

THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
VICTORIAN BRANCH



RINGWOOD
DISTRICT

1980

RINGWOOD DISTRICT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAY 1, 1980

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. Report.
" " D. S. L. Report.
" " D. V. L. Report.

Receipt of and adoption of Financial Report.

Election of Office Bearers - Chairman/Secretary/
Treasurer.

Appointment of Hon. Auditor/Badge Secretary.

Presentations

Address by Mr. A. Robertson, City Engineer,
City of Ringwood.

Finish.

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CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 1979/80

High points and low points are scattered throughout the 1979/80 year of activities in Ringwood.

The low points were the continuing lack of attendance at D.A. monthly meetings and the consequent inability to form working sub-committees. Still this did not inhibit the enthusiasts and a number of ideas were born during the year which are now bearing fruit.

Early on a small sub-committee was formed to look at ways and means to publicise Scouting in Ringwood. It was resolved to carry the message to the schools in certain parts of the City, and over the next few months a drive was initiated which we believe was largely responsible for the improvement overall of the numbers throughout Ringwood. Although a T.V. campaign through the summer months, run by HQ, was an eye catcher, it is my view that when the census is completed Ringwood's gain will be significantly greater than other associations in the Eastern Area.

The Cohen Shield was held at the H.E. Parker Reserve, Heathmont, and despite the rotten weather, proved a great success. Many thanks are extended to all those who pitched in and helped to make the day a memorable one for everybody. A special thanks to the Ringwood Council for the assistance provided before and after the day.

Another highlight was the Family Fun Day and the presentation of the Dennis Minnett trophy for tent raising, which was carried out under the most adverse windy conditions imaginable.

In company with the D.C., I attended annual meetings of the various groups to meet the new executives and to extoll the virtues of D.A. to the parents in attendance. Success can only be measured in the results forthcoming during the current year.

In conclusion, may I thank the members of the D.A. executive for their support during the last 12 months and trust that next year will be an outstanding one for the Scouting Movement in Ringwood.

G. R. G. SMART,

Chairman,

Ringwood District Association.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

CENSUS : 1980

Membership May 1979 figures in brackets.

GROUP	1st R	2nd R	3rd R	4th R	6th R	7th R	1st H	2nd H	TOTAL
CUBS	46(38)	37(26)	45(32)	47(41)	47(44)	51(51)	48(51)	45(39)	366(322)
SCOUTS	40(35)	28(17)	36(31)	35(25)	37(40)	41(35)	37(33)	38(25)	292(241)
VENTURERS	20(18)	9(7)	9(11)	18(21)	19(11)	11(9)	13(14)	10(11)	109(102)
ROVERS	19(15)	-	-	10(3)	10(-)	4(3)	21(16)	-	64(37)
TOTAL YOUTH	125	74	90	110	113	107	119	93	831
	(106)	(50)	(74)	(90)	(95)	(98)	(114)	(75)	(702)
WARRANTED LEADERS	5	5	8	12	11	11	12	9	73
PROBATIONARY LEADERS	6	7	7	5	11	8	3	9	56
C.I.'S	2	-	-	3	-	1	1	1	8
TOTAL LEADERS	13	12	15	20	22	20	16	19	137
	(13)	(8)	(14)	(21)	(21)	(17)	(15)	(11)	(120)
TOTAL -	138	86	105	130	135	127	135	112	968(822)
	(119)	(58)	(88)	(111)	(116)	(115)	(129)	(86)	
DISTRICT STAFF -									7 (6)
									975(828)
									LESS - 5 ROVER/SCOUTERS
									5
									GRAND TOTAL - 970

The table above shows an increase of 129 youth members and 18 Scouters. We gained 44 Cubs, 51 Scouts, 7 Venturers, 27 Rovers, 18 Scouters - to make a total gain of 142 members.

Cubs	up	13.7%	
Scouts	"	21.2%	
Venturers	"	6.9%	
Rovers	"	73.0%	
Leaders	"	15.0%	- TOTAL UP 17.2%

Excluding District staff, our boy to adult ratio is 6 boys to 1 Leader. An excellent result showing the rewards of a very busy year for publicity and recruitment.

AWARDS :

QUEEN'S SCOUTS - Paul Davies - 6th Ringwood
 Michael Krause - 6th Ringwood
 Tim. Fryer - 4th Ringwood

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE - Keith Fry - 6th Ringwood

MEDAL OF MERIT - Bob Oke - 3rd Ringwood
 Stan Parsons - 4th Ringwood
 Mrs. Heather Tasker - 1st Heathmont

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT (Continued)

AWARDS (Continued) :

LONG SERVICE DECORATION - Mrs. H. Tasker - 1st Heathmont
CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S AWARD - 1st Heathmont
6th Ringwood

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CUBS :

Fun, Action, enthusiasm must be the answer to Cubbing as once again we recorded an excellent year for Ringwood. 1979 saw our 16th Pack start - 1980 has seen our 17th Pack begin.

Thanks must be recorded to our D.C.I.'s Marie Austin and Claire Edmanson for their year's effort.

Congratulations and thanks to all Cub Section Scouters for your loyal and ever enthusiastic part in our District.

SCOUTS :

Our Troop Scouters untiring work during the past few years seems at last to be paying dividends. Our numbers are most definitely on the way up now, reversing the downwards trend of the past 2 years. So much so that it would appear that we probably will be in a position to re-open some Troops during the coming year.

Mindari is functioning very well and attendances at District functions excellent, particularly when you consider the volume and variety of individual Troop outdoor activities over the same period.

Thank you D.S.I.'s Ken Jones and Ray Kitto for your efforts during the year and congratulations to all Troop Scouters.

VENTURERS :

Our Venturer Section has maintained its high standards throughout the year and the units continue to involve themselves with activities of such variety and initiative that one can only be impressed.

Of course D.V.I. Brian (Mac) McCarthy has played his part as Venturer Council Whip - Well done. All Venturer Scouters within the District are congratulated on your year's Venturing - Thanks.

Hoadley - Congratulations to all who participated.

Congratulations to our three new Queen's Scouts.

ROVERS :

Rover numbers are increasing at an incredible rate. Thanks for this expansion must go to our hard-worked, and much thought of, Rover Leaders.

Ringwood Roving is currently very much alive and thanks must go to the Crew Leaders of 1st Ringwood, 1st Heathmont, 4th Ringwood, and our re-vamped combined 6th/7th North Ringwood Crew.

DISTRICT STAFF :

During the past year we increased our staff by the inclusion of Ray Kitto as D.S.I.; Claire Edmanson as D.C.I.

DISTRICT STAFF (Continued) -

We shall retain the same staff for the coming year and I would personally thank Marie, Claire, Ken., Ray., Mae, Rix and Doug., for their efforts, both past and future.

WATER ACTIVITIES :

Thanks must go to Mr. Max. Kerr for his valuable contribution to our District activities, particularly with his knowledge, patience and experience.

Thanks also must go to Michael Woods for his excellent work in training our Scouters.

DISTRICT BADGE SECRETARIES :

Ken. and Edna Morrison - Thank you for handling this task very capably.

DISTRICT BULLETIN :

Sincere thanks to Mr. Hugh McCall, and wife Margaret, for his untiring work as our Bulletin Editor. The Bulletin, as usual, was a very worthwhile product of our District.

Unfortunately, Hugh has resigned after an incredible 8 years as Editor. His happy face and unbelievable tolerance with others over this period has brought admiration from all who have had the pleasure of working with him.

Our task of continuing in his footsteps is by no means easy. Thanks again, Hugh.

JAMBOREES :

Ringwood District's participation at the recent Perth Jamboree was excellent. We were represented by 46 Scouts along with 11 Leaders. All who took part have nothing but praise for this event and thoroughly enjoyed their trip and stay.

Well done, to our two Troop Leaders Graeme Ross - 1st Heathmont, Keith Fry - 6th Ringwood.

The District was also well represented at the World Jamboree held at Kandersteg, Switzerland. Ringwood representatives were Stan, Parsons - 4th Ringwood (Australian Contingent Troop Leader), Karen Brooks - 4th Ringwood, and Trevor Dance - 3rd Ringwood.

RINGWOOD CITY COUNCIL :

Our sincere thanks to the City Council with whom we have always enjoyed a good amount of help, guidance and co-operation. Our Scouting success owes a lot to our understanding Council.

DISTRICT COUNCIL :

This meeting has developed and grown into a very important communication and training medium.

Welcome to our new Group Leader - Graeme Ross of 1st Heathmont.

DISTRICT ASSOCIATION -

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

Chairman - Mr. G. Smart - Well Done.
Secretary - Mr. M. Saint - Also well done, Mike, and thank you for your excellent services and good nature over the past 3 years.
Treasurer - Mr. B. Goodall - Resigned.

D.A. has again been struggling due to poor attendances during the year, but it would appear to now be "on the way".

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In conclusion, I would sincerely thank all connected with the Ringwood Scout Association for our past year of Scouting, not the least, my wife Joan, for her very active participation.

"IT WILL GO ON FOREVER"

Temyson said of The Brook:

"For men may come and men may go
But I go on for ever."

It is a sobering thought that although Scouters come and go, Scouting will go on and on, no doubt for ever.

This Movement is the stream which, starting as a tiny brook, has flowed into the lives of countless boys until today it is a mighty river that will go on into future generations.

Scouters may come and Scouters may go, making their little contributions and then moving on. They attend their numerous committee meetings, perhaps lost in the detail of over-organisation, while Scouting for Boys goes on and on for ever.

When boys do their Scouting it is a simple, happy experience... uninhibited and carefree. When grown-ups do their Scouting it is big business, with high-pressurised business efficiency, red-tape, statistics and graphs, money-raising, annual meetings, speeches, top brass, bank over-drafts, year books and real estate.

When we have finished with our grown-up version of Scouting and we give up imposing our leadership on small boys, we will stand aside while Scouting goes on and on -- for ever.

Compared to this great Movement, we Scouters are small fry. While we are yet in it, let us do our little bit constantly remembering that this is for boys. Let us set aside pettiness, personal ambition, personal differences, and our squabbles between individuals, to remember why we are in it, and who matters most.

The success of B.P. as a leader of boys must surely have grown from his single-eyed concern for every boy and his belief in the patrol under its boy leader.

Scouters we must have, but let them realise their place in a Movement for Boys. Sometimes one wonders if the boys matter very much at all.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS REPORT (Continued) -

Let our training Courses and our meetings be boy-centred, remembering that Scouting will continue to grow while it serves boys. When it is made a social club, a hobby and play-thing for adults, the leakage we talk about will become a flood and it won't be Scouting for boys any more.

While Scouters serve the Movement as a service to happiness, it could be the field of their most effective God and from affection for the boy and belief in his contribution to the community.

DAVID GRAHAM.

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A.D.C. (TRAINING) REPORT -

Once again we can claim a fairly successful year as indicated by the figures below.

WOOD BADGE -

STAGE 1		36					
STAGE 2	Field Day only	21					
	Complete	9					
STAGE 3	CUB	SCOUT	VENTURER	ROVER	G.L./COMM.	TOTAL	
	10	6	4	1	5	26	
STAGE 4	1	1				2	
STAGE 5	1	0	3	0	1	5	

OTHER COURSES -

PACK HOLIDAY	2	CAMPFIRE LEADER	0
CAMP CRAFT	1	AIR ACTIVITIES	0
CUB INSTRUCTOR	6	JUNGLE	
ROVER MATE	4	ATMOSPHERE	0

COMMENTS -

There was an increased attendance at Stage 1 over the year. 12 people who have not yet completed the "In Service" sections of Stage 2 attended courses in February and March and should be rounding off their 8 weeks in the very near future.

Once again there are Sections with people who have not accepted the responsibility and the commitment of training to the Stage 3 Warrant Level. All Warranted members should endeavour to convince these people of the value to themselves, and more especially to the youth members, of a fuller training pertinent to their section.

All leaders who have not completed a Wood Badge, and even those who have, should give consideration to finding the time to attend a Stage 4. I am sure that anyone who has undertaken this level of training would agree that it is rewarding to you and your units, it is fun and, as a bonus you make many lasting friends.

A glance at the figures for "Specialist" courses shows that there are several areas which aroused no interest.

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

Please have a good look at the Training Calendar and make time for at least some segment of training in 1980-81. It can only be of benefit to all concerned.

May I again thank all the District Staff for their assistance on Field Days and in the organization of inter unit visits as well as the work on Stage 5 assessments. To the Groups and Leaders who have made themselves available to assist with visits and in service training - thank you for your most valuable and practical help.

RIX MCGINLEY,

A.D.C. (Training).

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D.C.L. ANNUAL REPORT 1979-80.

- May 6th, 1979 - East Suburban Area Walkathon.
- June 25th, " - Seonee invited Campfire Club to a combined Seonee/Campfire along with Mindari and the Guide Leaders. All who attended enjoyed themselves. Attendance a little disappointing.
- Aug. 5th, " - District Cub Achievement Day.
- Sept. " - Ringwood District assisted Eric Firth, Branch Field Commissioner in visiting the Schools in a recruitment drive for boys and leaders.
- Nov. " - Sixers Weekend - Great success. 59 Cubs and 30 Leaders attended throughout the Weekend.
- Dec. " - Scouts & Leaders from Ringwood attended the Jamboree in Perth - all had a good time.
- Feb., 1980 - Cubs started and all Packs going well.
- Swin sports on 19th. Very warm night, good attendance. All had lots of fun.
- Ringwood family day not well attended.

PACK HOLIDAYS -

More Pack Holidays are being run in the District by the usual Packs. We would like to see other Packs consider the benefit of a Pack Holiday. It's a very good way to get to know your own Cubs and Leaders.

Seonee's have been well attended. We would like to see a few more new faces and some Leaders who haven't been for some time.

PERSONAL -

Thanks to all Leaders for a job well done.

A special welcome to Claire Edmanson as D.C.L. Her knowledge and help is much appreciated.

Thanks to District Staff and Group Leaders for their understanding, and a special thank you to Joan Graham, as the D.C.'s Secretary she does a magnificent job. Thanks Joan for your hospitality during the year for our G.I./District meetings.

MARIE AUSTIN, D.C.L.
CLAIRE EDMANSON, D.C.L.

DISTRICT SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT -

The past year has been a mixed one for the Scout Section. During the year we saw the need to combine 3 Troops - 1st Ringwood, 4th Ringwood and 1st Heathmont - which effectively reduced the District down to 10 Troops. On the credit side, it would now appear that numbers have increased to a point where these troops can, in the foreseeable future, again be re-instated.

Our District program was, for the latter half of 1979, very full and possibly a bit too ambitious, causing the postponing of a couple of activities, particularly the District Hike. The activities which went on were the P.L.'s Training Course, lightning premiership (football), Cohen Shield, Camping competition and culminating in the 12th Australian Jamboree in Perth over Christmas-New Year. The 1980 program included a Hike, Ringwood Family Fun Day and Water Activities Day.

Details of these activities are:

P. L.'s TRAINING COURSE :

Some 31 P.L.'s and prospective P.L.'s attended this course which was organised and run by the District Staff and held at 1st Ringwood Scout Hall. During the day-long course the boys were given the basics of Patrol leadership and if the open forum at the end of the course was any indication then we have some very knowledgeable Scouts in Ringwood.

LIGHTNING FOOTBALL PREMIERSHIP :

Once again this was organised by Bill Wilkins and the 1st Ringwood Rover Crew. Attendance was a little disappointing but those who took part had a great day with 2nd Heathmont (plus a few 4th Ringwood) running out the winners again and also winning the new football which was the prize put up by 1st Ringwood Rovers.

COHEN SHIELD :

This year the venue was at Heathmont's H. E. Parker Reserve and a record number of entries was received. Ringwood was again responsible for co-ordinating the cooking and for a while 14 Valma Grove looked like the inside of a Super Market. It was here that Ray Kitto really earned his keep as a D.S.L., packaging food. Our thanks must go to D.C. David Graham, Ray's Wife Barbara, 1st Heathmont's Ross Munro, 2nd Ringwood's John Burdue, My Wife Anita and Croydon's D.S.L. John Stevens.

Our District entered some 24 patrols and despite the shocking weather conditions on the day, 20 patrols attended. Our efforts, however, were not as good as the previous year despite the issue of a hand book telling P.L.'s everything that was to happen on the day and we returned with 1 gold, 7 silver, 9 bronze and 3 competitor.

DISTRICT CAMPING COMPETITION :

Held at Gilwell Park and with a family camp almost as big as the boys' camp. Organised by 1st Heathmont, the emphasis was again on individual achievement from a wide range of activities. The camping standard was equal to previous years with the honours being shared by 1st Heathmont and 7th Ringwood.

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

AUSTRALIAN JAMBOREE :

Altogether 46 boys and 6 Scouters journeyed to Perth and had a fantastic experience with probably the home hospitality the icing on the cake.

From the reports, it would appear that all the boys were able to earn their Sandgroper Award and quite a lot of them earned their Super Sandgroper Award - Well done.

DISTRICT HIKE :

After being postponed in late '79 and re-scheduled for the middle of February, we went ahead with our hike despite the very poor attendance. The hike was from Woodend to Riddells Creek and provided 2 routes - 1 easy walk for inexperienced boys and Scouters, and a more challenging one up over Mt. Macedon. In all, only 26 boys and 5 Scouters from the District participated and enjoyed a very worthwhile week-end. Thanks to Keith Fry and 6th Ringwood for organising this activity.

WATER ACTIVITIES DAY :

Organised by 3rd Ringwood as usual and held at the retarding basin in Liverpool Road, Montrose. Another successful day with good attendance from boys and families. The highlight was the Group Leaders' race, which by some strange coincidence finished in a dead heat.

RINGWOOD FAMILY FUN DAY :

From the Scout Section point of view this was perhaps our most successful Fun Day, as we were located in a prime position and we were running the "A" frame tent pitching competition for the first time with the "Dennis Minett Trophy" as the prize. Fittingly the trophy was won by 3rd Ringwood from 4th Ringwood. I say fittingly as the trophy was donated by Bob Oke of 3rd. Many thanks Bob.

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Finally, during the year, 2 of our Scouters were honoured with awards on Founder's Day and our congratulations go to Bob Oke - Medal of Merit - and Keith Fry - Certificate of Good Service.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to David Graham and all the District Staff for their assistance during the past year and in particular to Ray Kitto who has helped tremendously to share the load. Last, but by no means least, I would like to thank my Wife, Anita, for standing beside me through the years. I have been in Scouting and particularly for allowing us to take over the house on Mindari nights and then providing us with supper afterwards.

I hope that this coming year can live up to its expectations and provide good Scouting for the young people of Ringwood.

KEN JONES, D.S.L.

RAY KITTO, D.S.L.

D.V.L.'s REPORT :

Once again the results for the year have varied from unit to unit. The factors which have influenced this have largely been the standard of training and commitment of the leaders and the fall out in the Scout section in previous years. We have maintained numbers in the Venturer section by bringing in boys and girls from outside the Movement. These young people are not going to join a unit merely because their home is in a particular group's recruiting area. They join the unit in which they have friends. This means that, other things being equal, the larger units will tend to get larger at the expense of the smaller units. It also means that the need for the Venturer unit to provide basic Scoutcraft training is greater than ever.

For this reason, we introduced into the District during the year, a set of Basic Venturer Standards to help Venturers to participate effectively and safely in outdoor activities.

Four Venturers gained their Queen's Scout Award this year:-

Tim Fryer - 4th Ringwood
Paul Davey - 6th Ringwood
Michael Krause
- 6th Ringwood
Patrick Newman
- 6th Ringwood

There were no unconventional activities in the Award scheme this year. The District has commenced work at the Botanical Gardens, Cranbourne Annex as part of the Environment section of the scheme and this is continuing.

A very successful cross country skiing weekend was led by Anton Halabut who also instructs in climbing. We are grateful to Anton for his time and efforts.

One initiative course was run during the year as was a unit management course for unit council members.

A very successful tour of Tasmania was run by 4th Ringwood during the Christmas holidays.

Fifty eight Venturers, about half the District, attended this year's Hoadley Hide in twelve teams. This made our representation one of the larger ones. A total of 1036 Venturers attended the Hide. The results gained by our teams ran the full range of grades from A to E. 6th Ringwood are to be congratulated on becoming co-holders - the first in the District for many years - two teams became runners-up; Six Leaders also attended the Hide.

For the future, the success of the Venturer section will depend on the ability to recruit and train effective Leaders in sufficient numbers to maintain the interest of young people from outside the Movement.

I should like to thank the members of the District Staff and my fellow Venturer Leaders for their help.

In conclusion, I must thank my family for their help and forbearance.

BRIAN MCCARTHY, D.V.L.