

The first activity in 2000 was a Gold Fields walk at McMahons Creek in the upper Yarra Valley on Sunday the 16th of January. It was a good turn up of 5 scouts, two linking cubs, 6 Leaders, and two parents. An interesting day was spent inspecting the old mine workings of the area and we were all entertained by the lunchtime cooking antics of our new cub leaders Kent and James.

Hall activities started with the traditional Wet Night/Water Fights on Wednesday the 9th of February, and followed the next Wednesday with a hike to the Bayswater Ice Cream Parlor.

Thursday the 24th of February saw the Link/Going up ceremony for Cubs Rhys HOPPER and Matt BATE.

On the 1st of March we visited 1st Ringwood and exercised our construction skills by building catapults and then had a battle with water and flour bombs.

Six scouts did community service on Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday the 5th of March while the Leaders attended a briefing for the planned Kakadu trip.

On Wednesday the 8th of March Matthew WALSH and Bridget IRVING were made Patrol Leaders with Kate ROWE and Phil YULE stepping back to become 'Patrol Advisers.'

On Saturday the 11th and Sunday the 12th of March, seven scouts, 4 leaders and one parent tackled the Cathedral Mountains Skyline hike. This was a practice for Kakadu. The temperature was very hot and the hike rough and tiring. Disaster struck at 3pm when I rolled my ankle on top of a peak. Alan and Robyn stayed with me until I was later lifted off by helicopter at 6pm. Geoff and Alison HOPPER continued on with the scouts to the overnight campsite. Robyn and Alan met the party on the Sunday morning when the hike was shortened due to lack of water. It was an interesting hike which none of us will forget.

On Friday the 31st of March we had a sleep-over video night at the Hall. The following Wednesday the 5th of April was a swimming night at Ringwood Pool when Shaun HOPPER gained his Red Dolphin Badge (1500 meters)

The planned Easter Kakadu trip was postponed to the June School Holidays because of Cyclones.

Lasseter's hike/activity weekend was held Friday the 5th to Sunday 7th of May at Mount Disappointment State Forest to the east of Tallarook. On Friday night there was a heavy storm with strong winds and rain so the decision was made to sleep in the hall. We left early on Saturday morning and arrived with clearing weather. Alan and I set up camp while Robyn and the two patrols got stuck into the activities. The theme for the weekend was reconciliation.

The Wombat Patrol lead by PL Bridget IRVING was the overall winner and also won Best Dressed in accordance with the weekend theme. Our other patrol led by Matt WALSH came 5th out of the 17 Patrols from the District who had entered.

On Saturday the 13th and Sunday the 14th of May we manned flower stalls for Mother's Day as a Fundraiser.

On the weekend of Friday the 16th to Sunday the 18th of June, both Patrols attended a Patrol Activity Camp at Clifford Park on Electronics, Archery and Radio

Five scouts and 3 leaders were greatly disappointed the following Wednesday when the Kakadu trip was cancelled because of an administration mix up with the booking of the plane.

The July/August period saw Bridgett IRVING and Matt WALSH leave Scouts because they had turned 15, Kate ROWE and Phil YULE also moved onto Venturers. Phil was awarded his 50 nights under canvas just before he left. This is a lot of nights and evidence that he is a very keen camper. Jarrod HODGSON and Kirsten MORROW were promoted to Patrol Leaders. Holley SHELDON and Mark LEWIS were invested as new Scouts.

The 2nd of August saw 16 Scouts attend Rock-Climbing and the following week, Matt SBIZZIRRI was awarded his Pioneer Cord.

The end of August saw Sarah DICKIE performing on stage at Whitehorse ShowTime together with ex-scouts, Phil YULE, Bridgett IRVING, Kate ROWE and Stuart HOLLEY. All scouts and parents who attended enjoyed the show 'UP IN SPACE'. Hopefully more scouts from the troop will participate this year.

Cohen Shield was held at Clifford Park on Sunday the 10th of September. We entered two patrols consisting of 11 scouts overall.

The following week saw the start of school holidays with the Maroondah District five-day camp at Clifford Park. We entered a combined patrol of 8 scouts under the leadership of Jarrod HODGSON. Lots of fun was had with sunny weather. The patrol won the District Leaders Award.

October saw many nights devoted to Badge work especially for those going to the Jamboree. The Troop also attended many P.R. Activities such as the; Heathmont Festival on Sunday the 8th of October, Our Lady's Fete on Saturday the 21st of October and the Heathmont East Primary School Fete on Saturday the 28th of October.

For the first time in many years we entered scouts in Scout Hike which was held from Friday the 10th to Sunday the 12th of November in the Mount Hickey State Forest. They were Jarrod HODGSON, Matt SBIZZIRRI, Kirsten MORROW, Sarah DICKIE, Shaun HOPPER and Daniel RATTENBURY. The weekend saw torrential rain for most of the time and tested the resolve of the patrol. Notwithstanding this, they came very close to winning gold and received a silver pennant, which was a very credible first time effort.

The weekend of the 18th and 19th of November saw the five scouts who were going to the Jamboree have a practice camp with their Jamboree troop 121 at Clifford Park.

November also saw Shaun HOPPER and Daniel RATTENBURY awarded their Pioneer Cord.

We finished scouts for the year with the break-up at Box Hill Dark Zone and Forest Hill Pizza Hut on Wednesday the 6th of December.

We had all three Leaders and five scouts attend the Jamboree in Sydney in the New Year and that will be recorded in next year's report.

Throughout 2001 Robyn ROWE ran many fundraising activities for the scouts going to the Jamboree and for other scouting activities. I have mentioned the Mother's Day Flower sales and there were also chocolate sales. Hardly a month went by when she didn't run a Sausage Sizzle at Heathmont.

I would like to thank both Robyn and Alan YULE for their assistance during the year. Also for the assistance provided by many parents and the group committee for their help in 2000.

Yours in scouting,

Bruce Dickie, S.L
Feb. 2001