rostered on at any given time and it's a great way to meet other parents and share experiences, etc. especially for our new families

Hall renovations continued this year with new dual flush toilets and non-slip floor for both the bathrooms. Funding was provided the CDSE Grant program – thank you to Parramatta Council for coordinating the program and Parramatta Leagues Club for kindly donating the funds.

If you go around to the back of the hall you would have no doubt noticed a new rainwater tank that was recently installed as part of the Federal Government's celebration of the "Year of The Scout". This will compliment the bathroom renovations and help us conserve a precious, limited, resource.

Using our own funds we arranged for Wormald to install new side doors with emergency push bar exit locks, replacing the old doors which had become quite rotten and weren't terribly secure.

The installation of the exit signs (yet to be wired up) will complete the Hall renovations and satisfy all the items highlighted in a safety Audit commissioned by Scouts Australia three years ago.

There was one task that I wanted to achieve this year but alas may have to wait a few more months and that is the replacement of the 'memorabilia' that we took down a few years ago to make way for the notice boards.

On a serious note, there was one item that I was not expecting. Late last year Parramatta Council instigated an audit of all the Public Halls in their area looking for the presence and condition of Asbestos. I received the report towards the end of March this year and unfortunately there is some loose asbestos in the under store and also in the roof space that need urgent attention. At the time of writing I have two quotes and am preparing an application to Scouts NSW for funding. In the meantime the under store, particularly the area where the canoes etc, are stored, is a "restricted area", however the rest of the hall, kitchen, dens, bathrooms, etc, are classed as low risk and can continue to be used as normal.

I would like to thank all the Committee for their support during the year. This year a few have decided to move on and I thank you for the many years service you have given, i.e. Vickie for looking after our funds, Ian for helping keep the equipment and hall in good repair, and Penny & David for their Newsletters, thanks guys you have been great.

Thanks also to John, our Group Leader, for his advice, guidance and leadership

Lastly I would like to thank my wife Genna for her continued support and secretarial skills, thank you.

Yours in Scouting

Richard Sperinck

Group President



Treasurer's Report

We ended the 2007 year with a balance of \$12,271.18, a reasonable figure going forward; quite a bit of this is already allocated for equipment purchases.

With such a large and active group the total figures for any activity can be surprising. In excess of \$50,000.00 passed through the books this year. Full, audited accounts are available for your perusal.

Hall hire totalled \$2,325.00. A little lower than last year but we are very particular about who we hire to and the size of our group means there are not many weekends or nights when the hall is not being used for scouting in some way.

Grants and donations from local clubs and businesses were \$9,000.00 this year. Thanks to Richard for taking the time and effort to put together the submissions required and our thanks to the following

| | |
|--|------------|
| Lions Club of Winston Hills | \$ 500.00 |
| Timminco | \$ 100.00 |
| Rotary Club of Winston Hills | \$ 200.00 |
| Julie Owens (local member) | \$ 200.00 |
| CDSE Grant (Parramatta Leagues Club) | \$8,000.00 |
| <i>(specifically for the bathroom makeovers)</i> | |

The Lions Club of Winston Hills also supports us and we support them with cash-a-can. In 2007 our share totalled \$935.00.

BBQs held at Bunnings generally resulted in approx \$1,000.00 profit on each occasion. Our thanks to Bunnings for providing the opportunity and all the BBQ gear.

I know that no-one likes fundraising, raffle tickets and chocolates are the pits, but a small amount of your time at a Bunnings BBQ, cash-a-can and the garage sale makes a big difference and provides an opportunity to socialise with other parents.

This year's big value items included

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|--|
| New side doors | \$3,289.00 | TM |
| Bathrooms | \$8,558.00 | (most covered by CDSE Grant) |
| Finalising Kitchen | \$1,500.00 | |
| Family camp | \$6,752.00 | (covered by attendees) |
| Jamborette (Scouts & Venturers) | \$4,000.00 | (more \$2,000.00 of this is just food) (covered by attendees) |

Expenditure in the coming year will include new tents and fly's, repair of the dining tarps, GPS, badges and books and leader training.

Yours in Scouting

Vicki Welton

Treasurer

Group Leader's Report

This has been a good year for Winston Hills Scout Group as we have all four sections registered with healthy numbers of youth in each section.

We also have two new leaders, Warwick O'Keeffe and Linda Ramsbottom who will complete their training as venturer leaders to assist Kym and Julie in the Venturer section. This gives the group a total of 17 Leaders a very pleasing number and also, a good time for any parents wishing to become leaders as they will be plenty of leaders to look after you.

I said at the last AGM that I would like to have 100 youth members registered in our group by the AGM in 2008 and we nearly achieved that figure in November of last year, but I am still confident that we can achieve this target by the end of 2008, which in the 100th Year of Australian Scouting would be a fantastic achievement for Winston Hills.

A highlight of 2008 so far was our Founder's Day Birthday celebration here at the hall and in the reserve outside. It was great to see so many past Scouts, leaders and committee members and friends, plus new Joey parents join us in the celebrations.

We have already started thinking about our '40th' anniversary of Winston Hills Scout Group for 2010 and are welcome to hear from you of any more ideas.

I have said at the past few AGM's that Winston Hills Scout Group has a very promising future with so many fine and dedicated leaders, but this year I want to highlight especially the work of the committee, in particular three extremely hard working and committed parents in Richard our Group President, Genna our Group Secretary and Vicki the Group Treasurer.

So much of what the group has achieved over the past five years has been down to them and we are very indebted to them and so they all deserve a big BRAVOOO!

Also, I would like to add a personal thanks to Vicki Welton who is intending to stand down as Treasurer from today. Vicki has done a very professional job as Treasurer and has always been very patient with leader expenses and handling large sums of coins from camps etc.

I will also, miss Vicki's insightful suggestions and well chosen ideas and experience at our committee meetings and hope that she will still continue to support the group with her scouting knowledge and experience.

Thanks must also go to Jenny Scott who has done an excellent job in a very busy year with hall hires and keeping the hall clean and also to Penny Baker and Peter Rose as Fundraising coordinators, who've done a great job on the Bunnings BBQ'S and other events like bingo nights and the group Christmas parties.

Thanks also to Chris as Vice- President, in organising all the rosters and follow – up's on Cash-a-Can with the Lions Club. I know that Chris has covered for many Saturday's and hope that this year he has a much easier time.

Thanks also to other parents like Natalie and Lorraine who have run the group garage sale for many years and also to new parents like Belinda Martin who has recently been making our scarfs for all our new joeys and cubs.

A big BRAVOO to all of you and the other parents and friends who have helped the Group in any way.

Now, all of the activities and experiences you will hear about today are down to our volunteer leaders and parents.

Many thanks to our Leaders Helen , Bligh and Jodi in Joeys, Lorna, Scott, Greg and Grant in Cubs, Ian, Lyn, Dennis, Lindsay and Robert in Scouts, Kym , Julie, Warwick and Linda in Venturers who have done a Fantastic job.

They all deserve a big B R A VOOO !!

I wish to thank all of them for volunteering their time to put forward a great year's program for the children and youth.

In particular this year, I would like to highlight two of our youngest leaders, Jodi and Bligh, in Joeys who regularly give up their Monday's and other nights and weekends for Joeys' and I think that for a young person today that is a tremendous gift, when their lives are so busy, with Uni Study and work to give up their time to help the youth at Winston Hills.

So a big BRAVOO to Jodi and Bligh.

Finally as Group Leader, I have taken much pleasure in seeing how so many of our youth have enjoyed their scouting experiences at Winston Hills and feel certain that this year, the 100th Year of Australian Scouting will be a very memorable one.

If as a parent or a friend you would like to involve yourself more in the group, please come and talk to us, being a leader or serving on the Committee is very rewarding and you will help to continue into the future, what Baden Powell wanted for our youth today.

Yours in Scouting

John Hardiman (Hardy)

Group Leader



*The Leadership Team at
Winston Hills, 2008.*

*(Missing: Kym Partridge & Jodi
Richards)*

Joey Leader's Report

Wow, what a year. This year the joeys have grown from strength to strength. We started the year with a mob of 10 Joeys and ended the year with 18. We have also been lucky enough to gain the valuable assistance of 2 other leaders who have hopped into uniform to assist us. Thank you to Lindsay McEwan and Grant Sollom whose son's Jayden and George joined Joeys.

We kicked the year off with an Australiana Theme & the mums joined us for mum's night in a 'dress up as an Aussie' night. To top off the Australian theme the joeys attended the Joey Fun Day at Bundilla. Winston Hills ran a base consisting of Aussie Games, including 'A dry Boat Race' & knocking the red back off the toilet seat by thong throwing – a real hit with all. (except the red backs). A great day was had by all.



Gang Show came to the Joeys – with the Joeys developing their theatrical skills – well I think that's what they were doing!

The joeys participated in the Buddy Badge Scheme, where our Joeys enjoyed a circus night hosted by Balcombe Heights Joey Mob. This was followed by our Joeys hosting a campfire night, which was also attended by Cubs and a Scout Patrol. This night saw the joeys and cubs in particular in full voice. (lucky the neighbours don't live too close) The final part of our buddy badge had us join the Balcombe Heights joeys for rock climbing

at the edge. We were left in no doubt of the tenacity and determination of many of the Joeys including Nathan Spry who made it to the top several times.



Our Joeys attended the 'Centenary of Scouting Celebrations' at Parramatta Park. We also undertook a 'Heritage Adventure' through Parramatta, visiting historic sites and enjoying a Ploughman's lunch in Parramatta Park.

The Joeys also made some Beaver Buddies from Great Ellingham in the UK, we shared information, Joey badges, scarves etc. We also got a mention in their local magazine.

A super heroes dress up night with the dads left us in no doubt as to the true aspirations of many of the dads. (Photos withheld pending legal approval for release)

November saw our 1st ever Mob Holiday. We joined Balcombe Heights, North Rocks and Ermington Joeys for a 'FANTASTIC' beach themed weekend. The joeys, parents and leaders had a great time. The Joeys achieved their adventure challenge badge.

For our 'Care & Share Badge' we had Simeon Hawking from WIRES' visit with his array of rescued animals. We visited Woodberry Village Nursing home and to the delight of the residents shared our Joey experiences and gifts we had made. We also had a pet night where along with joeys, leaders, parents, we also had 5 dogs, 2 chickens, tadpoles and numerous species of fish – all survived the experience.



This year has seen the Joeys numbers increase to record levels. We have also achieved our 'Environmental Challenge Badge'. Most recently to celebrate 'Seniors Week' we had a 'Bring a Special Senior Night'. This saw numerous, Granddads, Grandpas, Grandma's, Poppy's & Pa's attend and have a great fun night. Quoll's now famous lemonade scones topped off the night.

This year has also seen 3 Joeys - Sienna Archer, Sally Richards and Sean Turner awarded the highest award in Joeys, 'The Joey Promise Challenge Badge' A HUGE 'HOP HOP HOP' to the Joeys who should be very proud of their efforts.

We are all looking forward to another action packed year which will include Joeys Australia celebrating their 18th Birthday.

Yours in Scouting

Helen Sara (Potoroo)

Joey Scout Leader

Cub Leader's Report

Well it's been another fun active year in cubs.

We have had three camps this year.

We stayed at Ingleside at the Scout Environment Centre in September. For this the cubs worked for their world conservation badge and participated in Scout Environment Week. We had a really great time. The cubs were taught a lot about the environment, climate change and things they can do to help. We did pond dipping as part of stream watch, planted shrubs and went on some great bushwalks. We even saw some beautiful red flowering Waratahs.

Our pack holiday camp was at Cataract Scout Park with a 'Knights of the Round Table' theme. We had Gawain, Lancelot, Galahad and Percevale sixes. There was a night time quest where the cubs visited a witch, Merlin and others to fulfill the quest which was followed by a campfire. The cubs did knight training at Challenge Valley, jousting, and caving. As if this wasn't enough they spent Sunday morning at the Waterslide. It was a great camp and hopefully more memorable for the fun and games than for the insect bites at night!

Our next camp was at Balmoral Oval as part of the Sirius Cup Regatta. This is a large scouting sailing and canoeing event. We camped in tents and had a great time. Our pack came 3rd in camping thanks to Kaa and Bagheera and our parent helpers. The cubs had fun on a bushwalk up to Middle Head and later swimming and playing at the beach. Sunday morning saw Hamish come 3rd in the Iron Man comp and a good effort by all of our cubs that entered. We entered the canoe races and did reasonably well. We are hoping this will become an annual event for our pack.

We also used our regional activity team for a day on the water at Chipping Norton Lake; the cubs spent all day on the water canoeing and swimming and generally having a good time.

We have had other outings including a bushwalk and picnic at Lake Parramatta and a bike hike to Prospect Reservoir. We've also had other fun theme nights, district campfire at Bundilla, visit from WIRES and our regional science team gave a great night.

The highest award in cubs is the Grey Wolf award. We have had a number of cubs achieve this award, which includes leading a bushwalk and achieving a number of Level 2 badges.

One aspect of the award is to produce a resource based on the Jungle Book. Our cubs have designed and carried out some great games and activities. Jaymes Shrimski, Annaliese Sollom and Megan Glacken obtained this award.

Recently some of our cubs attended the ANZAC youth Parade at Seven Hills RSL and the Dawn Service at Castle Hill the following Friday. It was great to see so many cubs turn up.

THANK YOU

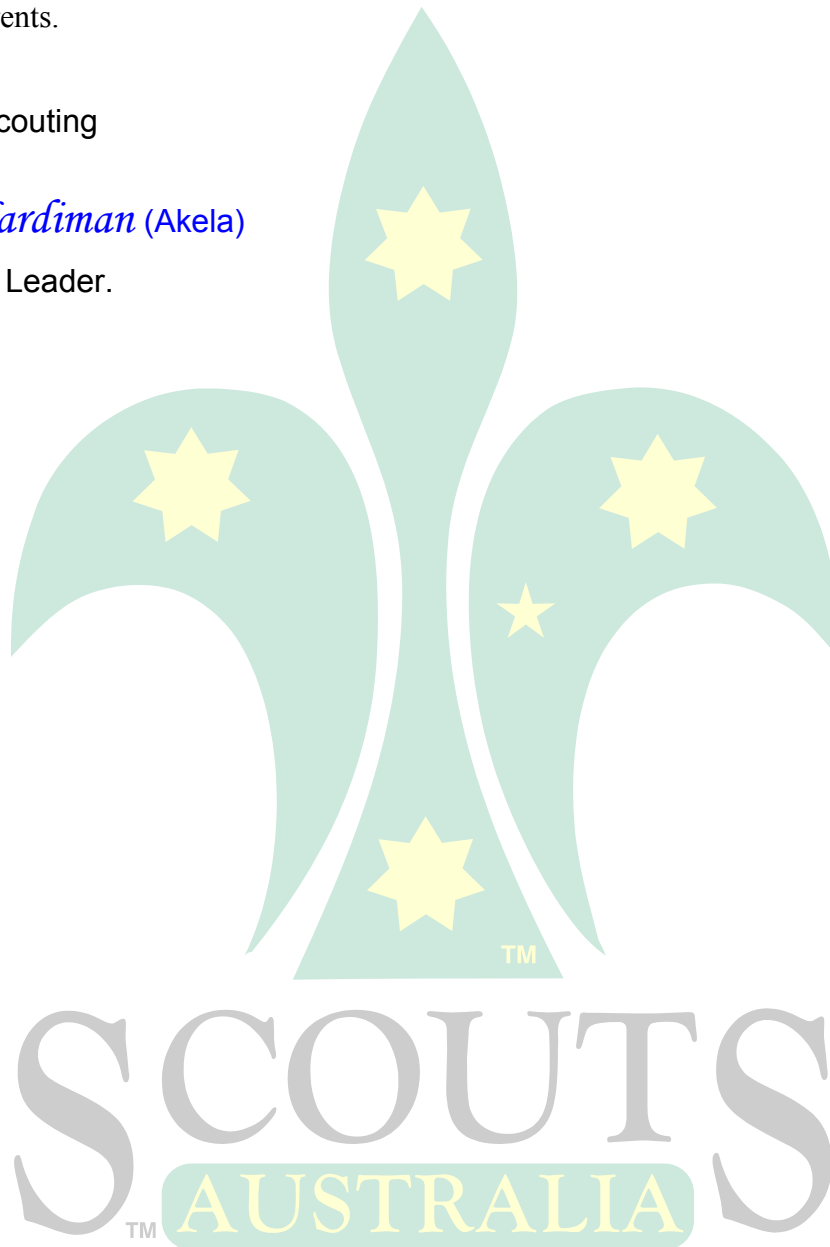
A big thank you to those parents that assisted us on our camps by cooking, transporting gear and cubs and especially those that slept over. Thanks to Rikki (Kristian) our youth helper.

We would also like to thank the other section leaders and committee for their support and assistance. Thanks also go to our Group leader Hardy for his help and support especially by ensuring our new chums had a smooth transition into cubs and welcoming our new parents.

Yours in Scouting

Lorna Hardiman (Akela)

Cub Scout Leader.



Scout Leader's Report

The Troop is continuing to flourish (some might mention “explode”) in numbers and appears to be stable at about 37 Scouts. This is sensational news in the 100th year of Scouting in Australia that we did manage to celebrate as a group with a BBQ picnic day (with cake).

For this reason 2007-2008 became the year of the birth of Wombat Patrol (our 6th Patrol). We have done some forward projections based on the Cub Pack and Joey Mob numbers and it looks as though we will stay in the high 30s for the next 4 years at least. It is for this reason that we remain closed to new members “off the street” at this time.

Scouting is camping and we have again participated in several camping activities as a Troop in the year gone by. Maybe not as many as some years, but this was a deliberate, post Jamboree decision.

The events that we attended in the year just gone were as follows:

2007

- Regional Jamborette
- NSW State Rally
- JOTI
- Competition Camp
- District “City Wide” Game

2008

- Canoe Hike – Upper Colo River TM
- PL / APL Training Camp – Grizzly's

These are always well attended, as they should be, and I re-emphasise that Scouting is camping.

Some of the highlights of the year gone by are detailed in the following small passages.



NSW State Rally - Cataract Scout Park

We sent along 5 Patrols this year and they not only had a great time but they did really well, as can be seen in the following results table.

| | <i>PL Leadership (Max 431)</i> | <i>Overall Points (Max 1757)</i> | <i>G.W.S.R. Position (Out of 32)</i> | <i>State Position (Out of 193)</i> |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Albatross | 392 | 1577 | 2nd | 9th |
| Hawk | 351 | 1424 | 4th | 25th |
| Redback | 224 | 1012 | 21st | 118th |
| Scorpion | 224 | 996 | 22nd | 119th |
| Panther | 195 | 853 | 25th | 137th |



Albatross Patrol

TM

You may note that Albatross Patrol actually took out 2nd place in the Greater Western Sydney Region and 9th place overall in the state. Well done to Nathan and his team.

JOTI

Another great JOTI was experienced with 30 PCs this year hooked up all weekend.

The statistics still amaze us leaders:

- ❑ 130 Visitors
- ❑ 45 Countries
- ❑ 390 PC Hours
- ❑ 1000's of contacts

It is a great weekend; so don't miss it this year.

Competition Camp

We went with 5 Patrols and came away with the Campfire trophy again. Well done to Redback Patrol for this great effort.



District Swimming Carnival

This years swimming carnival saw us take 6 Patrols with one Patrol making 2 teams and another Scout graciously offering to make up numbers in a short Murray Farm Patrol

(thanks Gemma). All in all we had 30 charged, excited, enthusiastic fun filled swimmers that just took the night over.

Everyone participated to their fullest with screaming support teams walking the pool beside all those who swam, cheering them on.

Needless to say we not only retained the Overall Trophy (for another year), but we picked up the relay shield as well.



Blue level Canoe Hike – Upper Colo River

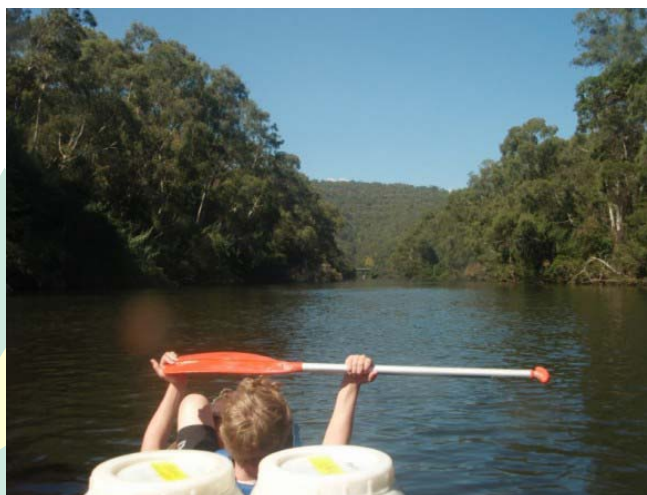
Hikes are great and this one was no exception. It is one of the most picturesque and clean rivers I have ever paddled and we had 2 Scouts using it for their blue level journey. They would be Angus and Hayden. We had 12 Scouts and 5 Leaders on the hike in 8 canoes and Grizzly in his trusty kayak. The trip goes from the upper Colo road-bridge and campground, Friday night for about 36km to the Portland Ferry on Sunday afternoon.

We found on this trip that the 2 leaders were eager to get going on both days and kept good control of the timing of the

many rest stops to ensure plenty of time to reach the final destination on time. In fact we were about an hour early. All paddlers by the end of the trip had the skills to get the boat

going in the right direction and we had very little “going round in circles” occurring, although capsizing was a regular, if not deliberate pastime.

If talking to the Scouts, please remember to ask them what gets into a canoe when you paddle through tree branches close the bank. Then ask what Shannon or Jenna then do!



PL / APL Camp

We again decided that the up and coming PLs and APLs needed some leadership practical training. The venue picked was Grizzly's farm again, due mainly to the ability to plan navigation exercises and construction material acquisition. We will probably do this camp every year, as it has proven very beneficial to the PLs personal development.

This year 12 Scouts have been selected and I am sure they will learn heaps and be able to push themselves that little bit further in becoming a real leader.

Summary

Again we have lost the old Patrol Leaders who have passed on to Venturers (this appears to be a consistent statement year after year). The new ones show plenty of potential though and we may yet see a Scout Medallion or Green Cord in 2008, as Ben Marsden is very close and really pushing hard.

I would also like to thank my wife Natalie for all her support and encouragement. I really believe we have the best leader team in the state, with Maggie, Grizzly, Maluka and now Taipan.

I would like to add a thank you to the ever-present parent team that helps out on meeting nights, camps and outings.

I would also like to thank the Cub Leaders for their help in making the Cub / Scout linking so successful. As well as our Venturers who have endeavoured to assist in Regional events throughout the year as a service to the Scout section.

Without all these people, the Troop would not function as it does.

We again can be proud to have an active and enthusiastic Troop that the other District Troops look up to. This is, in my opinion, due to the magnificent attitude and enthusiasm of the Patrol Leaders and the collective efforts of the leaders. It is thanks to all the above-mentioned people that again we had a great year in the Winston Hills Scout Troop.

Yours in Scouting

Ian Shield (Khan)

Scout Leader



SCOUTS
AUSTRALIA

Venturer Leader's Report

Well here we are two and a half years down the track and Veggies still rule..... Just ask any Venturer.

It has been an interesting year with nearly all of our original veggies (the 10) having left because they have turned 18 or to keep up the ever-growing commitments teenagers have these days.

Julie and myself have had a fun year helping organize the program, running hikes, getting geographically misplaced and generally enjoying the challenge of overseeing the unit.

We have a slightly used addition to the leader team this year with Warwick O'Keeffe joining the elite team of Venturer leaders. Warwick brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the unit from his younger days as a Rover and Scout and we are just waiting for him to remember them so we can tap in to these experiences.



Warwick and Myself doing it tough on our recent hike passing through Newnes.

Once again our youth members ran very successful bases at Jamborette and State Rally last year and showed yet again that they are capable of extraordinary achievements when not at home.

The following year is going to present some new challenges for us with all our older and more experienced veggies leaving. We are anticipating that our younger members will step up to the challenge and maintain the great standard their predecessors have set. If any are reading this, anytime soon would be great!!

Earlier this year I had the pleasure of attending a scuba diving course with Ben Scott and Andrew Marsden as part of Ben's Queen Scout and am pleased to say that we all passed the course and gained our Open water qualification, well done guys. Ben's car was not so lucky.



I will miss them when they are no longer here to hold me up....Thanks guys

Our main event for Venturers, Dragon Skin, was not attended by as many Venturers this year but in saying this one of our veggies was on the winning team. This is only the second in the history of Skin that a Venturer from Greater Western Sydney has won Dragon Skin. Well done Matt Shaw (Matty) and congratulations. BRAVO

Thanks to all the parents and leaders who have helped and contributed over the past 12 months, we really appreciate it and we look forward to another great year ahead of us.

Just a special note to those who have left us over the last 12 months and will be missed by all: Kirk, Emily, Michael, Kristian, Harry, Steven and Dave. Thanks for your help and assistance during your time as part of 1st Winston Hills Venturers.

Yours in Scouting

Kym Partridge (Bugsy)

Venturer Leader

Office Bearers for 2008-9

LEADERS

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Group Leader | John Hardiman |
| Venturers | Kym Partridge Julie McEwan Warwick O'Keefe Linda Ramsbottom |
| Scouts | Ian Shield Lyn Barratt Denis Welton Lindsay McEwan Robert Oldfield |
| Cubs | Lorna Hardiman Scott Leacey Grant Sollom Greg Boxall |
| Joeys | Helen Sara Bligh Gibbs Jodi Richards <i>(Lindsay McEwan)</i> <i>(Grant Sollom)</i> |

COMMITTEE

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| President | Richard Sperinck <i>(continuing)</i> |
| Vice President | Chris McClure <i>(continuing)</i> |
| Treasurer | Peter Rose |
| Secretary | Genna Sperinck <i>(continuing)</i> |
| Trustees | Hugh Fraser <i>(continuing)</i> Des Saunders |
| Job Week Coordinator | Chris McClure <i>(continuing)</i> |
| Fundraising Coordinator | <i>vacant</i> |
| Hall Booking | Jenny Scott <i>(continuing)</i> |
| Public Relations | Michelle Sollom <i>(continuing)</i> |