



# THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA NSW BRANCH - 1<sup>st</sup> LANE COVE SCOUT GROUP



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## Group Leader - Annual Report — 28 April 2017

### May 2016 – April 2017

I have pleasure in providing you with an overview of the Group's activities for the past year and some challenges, as before, for the year ahead. Our section leaders for Cubs, Scouts and Venturers will provide individual reports on their activities.

The Group has participated in many National, State, Regional, District and Area activities and shared in local community activities by taking part in the Anzac Day Ceremony, the Lane Cove Cameraygal Festival, and the Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and other Citizenship Ceremonies in Lane Cove. We also participated in the Red Shield Appeal, and will do so again next month. These and the other activities have been the highlights and rewards of an active Community focussed Group.

Yesterday, 27 April, was the anniversary of our first meeting in this new Scout Hall. Tonight, we can all see the 'unveiling' of the improvements we have made in the last month and finished (except for some painting and other final touches) today.

Change can often be difficult to accept but can also offer opportunity. We are currently undergoing a change, i.e. from being associated with the Scouts Sydney North Region (SNR) Moocooboolah District to being a Group in the SNR Turrumburra District. Around 20-years years ago we went from Turrumburra to Moocooboolah. There have been several changes, with Yanagin District being absorbed into Moocooboolah and four, from Moocooboolah, Boronia, Hunters Hill, Tambourine Bay and Lane Cove being moved into Turrumburra. The District Commissioners, Cam Jessup and Peter Navin, for Moocooboolah and Turrumburra, respectively, will outline more on this later.

During the year, the Cub Scout Pack and Scout Troop have enjoyed a varied program on Wednesday and Friday nights, respectively, during the School Terms and, as mentioned above, have participated in Community activities on Australia Day, Anzac Day and many Citizenship Award ceremonies at Lane Cove Council.

Thank you to the Cub Section Leader, Carolyn McGregor, for all her efforts in co-ordinating the Cub Scout program. Carolyn has been ably assisted by Trainee Cub Leader, Scott Brewis. They work together as a great team trying to always derive a varied and exciting programme for the Cubs. Many of the Cubs and Carolyn enjoyed the 2017 Cuboree, at Cataract Scout Park. Also thanks to all the parent-helpers who have assisted each week.

The Scout Troop has been developing very strongly over the past year. We need to thank Leader Tony Talifero and Trainee Scout Leader, Lisa Keay, for the continuing the development of the Scouts in 2016-17. The Scout Troop has also participated in several other events including the ANZAC Day Ceremony at Lane Cove. Next weekend we have some Scouts going to the Sydney North Region (SNR) ScoutHike, in a Southern Highland Forest.

Our Venturer Unit now has 13 members, and as shown in the Venturers Report, part of the Moocooboolah District Venturer Unit that has about 20 members. Other groups participating in that 'Unit' are East Ryde, Hunters Hill, Meadowbank, Boronia, Putney and Tambourine Bay. Thanks to Cassie Balk for her continuing service to the Group and assistance in the continued development of the Lane Cove and District Venturer Units. With the changes to the Districts there will be some changes but it is anticipated the District Unit will be able to have participating Groups from both Districts.

The establishment of a Joey section (ages 6 to 8 years) is one of our goals for 2017/2018. This section was commenced, in 2014 and 2015 but this is dependent on some people coming forward to get this section really going i.e. Joey Leaders. This is a continuing work-in-progress.

The Group is planning a Family Camp for November 2017. The camaraderie of these events is something we need to ensure continues and most of the Group can attend. Camp Windeyer, where we have a "campsite" to rebuild, is a great place for relaxing Family camps. It is hard to believe that such a relaxing and seemingly remote place is located so close to us here in Lane Cove.

Our focus on fund raising in 2017-18 were our Christmas Tree sale and sausage sizzles at Blackman Park during the Soccer season'. In 2017/18, we intend to continue this focus because it concentrates into two major collection activities and because it spreads the drive from a family to a community focus. We are asking every family to assist in the raising of these funds so we can update our camping, and boating equipment, our First Aid kits plus contribute to a fund for assist with attendance to the forthcoming 2019 Jamboree and the continuing fitout costs that will occur in this new Scout Hall.

Once again, a special thank you must go to the members of the Group Committee for all their great efforts, especially Adrian Carnelutti, for his chairing of the Committee, Kylie Allen, for her diligent recording of the committee meetings, Christine Balk for keeping the books balanced, Jono Ladmore, Warwick Ponder and Wayne Li for their continuing input and guidance in ways to grow the Group, Brian Hall and Brad Merrick for their diligent review of the many issues with communications and the ongoing Scout Hall redevelopment. Some special thanks also to Graeme Balk who, with Christine, is a stalwart in our fund-raising activities.

We also need to pass on our thanks to past committee members Jenny Slade for her most appreciated contribution and assistance over the past years.

We have a new building but to grow the Group there is a need for new Youth members, leaders and members of the Group Committee, to assist in the continued growth and renewing of membership of the Cub, Scout and Venturer sections and the proposed Joey section

There is a **dependency to rely on only a couple of the leaders** who have completed their training. We can never say we have enough leaders. Please note the **more** leaders we have the **less the time** that may need to be put in for each individual. You can also have a lot of fun while learning new skills.

None of us can afford to rest on our laurels and it is up to each one of us to participate to ensure the continued viability of the Group as a Leader, Committee member or parent helper. A small contribution can lighten the load of the existing few and it can be great fun.

The Scouts are part of the community. As has occurred previously, the Group have been asked to assist in the collection for Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal on Saturday 27 or Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May. The support and participation of the youth and parents from 1<sup>st</sup> Lane Cove has been highly appreciated, in the past, by the organising committee and the Salvation Army. Thanks to those who did assist and we look forward to your assistance on 28 or 29 May.

I wish the Group and all the Sections the very best for the coming year, and every success in Scouting.

Yours in Scouting

**Paul McGregor**

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Group Leader