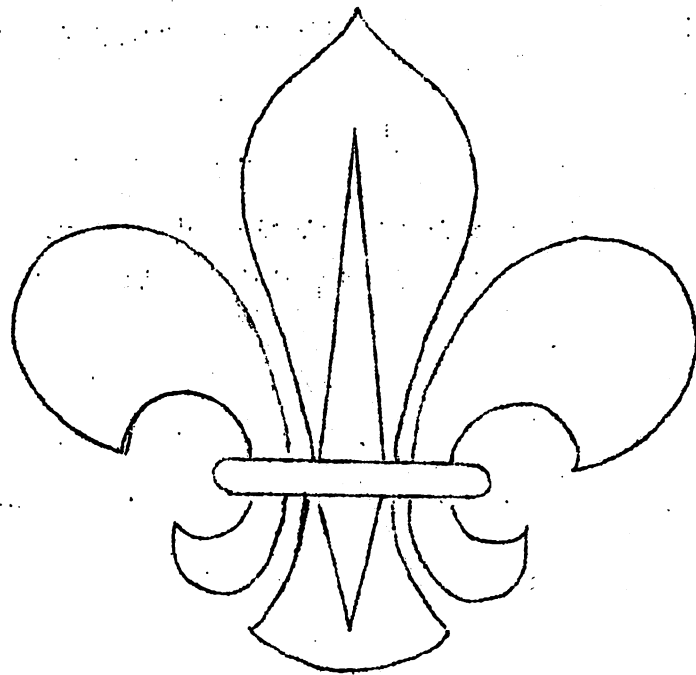


THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

VICTORIAN BRANCH

EAST SUBURBAN AREA

RINGWOOD DISTRICT



* ANNUAL REPORTS 1978. *

RINGWOOD DISTRICT SCOUT ASSOCIATION

15th ANNUAL MEETING

4th MAY, 1978

A G E N D A

Welcome by Chairman and request President to occupy the chair.

Apologies

Confirmation of Minutes of last Annual General Meeting

Receipt and adoption of District Commissioner's Report

" " " " Assistant District Commissioner (Training Report)

" " " " District Cub Leader's Report

" " " " District Scout Leader's Report

" " " " District Venturer Leader's Report

" " " " The Financial Report

Election of Office Bearers - Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Appointment of - Honorary Auditor
- Badge Secretary

Address by Area Commissioner.

Address by Chief Commissioner.

Presentation of Wood Badges by Chief Commissioner.

SUPPER.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

CENSUS: 1978

Membership May 1977 figures in brackets.

Group	1st R.	2nd R.	3rd R.	4th R.	1st H.	6th R.	7th R.	2nd H.	Total
Cubs	42(45)	19(15)	36(29)	49(29)	42(49)	52(49)	51(46)	45(41)	336(303)
Scouts	40(41)	15(17)	32(30)	40(40)	37(43)	41(31)	32(41)	30(33)	267(276)
Ven'trs	15(9)	-	9(9)	20(20)	14(15)	9(14)	12(7)	9(9)	88(83)
Rovers	6(9)	-	-	-	10(5)	-	-	-	16(14)
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Total									
Boys	103(204)	34(32)	77(68)	109(89)	103(112)	102(94)	95(94)	84(83)	707(676)
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Warr.									
Ldrs	6	4	7	6	13	11	14	8	69
Prob.									
Ldrs	10	3	6	9	1	4	5	2	40
C.I.'s	3	-	3	-	2	-	1	1	10
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Total									
Ldrs	19(13)	7(6)	16(14)	15(15)	17(14)	15(20)	20(15)	11(9)	119(112)
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Total	122	41	93	124	119	117	115	95	826
	(117)	(38)	(82)	(104)	(128)	(114)	(111)	(94)	(788)
District Staff									5(5)
								GRAND TOTAL	- 831(793)

The table above shows an increase of 31 youth members from last year. We gained 33 Cubs, 5 Venturers, 2 Rovers. We lost 9 Scouts - to make a total youth strength of 707.

New registrations over year were 136 youth made up of 92 Cubs, 29 Scouts, 10 Venturers, 5 Rovers. i.e. 136 - 31 = 105 lost to Scouting.

AWARDS.

Queen's Scouts: Robert Olifers - 4th Ringwood
 Kin Cope - 4th Ringwood
 Tin Moloney - 4th Ringwood

Bar to Medal of Merit - - W. Wilkins - 1st Ringwood

Long Service Decorations:

Bar to L.S.D. 20 years - H. Bedwell - 6th Ringwood
 L.S.D. 10 years - W. Morriss - 3rd Ringwood
 " " " - I. McKellar - 1st Heathmont
 " " " - B. Richardson - 1st Heathmont
 " " " - J. Bentley - 6th Ringwood
 " " " - D. Bennett - 2nd Heathmont

DISTRICT.

CUBS: The most pleasing aspect of this section is to see that as a District we have 15 packs. The recommended maximum number of boys in each Pack is 24 - - 24 x 15 = 360 -- we now have 336 boys; i.e. 33 up on last year and only 24 short -- let's close the gap in '78. Well done Ringwood Cub Packs -- Cubbing is fun in our District, let's keep it that way.

Action, co-operation and fun just does not happen, it is made to work. Thanks to Seeonee ably headed by our D.C. L. Marie Austin.

SCOUTS.

Mindari has been operating successfully throughout the year but still our numbers drop.

The District has 13 Scout Troops -- 28/32 boys is the recommended number for a Troop. Simple sums show that our total numbers should be 364/416 but census shows 267 (276 in 1977).

Troop scouter numbers are at a good level averaging almost 1 Leader to 5/6 boys, but training is at a low level. Only 4% Woodbadge holders and only 50% warrant holders. This situation is mainly due to a large turnover of leaders in the past year.

It is true that Troop scouters generally have not got a lot of spare time due to their personal commitments, but, our main concern should be to make the patrol system work effectively in practice. Theory is fine but boys must be able to put this knowledge into practice by first hand experience.

Mindari organised functions/activities have been excellent.

As a District (G. L.'s & District Staff Meetings) we have already run two trial camps in an attempt to overcome troop scouters insufficient time and parental concern in so far as P.L.'s taking their patrols away on their own. I'm sure that the scouter roster for these camps will be a difficult one to get your name on.

Well done, D.S.L. Ken Jones and Mindari for your efforts during 1977/78.

VENTURERS.

Thanks to Acting D.V.L. (Mad) Brian McCarthy and the District Venturer Council, the Venturer Section has maintained and consolidated it's standards. Their activities and functions have been well attended which in itself compliments the organisers (of course the organisers are the Venturers).

Especially pleasing to note our District's participation in the recent Hoadley Hide.

Congratulations to our three new Queen's Scouts.

ROVERS.

Figures on Census show 16 Rovers. My head count of Rovers in the District is closer to 50. The extra being warranged or probationary scouters within our District or with other Districts.

1978 shall see the start of a new crew at 4th Ringwood and I'm sure the continuation of 1st Ringwood and 1st Heathmont Crews whilst 6th Ringwood Crew shall recess for a period, awaiting Venturers from their Unit.

DISTRICT STAFF.

We shall retain the same staff for the coming year and I would personally thank Marie, Ken, Mac and Rix for their efforts during the past year and if programmes are anything to go by 1978/79 should see further youth membership increase.

WATER ACTIVITIES.

Water activities representatives Mr. David Millar and Mr. Ray Cowie have attended meetings and done their required tasks well. Thank you.

We are hopeful that in the near future water activities will be an even larger part of Ringwood's youth training by increasing the activities from canoes, kayaks and sailcraft to powercraft, surfing, skindiving, scuba, etc.

DISTRICT BADGE SECRETARIES:

Ken and Edna Morrison have again handled this onerous task very capably - well done.

DISTRICT BULLETIN.

Under difficulties of change of printers, change of typists, change of material, etc., etc., the Bulletin as usual was a very worthwhile product of our District.

Thank you Hugh and Margaret McCall.

SPECIAL DISTRICT EVENTS.

District's contribution to the statewide Ambulance Appeal was \$807.40 which assisted Branch to purchase one intensive-care unit and 3 normal ambulances. The Jubilee Bonfire held at McAlpine's Reserve on 11th June, 1977, was a huge success - - many thanks to R.C.C.

RINGWOOD COUNCIL.

Our sincere thanks to the Ringwood City Council for their co-operation, assistance, guidance and advice during the past year. Our scouting success owes a lot to our understanding Council.

DISTRICT COUNCIL (G.L.'s & DISTRICT STAFF MEETING).

This meeting has a very important training and communication role in our District.

Welcome to our new Group Leaders, Len Free of 1st Ringwood, Fred Kann of 4th Ringwood and Trevor Stanyer of 6th Ringwood.

An example of this council's work is shown in the District Patrol Camping Plan. Not only initiated by this council but planned and put into action. Terrific.

DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

Thanks to our District Association executive who have capably performed their tasks well.

Mr. Dennis Minnett's scout history is:

Dennis was the foundation President 1957 to 1960 of 5th Ringwood Scout Group Committee (now known as 1st Heathmont).

He was then elected to Chairman of the original Nunawading District Association from 1960 until 1963 when at the division of that District he became Chairman of Ringwood District Association. A position he has held ever since, interesting himself in all aspects of scouting in the District.

Dennis was appointed to the rank of Honorary Commissioner Ringwood District in August 1964.

He received a "For Service" Badge in November 1966.

Congratulations on a job very well done.

Mr. Barry Reynolds -- thank you.

Mr. Mike Saint -- thanks again.

In conclusion I would sincerely thank all concerned with Ringwood District Scout Association for not only their co-operation and assistance but also for their work and for the times that they have said "What the heck am I doing this for", -- thought -- and come up with the answer "for the boys (girls)", because that's what this game of scouting is all about.

DAVID GRAHAM.

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ASSISTANT DISTRICT COMMISSIONER (TRAINING REPORT).

District training activities have remained on much the same level as in the last two years and I would like to thank all those who have helped to keep Stage 2 moving - the District Staff, Section Scouters and the trainees themselves. It is only with the co-operation of all concerned that this work can progress.

While it has been pleasing to see this section of the training fulfilled by some people, there are still far too many people in Groups who are not trained to Stage 3 and Warrant level. For people working with our youth members the Warrant is surely the minimum acceptable. When a person decides to become a leader they do so voluntarily with the aim of benefitting the young people of the various sections. This can not be done effectively without the proper training which clarifies the Association's background, methods and techniques.

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A.D.C. (TRAINING REPORT) Cont'd -

At the other end of the scale it has been pleasing to see several of our Scouters complete their full Wood Badge training. Congratulations to those concerned.

Throughout the coming year I would like to see Group Leaders and Group Committees keeping a constant review of the state of training of their Group Scouters. We are all aware of the heavy demands which Scouting makes on the leaders, but if our youth are to get the best we can give there must be a further call on any leader's greatest commitment - time.

RIX MCGINLEY.

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DISTRICT CUB LEADER'S REPORT

Once again Ringwood has had a very active year. Packs have had "Sleep-Ins" - "Wake-a-thon" - long hikes, Pack Holidays, as well as taking part in District events, and Life Be In It Ringwood Day.

All Committees (volunteers & those "dobbed") have worked very well to make the events interesting and enjoyable for Cubs and of course the Leaders.

Our Swim Sports, spoilt a little by the weather turned out to be O.K. with Yerenga (3rd Ringwood) taking home the trophy. They also took home the Lightning Football Premiership trophy. This event was organized by 1st Ringwood Rovers. Thanks to them for a day of fun.

All who attended our Ringwood Supper Dance in September at 1st Ringwood Scout Hall had loads of fun. District Sixer weekend at Mt. Evelyn, once again 60 Cubs and 30-odd leaders enjoyed the fun and games.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all Cub Leaders for their co-operation and friendship.

Seeonees are well attended, the least being 14, the most 36. To David, and Joan Graham - Thanks a lot.

MARIE AUSTIN (KAA)
D.C. L.

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DISTRICT SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT

The Scout Section has had a most full and rewarding year and as it has been my first year as D.S.L. I must offer my sincere thanks to all Scouters who have gone out of their way to make things as easy as possible for me.

Details of our District events are:

District Hike: Organised by 2nd Ringwood and held in the Murrindindi State Forest. A reasonable attendance considering it was held in winter time although the weather was kind.

P.L.'S Training Course: Organised by 4th Ringwood and again held at Clifford Park. All troops except 1 had representatives. Scouter assistance was a bit light for this most important activity and I hope that more Scouters will be available to give a small portion of their time to next year's course.

Discovery "7": This was the name given to our re-designed camping competition. Organised by 2nd Heathmont, and with the emphasis on individual achievement with a wide range of activities to choose from, we had a record number of boys in camp - some 215. We also had family camping again and this year we had a bigger turn out of Scouters. We also had 2 patrols of Guides in camp on the Sunday and this was most encouraging to see Scouts and Guides taking part in the activities together.

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D.S.L.'s REPORT (Continued) -

Lightning Premiership Football: Organised by Bill Wilkins and the 1st Ringwood Rover Crew. A most successful day with 2nd Heathmont coming out on top and 3rd Ringwood runners up.

Ringwood Day: Our participation in the City's open day was quite well received by the general public with 2nd, 4th and 6th Ringwood putting up a flying fox each and inviting any unsuspecting members of the public to have a go. Judging by the queue of young people waiting to have a fly the exercise was well worth it.

Our attendance in the Cohen Shield was up again on last year with a total of 24 patrols booked in as against 16 patrols last year. 21 patrols actually turned out and were awarded 8 co-holders, 5 silver, and 8 bronze pennants - a mighty effort.

Our biggest and most exciting event of the year was the introduction of patrol camping. Organised by District and manned by 2 rostered Scouters, we started with 4 patrols on the week-end of 15th and 16th of April. Venue is the Black Flats reserve, Warrandyte, which is controlled by the National Parks & Gardens. The exercise was a total success and it is anticipated that it be run on a fortnightly basis giving all patrols the opportunity to get away for the week-end completely under the control of the P.L.

I take this opportunity to thank, most sincerely, David Graham, Rix McGinley, Marie Austin and Brian McCarthy for their support and comradeship over the past year. With a District Staff of this calibre the job seems so much easier somehow.

Many thanks.

KEN. JONES D.S.L.

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DISTRICT VENTURER LEADER'S REPORT

In this, my first annual report, I have to record some pleasant facts and some which are disturbing.

Among the good points are, of course, the gaining of their Queen's Scout Award by the following Venturers:

COPE	KIM COPE	-	4th RINGWOOD
MALONEY	TIM MALONEY	-	"
OLIFIERS	ROBERT OLIFIERS	-	"
GOODOTCHKIN	IAN GOODOTCHKIN	-	6th RINGWOOD

The number of Venturers in Ringwood District has risen from eighty three to eighty eight, but when one considers that this number includes a number of girls who have not entered Venturing as a natural progression from the Scout section, it shows that we have, in fact, not been holding boys in the Movement.

Another satisfying effort was the number of entries in the Hoadley Hide. Eleven Teams from the District entered, representing all Groups, which means that more than half the Venturers in the District were on French Island over Easter.

As a District training exercise a First Aid course was conducted with the help of Heathmont Red Cross over a number of weeks. Nineteen Venturers and two Leaders passed the course. This has significantly increased the number of qualified first aiders in the District and it is to be hoped that the Groups to which these Venturers belong will take advantage of their training. There was a gratifyingly small number of drop-outs from this course, particularly as it was held late in the school year and was in addition to normal activities. It is hoped to run more such courses in the future.

VENTURER LEADER'S REPORT (Continued) -

The activities approved by the District Venturer Council for the award scheme cover the usual range - hiking, cycling and canoeing expeditions and those other activities which have a time-honoured system of examination by teachers, coaches and Venturer Leaders. The activities selected by some Venturers, however, show a wider interest and during the year have included bee-keeping, heraldry, caving and a two-day sailing race. We have also had a working bee at DOXA, parked cars for the Highland Carnival and Barbecued a one hundred and seventy foot long sausage on Ringwood Day. A week-end of rock-climbing instruction was also held and proved very popular as was a ski week-end. The Venturers successfully tendered for the delivery of telephone directories on two occasions, thanks to the efforts of Stan Parsons.

When considering the activities of the Venturer Units, the effect of the earlier Scout section activities can be seen. For example, a Group which does not hike in the Scout section tends to produce a non-hiking Venturer Unit and this goes for many other basic Scouting skills.

Unfortunately, the past year has seen a number of Leaders leave the section and not be replaced. It is greatly to the credit of the Venturers and in particular the Unit Chairmen that Units continue to function without adequate adult backing. Venturers are not, despite what they and a number of Group Committees think, capable of running themselves for long periods of time and although the sight of a Unit rising Phoenix-like from the ashes restores one's faith, it were better that the Unit had never got into such a situation.

It should be clearly understood by Group Committees who bear the responsibility for the recruiting of Leaders that Scouting does not finish at fifteen and that failure to provide a Venturer Leader and an assistant means not only that a number of boys will be lost to Scouting, but that in time Scouting at Venturer level may not be available in their groups for the Cubs and Scouts of today. This is simply because of the difficulty in establishing a large enough nucleus on which to build a Unit. I must admit that the requirements of age and fitness do limit the number of possible leaders, but not to the point where no leader can be found.

If the foregoing appears to breathe doom and gloom, I would add that we have some very active Units in the District, our numbers are good, though they could be better, and that Venturing is going ahead.

In conclusion, I must pay tribute to the leaders of all Units for their efforts during the year, because without them there would be no Venturing for any of us.

BRIAN MCCARTHY

Acting District Venturer Leader.