



The Message Stick

1st West Waverley

September 2004

Group Leader's Ramblings

1st West turns 40!!

Whether a person, anniversary or institution, 40 years is a significant achievement. If it has not just survived but thrived even more reason to celebrate the milestone. And that we will be doing, as a Group on Saturday 20 November. Over the coming weeks you will hear and see more of it. From the youngest Joey to the oldest former leader, the evening will have something for everyone. Please block out your diaries.

For the record, the inaugural meeting of the Group was 12 March 1964 and the Beatles came to Melbourne not long after. The first Cub meeting was held on June 5 and the 1st West Waverley name came into being on July 16. The Troop first met on September 29. The annual levy per family was £2.10.0 and if there is any budding economist out there who could tell me what that is today's money a suitable reward (in currency of some kind) will be forthcoming.

Gang Show

This show never fails to impress and each year I go away with a greater appreciation for the talent and effort behind the production. And knowing that so many 1st West people make such a significant contribution makes it even more enjoyable. On stage this year we saw Venturers Robyn Allen (in a leading role), Ross Woolger, Mark Nowak and James Beckerleg. From the Troop Lachlan Rudd, Meaghan Payne, Stefan Nowak, Gavin Woolger, Mikito Muroya and Alex Romanin were part of the on-stage troupe.

Behind the scenes, parents / leaders played their part: Fiona Woolger supervised the cast; Andrew Nowak provided security and Yolanda Nowak costumes (I think I have that around the right way around); with Lyn Allen in administration. And I can't omit Don McLeod who must have Gang Show Living Legend status by now and his son Rod who was a long time 1st West identity.

Annual Meeting

By all reports this was a successful conclusion to the Scouting "financial" year. Whatever else goes on the AGM is normally the formal occasion on which we farewell retiring leaders. This year we had the somewhat mixed emotion of saying goodbye to Fiona Woolger as Cub Leader after 5 years, Sarah Romanin, Scout Leader, for a similar period and Keith Harvey our Group Leader for 3 years after a decade in uniform.

For parents who could not get away from the office on the night, I hope that you were able to find a more private time to say thankyou to Fiona, Keith and Sarah for the input they have had to your children's lives.

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Bike Hike! By Nick Byrne

We had a Camp early this term so for an experimental (different) activity, a Bike Hike. It saw us start at Toolangi State forest just between Yarra Glen and Glenburn. There were 8 riders and myself, and while the kids started the first 9km Andy (Wombat) and I did some car shuffling.

They were all given strict instructions to start up the hill to a track I knew they'd remember -BLOWHARD. For some reason this brought a lot of smiles to all the kids. Anyway when Andy and I had finished they were already at the intersection getting photo's of them all standing around the sign.

We continued along the Sylvia Creek Road before coming to a down hill stretch. So before heading down the hill we advised the kids to be careful and do only speeds they were comfortable with. By lunch time there had been 2 accidents - 1 losing it in loose gravel and loose wheel nuts and 1 who tried to stop to help the 1st but only putting on one brake and unfortunately it was the front brake.

Lunch saw us at the top of the mountain range, which meant only one thing, down hill to Yea and that meant another thing, YEAH! After having another talk to the scouts about keeping to the flatter sections and off the loose gravel we were off.

One thing changed, the gravel, it had gone from ball bearing size to softball size and made the journey a little rougher. While riding beside Mikito and talking with him, it made me laugh, as every word that came from his mouth sounded like someone talking in a bumpy car. And as I had a bike with shockers, I couldn't understand as it

was a rather smooth ride for me.

Later on down the hill my we had our 4th stack with Tegan coming off and destroying my other bike, but that didn't bother me, just the fact that she survived with only a couple of scratches and bruises is all I was concerned with. But most of all they showed the ability of the scouts they all had another ride even after the crashes.

Oh sorry I didn't tell you about the 3rd stack well that's because it wasn't actually a stack as the scout in question (Gavin) in his words " Had the sense to bail before the actual crash" jumped from his bike attempting to run and then slow down before tripping over and grazing one had and that's all.

We continued the ride out of the forest and down some roads and down towards Yea. Slowly one by one they were returning to the support car for a free lift. We finally finished the ride just off Melba Highway 8 km from Yea. (As I was dead). The only scouts to do the whole 47km was basically Tegan, Nick G. and Mikito.

Later that night after a big feed and a good shower the pain of the bike ride were kicking in and so the question was asked. "Do any of you scouts want to ride the next day?" and in as many words they said "Do we have too I am so sore" - well to my happiness I was very happy to say "NO" .

So the next day we had a nice relaxing day just lazin' around and it was a blissfull way to end a good and fun weekend.

"Third Degree"

Mothers Night at Cubs May 2004



Games, Camp Story, Damper and Mashmallows and good time was had by all!



STRADBROKE CUP

Previously this year the troop competed in Stradbroke Cup, it was a long four days full of challenges and lots of fun, the three patrols came home with:

Scorpions/Kookaburras (joint) got Bronze; PL's Gavin Woolger and Richard Barnett

Kangaroos got Silver—PL Alex Romanin, APL Stefan Nowak

Koalas got Gold—PL Tegan Dalman, APL Dani Mileo and Matthew Warr.

Congratulations!

Cub Report

Well Spring is here and term 3 is nearly at an end. The cubs seem to have enjoyed themselves so far. Many have earned a new badge or two - who knew that we had so many Entertainers among us, the acting for the Pantomime - "Michelangelo, the wooden ninja turtle puppet" showed that what you might lack in skill can be make up for in enthusiasm. Codes and signals was another badge testing night - I hope that all the Cubs still remember how to sign their name with their hands (maybe Mum and Dad can check).

Our Creative Thinking night was somewhat different - having lost the hall to the AGM; I think the sausages, soft drinks and lollies were the major attraction on this night. And we ate some more the following week, on our cooking night. This night was much enjoyed by all and passed the test: no one was rushed to hospital for a stomach pump.

While Australia outperformed themselves at this Olympics - the Cubs outperformed each other in our own version (and kept the leaders highly entertained as well - my personal favourite was the synchronized swimming - who said you need a pool).

Well done to all - everyone was a winner in my book. We are very lucky with our pack - in that we have a great bunch of children full of enthusiasm, who always try to keep the Cub Promise to always do their best.

This term wound up with a special night for the Dad's (or whatever special person is lucky enough were invited to join us) - it was a fun night and we thank all those who came out and brought their sense of humour with them. The 'Shave Your Dad Game' showed us just where the cubs get their good sportsmanship from.

The finale of course is our night out with the District to Caribbean Rollerama, this will be a great chance for our newer cubs to make friends with cubs from other packs in our area/District, and see what a large organization they are lucky to be a part of. Please give Rikki a ring (9887 6314) if you need help with transport on the night. If you ever have any questions about a night we are running, please don't hesitate to contact the following Leaders: Rikki: 9887 6314 or Kim: 9884 6482, we'll try to help.

You will have read in the South Metro Mag and in the usual Scout Magazine that our Cubs have the chance to participate in a Cuboree next year - 4th to 8th April (1st week of school holidays, last day of term is Friday 1st April 2005). Cuboree 2005 is going to be held in Victoria (the last one was in South Australia) at Gilwell Park, Gembrook. Applications are open until 31 December 2004. At this stage we don't have any leaders from our Pack going - but don't let this deter the children who are interested, they will be placed with other children from our district and the leader that they are assigned to, will come to our pack to get to know the cubs before they go. There is lots of information about the Cuboree on the Website: www.cuboree.com. Check it out - they only happen once every 4 years.

SCOUTS SECTION RULE! By Tegan Dalman

Halfway through this term and we're on a roll!

It's been a fun packed term with two camps, a bike hike and Cohen to come. We've made a record to be proud of!

We had a smashing time on the bike hike, literally. The first hill was a killer, walking was hard enough, let alone riding. Luckily there were no stacks, though considering we were walking, it'd be a worry if there was. It was a steady ascent for a while, only HALF THE FIRST DAY! The first real down hill saw Michael K stack, which cost a fair bit, smashing his glasses and all, and getting himself a nice bruise on his cheek.

Then continuing down the hill Tom decided to join Andy and Michael in the car, going straight over the handle bars, getting grazes on his knees and elbows. To top it off, was me (I can't help it, I'm blonde what's their excuse??). I learnt that going ahead of everyone else with Gavin and Luke wasn't the best idea! And going too fast down a very rocky hill was just asking for it, you could say cruising for a bruising, I damaged 'every panel on my body' as Andy put it, and still have a couple of bruises and some nice scars to show for it!! Back to the story, I pulled the front breaks off Nick's bike, which I was riding, but I kept going after a couple of minutes.

We stayed at Yea Family camping ground, which was a nice place in the Goulburn River. In the morning we found some worms and Andy tried for some fish, with no luck unfortunately. Then for the long trip home which ended the weekend.

Next was the father son camp which was a blast, with a fair turn out. The kookaburras proved a bit of a problem, though we lived.

Only one Dad slept in the car (must be another record), this was due to our friend 'Chainsaw' you can guess where he got that name (for those who aren't on the quick side, it's because of his snoring). Though there was also a dad who was referred to as 'Two-stroke' on the next day.

Gavin really topped the Injury ladder, breaking his arm, and Dean's old record for getting over the cargo net, with 11seconds. Thank you to Alex for the amusing job in the mud at the gauntlet. Also well done to the Glossop's who won out over all with the most points, the Saffieris who closely followed and all the other families who had a go.

The Dad's had no trouble beating the kids at building a catapult, it wasn't our fault though, they're older and they had an engineer! We packed up pretty quickly, then it was to the initiative course for a family competition. Two families a team, the winners were the Glossop's and Staffieri's. It was a good weekend and one to remember.

Still to come is Cohen Shield the competition camp, were we all hope to get co-holder.

Also its bye bye to another two of our PL's, Alex Romanin (Kangas) and myself (Koalas), this will see two new scouts into the PL positions, and some new APL's.

From Alex and I good luck guys, have fun and thanks for everything!

Tegan



One fun Cub night—Michael going up night!



HOADLEY HIDE

For the second year running we are co-holders of the Hoadley Hide - the team comprising Steve Woolger and David Romanin plus Joel Heath from 1st Waverley and Ailsa of 4/11 were one of the 4 Co holders (top 5% of competing teams).

Steve and Joel have now been runners up and twice Co-Holders an extraordinarily consistent effort. The team worked hard over the 4 days but also enjoyed themselves immensely - and seemed to have a very high profile amongst the whole of the Hide - Venturers and Leaders alike. Their acceptance "speech" was somewhat novel.

Having worked on a stunt as an assessor and seen many teams I can say that most range from good to excellent in their aptitude and skills so to stand out in that environment is an achievement of considerable merit.

Our "junior" team all first time HH competitors did very well and won the Best Costume Award - a highly sought after title. Congratulations to Ross Woolger, Mark Nowak, Tim Morton and James Beckerleg.

I was also pleased to see many recent Koorunga Venturers, now Rovers, working on stunts - putting something back into an event and section they enjoyed for 3 years.

A very thrilled VL, Paul

DISAPPOINTING!

The 38 Annual 1st West Waverley AGM was held on Tuesday 3rd August. A free sausage sizzle was organized before the start.

Of the 38 people present, the numbers were made up of Leaders, District Leaders, Ex Leaders & their partners, Committee, Scouts and THREE parents!

The Committee now has **NO**:

- President
- Treasurer
- Message Stick Editor

Job Descriptions -

President - Oversee the Committee & preside over the monthly meetings (Approx 9 per year). Yes a bit more than that but nothing to big.

Treasurer - Send out the Annual fee notices. Collect & bank deposits from Fees & Fundraising. Issue cheques. Keep records.

Message Stick Editor - Receive articles from each section & put together the newsletter 3/4 times per year.

None of the above positions are a huge task when there is someone for all the positions. It becomes a HUGE task when those on the Committee have to take on more than one job.

PLEASE think hard about joining the Committee. The Committee is there to benefit OUR children & to help the tireless

work of the UNPAID Leaders who are with OUR children each week & many weekends.

2004-5 Committee

President - **NOT FILLED**

Treasurer - **NOT FILLED**

Secretary - Vicki Kurtenyek 9562 9914

Registrar - Terry Warr 9807 8775

Message Stick Editor - **NOT FILLED**

Hall Maintenance - Steve Beyer 9807 7890

Hall Hire - Ray Unwin 9806 0866

Fundraising - Lisa Glossop 9807 2899

GROUP LEADER & COMMITTEE

Steve Woolger's
Queen Scout Award
will be
Friday 10 December

Steve, Maintenance Committee member, asks:

“If you have a trade eg. Electrician or painter, or know someone who does, who would be willing to assist 1st West Waverley—please call me on 9807 7890”

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And on the commute scene, we said goodbye to three major contributors. After a decade or more Chris Stapleton said goodbye and was acknowledged with the “Ace” Family Award for service to this Group. Chris was a Queen’s Scout and Rover at 1st West and would see his service to the Group as part payback for all he got out of Scouting in his youth. Fortunately for us, we have benefited from Chris’ efforts and thank him once again. Bernie McCarthy finished up as Treasurer after 6 years during which time we have not had to worry about the financial records which is not something every organisation can say. With son Luke still in Scouts, we hope to still see Bernie around the Hall. And to Shirley Bowman, thanks for your leadership as President over the last two years. Whilst Shirley has stepped down from the Committee we have not lost her talents entirely as she has agreed to “edit” this newsletter. Again I hope parents have thanked Chris, Bernie, and Shirley - a nice tribute would be to fill their shoes as successive generations have done over the last 40 years.

Annual Levy

Thankyou to all families that have paid in full or are about to pay the second instalment by the 30 September deadline. Please do this without prompting, our committee members could do much more good for the Group than spending time chasing arrears. If you have genuine difficulty in making the payments please contact me, we would rather work around this than potentially lose a scout.

And finally ...

It is a great honour to be able to write this article as Acting Group Leader. I will remain in this position until the end of 2004 and assess the future then. In the meantime, I am dedicated to helping the committee and the Leaders of the sections to continue to keep 1st West the best. And if you can help me help them help your children in any way please contact me. I’m available about 16/7, to corrupt a modern day cliché, and reachable in all the old fashioned ways as well as the contemporary. I look forward to meeting many of you in the months ahead.

Paul Crane

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