

**THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
VICTORIAN BRANCH**



**RINGWOOD
DISTRICT
1982**

RINGWOOD SCOUT DISTRICT

10th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAY 6th, 1982

A G E N D A

Welcome

Apologies

Confirmation of Minutes of last Annual General Meeting.

Receipt of District Chairman's Report

- " " D. C. Report
- " " A. D. C. Training Report
- " " . C. L. Report
- " " D. S. L. Report
- " " D. V. L. Report
- " " Warrants Committee
- " " Water Activities Committee

Receipt of and Adoption of Financial Report.

Explanation of District Association and District Executive.

Election of Office Bearers -

Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer

Nomination of 2 Delegates from each Group Committee to D.A.

Election of Secretaries for Sub-Committees:

Warrants
Finance
Boating

Appointment of Hon. Auditor

- " " Hon. Badge Secretary
- " " 2 Delegates to the Area Council.

GUEST SPEAKER - Mr. Phillip Garth,
Forests Commission of Victoria.

General Business.

Conclusion.

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Supper.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The last twelve months have been significant in the evolution of youth activities. Many traditional organisations have been concerned with dwindling support and attendance. Youth clubs have been most heavily hit - the latest casualty being the Ringwood Youth Club which has just closed down after 25 years of service within the Ringwood community.

At the same time Scouting vigorously celebrates 75 years of activity throughout the world and 50 years continuous growth in Ringwood.

Such success, which seems to go against the current, has only been achieved through dedication, involvement and inspiration. Ringwood District abounds in the sorts of people who demonstrate those attributes. They are not all oldies with staid "what it was like when I was ..etc." mentalities, but young vigorous workers prepared to go out and do something, to show our young people that Scouting is fun, that it offers so much as they grow and mature, but above all that it prepares them for the responsibility of adulthood in an ever changing society.

This challenge has been accepted and Scouting within Ringwood continues to attract more and more young people into its ranks despite the alternate distractions placed before them. "Inspiration" and "dedication" are the important ingredients of this success - therefore, may I, on behalf of the parents and relatives of Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers, thank all those Leaders who have given, and continue to give, so much of their time freely and unstintingly for the development of our children. It has been a great year - let us make the next one even greater.

CR. G. R. G. SMART,

Chairman.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

CUBS.

The Cub section throughout the District continued to show initiative with their activities. During the year two outstanding activities which I feel I should note were the Badge Achievement Day and The Ringwood Festival Day.

To all the Cub Leaders and Helpers - THANKS - with special thanks to our D.C.L's Marie and Claire.

SCOUTS.

Another year of ups and downs. We have seen the introduction of the P.L's Council, which has taken over from P.L's courses as such. It is only the beginning. We still have a long way to go.

I must say a big thank you to David Bennett who has carried out most of the hard work promoting Scouts within the District. Thanks also to Ken. Jones and Tony Morewood.

VENTURERS.

I can report that there are six successful Units within the District. We are disappointed that 7th had to put their Unit into recess at the beginning of this year due to the lack of members to run a viable Unit.

Congratulations to our D.V.L's for another successful year.

Special thanks to John Widmer for his role as A.D.V.L. during a stabilizing period.

Thanks to Kerry Nancarrow and Brian McCarthy.

ROVERS.

The Crews throughout the District have continued to grow in numbers as well as in the roles they have played helping our Groups. At present there are 4 very active Crews and to each of them I pass on a special 'thank you'.

DISTRICT STAFF.

We have seen a couple of alterations on the District Team. To them all I say thank you.

I am sad to say there will be a couple more changes necessary because of the resignation of both David Bennett and Tony Morewood from the team. New appointments are yet to be made.

DISTRICT BADGE SECRETARY.

To Ken. and Rona Morrison - I don't know how to thank you enough. Week in - week out - they are there to keep our Leaders supplied with the appropriate Badges. Thanks, Ken. & Rona.

DISTRICT BULLETIN.

The Bulletin has been produced each month during the year. I hope it is read by every Leader, as I feel this is one method of communication that is open to us all. If anyone has any copy for this media, please don't be afraid to let us have it.

Thanks to David Graham for his couple of editions, till we found our present Editor, Kevin Carmody. Thanks Kevin! I must also thank Woody for his continuing work with the Printing.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT (Continued) -

Ringwood City Council -

May I ask our Chairman, Cr. G. Smart, to pass to the Ringwood City Council our sincere thanks for their continuing support to Scouting

District Council -

We have welcomed some new faces to District Council during the year. First came Ken. Jones - not a new face but a new role for Ken. Then there was Fay Hubbard of 6th (a better face than Ken's!!). Then Geoff. Peterson of 2nd Heathmont, and finally, Judith Dungey of 7th. We as a District owe much to these people, along with the other G.L's Len. Free, Geoff. Naughton, Clive Schuster and Graeme Ross. To all of them I say 'thank you'.

District Association -

Our District Executive has been ably led during the year by

our Chairman - G. Smart
Minute Sec. - J. Leydon
Sec./Treasurer - D. Alford.

The Executive started the year with vigorous pursuit in mind. The Finance Committee managed to keep us in 'the black' (the Treasurer can say more about this later); the Warrant Committee has kept our new Leaders informed of their commitments and followed up with their training; the P. R. Committee has started with the improvement of the Scouting image; the Water Activities Committee has been very successful. I thank all the people who have worked on these Committees during the year.

In conclusion, I must say thank you to all those people I have not named previously, who have shown the dedication and given of their time for the betterment of Scouting within the Ringwood District. Scouting is now 75 years old and I hope that with continuing support from all sections of the community we can continue to grow as a respected organization in the City of Ringwood.

Thank you all -

TREVOR STANYER,
District Commissioner.

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DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - APPENDIX.

CENSUS 1982 - 1981 figures in brackets.

GROUP	1st R.	2nd R.	3rd R.	4th R.	6th R.	7th R.	1st H.	2nd H.	TOTAL
CUBS	38 (46)	45 (40)	51 (33)	33 (40)	58 (68)	50 (50)	40 (43)	42 (48)	357 (368)
SCOUTS	27 (40)	11 (14)	37 (34)	26 (34)	37 (41)	41 (40)	40 (34)	37 (19)	256 (256)
VENTURERS	12 (16)	9 (14)	13 (1)	21 (21)	18 (21)	6 (12)	12 (12)	19 (13)	110 (110)
ROVERS	18 (13)	4 (4)	-	19 (20)	10 (8)	2 -	15 (14)	- (11)	68 (70)
TOTAL YOUTH	95 (115)	69 (72)	101 (68)	99 (115)	123 (138)	99 (102)	107 (103)	98 (91)	791 (804)
LEADERS	17 (16)	13 (10)	20 (15)	16 (17)	16 (25)	16 (18)	16 (15)	15 (15)	129 (131)
TOTAL	112 (131)	82 (82)	121 (83)	115 (132)	139 (163)	115 (120)	123 (118)	113 (106)	920 (935)
DISTRICT STAFF									9 (10)
						GRAND TOTAL	*		929

The above table shows a decrease of 13 youth members and 3 Scouters. We lost 11 Cubs and 2 Rovers.

We are still holding our 6 boys to 1 Leader ^{ratio} throughout the District.

From these figures we can see there has not been the growth that we may have expected. However, another year of consolidation.

AWARDS -

MEDAL OF MERIT	-	KEN. JONES
L. S. D.	-	JUDITH DUNGEY
L. S. D.	-	IAN KINNABOROUGH
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	-	COL. HOLIBONE

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A.D.C. TRAINING REPORT:

1. W 1's cleared 32.
2. Warrant Committee Interviews 20.
3. WOOD BADGE.

Stage 1 30 (29)
 Stage 2 16 (35)

	Cub	Scout	Venturer	Rover	G.L./COMM.	TOTAL
Stage 3	12 (16)	13 (6)	7 (4)	-	2 (1)	34 (24)
Stage 4	1 (3)	2 (-)			1 (2)	4 (8)
Stage 5	2 (2)		(2)		- (2)	2 (6)

4. OTHER COURSES.

Pack Holiday 8 (1)
 Campfire Leader 2 (3)
 Crew Leader 2 (10)
 G.L. Skills 3 (-)
 District Leader 3 (-)

5. WARRANTS ISSUED.

Group Leader	2 (-)	Cub Leader	3 (1)	Assistant Vent.	
Scout Leader	- (2)	Asst. Cub Leader	11 (8)	Leader	3 (2)
Asst Scout Ldr	1 (4)	Venturer Ldr	1 (3)	Rover Adviser	-
				Total	- 21 (20)

6. CHARGE CERTIFICATES. (Canoe/Kayak)

Leader 16 Youth Member 24

7. GROUP.

	<u>Leader Strength</u>	<u>Warranted %</u>	<u>Wood Badges %</u>
1st Ringwood	14 (16)	8 57(40)	2 (2) 14 (13)
2nd "	13 (10)	10 62(77)	1 (2) 8 (20)
3rd "	21 (15)	13 62(63)	1 (1) 5 (7)
4th "	17 (17)	10 59(67)	4 (3) 20 (18)
6th "	21 (25)	12 57(54)	4 (5) 19 (20)
7th "	18 (18)	15 83(83)	4 (3) 15 (17)
1st Heathmont	19 (15)	15 79(79)	5 (7) 26 (47)
2nd "	17 (15)	11 65(67)	4 (8) 24 (33)
District	<u>9 (9)</u>	<u>9 (100)</u>	<u>9 (9) 100 (100)</u>
	160 (140)	98	34(37)

8. UNWARRANTED LEADERS.

	<u>TIME IN MOVEMENT --</u>			<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>Less than 6 months</u>	<u>Over 6 months</u>	<u>Over 12 Months</u>	
1st Ringwood	2	3	1	6
2nd "	1	2		3
3rd "		5	3	8
4th "	3	1	3	7
6th "	5		4	9
7th "	2	1		3
1st Heathmont	1	2	1	4
2nd "	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
	15	16	15	46

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

Generally the figures show that the District picture has stayed fairly steady, despite some changes within Groups. The figures for unwarranted leaders with over 12 month's service is a concern. There should be a distinct change in this area next year when the new Branch policy requiring Scouters to explain their non-acceptance of training responsibilities after 6 and 12 months takes effect. Such failure may result in the withdrawal of rights.

In general, there is still a need for further development of post-warrant training with the Wood Badge as an end result. This year, as last year, there are still many Scouters who hold a Wood Badge which is not tied to the Section in which they are operating.

My thanks: to all Scouters who have given up time for the various trainings undertaken. I am sure the benefits to you and your charges outweigh the sacrifice that may have been necessary.

to the District Team in keeping an eye on things and arranging "tutors" for Stage 2.

to D.C. Trevor Stanyer (and Joy) who take a stream of visitors and interruptions in their stride.

RIX MCGINLEY,

A. D. C. TRAINING.

ACTIVITIES

Walkathon.

Again there was good participation by the majority of Packs. number of Leaders helped man the base at 1st Ringwood.

Badge Achievement Day --

This event was held at 1st Ringwood Hall, Guide Hall and High School Oval. The compactness of the badge activities helped 166 Cubs achieve 391 badges. Five badges at each level were available. The Leaders again proved their ability at organising base activities.

Cohen Shield.

A number of Cub Leaders helped man the administration.

Sixers' Weekend.

Unfortunately all Packs did not attend and several others did not send 4 sixers. The theme was "Space Odyssey" and we dressed for dinner on Sunday. Again, we organised a fun weekend and we hope the word spreads for 1982 to have a complete turn out.

Founder's Day Service.

Numbers were better and this Service should go from strength to strength.

Ringwood Festival Day.

'Around the Lake in 75 Minutes'.

A huge success with 200 Cubs and 44 Leaders participating. The Leaders manning the bases entered into the spirit of the occasion and dressed accordingly. Fun and imagination was again to the fore. Thanks to the Leaders who put their time and efforts into making these events a success.

Seeonee.

An average attendance of 18 - 20. Unfortunately, all Packs are not getting the benefit of mixing and talking with other Leaders. Pack reports show that the majority have plenty of fun and varied activities, with progression through test work. The Packs that do not attend could learn from others, and could contribute themselves.

Wood Badge.

Congratulations to Julie King on obtaining her Wood Badge.

Thank You --

Thanks to all of those who stand behind our Cub Leaders and support them, particularly their families. In a number of cases their families are involved elsewhere in Scouting and their extra efforts are appreciated.

Thanks to Trevor for having his door open when we need it. Thanks to Marie for her years of experience.

1982 looks to be a promising year and we hope more will be done to put Scouting to the fore in its 75th Year.

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

DISTRICT SCOUT LEADERS' REPORT.

Despite a number of changes to the District programme and the introduction of a number of new ideas, the Scout Section in Ringwood still languishes with a real lack of commitment to Scouting from both Leaders and Scouts, and little change is foreseen unless there is a major change in the way that some Troops operate.

This report will deal with five aspects of the Scout Section.

MINDARI -

Mindari's are often criticised as being just a forum where information is collected and are not seen as being of much value to Leaders otherwise.

With this in mind, a number of Guest Speakers and Training Activities were introduced to Mindari at the conclusion of the business part of each meeting, and generally we have been pleased to have improved attendances at most meetings. There still remained however, a number of important meetings at which Troops had no representation at all.

Monthly section meetings are for all the Leaders in that section, be they Scout section or Cub or whatever, and it is our opinion that this is an area where greater support for District can be shown and encouraged by all Groups.

NEW IDEAS.

Inter-Troop Games.

We had been concerned that there was very little Inter-Troop Activity throughout the District and after many hours deliberation and tongue in cheek it was suggested to Mindari that we run an Inter-Troop Games competition where the Troops would play three games (Indoor Continuous Cricket, Basketball and Volleyball) in a knock-out competition commencing in Term 1 of 1981 and concluding at the end of the year.

The response was most pleasing and the first year saw the Bill Watkins Trophy won by 3rd Ringwood. The reaction from the boys was very good also, to the point where those Troops who were defeated in the first round decided to continue playing each other.

The 1982 competition is well underway with the first round nearing completion.

District Hike.

Ringwood has had a very poor history in relation to its District Hike and in an endeavour to attract more participation, it was proposed to change the format of the hike to one where the boys could hike as Patrols over a given course and participate in a number of stunts/activities along the way.

Although the 1981 hike was not as well attended as we had hoped, the 1982 one was excellent with the Trophy being won by 4th Ringwood.

Special thanks to the Lasseter Rovers for their efforts in running the hikes for the District.

DISTRICT SCOUT LEADERS' REPORT (Continued) -

NEW IDEAS -

Patrol Leaders' Council.

Following poor attendances at Patrol Leader Training Courses of recent years, and the fact that very little seems to get done by Troops afterwards, we decided to try to run a monthly District Patrol Leaders' Council, where all invested Patrol Leaders within the District could get together once a month for a Scout Meeting where they could exchange ideas, learn new games and skills and generally learn more about their job of being a Patrol Leader.

The meetings ran with varied success, partly due to us not being able to have a regular date and partly due to a lack of support from various Troops.

To date in 1982, we have averaged 20 Patrol Leaders at the meetings and with a set date each month, plus a set venue, we look forward to this being a worthwhile activity from now on.

DISTRICT PROGRAMME.

The greatest problem with trying to run the District Programme in Ringwood is that when it comes time for the District Programme to be set and finalised at Mindari, we are able to get agreement and support for the activities that are proposed, and dates are then agreed upon, and yet when the actual activity comes along, the attendance and support is just appalling.

There seems little point in planning and organising any activity whilst this apathy exists. There is no doubt that activities do not get promoted at Troop level to the boys as they should, otherwise the participation level throughout the District would be greater.

The 1982 District Programme has been cut drastically and yet, with four out of the six activities for 1982 already completed at the time of writing of this report, we have averaged less than 30% participation from the Troops.

TROOP ACTIVITIES.

Visits to Troops were made on a regular basis, and on all occasions we were made most welcome.

A number of the Troops are down in both boy and leader numbers, which has contributed to a lack of activity within those Troops.

The aspect of Troop Activities that does require some comment is that of Programming. Survey after survey conducted in Scouting shows that boys leave Scouts because it "is not interesting any more". Leaders must be prepared to let the boys become involved in programming, and to listen to their ideas for activities. We have only a handful of Troops that operate a Troop Council so that there is very little boy input into the Troop Programmes.

One of the major things to "Bug" us as D.S.L.'s is the lack of attention given to administration. In particular, when we ask for information on numbers to attend activities, etc., or to forward copies of Troop Programmes, the responses are really poor. We can only assume that in relation to Troop Programmes, that some Troops do not have any forward planning done and simply operate from week to week.

Camping Activities were also down last year, however, now that Leaders are required to hold a Campcraft Certificate, we hope that both the general standard and numbers of camps will improve this year.

DISTRICT SCOUT LEADERS' REPORT (Continued) -

LEADER TRAINING.

A concerted effort has been made to promote Leader Training during the year, with a particular emphasis being placed on the completion of the Woodbadge by doing Stage Four.

We are pleased with the response so far, and have had two Leaders complete Stage Four late in 1981, and four more have indicated their intention to do their Course in June/July of 1982.

This can only do good for both the Leaders concerned and their Troops. We know the enjoyment of the participation in Stage Four, and congratulate those Leaders on their decision to take further training.

SUMMARY.

Change in Staff.

During the year Ken. Jones decided to go back to his Group at 4th, and we thank Ken. for his efforts and wish him well in his new role as Group Leader.

Tony Morewood subsequently joined us later in the year.

Thanks.

Thanks to Trevor Stanyer and the other members of the District Staff for their support and participation in a number of our activities.

The Future.

There needs to be a major re-think in some of our Troops about the way they operate, and far greater support for the role that District can play in the section before the section can be pleased with the way it runs.

We need to be of help to one another, and cease running our "own show in our own way". There are experienced Leaders who can help those who need it, but too often a suggestion made that another way may be better or even worth a try is taken to mean that something is being done wrong.

In so far as we as D.S.L.'s are concerned, there have been many enjoyable things that have happened, however, for varying reasons, neither of us will be continuing as D.S.L.'s after the Annual General Meeting.

DAVID BENNETT, D.S.L.
TONY MOREWOOD, D.S.L.

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1981/1982 VENTURER REPORT.

The year from our last report saw the advances and regressions that, unfortunately, seem to be a continuing characteristics of all voluntary organisations, ours notwithstanding. Overwhelmingly, our most positive and encouraging factor, has been the steady devotion to service of our adult leadership. Venturer Leaders work extremely hard and long to create an environment where teenage men and women might fulfil the ir adult potential and the Leaders' role should not be unrecognized. It is, therefore, with a great deal of regret that we said "goodbye" to Richard Graves, Sue, and their family. We hope, before long, that Casterton will have a Venturer Unit. In fact, many leaders have helped the Venturer Section in the last year, some for a few weeks, some for a night, and others, like Anton Halabut, Phil. Coleman, Michael McCarthy, are an integral part of our outdoor programme. We would especially like to thank Anton for his continuing enthusiasm, and we trust that he will remain our Activity Adviser in 1982.

The Venturers, themselves, are an important part of our leadership, and we appreciate the Chairmanship of Judy Halabut and Perry Proeger at the D.V.C. Ringwood Rovers have also maintained their important role in our activities, and without their assistance in Initiative courses, Hoadley Hides, and as "drivers", our programme would be much thinner. We thank the m all.

Our traditional efforts in training are proceeding; as there has been a steady stream of Award Scheme approvals and their successful completion. Despite the changes in the Award Passport, we will continue to use our highly innovative approval system, and we expect that other Districts may learn from us!

1982 should see the completion of several Queen Scout and Venturer Awards. Our system worked so efficiently, that one Venturer, Ann Goodochkin, was almost able to complete the Award Scheme, whilst studying in Thailand. Ann and others like her, show the continuing importance of the Award Scheme.

The District Venturer Council continued its important liaison function, and although not every event planned was equally successful, Venturers and Leaders learnt from their mistakes. Attendance at the Council was good and participation lively.

It is with a certain amount of disquiet that we view the temporary suspension of the 7th Ringwood Unit. It is clear, however, that we must rationalize the equipment and more importantly, the membership and Leadership of our Units. It is important that Units should have a viable strength of 9-10 Venturers, and that we all try hard to maintain Units. The Factors leading to a decline in membership are as true this year as they have been for nearly every Annual report written in the 70's. In particular, Groups must pay special attention to the Leadership and Programmes of the Scout Troops. No "Link Badge" system, however well administered, will retrieve "lost Scouts", and we anticipate that the Venturer Units will continue to work closely with their appropriate Scout Troops.

Our Leader and Venturer participation in the Hoadley Hide continued to be strong. Forty-five Venturers in nine teams and seven Leaders participated. We are not, however, happy with the fruits of that participation, and we believe that both Venturers and Leaders will be attending a better organised and more successful competition in 1983. Such is our willingness, to put "our money where our mouths are", that we have had a series of meetings to discuss East-Suburban's 1983 Hoadley-Hide administration, and we expect Ringwood to be significantly represented in next year's "Hide".

Although the National Venture was only held in the next suburb, Ringwood's Venturers and Leaders turned out to participate and help. Even our D.C. was seen packing sandwiches! The Venture was a good example of unlimited possibilities for our Venturers.

VENTURER REPORT (Continued) -

Two successful Telecom deliveries were organised by Stan. Parsons, and all Units are grateful for his assistance with this steady income.

We have not dwelt on the failures of 1981/1982, (and they do exist!) because we believe that Venturing is a splendid co-operative effort by people who do their best for others. We can only try to improve our efforts this year. Our attempts will be built on an effort, well done.

BRIAN McCARTHY	D.V.L.
KERRY NANCARROW	D.V.L.
JOHN WIDMER	A.V.L.

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DISTRICT VENTURER REPORT - (SUPPLEMENT)

We must thank John Widmer for his efforts during the last year. It has not been an easy one for Venturing and John and Kerry inherited a number of unresolved problems. Probably the greatest one in these days of the numbers game, is the loss of boys in the Scout Section and the consequent dilution of Scouting skills in the Venturer Units.

John, thank you for your hard work and in particular for your driving home of the need for safety in activities.

"MAC"

BRIAN McCARTHY, D.V.L.

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WARRANTS COMMITTEE

This Committee, which was re-constituted after a lapse of several years, met on several occasions during the last year.

Some 20 prospective Scouters were "interviewed" following the clearance of their W.l.s. The opportunity is taken to explain something of the demands and responsibilities which face a Warranted Leader.

To the Committee members Kath Waddingham and Terry Ianham, thank you for the acceptance of this additional demand on your time.

RIX MCGINLEY,
Chairman.

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WATER ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

During the past year there has been very little response by the District to water activities other than canoeing.

During the year the Water Activities Committee has run a training course for adult members together with a number of training sessions for Scouts and Venturers. As a result of these courses, sixteen Charge Certificates have been issued to Leaders and twenty-four to youth members. Inspection and certification of the boats of some groups which have not been submitted for examination and a number of paddlers using them without Charge Certificates.

There have been several overnight paddles and hopefully these will be increased next year.

All proposed canoe trips are supposed to be vetted by Max Kerr or myself as a safety check, but the responsibility for the safety of group members lies with the G.L.'s.

Members of the Committee have assisted Healesville, Diamond Valley and Croydon groups and also helped at a Gilwell Activities Weekend.

I would like to thank Max Kerr for his work as Chairman of the Committee and in instruction.

MICHAEL McCARTHY,
Water Activities Co-ordinator.

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