



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



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## President's Report for AGM — 30 May 2012

Bill Gibson  
President  
1<sup>st</sup> Lane Scout Group

A curate's egg- very good in parts, would be my one line summary for 2011/12. Over the last year we have continued growth in member numbers, and have made good progress on one of our weaker areas - leaders. Yet again I have to report that while some progress has been made towards the fabled new hall, it is still frustrating that we have not started construction.

I'll leave the leaders to give details on their sections, but it is exciting to see the progress in both Cubs and especially Scouts, where we have had a waiting list. The Mocooboolah District Venturer Unit is now firmly established, with 13 Lane Cove members, and a team of leaders. One of my personal highlights was accompanying them to Mt Solitary on an overnight hike.

We continued with what have become our main fundraising events, the Dynamic Lifter Drive and Christmas Tree sales. In addition, we've had regular sausage sizzles at Blackman Park during football season; in addition, with Jamboree this year we have also experimented with a smaller sausage sizzle at Burns Bay – this needs only a couple of people to run (excluding set-up/pull-down), partly thanks to our very convenient storage in our garage. The committee has resolved that the proceeds from these sausage sizzles are to be directed to assist with funding for the Scout Jamboree and those venturers who are attending Venture South 2013 in New Zealand - this is often spoken about as the pinnacle of Venturer Scouting. Funding preference is going to those families who have actively contributed to the fundraising effort.

We continued to improve group equipment with additional tents, packs, and other camping equipment. These have been well used. While it is great to be able to hire/lend out equipment to our members, it is frustrating to see that it is not always returned in clean and neat condition. We would very much like to have a volunteer quartermaster to assist with check-in and check-out of equipment. This position would not require constant effort, but would mainly involve recording equipment lent for camps or hikes and to identify any required repairs/replacements on return. Note that equipment, such as canoes, are available to members and their families for loan at a nominal administration fee.

Any Scout group is totally reliant on their leaders. As a "non-leader" spouse, I know how much time, effort and dedication goes into making the Cub, Scout and Venturers groups successful. Many thanks to our Cub Leader, Carolyn McGregor who is here every single Wednesday night during school term. It has been great to see her being joined by Tony Talifero and Sophia McLean in recent months. My thanks to them as

well. Selina Gibson continues with her large group of scouts, ably assisted by Bernie McCartney who has completed his leader qualifications. Cassandra Balk has given great support to both Scouts and Venturers. Many thanks to both of them.

We were all very sad to see James Skeggs relocating to Queensland – I know the Venturers really miss him.

The leaders we have all find the work rewarding, and with the larger pool of leaders, there is lots of support. Again, I would strongly encourage all parents, especially men to consider if they could take a more active part. If there is one simple thing that would really help them it is this – read their emails, and reply as requested; complete required “A1” and other forms in good time, and return with required moneys. I can’t tell you how often this simple thing isn’t done!

The Parent Committee handles the group finances, and provides support to the uniformed leaders of the Cub and Scout groups. We have been struggling to fill all the committee roles over the last year. Peter Hore and Vivien Cheang have been new members over the last year, but we still need at least 2 more people to help with the Trustee role and Quartermaster role. Many thanks to Chris Balk and Alastair Tringham for their continued service, and also to Brian Hall, our Honorary Auditor. I’d like to thank all committee members for their work over the last year.

I hope you have seen our work in improving the 1<sup>st</sup> Lane Cove Scouts Web site. Vivien & Selina have been trained in updating the site, as have I. If you or your children want to post news, photos or stories, please let us know and we can help out.

I would also like to thank our Group Leader Paul McGregor who constantly works behind the scenes to keep 1<sup>st</sup> Lane Cove Scouts running. Paul puts huge efforts into the Group, and I really appreciate his hard work and enthusiasm.

The new hall is a continued frustration we have a commitment of support for \$650,000 from the appropriate Scout Association committee, but there does not seem to be a real process to progress from the Scout hierarchy. As they are the legal entity with the authority to enter into contracts we can’t progress without their clear direction, which has not been forthcoming to date.

I also must comment that while it has been great to see more members, and more leaders, there are too many parents who are conspicuous by their absence when request are made for assistance. “We are too busy” as an excuse just does not cut it. There are many opportunities to help out, *so please make an effort, organise your time and demonstrate to your children how to volunteer and take part in our community.* This would lessen the load on our stalwart contributors, to whom I offer my very sincere thanks.

Overall I have found working with 1<sup>st</sup> Lane Cove Scouts extremely satisfying, so I encourage more people to get more involved. We have a great group, and great team spirit, so please join in.

As the saying goes, *many hands make light work ....*

Thank you

Bill Gibson