

THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
VICTORIAN BRANCH



1979

RINGWOOD DISTRICT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAY 3, 1979

A G E N D A

Welcome.

Apologies.

Confirmation of Minutes of last Annual General Meeting.

Receipt of D.C. Report.

" " A.D.C. Report.

" " D.C.L. "

" " D.S.L. "

" " D.V.L. "

Receipt of and adoption of Financial Report.

Election of Office Bearers - Chairman/Secretary/
Treasurer.

Appointment of Hon. Auditor/Badge Secretary.

Address by A.A.C. Scouts - Ed. Taylor.

Presentations.

Address by Cr. G. Smart - Subject - I.Y.C.

Finish.

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CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 1978/79.

When I took over the chair vacated by Dennis Minnett in May last year, I was not aware of the giant personality behind the man. Nevertheless, with careful steps I have started along the road so admirably marked out, and little by little have become more hopeful of dealing with some of the tasks ahead.

My first move was to go overseas in July and August and it was not until October that the business of chairing D.A. started to take on some shape. With the immense help of D.C. David Graham and the executive, a start was made to study the financial set up of the groups in the Ringwood D.A., and it was, I believe, a successful move. We all learned that each group handled the money-raising problem differently and in all cases successfully achieved their aims. It would seem though that there is room for considering a standard fund raising procedure throughout D.A. but maybe that should be a future project.

In December, an excellent joint meeting was held to study and comment on the future role of D.A. and where we can improve its operation. This has to be followed up in the next month to see if any significant improvements have occurred.

I must admit I have been somewhat disappointed at the lack of support by the Groups to the monthly D.A. meetings. I had hoped that those meetings would be an exhilarating meeting of minds and ideas with the one aim - to further the Scouting Movement and, above all, to help our young people. Try and make future meetings fully represented and feed in to D.A. exciting thoughts and ideas.

Early this year, one of our Groups, 2nd Ringwood, lost their club rooms in a fire lit by unknowns. A wave of sympathy went through the District and help was offered from all sides. Let us hope that this old and active group soon has a permanent home.

It was with some astonishment that subsequent to a comment I made in Council, that I received sharply worded criticism of this Scout Hall, and it appeared to me that this may be the tip of the iceberg. I therefore ask all groups in this International Year of the Child 1979, to thoroughly look at your position in the Community, be critical of the state of your clubrooms and the ground around them, and above all go out into the streets meet all the neighbours and sell the Scouting Movement. Ask them for their views and opinions, get to know them and appreciate their grievances. Scouting has occupied a unique position in our society for many years - don't destroy it by being careless and unthinking towards others.

In conclusion, may I call on all parents to support the groups in every way and not leave it to the usual few. Work hard, have a successful year, and thank you for your support in 1978.

G. R. G. SMART,
Chairman, R.D.A.

16th ANNUAL MEETING

D. C. REPORT.

In reviewing and assessing the past twelve months program, I find that the achievements are directly related to the effort and leadership to which events or items are given. The major part in this achievement is in the quality of communication and the enthusiasm with which the task is tackled.

AWARDS AND SCOUTER ACHIEVEMENTS:

Queen's Scout Award - Robyn Wilkins - 4th Ringwood
Medal of Merit - Mrs. Marie Austin - D.C.L.

LONG SERVICE DECORATIONS:

Bar to Long Service Decoration (20 Years or more Warranted Service) --

I. McKellar - 1st Heathmont
D. Brooks - 7th Ringwood
E. Morrison - 4th Ringwood
W. Wilkins - 1st Ringwood

LONG SERVICE DECORATIONS: (10 Years or more Warranted Service)

K. Fry - 6th Ringwood
C. Hollibone - 7th Ringwood
J. Emblin - 3rd Ringwood
K. Jones - D.S.L.
J. Krause - 6th Ringwood
L. Free - 1st Ringwood

CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S AWARD:

7th Ringwood

CUBS:

Seeonee has been extremely active in the past year. The range of activities has been remarkable and the standards achieved outstanding. Our mixture of experienced and new leaders have found a pleasant and successful recipe achieving the task of fun in Cubbing. Thank you, D.C.L. Marie Austin and all Cub leaders.

I believe that an upsurge of pack holidays have played a very important part in this success story.

SCOUTS:

Once again, Mindari have had a year full of activities worthy of a Scout District of our size - but still our numbers drop.

I believe that perhaps we are neglecting our Scout Section in regards to the position that this age group play in our organization.

B.P. began this Movement for "Scouts" - Cubs, Venturers, Rovers were all added afterwards as a means to either lead up to the Scout troop or to satisfy further advanced training after the Scout troop.

Perhaps we are "burning up" our boys' enthusiasm in Cubs. Perhaps the boys we should be recruiting are not Cubs, but boys who for various reasons could not, or did not, join Cubs. In other words, we

D.C. REPORT (Continued)

SCOUTS (C ontinued) -

we perhaps tend to forget Scout troop recruitment and almost solely rely on ex Cubs.

Congratulations to D.S.L. Ken Jones and his Mindari team for their efforts during the year, and welcome to D.S.L. Ray Kitto, who with Ken shall continue to provide assistance to all our Scout troops.

VENTURERS:

Venturing in Ringwood continues to flourish. Their programmes still astound me with their variety and initiative, considering the lack of Venturer Leaders in the District.

D .V.L. Brian (Mac) McCarthy and his District Venturer Council are to be congratulated on their year's achievements.

I shall also like to comment that due to the drop of Scout troop members, it means that Venturer Units have now been almost forced into recruiting from outside the Movement, and this recruiting has proved quite successful.

ROVERS:

Rovers in Ringwood currently consist of two large and successful Crews, namely - 1st Ringwood and 1st Heathmont.

4th Ringwood Crew has also reformed and we all wish them well for the future. The 6th Ringwood Crew is in recess at the moment but should be operating again towards 1980.

Rovering in Ringwood is very much alive and their motto of "Service" is taken quite seriously.

Congratulations to all roving personnel.

TRAINING:

Scouter and Committee training for the past twelve months has been far from satisfactory. The number of un-Warranted Scouters and untrained committee personnel in our District is too high. This has to be a Major Concern for the coming year.

Thank you, A.D.C. Rix McGinley for your efforts on training.

DISTRICT STAFF:

Many thanks must go to Marie, Ken, Ray, Mac and Rix for their staying power during the past year. We welcome a new member to our staff, Doug las Grant, who shall take up the appointment of A.D.C. Administration.

The members of this team are all very approachable and are on district staff to assist section leaders in their major task as youth leaders.

WATER ACTIVITIES:

Thanks must be given to Mr. Max Kerr who has borne the onerous task of training, checking craft, testing for charge certificate, for the past year.

D.C. REPORT (Continued) -

DISTRICT BADGE SECRETARIES:

Ken and Edna Morrison -- Thank you for putting up with us this throughout the year.

DISTRICT BULLETIN:

Thanks again to Hugh and Margaret McCall for the Bulletin - an extremely valuable communication product of our District.

We are also looking for an assistant to help Hugh in this task - please form queues at the finish of this meeting.

RINGWOOD CITY COUNCIL:

Our thanks go to the Ringwood City Council for the help and support they have so willingly given to us, and we are sure that the relationship that exists between us will always continue, as somewhere in our sections today are boys and girls who someday in the future are going to be Councillors and Mayor of this City.

DISTRICT COUNCIL (G.L.'S AND DISTRICT STAFF MEETING)

This council has become an extremely important part in the training and communication roles in our District. Congratulations to all who participate at these meetings.

DISTRICT ASSOCIATION:

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

The attendance at the monthly committee meetings has been very poor, and the resultant lack of achievement in areas such as sub-committees for water activities, Public Relations, Warrants, etc., are directly due to this apathy from groups.

2nd RINGWOOD:

On the 13th September, 1978, 2nd Ringwood held an extremely well attended and memorable 25th Birthday celebration. Many memories and experiences were told and retold and old friendships renewed - an excellent event.

On the 11th February, 1979 - Disaster. 2nd Ringwood's Hall and Equipment were completely lost by fire.

Districts thanks go to the groups and individuals who offered accommodation and equipment to help 2nd whilst their troublesome period continues.

We all look forward to better days for the Group.

OBJECTIVES FOR COMING YEAR:

1. Solve our problem of Scout Section losses.
2. Greatly improve the working capacity of District Executive.
3. Improve Public Relations of Groups and District.
4. Improve Scouter Training.
5. Analyse future trends of population, Hall usage, etc. - Development.

D. C. REPORT (Continued) -

In conclusion, I wish to thank all the members of District and all Group Scouters for their loyal co-operation and support during the year. We are all Scouting for Youth and if we pull together as we have done in the past year we can only improve the youth of Ringwood.

I wish to include in my thanks the many wives and husbands of Scouters, who by their support and many sacrifices, enable our great number of married Scouters to carry out the work to which they have dedicated themselves.

I would be remiss if I did not also thank the large band of Section leaders. These are the people working in direct contact with the youth, the ones who can, and more often than some of us realise do have a big influence in moulding the boy's character. Theirs is perhaps the greatest responsibility of us all, and in most cases this responsibility is being accepted and carried out conscientiously.

DAVID GRAHAM, D.C.

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A. D. C. (TRAINING) REPORT:

The training year has been reasonably successful in the District. The figures below show the types of courses attended and the number of successful trainees.

WOOD BADGE:

Stage 1. 29
Stage 2. 17

	<u>Cub</u>	<u>Scout</u>	<u>Venturer</u>	<u>Rover</u>	<u>G.L./Comm.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Stage 3.	10	7	0	2	2	21
Stage 4.	0	1	3	3	2	9
Stage 5.	0	1	0	2	1	4

OTHER COURSES:

Campfire Leader	3	Cub Instructor	5
Campcraft	2	Rover Mate	6
Training Technique	1		

COMMENTS.

The time taken by many people to complete all of Stage 2 is well in excess of the ideal 8 weeks - some have been over 12 months!

The introduction of the "Field Day" should make a big improvement in the presentation of many aspects of practical Scouting. This year there is at least one Field Day somewhere in East Suburban Area in each calendar month. There should therefore be no hold up in this regard.

We still have far too many people working in Sections who have not gained what the Scout Association feels is the minimum training - namely the completion of Stage 3 and the gaining of a Warrant. I know that the leader problem is a constant one, that people who offer are volunteers. I also know that on Stage 1 much emphasis is given to the leader's commitment - especially time. Surely we owe it to our young people to give them the best possible Scouting we can. Please try to make that effort to at least gain a warrant as soon as you can.

A. D. C. (TRAINING) REPORT (Continued):

Once again I would like to thank the District staff and other Scouters who have assisted with Stage 2 this year. Some worked directly on the Field Days, others as 'hosts' to people from other Groups. In every case your support has been greatly appreciated.

RIX MCGINLEY,

A. D. C. (Training.)

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D. C. L. REPORT - MAY, 1978 - APRIL, 1979.

1978: Ringwood Cubs and Leaders have had a busy, and I hope, an enjoyable year. I certainly had just that, being part of this District.

The Soap Box Derby in July was very expertly put into top gear by the committee and the leaders. It rained, but all had fun. I was not there in person to enjoy it with them, as I was on a short holiday in N.S.W.

I was invited to take part in the celebrations arranged by 2nd Ringwood at Walhalla, where they organized a combined weekend for Cubs, Scouts, Leaders and their wives.

In September we all enjoyed the supper dance at 1st Ringwood Hall.

Cohen Shield assessors were not so willing, but we can do better this year.

Sixer Weekend at Mt. Evelyn was successful, and the theme was "Mad Hatter's Tea Party". 60 Cubs and 30 plus leaders took part. We invited a G.L. and 4 sixers from 1st View Bank, Heidelberg District. They had fun like we did.

1979: In January I visited Hakea Pack and welcomed South Australian Leaders and Cubs.

Ringwood Family Day was well attended by Cubs and Leaders in uniform.

Cub swim night on March 6th was cool and showery. All had fun and Wattle Pack took home the trophy.

April 28th Ringwood, Croydon and Lilydale combine and take 1,000 Cubs to Luna Park. Lunch on the beach and maybe visit a ship and cross the West-Gate Bridge. We have 5 buses - 60 per bus.

I visited the Packs for their special nights and pack holidays, Group Councils and Annual Meetings. Seconees are very well attended. I would like to thank the District Leaders and all the Cub Leaders for their help and co-operation throughout the year, especially the committees, "dobbled and volunteers" for their efforts.

Luna Park Day - 28th April: Five buses left Ringwood with 300 aboard, arrived at Luna Park at 9.00 a.m. Sixteen bus loads then disappeared into Luna Park and had a wonderful time - Leaders - Cubs and parents who assisted.

It wasn't until 1,000 odd were massed on Victoria Dock that we had an overall picture of the numbers. The Day took in Luna Park - lunch on the beach at St. Kilda - tour of the Dock area - over Westgate Bridge and home.

D. C. L. REPORT (Continued):

Luna Park Day - 28th April (Continued) -

Lilydale, Croydon and Ringwood took part in the venture which was organized by Ken Henry, D.C.L. of Lilydale. We all express our thanks and appreciation to Ken and Lilydale Rovers who assisted on the buses. All who came on the day will receive an iron-on transfer as a memento of the day.

MARIE AUSTIN, D.C.L.
(KAA)

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D. S. L.'S REPORT:

This year has been a mixed one for the Scout section. On the credit side the whole program for Scouts has been revitalized starting with a new set of booklets called, most appropriately, The "Wasp" Series, with its slogan of "let's put the sting back into Scouting". Another, booklet, this time for Patrol Leaders called "On Target" and made available to the boys free of charge is also an excellent aid to the Scouter. On the debit side, 3 groups have combined their 2 troops for the time being with the view of splitting up again when numbers permit.

Late in the year, Ray Kitto of 2nd Heathmont was appointed as an additional D.S.L., and I am sure the District is going to reap the benefit of Ray's experience - Welcome, Ray.

Our District events were just as varied as last year and just as successful.

Thanks must go to D.C. David Graham and the Group Leaders of each group for the splendid P.L.'s Training course which they organized and ran. Comments from the boys were very encouraging.

Annual Camp this year was held at Gilwell Park with family camping invited. At one stage it looked as if we would have more families than troops, which is great to see. A full program of activities starting on Saturday afternoon gave more time to straighten up the camp craft side of things and this paid off in the standard of camping.

Our Water Activities Day was also well attended and an interesting comment was that every year the ability and confidence of the boys is noticeable.

Our biggest all-out effort as a District was the Year of the Child - Ringwood Family Fun Day in which we endeavoured - along with the Cub and Venturer Sections and the Guides and Brownies, to stage a demonstration to the public on what Scouting is all about. Despite the damp start, I think we succeeded.

1st Ringwood Rovers again organised a Lightning Football Premiership and this year 2nd Heathmont winning the day from 6th Ringwood with both teams getting some assistance from 4th Ringwood.

Cohen Shield this year saw 27 Patrols entered, an increase on last year's 24 Patrols. They found the competition very keen and acquitted themselves very well.

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

One big disappointment this year was the withdrawing of Black Flats Reserve as a venue for Patrol Camping. The concept of Patrol camping is still one to be encouraged and we are still looking for a suitable site.

I take this opportunity to thank David and Joan, his staff - Marie, Rix, Brian and Ray for all their support, also the Group Leaders who helped on every possible occasion. Last, but not least, I must thank my wife, Anita, for her support and unfailing loyalty over the years I have been in Scouting.

Many thanks - KEN JONES, D.S.L.

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DISTRICT VENTURER LEADER'S REPORT:

This has been a mixed year in which some units have achieved a lot and some units have done virtually nothing. The achievements depend to an enormous extent upon the availability of trained and active Leaders in the units. In the last couple of months the leader situation has taken a change for the better and we can hope for better results next year. In saying this, I must give credit to those people who stood in and did so much to keep units together during the year.

We gained only one Queen's Scout during the year - Robyn Wilkins of 4th Ringwood.

The number of Venturers has again risen and stands at one hundred and three at the last count. Once again the increase has been to a large extent the result of girls joining rather than larger numbers of boys coming up from the Troops. This, of course, presents the problem of the dilution of Scouting skills in the units.

The major event of the year was the 5th Australian Venture and the District was well represented.

About forty per cent of the District's Venturers attended this year's Hoadley Hide at which the overall numbers were lower than last year. It is a pity that all units were not represented as the experience gained each year assists the first timers in the next Hide. Of the nine teams fielded, two became runners up for the Hide.

In December a Unit Chairman's meeting was held to discuss with chairmen and prospective chairmen, the functions of the Unit Council and the running of the Unit. This will be continued on a regular basis.

Two Initiative Courses were held during the year. These were set up by 1st Heathmont Rover Crew. Without the work put in by the Rovers we would have been unable to run these courses owing, simply, to the shortage of Leaders. In thanking the Crew for their assistance, I must add that I hope we may call on them again next year.

A number of Venturers attended a very interesting weekend last May run by Cheltenham, Bentleigh and Brighton Districts. This was a First Aid Instruction and Major Disaster Exercise organized and run by professionals.

DISTRICT VENTURER LEADER'S REPORT (Continued):

This year's award scheme activities have been more conventional than last year, although we had more rock climbing by 4th Ringwood.

North Ringwood Venturers have held their second dinner dance in the Cathedrals and since they refer to it as their Annual Dinner Dance. Must intend to make it a regular event! They also had a raft trip down the Murray which was a very good effort.

Venturers have again assisted at Ringwood Day.

This year has seen the starting of 2nd Ringwood Venturer Unit which means that every Group now has a Unit. I know that I do not need to point out to Groups that each Unit should have a V.L. and an A.V.L. if it is to operate well over a long time - but I will!

I feel that the District is getting a good footing for a successful year to come. Our numbers are up again, Leaders are coming forward and we should do well.

Finally I must thank the other members of the District staff, the G.L's and the Leaders, Warranted and un-Warranted, who have kept the Units operating during the year. Above all, thanks to the Venturers for being Venturers.

BRIAN McCARTHY,

Acting D.V.L.

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