

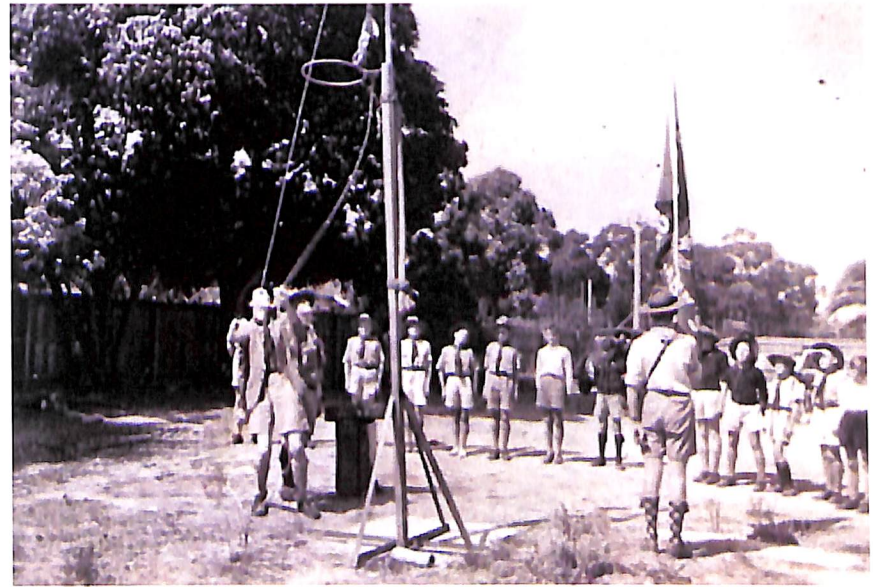


2ND  
MAROONDAH

55 YEAR ANNIVERSARY







## **2<sup>nd</sup> Ringwood Scout Group**

### **Early History**

**By Jack Clark**

In the middle of 1953, I approached Father O'Toole, Parish Priest of Our Lady's Church to offer my services in establishing a Scout troop in the Parish. My first association in Scouting started in 1926, when I met Charlie Henry, a Scotsman newly arrived in Australia from 3<sup>rd</sup> Dundee, Scotland. He formed 1<sup>st</sup> Mt Dandenong with himself as Scout Master and myself as his Assistant. He encouraged me to go through all my training and entered me for the Wood Badge Course at Gilwell Park in 1927.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> September, 1953, having previously contacted the officials of 1<sup>st</sup> Ringwood Scout Group including Mr Cory Oke (District Commissioner), I called a meeting. Five boys turned up and the first Troop meeting was held on my property at Loughmans Hill, North Ringwood. Taking a Scarf I had worn at 1<sup>st</sup> Mt Dandenong, I pointed out that these colours (green and dark blue) were very Scout colours much better for camouflage than gaudy one and they accepted them as theirs. They had a historic link through 1<sup>st</sup> Mt Dandenong with the ancient Scottish Group. One month later the Scarves were presented by Mr King, who was one of the boys who camped at Brownsea Island in England under Baden-Powell in 1908. The first to be presented was Dick Lye followed by John and Peter Hamilton, Kevin and Graham Lindsay, Peter Burns and Greg Naylor. Mary Whittam, who was working as a Lady Cub Master in Camberwell formed the Cub Pack and presented the Scout Hats.





**Early scenes of the cub pack.**

**The first Cub leader was Mary Whittam, who can be seen making an award in the two leftmost photos.**

**Notice the original cub salute; two fingers representing a wolfs' two ears.**





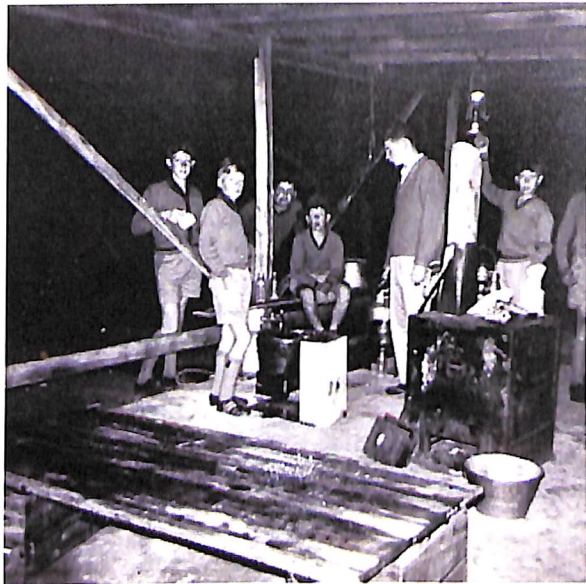


Meetings were held on Friday nights in the School Room, which was the little timber church. A few years later, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ringwood's hall in Patterson Street, East Ringwood was purchased for £3000.00. It was extensively refurbished until it was destroyed by fire in 1979. After the fire, the Scout Troop met in the Red Cross Hall opposite 3<sup>rd</sup> Ringwood's present Hall. The Cub Pack met at 6<sup>th</sup> Ringwood off Wonga Road, North Ringwood and Venturers at different locations around Ringwood.

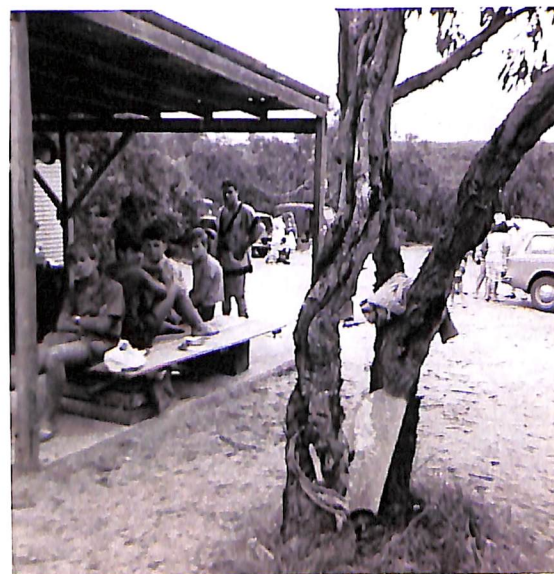


The old hall in East Ringwood. Group leader Hank Van Kirkhoven on the far left is overseeing the BBQ. This is an early image, as the entire yard was later taken over by blackberries.





One of the groups early scout camps,  
location unknown.



The following pages show photos from  
an early Jamboree, with some great  
construction work. Check out the mock  
high voltage pylon.

That's a lot of lashings!





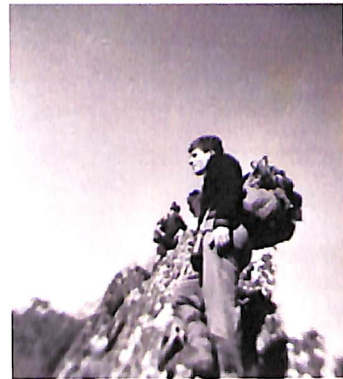








Canoeing on the Yarra.



Scouts at a Jamboree.

Camping and Hiking in the Grampians.





A flying fox; drying out after a swim; the troop's early flags and camp hygiene prior to the invention of canvas!

(From the early cars, the photo of the boys sitting down after swimming might be from the mid 1950's.)



The present Hall was unoccupied, so the Cub Pack moved in straight away. The Group presented a submission of lease tender to the Ringwood City Council in March 1981. It was written by Mr David Alford. Three other organisations submitted tenders. The Council decided tenders with affiliations to youth within the municipality of Ringwood would be acceptable applicants. We alone did not have a permanent home in which to operate and this was hoped to be sufficient to enable us to be a successful applicant. The only certainty was five of the six Councillors had affiliations with Scouting. The outcome, however, was not a foregone conclusion. However we were successful with the tender and two years later commenced the upgrade of the premises.

An amount of \$9,750.00 was spent upgrading the building and later the second hall, toilets and kitchen were built, followed a year later by the meeting room and storeroom. The entire building project was co-ordinated by Mr Ian Greer, a Builder and Parents Committee person. We received a one-third grant from Ringwood City Council, which together with the \$23,000.00 we received as a payout from the East Ringwood Hall, helped to complete the building extensions to the present Hall. Apart from the brickwork, electrical, plumbing and plastering, all the remaining work was completed by parents working each Saturday on a roster basis. The lease cost \$10.00 per year for 15 years. Our thanks go to the then District Commissioner Mr David Graham for without his contacts, the project would not have reached fruition.

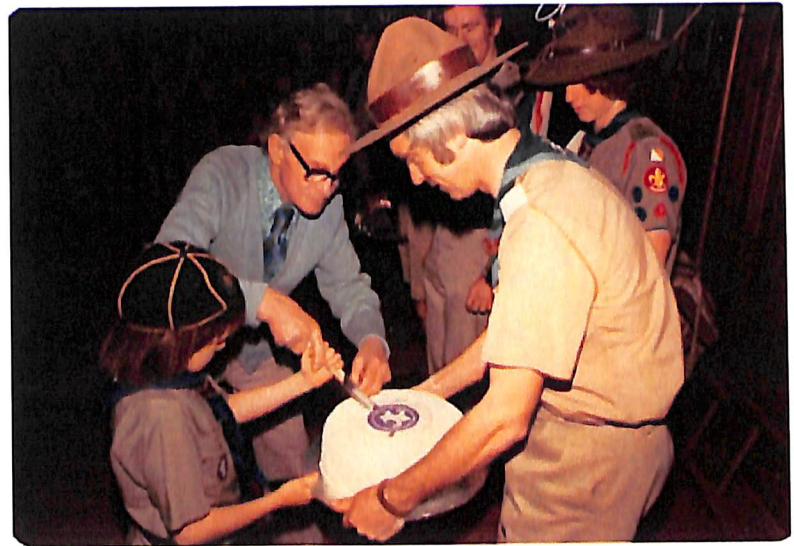
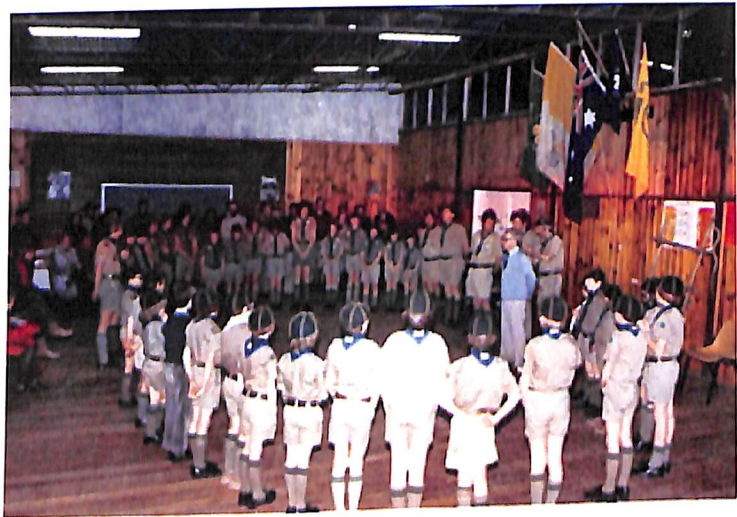
#### Silver Jubilee - 1978

To the left out of camera are entrances to other rooms and outside.

Norm Bain, Geoff Naughtin and cubs being inspected by the district official.

East Ringwood Hall, newly refurbished after first fire. Although it is not obvious in this shot, the hall was packed.



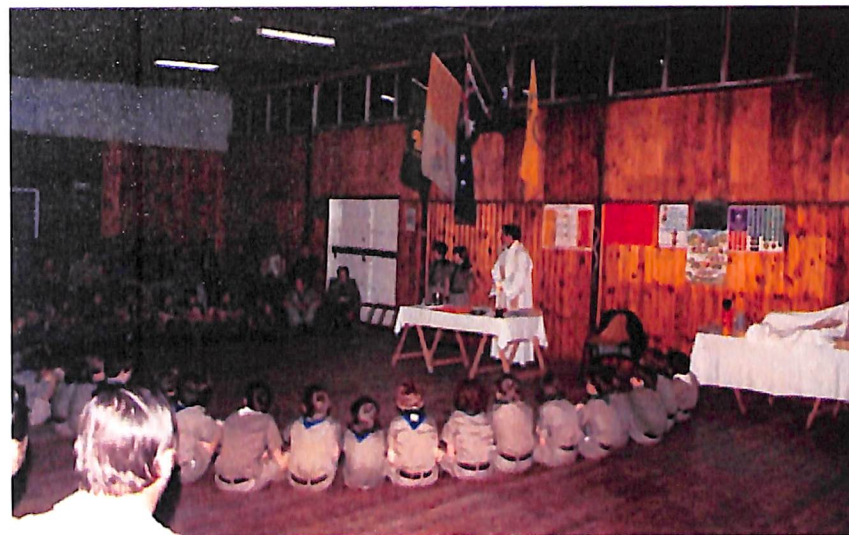






The Silver jubilee at the Scout Hall in Patterson Street, East Ringwood.

Jack Clark cutting the silver anniversary cake.







Since those years, many Cubs, Scouts, Leaders and Parents have been associated with the Group. Our first association with the Scout Cohen Shield resulted in a Silver and Competitor Pennants. The results of the following years are displayed on the Pennant Boards.

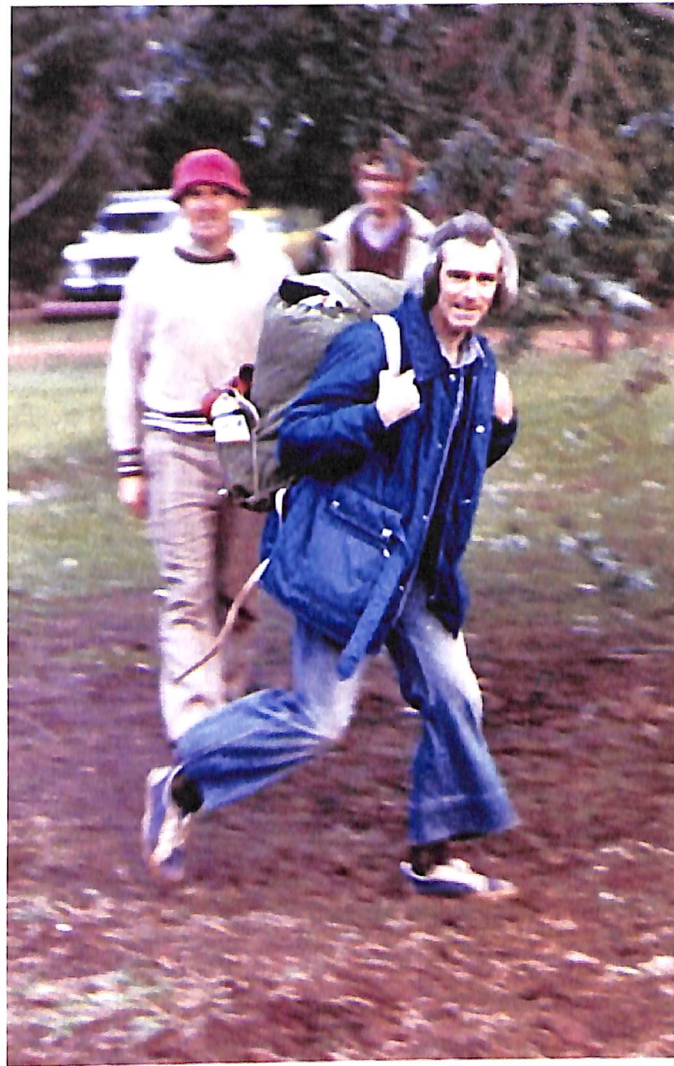
On the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2000, at our 47<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Scout Group's name was changed to 2<sup>nd</sup> Maroondah. This has been a revelation resulting in many new members and the stigma of being located in the Heathmont area a bonus.



Left top: Cub weekend at Clifford Park, sometime in the 90's.

Lower left: A district cub camp with a pirates theme. (Not long after this shot a decent-sized snake was found in the wood heap.)





Top: Jeanette O'Brien, assistant scout leader, investing a new scout at Rye beach. Gerry Porter is looking on.

Right: Who is this man? (Check out those Flares!)





Top Left: Scout Bike hike Bright to Beechworth 2006.

Lower left: Ice blocking at Clifford park end-of-year break up.

Top right: Scouts canoeing weekend, 2007





A Joey investiture.

Canoeing at Lilydale Lake in early 2008

Joey's at the Great Ryrie school





Cuboree 2008

14 kids from 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Maroondah

The others are from  
the Waratah cub  
pack, all sitting at  
the campfire circle.

Cuboree took place  
at Gilwell Park, out  
from Gembrook,  
amidst a howling  
hurricane.

Fortunately no-one  
from our troop was  
injured, only the  
tents.









A vertical spiral binding on the left side of the page, consisting of a series of black metal or plastic loops.

Autographs, notes, contact details:



