



THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA NSW BRANCH - 1st LANE COVE SCOUT GROUP



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Group Leader - Annual Report for AGM — 30 May 2012

May 2011 – May 2012

I have pleasure in providing you with an overview of the groups' 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 Regional, District and Area activities and also 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. These and the other activities have been the highlights and rewards of an active Community focussed group.

There has been progress on the proposed redevelopment of the Scout Hall that will be outlined later in this review.

During the year, the Cub Scout pack has enjoyed a varied program on Wednesday nights during the School Terms and has participated in Community activities on Australia Day, Anzac Day and a number of Citizenship Award ceremonies at Lane Cove Council.

The Cub Pack is currently running at 25 invested Cub Scouts with 3 New Chums. Several of the older Cub Scouts have made the transition to Scouts, and achieved their Link Badge during the first term this year.

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 leaders Sophia McLean and Tony Talifero. They work together as a great team trying to always derive a varied and exciting programme for the Cubs. Also thanks to all the parent-helpers who have assisted each week.

The Scout Troop has been developing very strongly over the past couple of years and now has 32 invested Scouts. 21 of our Scouts and Leaders, Selina Gibson and Carolyn McGregor are now preparing for the Australian Jamboree to be held at the beginning of January 2013, in Queensland. They have also participated in a number of other events including the Sirius Cup Regatta and the recent the Sydney North Region (SNR) ScoutHike in the Belanglo Forest, plus the Anzac Day Ceremony at Lane Cove.

Congratulations to Selina Gibson her efforts in stimulating the Scout section with an active program of events. In the past year Selina has been ably assisted by Assistant Leader Bernie McCartney and Cassandra Balk.

Our Venturer Unit that last year had five members has grown to 13 members with 2 new chums. They are now part of the Mocooboolah District Venturer Unit that has 25 members. Other groups participating in that 'Unit are East Ryde, Hunters Hill and Tambourine Bay. Sadly James Skeggs who took on the leadership role in Venturers has relocated to Brisbane. We want to acknowledge our gratitude to him for the great effort he did in stimulating the Venturers into the active unit they now are.

We were truly honoured with the NSW Chief Commissioner, Doug Menzies visiting us recently and awarding a Citation to our venturers for their great efforts in providing first aid to an injured leader. The Venturers were a credit to themselves and our Group.

The establishment of a Joey section (ages 6 to 8 years) is one of our goals for 2012/2013 but this is also dependent on some people coming forward to get this section going.

The Group is planning a Family Camp for early November 2011. The camaraderie of these events is something we need to ensure continues and most of the Group is able to 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.

As mentioned earlier in this report the year ahead provides several major challenges for our Group. The need for new leaders and members of the Group Committee, the continued renewing of membership of the Cub, Scout and Venturer sections, the establishment of a Joey section and the proposed rebuilding of the hall are just a few examples.

The proposed rebuilding of the hall is an ongoing task that has been progressing over the past number of years. The Sydney North Region Building Committee, Regional Commissioner and Region executive have recommended to the Scouts NSW Branch that funding of \$650,000 be provided for the building of a new 1st Lane Cove Hall. We are still awaiting the Scouts NSW Branch to action this recommendation and will be following up on this matter in the promptly. We do not want to waste a good lease as we are now 7-years into the 40-year (plus 10-year option) lease which effectively runs until 2055.

Our main focus on fund raising in 2011/2012 was our Fertilizer Drive and the Christmas Tree sale, sausage sizzles at Blackman Park during the Soccer season' and also at the opening of the Cameraygal Festival in Lane Cove Plaza. In 2011/2012 we intend to continue this focus because it concentrates the main activities into two major events and also 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 upcoming Scout 2013 Jamborees and future Cub Scout state-wide Cuborees.

Once again a special thank you must go to the members of the Group Committee all their great efforts, especially Bill Gibson for ensuring we organised ourselves well, Christine Balk for her for keeping the books balanced, Alastair Tringham for providing the necessary secretarial duties, Vivienne Cheang for her publicity efforts and Peter Hore in assisting with the fund raising activities. A special thanks also to Graeme Balk who, with Christine, is a stalwart in our fund-raising activities. We do need additional committee people particularly a Trustee and a Quartermaster.

The Group needs to strengthen and grow. This includes the recruitment of additional Leaders, members of the Group Parents and Supporters Committee, and most importantly additional Youth members. The commitment and efforts of all the leaders are very much appreciated by the Group, and I am sure supported by each and every parent.

We do need more leaders for the Cub and Scout sections and the fledging Venturer sections. 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.

We have to realise the operation of the Group cannot be left to a few. None of us can afford to rest on our laurels and it is up to each and every one of us to participate to ensure the continued viability of the Group. A small contribution can lighten the load of the existing few and it can be great fun.

The Scouts are part of the community. The Group were asked to assist in the collection for Salvation Army collect for the Red Shield Appeal on Sunday 29th May. The support and participation of the youth and parents from 1st Lane Cove has been highly appreciated in the past by the organising committee and the Salvation Army. Sadly, even though the numbers in the group have increased, the participation of the individuals was less this year. Thanks to those who did assist and contributing more effort. Truly appreciated.

Parental support is needed for this important community activity. Let us show that we can all be leaders in our Community!

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