



THE Message Stick

1st West Waverley Scout Group

June 2005/5.1

Kooka Calling Welcome to the first edition of the *Message Stick* for this year!!!

Leader Changes

It is always a pleasure to welcome a new Leader. Steve Woolger has volunteered to train as an Assistant Scout Leader. Those who attended Steve's Queen's Scout Award presentation in December last year will know that he brings a lot of talent and enthusiasm to the Troop. Please make Steve welcome. Steve is effectively replacing Andrew "Wombat" Nowak, who has agreed to become Assistant Group Leader. Wombat will revive this publication and ensure that the Group has good communication across all sections. I am very pleased that we have not lost Wombat's skills and love for scouting. Decades after scout masters were done away with, we have a web master in our ranks. Wombat will also look at ways to assist me in "unifying" the sections of the group, and involving parents and families in different ways.

Joeys is being run by Roz Knights on a temporary basis in her capacity as District Joey Leader. We should be extremely grateful for this as Roz also has other duties overseeing all the other Mobs in Monash. Please make Roz welcome at 1st West. Bernard Henri was not able to continue as JL since that start of 2005, and we are sorry to see him go. His leadership of the Mob was unobtrusive, but very effective. Roz stepped into the breach to prevent the Mob closing, and we now have 10 active Joeys as a result. Breeony Oakley commenced as a potential Joey leader this term, and we hope she won't be frightened off by our smallest scouts. Breeony is a Rover from 3/12 West Waverley so is back in familiar surrounds.

Where does that leave us on the leader front?

- Joeys—2 Parents to train up under Roz.
- Cub Leaders—At least 3 needed to prepare for planned resignations.
- Scout Leaders—At least 3 needed so we can offer a total Program for nearly 30 Scouts.
- Venturer Leaders—1 more to prepare for the influx of new members (refer 30 scouts in troop).
- Rovers—1 Rover Advisor to relieve Nick Byrne who is doubling/tripling up with his Troop duties.

So I'm pleased to report we have new leaders, but we cannot be complacent.

Recent highlights

- Two recent events involving different sections demonstrate the opportunities that scouting provides outside the confines of our Group. At the end of Term 2 Gang Show was staged with three 1st West scouts Stefan Nowak, Meaghan Payne, Lachlan Rudd, and 1 Venturer Robyn Allen, on stage singing, dancing, acting and entertaining the large audiences at 9 performances over two weeks. Gang Show is open to any scout, and 1st West has a long tradition of involvement on and off stage. All sections had the opportunity to attend – if you missed out this year please make a point to attend in 2006. I should add that without parent and leader help the show does not go on ...Lyn Allen is Administration Manager, Yolanda Nowak makes costumes, Peter Allen and other leaders help with security.
- The first week of July saw 2 of our Rovers, Caroline Mills and Catherine Burton head off to the Rover Lodge deep in the Bogong High Plains. This well appointed lodge built, maintained and managed solely by Victorian Rovers is two hours cross country ski from Fall's Creek. Rovers spend 7 days at the Lodge, rising at dawn and heading out each day for tours of the surrounding plain and peaks. Other various novel forms of snow based recreation also help pass the time. The Bogong Lodge, the WF Waters Lodge at Mt Baw Baw (also Rover owned), and NSW Alpine adventure Base at Jindabyne provide affordable ways for scouts to make the most of our magnificent snow country.

Family Social Night with bonus AGM

I have been meeting lots of families as I am enrolling new Joeys, Cubs and Scouts this year. I hope we can see all of them and our "old" families at our Group Family Social Night and Annual Meeting on Friday 5th August. This night is a chance to hear about what all sections of the Group have achieved over the past year, and to see what plans are for the upcoming year. Join us from 6.30 pm, with the meeting and section presentations getting under way by 7.30pm Formalities will be over by 8.30pm.

Paul "Kooka" Crane
Group Leader

Scouts Section

Wilson's Prom. Senior 3-Day Hike

We got to the hall early after a disgruntled wake up at 6.00am. Breakfast was a not-so-short stop away, at Kelly's Bakery in Korrumburra (or was it Leongatha?) Not really sure, as in family tradition I only had food on my mind at the time. First day we walked to Refuge Cove, where Gavin made a good friend in his pal, Enzo the leech. One of Enzo's relatives also bit Freyja on the shin, which was bleeding uncontrollably for the next two hours. A packet of bandaids later, our thoughts turned to food again (surprised?). Gavin (or was it Matt?) [*Ed - It seems that short term memory loss may be genetic*] cooked our favourite hike food, of schnitzels dipped in sand, garnished in (you guessed it), more sand. I suppose it was the only way to make the schnitzels crunchy again.

First thing on Sunday morning, we packed up, and set off for Sealer's Cove. When we got there Tegan, Gavin and I decided to race to the end of the beach..... well it seemed like a great idea at the time, until I was crippled with a bad case of blisters.



- *Stefan crossing Sealer's Creek - watching for Enzo and his mates.*



- *The gang - Back at Tidal River.*

That evening we feasted on Matt's whatever it was, but at least it was not crunchy. That night Gavin's superior hike tent leaked, to the joy of my wet feet, in my not-so-superior sleeping bag.

Monday morning saw me serving scrumptious, though deformed, pan cakes. Scrambled is possibly a better word, as the non-stick frypan failed miserably, and having a folding handle, every time you went to flip it, the pan folded and deposited the contents on my wrist.

We left camp and started the journey back to the carpark. We stopped at Ferny Creek, and had a visit from Enzo's extended family. Let me assure you that we didn't stay there long. Next stop was Windy Saddle with a flat fruit cake, and broken Savoys for lunch (I didn't listen to mum, and put them at the bottom of the pack). When we got back to Tidal River everyone breathed a sigh of relief, except for Gavin who found himself running around rescuing his diet coke from the tree. On the way back we stopped for dinner, Mc Donalds never tasted so good, even the rabbit food. The traditional sliding pickle down the window race was won by Nick, the master pickle flinger.

By Stefan Nowak

Venturers Section

Archery Night

Earlier this year we ventured out to Moorabbin Archery Club, for a night of bows and arrows. Everyone arrived as usual, loosely on time, give or take a half hour. First came an explanation of the equipment we were to use, and then the required safety talk. Soon after this we lined up for our first shots at the butts (targets). The target area is about 2m x 2m, and we were shooting from the 10m line. Only 3 people actually hit paper, with a resounding clang of arrows hitting brick walls being heard.

Next we learned how to remove the arrows from the targets, though mostly we picked them up off the floor. The next few rounds saw great improvement in accuracy, with virtually everyone hitting paper, and many getting very close to the 10 ring.

Once everyone got bored with punching holes in paper and bricks, out came some more interesting cardboard targets, including the Head of Al Quaida, former President of Iraq, a weird space alien, and Guy Sebastian amongst others. Our mission was to shoot the apples off their heads, however who could resist Guy's fro and lower abdominal area, Osama's turban or Saddam's moustache. Ross and Alex became very proficient and creative archers, when they discovered the Britteny Spears poster.

After a while, those apples looked like swiss cheese and our arrows were as if dipped in apple juice....sticky! What a great night, definitely one for the regular Venturer Calendar.

By Mark Nowak

Rover Chair

TARLOW'S BACK !!!

For those of you who don't yet know, Tarlow Rover Crew is back on track after a six month struggle with members. Tarlow is the rover crew attached to 1st West Waverley Scout Group. We have built up a strong program including Surfmoor, a weekend away with the old rovers, joint nights with venturers along with many other activities.

Our main project at the moment is fixing up an old LJ Torana that can be raced at mudbash, buggy bash (two annual rover activities) as well as motorkhanas. As I'm sure you can imagine, this costs a lot of money, so we have delivered phone books to help subsidise the costs. At the moment we are looking forward to MARB, the Metropolitan Annual Rover Ball, where the theme this year is "'Tis A Silly Place", where we plan to attend as fish.

Steve Woolger



- *Steve playing checkers with green cordial???*



- *Hanging with rovers.*

Editorial—From Wombat's Hole

Hi there! Welcome to our Group's new Message Stick format. Firstly, thank you, thank you, thank you to Shirley Bowman for producing and editing this communiqué in the past, it will be difficult for me to fill your very able shoes. In fact my first hurdle is to learn how this MS Publisher thingy works, so please bear with me while I work out how to format properly over the first few issues. We are aiming to produce 8 newsletters per annum, or two per term. We have a very active Group, particularly in scouts, so there will always be interesting activities to hear about; this will also be the conduit for committee news, events and administrative communications.

You will notice that the new format is to contain not only the usual inclusions and ad hoc reports, but a regular column for each section and a compulsory contribution from the leaders and youth TWICE EVERY TERM. There will be reports of activities from both adult and youth viewpoints, as well as lists of triumphant badge earners in all sections. This will be driven by the leaders, with the view to engaging our youth in producing a newsletter by the Group, for the Group. Parents are also encouraged to participate, and short prudent articles (even just a paragraph) are very welcome, especially after participating in activities. Don't let the facts get in the way of a good funny story. I will try to include some relevant photos where they are available, and a soft copy of this document will be placed on our website, for families who may wish to save anything for their scout's glory box. By the way, there are lots of photos of your scouts available for downloading and printing, or burning to disk, however due to website size limitations, they will be up for one term only, then replaced by new ones. Please visit regularly, so you do not lose the opportunity to secure precious, previously scarce photos of your kids in action.

Please note and type into your Outlook Contacts, my e-mail address as follows: **amnowak@optusnet.com.au** Although this is the preferred medium for contributions, and feedback/suggestions, I am more than happy to receive hand written notes, photos, diagrams, cartoons etc, so please make an effort, and be an active voice in our 1st West Waverley Scout Group family community.

Yours in Scouting, Wombat (*turned 50, now only eats and leaves*).

WANTED

President

1st West Waverley Committee

Ready-made team needs a convenor and co-ordinator.

Apply to Group Leader
Paul 9803 3032

ALSO

WANTED

Hall Hiring Manager

Outside users are a significant source of income for the Group.

Help us maintain this important life line. Requires liaison with regular users; arrange casual hirers.

Apply to Group Leader
Paul 9803 3032

If I had my child to raise again

If I had my child to raise again,
I'd build self-esteem first, and the house later.
I'd finger paint more, and point the finger less.
I'd do less correcting and more connecting.
I'd take my eyes off my watch, and watch with my eyes.
I'd care to know less, and know to care more.
I'd take more hikes, and fly more kites.
I would run through more fields, and gaze at more stars.
I'd do more hugging and far less tugging.
I'd see the oak tree in the acorn more often.
I'd be firm less often, and affirm much more.
I'd model less about the love of power,
And more about the power of love.

****Robert Baden-Powell**

When Robert-Baden Powell, who with 800 men held Mafeking for the British in a siege during the Boer War, returned home to Britain, he turned away from soldiering.

Instead he devoted himself to manifesting a dream—the unification of Britain's youth.

At the time, there were two other youth organizations in Britain, the Boy's Brigade and the YMCA—but BP felt they were not comprehensive enough.

While in Mafeking, BP corrected and sent back to Britain the proofs of a textbook he wrote called "Aids to Scouting" - intended for Army use, but both the Boy's Brigade and the YMCA used the guidelines for their own associations.

After the Boer war he rewrote the book and called it "Scouting for Boys" and saw it as a key for a successful youth movement.

In 1907 he held an experimental camp on Brownsea Island, off the Dorset Coast. The camp was an immediate success and the next year the Boy Scouts Association was born.

Within two years there were 100,000 scouts in England. There are millions of them now all over the world.

During those early days of scouts he was accused of fostering a para-military youth movement.

But he constantly denied any association with the militia; except in a philanthropic vein. Using the motto to "Be Prepared", based on Baden-Powell's initials, The Boy Scout Movement survived The Great War (WW1) and helped others to survive it, too.

Their eyes scanned the British coastline, and in air raids they assisted in those duties normally reserved for those pre-schooled in the horrors of war. They learned quickly, and history books are peppered with the heroic deeds of scouts and ex-scouts.

***Source: A neatly folded yellowed newsprint article of unknown origins from the late 1960's, found in Wombat's personal copy of Scouting for Boys.*

Please consider

Ask not what your scout group can do for you, but what you can do for your scout group!