

MARIAN NOVEMBER 1970 HISTORY OF GROUP.

GROUP 1ST MET. 13TH SEPT 1953.

1ST PATROLS FORMED 27/9/53.

1ST TENDERFOOT DICK LYE 28/10/53

1ST INVESTITURE 15/11/53

1ST SCOUT INVESTED DICK LYE.

1ST SCOUTER JOHN CLARKE - SCOUT NAME WONGA.

TROOP WAS FORMED AS A RESULT OF THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY'S APPEAL TO ANY CATHOLIC WHO HAD SCOUT EXPERIENCE TO HELP IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TROOPS

J. CLARKE HAD BEEN ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER OF THE 1ST MT DANDENONG TROOP IN 1926 & HAD DONE THE FIELD COURSE FOR THE WOOD BADGE AT GILWELL PARK GEMBROOK IN 1927.

13/9/53 A SUNDAY MICHAEL & ANTHONY CHIEVERS, GRAHAM & KEVIN TELLEY, GREGORY MAYLOR MET AT RING. CLOCK-TOWER & WERE TAKEN TO THE PROPERTY OF J. CLARKE, BURLOCK AVE. THE AFTERNOON WAS SPENT ~~FOR~~ LIGHTING FIRES & COOKING RICE & GRILLING MEAT.

SUNDAY 27/9/53 GREG MAYLOR, GRAHAM TALLEY, ADRIAN LINDSAY, PAT LYNCH, TIM OSMOTHERLY, PETER BURNS, ARTHUR ORR, ^{PETER} JOHN HAMILTON, & DICK LYE. THEY FORMED 2 PATROLS CURLEWS P.L. DICK LYE, OWLS JOHN HAMILTON

EARLY DAYS OF THE 2ND RINGWOOD BY "WONGA"

THE GROUP OWES ITS EXISTENCE TO THE FACT THAT IN 1926 I MET CHARLIE HENRY A YOUNG SCOTSMAN NEWLY ARRIVED IN AUSTRALIA, WHO HAD GONE THROUGH ALL SECTIONS OF THE 3RD DUNDEE A GROUP WHICH HAD HAD ACTUAL CONTACT WITH BADEN-POWELL.

HE & I DECIDED TO FORM A GROUP, THE 1ST MT DANDENONG, HE TO BE S. M. ^{MASTER} & I THE A. S. M. ^{ASSISTANT S. M. MASTER}. HE ENCOURAGED ME TO GET ALL THE TRAINING I COULD & ENTERED ME IN THE WOOD BADGE COURSE AT GILWELL PARK IN 1927. MANY YEARS LATER, AS A MEMBER OF THE RINGWOOD CONFERENCE OF THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, I READ AN APPEAL IN THE ADVOCATE FROM THE CENTRAL COUNCIL TO ALL CATHOLIC MEN WHO HAD EXPERIENCE OF SCOUTING TO COME FORWARD & HELP EXPAND THE MOVEMENT IN CATHOLIC SPONSORED GROUPS.

IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT I HAD LOST CONTACT WITH SCOUTING OVER THE YEARS I KNEW THAT THIS CALL WAS A PERSONAL ONE TO ME & I HASTENED TO FATHER O'TOOLE TO OFFER MY SERVICES IN ESTABLISHING A GROUP IN THE PARISH. HE GAVE ME AN ENTHUSIASTIC INSTRUCTION TO GO AHEAD, SO AFTER CONTRACTING THE OFFICIALS OF THE 1ST RINGWOOD GROUP INCLUDING MR CORY OKE, I CALLED A MEETING OF BOYS ON SATURDAY 13/9/53. 5 BOYS TURNED UP AS I WISHED TO START IN A SMALL WAY. THEY WERE MICHAEL & ANTHONY CHIEVERS, GRAHAM & KEVIN TELLEY AND GREGORY MAYLOR.

IN THE FOLLOWING WEEKS THE CHIEVERS FOUND THAT SCOUTING CLASHED WITH OTHER AFFAIRS & DROPPED OUT BUT OTHERS JOINED ADRIAN LINDSAY, PAT LYNCH, PETER BURNS, ARTHUR ORR, JOHN & PETER HAMILTON, DICK LYE.

AT THIS TIME I MET MARY WHITTAM WHO WAS WORKING AS LADY CUB MASTER IN A CAMBERWELL GROUP & WHO AGREED TO FORM A CUB PACK AS PART OF OUR LADY'S 2ND RINGWOOD.

AS THE TIME APPROACHED FOR THE REGISTRATION OF THE GROUP I CALLED THE TROOP INTO COUNCIL. I EXPLAINED TO THEM WHERE THE ORIGINS OF THE GROUP LAY & TAKING FROM AROUND MY NECK THE SCARF WHICH I HAD WORN IN THE 1ST MT DANDENONG I POINTED OUT THAT THESE COLOURS OF GREEN & DARK BLUE WERE VERY SCOUTY COLOURS, MUCH BETTER FOR CAMOUFLAGE THAN GAUDY ONES & THAT IF THEY ACCEPTED THESE COLOURS AS THEIR COLOURS THEY HAD AN HISTORIC LINK WITH AN ANCIENT SCOTTISH GROUP. UNFORTUNATELY I DID NOT REALIZE THAT THE YEARS HAD FADED THE DYE IN THE BLACK BRAID THAT BORDERED MY ANCIENT SCARF SO THAT THE COLOURS

ARE NOT A FULL COPY OF THESE OF THE 3RD DUNDEE, BUT THE GENERAL MEANING OF THE COLOURS IS THE SAME.

THE BOYS AGREED WITH MY IDEA & VOTED TO ADAFT GREEN & DARK BLUE AS THE COLOURS OF THE 2ND RINGWOOD.

THE DAY OF THE FIRST INVESTITURE WAS THE DAY WHEN THE GROUP OFFICIALLY CAME INTO EXISTANCE & THAT WAS 15/11/53. THE FIRST SCOUT INVESTED WAS DICK LYE & THE OTHERS WERE JOHN & PETER HAMILTON, KEVIN & GRAHAM TELLEY, ADRIAN LINDSAY, PETER BURNS & GREG MAYLOR. THE GROUP SCARVES WERE PRESENTED BY MR KING WHO HAD BEEN ONE OF THE BOYS WHO CAMPED ON BROWNSEA ISLAND IN ENGLAND UNDER BADEN POWELL IN 1908. MARY WHITTAM WAS THERE IN UNIFORM & PRESENTED THE HATS. ALSO PRESENT WERE W. WILKINS, GROUP SCOUT MASTER 1ST RINGWOOD & "SPIDER" WHITE A PATROL LEADER OF THAT GROUP.

FOR YEARS A LOG BOOK WAS ENTERED SPASMODICALLY & CONTAINS MUCH INFORMATION THOUGH I COULD NEVER GET THE SCOUTS TO TAKE A GREAT INTEREST IN IT. AS USUAL THEY WERE MORE INTERESTED IN THE FUN OF THE MOMENT THAN IN RECORDS FOR THE FUTURE SO I ENTERED SOME MYSELF THOUGH NOT AS MUCH AS I WISH NOW.

ONE ENTRY IN 1954 MENTIONS SEVERAL NEW NAMES THESE WERE BOYS WHO ARE WELL KNOWN IN THE PARISH NOW. PETER LYE, WILL ADERS, TERRY KANE EDDIE SABLVS. THE MEETINGS WERE UNVALLY HELD ON SUNDAYS ON THE WILD BUSHLAND THAT MY BROTHER BOB & I OWNED AT THE BACK OF LOUGHMAN'S HILL.

EVENING'S MEETINGS WERE ON FRIDAY NIGHTS IN THE SCHOOL ROOM THAT WAS THE LITTLE OLD CHURCH & THE BOYS HAD ONE CELEBRATION THAT REMAINS IN MY MEMORY. IT WAS FOR DICK LYE'S BECOMING OF SENIOR SCOUT AGE & A GREAT FEAST WAS ARRANGED BY THE BOYS (FISH & CHIPS POTATO CAKES) A TABLE WAS ARRANGED DOWN THE HALL & THE BOYS CATITERED ON BOTH SIDES. THERE WAS MUCH NOISE & GREAT EXCITEMENT & THEIR ANTKS MADE ME ROLL WITH LAUGHTER. ALL OF A SUDDEN THERE CAME A GREAT QUIET. BOY AFTER BOY LEFT THE TABLE & WANDERED SLOWLY ROUND THE ROOM I WAS BEWILDERED & COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT HAD GONE WRONG TILL DICK LYE LURCHED OVER TO ME CLUTCHING HIS STOMACH "HEC!" HE SAID "I'M FULL I DIDN'T THINK THERE WOULD EVER BE A TIME WHEN I'D HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT!" A QUARTER OF AN HOUR LATER THE NOISE & ACTIVITY RESUMED & THE PATROLS CARRIED ON AS USUAL.

THE MEETING PLACE HAD ALWAYS BEEN A PROBLEM IN THE GROUP. STORAGE OF EQUIPMENT-FLAGS & CAMPING GEAR WAS ALWAYS HARD TO FIND & I USED TO HAVE TO BRING ROPES, POLES & OTHER NECESSARY THINGS FOR EACH NIGHTS PROGRAM WITH ME.

MARY WHITTAM ARRANGED FOR A PAPAL BLESSING WHICH DULY CAME TO HAND BUT THERE IS NOWHERE TO DISPLAY IT. IT SHOULD REALLY BE IN A HEADQUARTERS ROOM BUT SUCH A THING THE GROUP HAS NEVER HAD.

ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A BIG INTAKE OF BOYS, BOTH INTO CUBS & SCOUTS THERE WAS A BIG LEAKAGE DUE TO MANY CAUSES. GREG MAYLOR CAME TO ME & SAID "WONGA, I CANNOT COME TO SCOUTS ANY MORE, I'VE TOO MUCH ELSE TO DO WITH SCHOOL & MUSIC & THINGS" SO HE LEFT WHICH WAS A BLOW TO ME- FOR GREG WAS ONE OF THE MOST ENTHUSIASTIC "LITTLE BEAVER" THE BOYS CALLED HIM HE WAS ALWAYS SO BUSY.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE EARLY YEARS WAS THE CAMP AT HOWQUA RIVER, EASTER 1955. IN THESE DAYS VERY FEW PEOPLE HAD CARS & MY SON TERRY & I MAINTAINED A TRUCK FOR THE USE OF THE GROUP. ON THIS WE PILED ALL THE CAMP GEAR AND BOYS & LEAVING AT 9 AM WE REACHED HOWQUA RIVER AT ABOUT 6 P.M.

WITH ME TO CARE FOR THE LADS WAS MR DAN KANE FROM DAVID ST. HE WAS A TOWER OF STRENGTH & WITHOUT HIS TREMENDOUS ORGANISING ABILITY THE CAMP WOULD HAVE BEEN A SHAMBLES AS THIS WAS THE 1ST BIG CAMP EITHER I OR ANY OF THE BOYS HAD TAKEN PART IN.

THE TRUCK WAS A TREMENDOUS ASSET & THE GROUP WOULD NOT HAVE FUNCTIONED PROPERLY WITHOUT IT, SO SOME YEARS LATER MY SON & I SOLD IT TO THE GROUP FOR £1.

THESE TIMES TRANSPORT IS EASIER AS EVERYBODY NOW A DAYS HAS A CAR AFTER HOWQUA CAMP THE TROOP WENT INTO A DECLINE. MANY OF THE BOYS FOUND OTHER INTERESTS & THE ATTENDANCE FELL TO ZERO, SO I PUT THE TROOP INTO ABEYANCE. BUT MARY WHITTAM HAD BEEN WORKING STEADILY WITH THE CUBS & WE HAVE HER TO THANK THAT THE GROUP SURVIVED THE MALAISE THAT AFFECTED THE TROOP AFTER THE HOWQUA CAMP. IT IS EVER THUS; THE PACK IS THE SOURCE OF THE GROUPS STRENGTH & ACCORDING TO THE GROUNDING THAT THE BOY RECEIVES AS CUBS SO THE SCOUTMASTERS HAVE MORE FERTILE GROUND TO BUILD THE STRUCTURE OF THE OTHER SECTIONS ON.

THERE WERE MANY GOOD CUBS WHO CAME UP INTO THE TROOP, AMONG

THE 1ST WAS MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN, THAT LOVELY CHARACTER WHO WAS SUCH A STALWART OF SCOUT THOUGHT IN THE GROUP, BUT TO WHOM THE CAMPS BECAME A HARDSHIP. MICHAEL WAS A PERFECTIONIST & FOUND THAT SCOUTS ARE NOT ALL PERFECT. HIS HOME SICKNESS FINALLY BROUGHT HIM OUT OF THE TROOP.

IN 1958 WE MADE OUR 1ST CONTACT WITH CLIFFORD PARK. WE CAMPED THERE OVER EASTER & IT BECAME OUR REGULAR STAMPING GROUND. WE RECEIVED A CORDIAL WELCOME FROM MR & MRS LEWIS. THEY DEVELOPED A WARM ATTITUDE TO US AND WE FREQUENTLY VISITED MR LEWIS IN THE HOUSE WHEN HE WAS CONFINED TO HIS BED. IT WAS QUITE A SIGHT TO SEE FIFTEEN OR TWENTY ROWDY SCOUTS ON THEIR BEST BEHAVIOUR CROWDED AROUND HIS BEDSIDE.

WHEN THEY FOUND WE WERE THINKING OF BUYING CANDLES THEY TOLD ME THAT THEY WOULD PAY FOR THEM. WE BOUGHT 3 AT A COST OF ABOUT \$160 & THEY GAVE US A CHEQUE TO COVER OUR EXPENDITURE. THEY ALSO PAID FOR ALL COSTS OF ERECTING A LODGE ON THEIR PROPERTY FOR US. A LOT OF WORK WENT INTO THIS LODGE WHICH SERVED AS A CHAPEL AT THE ROVER MOOT IN 1961-2 & WAS BURNT IN THE BUSHFIRES A FEW DAYS LATER.

THE LAWS ON WHICH THE SCOUT MOVEMENT WAS FOUNDED WERE VERY LARGELY THE WORK OF CARDINAL BOURNE IN LONDON & ARE BASED ON THE THOUGHT THAT PERFECT DISCIPLINE COMES FROM WITHIN. THIS FACT GOVERNS THE RULE OF THE SCOUTMASTER OVER THE BOY. A SCOUTMASTER CARRIES A HEAVY LOAD BOTH OF WORK & RESPONSIBILITY & HIS SENSE OF TOUCH LARGELY GOVERNS THE HAPPENESS OF THE TROOP. SOMETIMES MY JUDGEMENT WAS AT FAULT & MY HANDLING OF THE INDIVIDUAL WRONG. I REGRET THOSE TIMES, FOR IT OFTEN MEANT THE LOSS OF THE BOY TO SCOUTING.

AS TIME WENT BY THE GROUP ACQUIRED MANY SCOUTERS, ANGELA ADERS JOINED MARY WHITTON & GOT A PACK OF HER OWN. DARYL RICHARDSON BECAME MY ASSISTANT, LATER, WILL ADERS & PETER LYE. THEN MRS WAYWOOD JOINED MARY & ANGELA.

SENIOR SCOUTS HAD BEEN FORMED WITH JOHN WHITTON AS SENIOR SCOUTER & WE NOW HAD A STRONG SCOUTERS COUNCIL. AND IT WAS HERE THAT I FOUND THAT THERE WAS DIS SATIS FACTION WITH ME & THAT A CHALLENGE HAD BEEN MADE TO MY CARE OF THE TROOP & ITS DISCIPLINE. I KNEW THAT TO TAKE UP THAT CHALLENGE WOULD CAUSE A SPLIT & VERY STRONG DISCENTION IN THE GROUP & I REALISED THAT THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID THIS WAS FOR ME TO RESIGN, WHICH I DID.

LEAVING THE GROUP WAS A SEARING EXPERIENCE FOR ALMOST

ALMOST 9 YRS THE GROUP HAD BEEN THE CENTRE OF MY LIFE MAKING DEMANDS ON MY TIME ENERGY & MONEY WHICH I COULD ILL ~~NEED~~ AFFORD BUT I HAD SEEN THE 5 BOYS GROW INTO A VAST COMPLEXITY OF 120 ACTIVE BOYS 12 ACTIVE SCOUTERS, 2 TROOPS, 2 PACKS & A SENIOR SECTION WITH AUXILIARYS OF NUMEROUS ADULTS. MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WENT ALL OVER THE STATE & SOMETIMES INTERSTATE STILL LACKING WAS THE MOST VITAL REQUIREMENT ITS OWN QUARTERS WITHOUT WHICH IT CAN NEVER ACHIEVE FULFILMENT NOR EXERCISE IN FULL ITS ABILITY TO GENERATE INCOME.

I HAD HAD MANY A DESPERATE MOMENTS THROUGH THE YEARS & THE FACT THAT I SURVIVED AS LONG AS I DID IS BECAUSE OF THE LOVING SUPPORT I GOT FROM MY FAMILY, PARTICULARLY MY WIFE. BUT THE YEARS HAVE CONVINCED ME OF THE TRUTH OF WHAT I HEARD ARCHBISHOP SIMMONS SAY AT A KIRO BADGE PRESENTATION IN ST MARYS WEST MELB. "THE BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT IS BEST OF ALL THE YOUTH MOVEMENTS AND I HOPE TO SEE A GROUP IN EVERY PARISH"