



THE MESSAGE STICK

1st West Waverley Scout Group April 2006/6.1

Group Website: <http://www.1stwestwaverley.com/>

Kooka Calling

Hard to think that we are already in Term 2 but rather than being winter it's still autumn which is just about the ideal time of year for scouting activities. Easter is just around the corner and our Troop and Unit head into the bush for their biggest and most popular camps of the year.

For scouts, it's off to Gilwell Park for the Stradbroke Cup. This is the "Olympics" of scout camping. A 5-day camping competition where patrols look after themselves. This year with scouts going to the Jamboree needing to clock up a four-night camp as training for being away for 10 days, the Troop heads off Thursday night and returns Monday afternoon. I encourage all parents to visit Gilwell on Sunday afternoon. I know many parents regularly watch their children play sport but many don't see them in scout action. Gilwell provides the ideal opportunity to see first hand what our scouts can achieve. A visit from Mum and Dad can provide the boost a younger scout needs to keep going for the last 24 hours. There is also the advantage of being able to relay any goodies the Easter Bunny might have left at home. Third Degree can provide all the details on visiting times.

Our Venturers are off to Hoadley Hide, where they have been super successful for the last 4 years. Bit harder to keep the Venturers in your sights as they hotfoot it into the bush for 4 days to navigate their way through challenging country whilst tackling 30 stunts and challenges. But come Monday they will tell you all about it.

My phone has been running hot with enquires about joining 1st West. In April, we will be investing 9 new chums into the Pack. In the next issue we will formally make welcome all our new cubs and report on their mass investiture. I hope to see a large number of parents, families and relatives on this night.

Whilst it is fantastic to welcome such a large number of new families to 1st West it has stretched our resources. For the first time in years I have established a Waiting List

for Cubs. This means that we can accept no new families to the Group who wish to join Cubs. It is difficult to say when we will reopen the doors but it will need a number of Cubs to go up to scouts and more critically new leaders to come forward. Akela is effectively operating solo, with some interim assistance from District and other section leaders. But solo leaders rarely last long so we won't be burdening Akela with another wave of new cubs in the foreseeable future.

We will also see the presentation of the Australian Scout Medallion to 5 of our scouts, unprecedented for 1st West. The Scout Medallion is the highest award in the scout section and requires a considerable level of commitment and a high degree of scouting skills to earn. Invitations to this memorable occasion on April 20 will be sent shortly to all Troop families.

And longer term, we have eight scouts and two leaders heading to the Australian Jamboree in January 2007. They are already under way with fundraising – cooking sausages outside Otto's Butcher at Pinewood on the fourth Saturday of each month. Please drop by if you are in the shops.

Speaking of fundraising the Scout Monster raffle tickets will be sent out shortly. 1st West gets 100% of the revenue so please sell your small allotment and any more that you can. A little effort from all of us will generate \$2,000 for our funds.



Kooka
Paul Crane
Group Leader

9803-3032

Test Passing – Don't Think About It, DO IT!!!

You have at long last decided to do something about having a badge or two sewn onto your uniform, I am pleased that you are taking the initiative to join the rest of the troop and become one of many.

To gain or qualify for any badge you will have to do what is called "Test Passing" or Badge Work". You will need to have your own "Scout Record Book" (Green Book). If you do not have one, see a leader who will arrange for you to get it. This book is for you to keep so make sure you put your name and other details in it, not forgetting your patrol name.

You will find in the pages of the "Scout Record Book" all you will need to know regarding our badge work. There are 3 targets you can work for and achieve in Scouting. What you won't find in your book are the answers to the various questions, not to worry though, unlike any school test, help will be given during the various stages of any test. I stress here, you must know your knots and basic first aid, you will not get help with these at test time.

The "Scoutcraft" is your first badge and you must achieve this before you try for another. Your target badge is at 3 levels, Pioneer with all red badges and cord, Explorer which is all blue badges and cord, finally the top and possibly the hardest level Adventurer with green badges and cord. At Adventurer level

it is possible to gain the "Australian Scout Medallion" which is the Scout Section equivalent to the Venturer "Queen's Scout".

As with all tests no matter what, you are required and expected to know the greater part of the test yourself, even as mentioned help will be given. You must know which test you need to try for before you ask to be tested, by doing this you are going to save time, not only yours, but mine as well after all there are other scouts in the Troop.

Besides target level badges there are others, these are called "Proficiency Badges", they total thirty in number - you don't have to pass all thirty, animal keeper, art, collector, music, entertainer, modeler, sports, just to name a few. These "Proficiency Badges" can be of great help when you are testing for the top in the target levels.

Remember, if you really want it you will have to work for it, and with a little help you may get it.

Yours in Scouting and this, 1st West Waverley in particular, '**CHUCKLES**'.



Scout Scribblings

Welcome one and all to 2006, wow what a strange start to the year we've had. We've got a short term then a long term, its all crazy. Also at the end of the year we have Jamboree, a 13 day camp with other scouts around the country, and even the globe.

Well last year ended with our annual ICE BLOCKING night, which like always, was full of awesome sliding and spilling. It was held at Sandown, well just outside, on a man made slope, just about perfect for this activity.

The weekend before the Australia Day holiday saw 8 of us head to Lake Tali Karng (Alpine National Park) for a 3 day hike in extremely hot weather. It was a sensational hike full of great views, hot temperatures and a hell of a lot of Aussie bush flies, roughly 100 per metre square. Only safe from the flies when in the water or in a tent.



During this hike we said that in the year of 2008 we would take 12 scouts/venturers /rovers with us to Tasmania to do one of the big hikes over Cradle Mountain. So we will be holding around 4 hikes each year gradually getting harder and harder, to get us ready for the trip.

The big activity for the term was the big bike ride, the Murray to the Mountains. Wangarratta to Bright on the rail trail, roughly 95km. With that, the motto of the

term was 'need to do some training'. So the first night back was an easy ride from the city to the hall. When I say easy that is, easy for the scouts as the leaders had to ride into the city to meet up with them by 7.15pm. You really don't know how fit you are until you have a time limit of under an hour to ride 24kms. On the way back was a lot more relaxing with the leaders stopping for an ice cream at Dairy Bell on the way home.

The training activity was written down as a simple ride from Jells Park to Knox and back on a circuit trail. But after doing the ride, the forms have to change to 'Jells to Boronia and back' as I thought we'd never get back. There were roughly 15 scouts on this bike hike along with 2 parents and 3 leaders making it an awesome ride with only one sensational dramatic stack. It involved 1 scout braking hard for no reason, the next pulling a front wheel mono trying to stop and a third for realizing he couldn't stop in time so bailed ship. In turn his bike went under the second, causing the second in line to go straight over the bike and ending up with 2 bikes on top of him. All were OK, though watching it from behind I kept thinking the worst, but at the same time wishing I had a video camera.

The funniest thing with scouts is their ability to listen and remember. So if for example we said the week before, "come in casual as were going to have a water night next week", usually we get 1 or 2 scouts that forget, this week every single one of them forgot. Its probably just me, but I think they love wearing the uniform.... On this night we had to pack the trailer for the Big Bike Ride and we decided to have a

water night, as the temp was in the mid 30's even at 8pm. We had a game where each team had to eat an apple completely around leaving just the core but.... Yes that's right there's always a but, the apple was in a esky full of water and the scouts weren't allowed to use anything other then their mouths. It was very interesting. Then next we made a quick water slide by the hall, what its like to be young and have NO FEAR.

Last of all was the big bike ride from the Murray to the Mountains, held over another sensational, but maybe too hot weekend. We arrived at Wangarratta at a local scout hall late Friday night. It was a balmy 24 C. Wake up time on the Saturday was a good sleep in for some at 6.30am so we decided to set up our sleeping gear inside and get some sleep. When we got inside the hall it was even hotter than outside, so after thinking about it some of us headed outside to sleep.

The next day saw us all wake up from a good night's sleep, a little damp but awake. Breakfast was pancakes and cereal, then a quick safety talk before we head out onto the road, trying to get as much done before the day heated up. The trail was reasonably flat with a slight hint of going up. The first stop was 20km into the ride at an old train station, which they had redesigned with tank water, toilets, and an eating shelter to resemble a train engine.



Due to the hot weather it was decided that 20km's would be more than enough for the kids and even adults to ride before a stop, a little rest and a hell of a lot of fluids. Lunch was at a Park at Myrtleford, it was at the end of what seemed to be the only down hill stretch and was looked forward to by all.

The next section saw me (3rd Degree) leave the luxury of my air-conditioned vehicle and take to the track. It was amazing, what a great ride. Tegan and myself took the lead position and took off at a great pace. The most amazing thing was, I left with a half frozen bottle of water and within 10 minutes the water in the bottle was hot. Throughout the ride the water was good in that it re-hydrated you, but I'm not sure by how much you would drink, as it was so hot in the bottle.

After lunch the riders were spread out from Bright to Myrtleford, slowly making it all the way there. That night after dinner some of us made our way down to OWEN's river for a swim it was sensational in OWEN's river, although it was so cold that it felt like I should have been swimming in an ice bath, it was very refreshing.

The next day, we walked around Bright looking at the sights, had another swim, and then fish and chips before heading home. It was a good weekend away with very hot weather.

So far this year some of the scouts have been doing fundraising towards Jamboree to reduce costs to parents, it is held every 4th Saturday at Pinewood next to OTTO's Butcher. It's a sausage sizzle, and without support from OTTO's this would not be

possible. So please come along and buy a sausage only \$1, all profits go to the Jamboree Scouts. So far we've done 2 and have raised over \$300.

Term 2 we have Stradbroke so we are all gearing up for that at the moment.

Happy Easter to all and look forward to catching up next article.

Nick "3rd Degree" Byrne



Stefan and Tegan enjoying one of the down hills, which I remember there being about 1 anyway.



Daniel in the white.



Relaxing at Camp after a hard days ride.....



Graeme and Steve enjoying a rest 65km before the end.



Severely Dehydrated scout - on tour!



ROVER RAMBLINGS

Well we're into another year for rovers, and it sure has been a busy one! We started off the year in traditional style with SURFMOOT – an annual rover camp at Anglesea over the Australia Day weekend. This year Surfmooot started on the Wednesday so it gave us an extra day in the sun. Unfortunately Bee's car decided to break down on the way back from Tali Karng so he couldn't make it as he had to leave Friday and had no way of getting back to Melbourne. Arriving on Wednesday night we chose a great campsite before discovering that Dave had left a slab of draught on the counter of the drive-thru at the Nott. Like all good rovers we then went out to meet our new neighbours for the next few days. After a long night we got back to discover that no-one had had the courtesy to set up our tents for us, so we spent what was left of the night on banana lounges – sleeping under the stars. The next few days saw us on the beach, visiting Torquay and Anglesea a few times, doing rubbish duty (don't ask what we did), and enjoying some of the many activities that Surfmooot puts on. The jelly-wrestling was great with Dave and Joel being foolish enough to actually go in but were lucky as they didn't come out with their boxers over their heads – unlike some rovers.

Next on the calendar was the annual old boys/girls weekend at Sorrento. The purpose of this weekend is to go away on a fun weekend with the old rovers who have been booted from Tarlow. After going down Friday night and having a bit of a swim and hitting some golf balls into the ocean (and then trying to find them) the old boys and girls turned up on Saturday afternoon for a couple of hours on the beach. It then started to rain so when a break came we made a beeline for the pub for dinner and drinks long into the night. Sunday morning we woke up and after detouring to the bakery for breakfast, found ourselves at one of the peninsula's finest – the Eagle Ridge Golf Course. After scrounging through our bags to find something that will sort of pass the dress code we hired our go-karts (ride-on golf buggies) and played a good 9 holes. Unfortunately our golf is pretty bad but our golf-kart driving more than made up for it. Craig Shields won the old-boys trophy and I won the young ones trophy. A great weekend was had by all and we had a great attendance of both rovers and old boys/girls.



After spending about a year on our Torana (and really not doing a lot) we took it for its first spin at a Group 5 Motorkhana out at Werribee a couple of weeks ago.



For those who don't know a motorkhana is basically a course you have to follow around wooden stakes doing as many burnouts and handbrakes as possible on a big dirt field in the fastest time possible. Both Stewart and myself had a drive and Joel came along to watch only as he doesn't have his CAMS license yet – but will by next time. With no windows on the car we got a good taste of motorsport and came home filthy but still had a great time and plan to do it again in the future.

We have been keeping busy with regular Friday night activities such as bowling, making home brew, BBQ's among other activities and look forward to getting a couple of venturers joining us in the next few months.

BY STEVE WOOLGER

(Rubbish duty usually means they have been naughty!! -Ed)

Message From Branch

The Murray Darling Rescue is coming up this August and this time it's at Mafeking ROVER Park!

Please put Saturday the 5th and Sunday the 6th of August (arriving Friday night) into your programs. The event will see 400-500 participants from various community sections (not just scouts) attend and part take in environmental educational activities.

The tree planting is on 4 farms surrounding Mafeking and projected to reach 40,000 trees in the weekend, possibly with an attempt at the World Record for trees in 1 hour and also the millionth tree planted.

During the Murray Darling Rescue project Rover crews are needed not only for tree planting but also for preparing Mafeking Rover Park before the event, running BBQ (anticipate 5-6 BBQ each lunch), traffic marshals on the Friday night and Sunday arvo, and many more service and support roles.

Want more info on Rover Roles or Murray Darling Rescue? Contact Gordon Young, Environment Officer, Vic Branch Rover Council at brc.environment@vicscouts.asn.au or 03 8543 9900.



1st West at the Commonwealth Games I

Our VL, Greg Andrews carried the Queen's Baton down Church St Brighton on the Monday before the opening ceremony. Greg, not being a former gold medallist, a sponsor, a politician, an AFL captain nor a media celebrity, received this honour in part for his many years of service to Scouting.

1st West at the Commonwealth Games II

And on Jana night, the men's 400m hurdle final was also run with much less fanfare. And running in Lane 8, virtually underneath my seat in the southern stand, was Brendan Cole, a former 1st West Cub and Scout. The Cole family were great supporters of this Group so I was thrilled that Brendan had taken his athletics to an international level. Who knows to where that Athletics Badge will lead.

1st West at the Commonwealth Games III

Far from the glamour of the arena, but nonetheless important, Wombat fielded a team of auditors at a temporary Tax Office set up at the host broadcast centre in the World Trade Centre. They assisted all the visiting media and Commonwealth Games teams in providing a 'one-stop-shop' for help with every aspect of Australian and International Taxation obligations.

Well done Australia!!!

We **do** live in the greatest Country in the World. We also belong to the best Scout Group in Australia.

1st West Waverley Scout Group
in conjunction with Scouts Australia Victorian
Branch

MONSTER RAFFLE

**** total proceeds to 1st West Waverley !!!!!

1st West Waverley has decided to participate in the Monster Raffle organized by Scouts Australia Victorian Branch to help raise funds for a much-needed new scout trailer.

1 book = 10 tickets@ $\$2$ = $\$20$ per book =
 $\$20$ profit !!!!!

The prizes are excellent and will suit any family who is lucky enough to have their ticket selected from the barrel.

- 1st Prize: $\$10,000$ Coles Myer Gift Card
- 2nd Prize: $\$5,000$ Coles Myer Gift Card
- 3rd Prize: $\$5,000$ Coles Myer Gift Card
- 4th Prize: $\$2,500$ Coles Myer Gift Card
- 5th Prize: $\$2,500$ Coles Myer Gift Card

We ask each family to take a book of tickets to sell to friends and family and if you have the means to sell more tickets, it would be greatly appreciated if you did so.

For further books (or any other queries you may have), please ring Fiona Woolger on 9807 3852 or Lyn Allen on 9806 0535.

We ask you to return ticket stubs, money and unsold tickets by Tuesday 9th May (Joeys and Cubs), Thursday 11th May (Scouts) or Friday 12th May (Venturers and Rovers). Lost tickets will require a statutory declaration to be completed.

If each 1st WW Family sells 1 book each, the profit will be $\$1,000$.

If each 1st WW Family sells 2 books each, the profit will be $\$2,000$.

Good luck and thank you.

From Wombat's Hole

Hello everyone, gee that 1st term sure disappeared quickly didn't it? The Commonwealth Games are over, and most visitors, except those seeking asylum, have returned to their Countries. Thank you to all the leaders who e-mailed in their reports and contributions to this edition of Message Stick (MS) - but still nothing in from our youth members?? In an attempt to engage some of our scouters, I will trial a "LETTERS" section in the MS. All youth members, parents and leaders are invited to participate, and all that is required is few words on a note or in an e-mail to me (amnowak@optusnet.com.au) - you can praise something/someone, you can ask a question, you can (dare I say) have a go at someone, tell us what pleases/cheeses you, something funny, something topical - you can also give your name or ask for an anon. inclusion. The only rule is that I reserve the right to edit anything that may be inappropriate, remember that we have Joeys thru to Rovers and District in our reader network. Have a go, let's get some fire going!! Maybe something from that Owens River camp near Bright?

Moving on, there are new registration rules for the Group - a specific night will be set aside for each section, and all registrations and fees must be paid on that night (unless you have arranged differently with GL Paul Crane, only). This is to ensure that EVERY member is covered by insurance, if not fully paid up, they cannot participate in any activities.

There are now several little jobs around the hall, that require a trade expert. Could you please let us know if you can help with plumbing or electricals.

'WOMBAT'