

EPPING SCOUT
GROUP

Durian July 2011

Newsletter of Epping Scout Group

July 2011

Did you know?

Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Scouting movement, was an early environmentalist:

"As a Scout, you are the guardian of the woods. A Scout never damages a tree by hacking it with his knife or axe. It does not take long to fell a tree, but it takes many years to grow one, so a Scout cuts down a tree for a good reason only – not just for the sake of using his axe. For every tree felled, two should be planted."

A Dedication to Scouting

"I just love being with the kids, they have so much fun and are so adventurous and keen to learn".

Margaret Lloyd, known as "Akela" to generations of North Epping and Epping Cubs has been involved with the group since the early 1990s. Her involvement began with a desire to help her own two boys become self-sufficient and independent. She took them along to the Cub Pack and it wasn't long before Margaret was a leader herself.

Have the boys and girls changed over the past 20 years? Margaret doesn't think

so. "They're still pretty much the same—they love telling stories and singing, they're eager to learn and they still love to play "spotlight"."

Margaret enjoys teaching the cubs worthwhile life skills such as cooking, swimming, first-aid and bike-riding. Some of the more memorable events for Margaret have been pack holidays, in particular one held at Warragamba Dam. The Group Family camps held at Nords Wharf have also been memorable events, as have the Sirius Cup events at Balmoral. A proud moment for Margaret was seeing Alex Todd, who started off as a young cub, grow up

and become a leader of the Joey Mob.

Margaret also enjoys attending the annual "Palava" leaders weekend. And, she's still signing up for more leader training sessions— "there's always more to learn", she says.

After many years experience in leading the Cub Pack Margaret was the proud recipient last year of the "Silver Arrowhead" Achievement for Excellent Service to the Scouting Association.

Thanks Akela for your contribution to helping so many young people learn valuable skills and have fun.

The Bush Dance is Back

The Epping Scouts Bush Dance is now an annual fixture. This year the Bush Dance will be held on Saturday 13th August.

The very able "Southern Cross Bush Band" will provide the music and "call" the dances. The evening is heaps of fun for all ages, from Joeys right through to Rovers, and their families and friends.

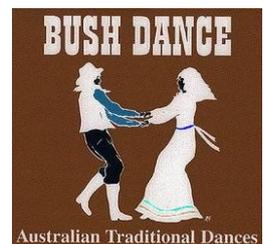
Judy Buckley, who is organizing the bush dance said, "the program will be similar to last year's event. There will be lots of dancing throughout the evening as well as fund-raising

games and prizes. The event starts at 7:00pm with a Joey activity. Supper will be provided around 9:00pm, and the night should finish up about 11:00pm."

But do you need to know how to dance to be able to join in a Bush Dance?

"Not at all!" says Judy. "That's the fun of a Bush Dance— it's really easy and you just join in! The Caller tells you what to do—it's lots of fun!"

So come along on Saturday 13th August and invite your friends.



How to Buy Tickets:

Call 9876 4383

Or email: jamboreebushdance@gmail.com

Tickets Cost:

\$25 Adults

\$10 Children

\$60 Families (2 adults + 2 kids)

Saturday 13 August

From 7pm to 11pm.

**St Alban's Memorial Hall
(Pembroke St, Epping)**

Gang Show Spectacular

Jack Bewsher reports on this year's Hornsby Gangshow:

"It was a fantastic show of great singing, hilarious acting and high quality dancing, guaranteed to make you laugh and clap, with over twenty acts, and the theme 'Local Produce'.

'Hey Boys and Girls' opened the show with a bang, and

some of the other hits included 'Doin' It Right' and 'Ghost Busters'. The cast for this show boasted a big participation from Epping, with the three Scouts, Chris Lim, Simon Gray and Kayne Domanko performing in 8 shows during the July school hols & Keith Buckley helping to ensure the audio side of the show ran smoothly.



If any Scouts, Venturers or Rovers wish to take part, auditions for next year will be held this November"

Watch Jack and friend as "Superscout" in this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JNXrcGNvyRI&feature=player_embedded

What's that smell.... again?

No, it's not your unwashed scout returning from a rough night's activities, it's fertiliser!

Yes, it's that time of the year again—the **annual Fertiliser Fundraising Drive**.

We need all joeys, cubs, and scouts and their parents to distribute leaflets around Epping over the next two-three

weeks.

Then on Saturday 10th September, we need as many cubs, scouts, venturers, rovers, and their parents as possible to deliver the fertilizer orders.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and always brings in thousands of dollars for our scout group. The more hands



(and cars, and trailers!) we have, the easier the job. So please put the date in your diary now and plan to come along on **Saturday 10 September, from 8am till about 12.**

www.Website

Thanks to Toby Ogle, a former cub and scout, who maintained the group website for several years.

Now, thanks to Simon Batson & James Gray we have an updated look. Check it out at:

<http://www.eppingscouts.com.au>

Rain, rain . . . and more rain . . .

District Camp 2011 will long be remembered as the "**Wet One**". When the scouts who ventured bravely forth into the howling gale grow up and, in their turn, become old decrepit Scout leaders in the year 2078, they will be able to say to their troop, while huddled in their nanopolymer-spacemarquee in front of a fusion-energy Megacamping heater on a slightly damp

night.... "*Rain - huh, you call this rain, why I remember the District Camp of '11, it rained so hard my left shoe floated out to sea and was picked up 3 years later on a beach in Peru by a lost tribe of Aztec Indians. Lucky I had written my name and Troop on it (in Azteca as it so happens) so they sent it back to me via Lama-mail. The moral of the*



story: **always write your name on stuff...**"

Anyway, it was a very wet and windy one. We had 12 Scouts (in 3 patrols), 3 leaders and 2 parents. We started off on Friday evening for the Glen-



Camping tales

District Camp Report continued . . .

rock Scout Centre which sits next to Glenrock Lagoon and used to be a coal mine, but on the night of our arrival, we were more interested in setting up Camp than considering the historical significance of the site. Thankfully, the rain and wind held off that first night so we all got to sleep in reasonable comfort.

The next day our 3 patrols opted to build a gateway along with other interesting things, but the prize goes to James who suggested we erect the tallest flagpole in the world... we got into trouble for that because it was taller than the Australian flag that the District Leaders erected. So we just moved their flagpole further uphill rather than bring ours lower - problem solved.

After lunch there were games. Lots of fun and lots of lollies were had by one and all. By this time, the

weather was becoming threatening, but we soldiered on into the late afternoon. And it was camp inspection time – District Leaders inspect the patrol's camp site and score them for various aspects such as safety and cleanliness.

Around about dinner time – the rain started coming down, and more rain came after that, and more rain, and then the wind started up....

That night was a challenging affair with what seemed like room of rain falling through the night and wind gusting up to what seemed like 100kph. At one point, I'm told (that was about when the shoe got washed out to sea), Glenrock Lagoon next to the camp site broke through to the ocean because of the sheer volume of water entering it and the lagoon was drained.

We woke up Sunday to a very wet camp indeed, the wind had wreaked havoc on the site

and the rain had got into everything. This was when our District Leader decided that he would cancel the rest of the Camp. The rest of the morning was spent in the wet, packing wet gear into wet bags, ferrying wet stuff up a wet hill to the wet car-park, loading this into wet trailers for the wet trip home. It was the best fun we have had in ages – for those of us who drove up and down the muddy track between the car park and the campsite in Shaggy's Hilux anyway. The trip back to Essex Street was also very wet, but we made it safely home by 5pm Sunday.

It was a challenging camp, but I think a successful one because the Scouts really learned the value of teamwork and perseverance under adverse conditions. And, if nothing else, they can take away the following lesson: ***always write your name on stuff, it might end up in Peru.***

Hiking, hiking and more hiking . . .

Brave and daring Epping scouts have recently undertaken Green Cord and Blue Cord hikes.

In September 2010 Nathan Hockridge and Ashu Pandey organized a Blue Cord Hike, (which must extend over one night and at least 15 kms). They hiked from Cowan to Mt Kur-ringai, part of the

Great North Walk.

In October 2010 Abe Ng led a group on a 30km hike through the Blue Gum forest over 2 nights and 3 days.

All scouts returned tired but happy with their achievements. Well done guys!



Tyler Jeffs, Nathan Hockridge, Ashu Pandey & Ming Lee set off on a Blue Cord Hike

Diary of a Leader

(or How I survived Cuboree)

We need you!

We have a wonderful group of dedicated leaders, so wonderful in fact, that all our sections are bursting at the seams. Which means we really need some new leaders.. At the moment we are looking for:

Assistant Leader for Joeys

Assistant Leader for Cubs

Female Leader for Venturers

Full training is provided for leaders. If you think you could help out, please contact one of the leaders, or talk to the group leader, Peter Buckley: 9876 4383 or pbuckley@au1.ibm.com

Newsletter Contributions

If you have any suggestions for items for this newsletter send them to:

Diane Hockridge

hockridge@optusnet.com.au



Thursday: Run down to Essex Hall to pack gear. Actually, Shaggy and Rama do all the work. This doesn't look so hard after all.

Friday: Take gear over to 1st Boronia. Pack Coordinator needs help loading trailer. Again, menfolk do all the work. This gig is starting to look like a walk in the park. Go home and pack knitting.

Saturday: Catch ride to Cataract Park. Stopped at entrance boom gate by border guards with clipboard. Hmm. Spend an hour setting up tent in blazing sun. It's hot. Complete the job. Hurray! Turn around and notice four tents remain. Sigh. Turn in with stars overhead. Awaken at 2am with rain pouring in through open front flap. Can't find torch or release toggle to zip up. Finally succeed but bedding is sodden.

Sunday: Wake at dawn and erect tarp over tent. Pegs won't stay in the sodden ground. Kids arrive! Bright and chirpy. They set about playing in the mud. Set them to weaving cords instead. Sea of cubs at opening ceremony. Cub has to go. We make it by running. My knees refuse to talk to me but there's cheese-cake for dinner. Yay!

Monday: Kids up at 5:30. Organisers insist we take

long away around via roads to our first activity base, Oz Warp. It's raining when we arrive but there's a real blacksmith at work. Kids scatter. Shouts of glee when they trap a leader and start throwing wet sponges. Back away quickly before they see me. Funnelweb alert! Of course the kids crowd round for a better look.

Movie night. It's still raining. One of the girls can't find her raincoat. Make her one out of a large garbage bag. Bring an extra to use as blanket. We're good to go.

Tuesday: Wow, kids sleep in till six. Found white-tailed spider on top of tent. Kill. Kill. Kill. Head off after breakfast to Space Warp. Wormhole tunnel turns out to be a mega water slide. Kids are in heaven. Kids can't wait to get to Marine Warp also known as Challenge Valley. It's raining when we arrive at the start but the kids are about to get wetter. Up and over, down and under. Lots of mud and water. Lots of crawling, climbing, jumping, swinging and quite a bit of wallowing. got hugged. More like tackled, really. Hope the stains wash out. Did I mention the mud?

Wednesday: Everything's damp. Got a whiff of the boys' tent. Last time I smelt something like, I was driving past a fish sauce factory in Thailand.

Going caving today. Cave turns out to be a small tunnel. Very small. Slapped a overly large, wet helmet on and follow kids in through the rabbit hole and slide down in the depths. It's hot and musty. Mudlark Helmet keeps slipping over my eyes and my glasses threaten to fall off completely. Can't see a thing. End up crawling on elbows. Does this tunnel go on forever? Wish I had lost weight before cuboree. Horrors. Have to slide on belly through mud. Emerge into sunshine smelling as bad as the inside of the boys' tent.

Leaders decide to skip closing ceremony. Much cheering. No rain. Skies have settled on spitting on us. Not good enough. Time for a water fight and a lolly scramble. Everyone very pleased with themselves.

Thursday: Kids keen to go home. Very helpful packing up gear and cleaning up. Epping cubs got on well with other cubs in our "superpack". No one got homesick, ill, fought, lost or bitten. Wave them off on bus, finish packing up then sit down to eat every chocolate bar in camp.

Well, that was actually fun. How does a 17 hour bus trip and living with twelve thousand scouts in close proximity over 13 days sound? What are we waiting for? Jamboree 2013, let's go! Kanga